

# The Philosophical Research Society, Inc.

3910 Los Feliz Blvd. - Los Angeles 27, Calif. - NOrmandy 3-2167

MANLY P. HALL  
President - Founder

HENRY L. DRAKE  
Vice-President



40th ANNIVERSARY  
OF MANLY P. HALL'S  
PUBLIC WORK  
1960

## CONTRIBUTORS' BULLETIN -- JUNE 1964

Dear Friend:

Although I may be returning by the time you receive this letter, it expresses my thoughts at the time of my departure. I am looking forward to my trip to Japan as my first vacation in many years, but I also intend to use the occasion that it provides for some rather practical purposes. To the student of sociology, the Japanese Empire is a most interesting country. Due to its location, Japan is a veritable treasure house of Asiatic cultures. Its shrines, temples, libraries, museums, palaces, and castles contain priceless collections of art, both sacred and secular. Because Japan remained aloof from most of the turmoil that burdened the history of China, and at the same time had little or no contact with Western civilization for more than a thousand years, it developed its own resources, and unfolded a unique philosophy of life. It is the one area available today where traditional patterns and modern policies have been able to mingle with a minimum of conflict. For the student of Confucianism, Taoism, Buddhism, and Shintoism, there is much to be seen and learned in a country where these beliefs are still a vital part of contemporary living.

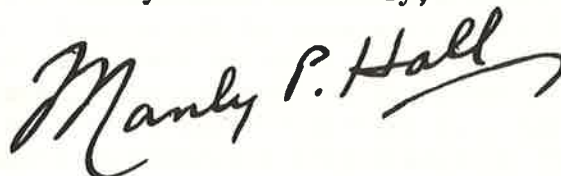
Western man is becoming more and more concerned with the pressing problems that have resulted from his attitude toward the universe around him and the invisible world within him. It will be interesting to gain a little more insight about a highly progressive people who have been able to blend ancestor worship and nuclear physics. The students attending the great universities make regular pilgrimages to the Buddhist shrines, and while there is no doubt a group of brittle young intellectuals, the classic theater flourishes, the old arts and crafts are carefully nourished and protected, and the superstitions of centuries ago still exercise a powerful influence in daily affairs. It would seem that Japan presents the interesting picture of incredible modernization blending with the old code of self-discipline, family devotion, and respect for the ancient Confucian proprieties. It is hard to guess what the future holds in store for this country, but it is certainly worth research and reflection.

What is the psychological effect of the introduction of modern motion pictures, political points of view, and economic pressures on the Japanese people? Is the Westernizing of Japan increasing its juvenile delinquency, resulting in an increase in mental illness, raising the divorce rate, or breaking up the unity of the home? How are the Japanese coping with situations that have come into existence largely as a result of post-war competition with Western powers? We all realize that Asia is a vast region that must sometime play a very important role in maintaining world peace and order. How can we really help so that this future relationship may be friendly and beneficial to all concerned? Naturally, I do not expect to find answers to all these questions in the short time that I will be in Japan, but it may well be that we shall learn some interesting facts that could be useful in solving some of our own difficulties -- personal and collective.

I plan to spend most of my time in the ancient city of Kyoto. This is generally regarded as the psychic center of Japanese life. The outer world of Japan is located in Tokyo, but the subjective strength of the people is vested in the ancient capital, with its magnificent cultural and artistic heritage. It is here that the Japanese still turn for the old patterns of self-discipline, self-control, and self-reliance. Their subconscious strength derives from the old shrines and temples, and the national treasures that are preserved therein. Although the Emperor resides in Tokyo, his coronation still takes place in Kyoto. In Tokyo are the great palaces and industrial institutions of glass, concrete, and steel; but in Kyoto is the enduring symbol of the Japanese life-way -- the plain, unpainted buildings set in the magnificent gardens which have been lovingly tended for centuries. School children can respect Buddhism, Shintoism, and Christianity without becoming confused, unhappy, or over-indoctrinated. Maybe we can find out a little about the inner attitudes with which modern Japanese leaders hope to bring the people to a full participation in the world's democratic heritage without sacrificing beauty to utility, wisdom to skill, or understanding to efficiency. These are some of the questions that concern me as I fly back to Japan after forty years.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all the friends who have taken such an interest in my vacation and who have contributed in various ways to make the trip both possible and pleasant.

Always most sincerely,



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REMARKS BY MANLY P. HALL ON THE OCCASION OF THE  
CEREMONY OF BURNING THE MORTGAGE ON THE P.R.S. AUDITORIUM  
March 22, 1964

Friends, it is very gratifying that we gather here for this occasion, because in many ways, this small project which we have attempted is a statement of our own conviction -- the conviction of thousands of serious-minded and conscientious persons, all realizing that if we are going to have a better world, we are going to have to help to build it. Over the years, I have done what I could to help this cause along, and it is wonderful to realize that human beings sense these things, and unite their efforts to cooperate to make human good increasingly possible. Most of those who have contributed to our cause have really given from their own hearts. My program has not been one which has stimulated emotional or sectarian allegiances. These good friends are helping because of a need, because philosophy and religion have brought to them a sense of the path we must all follow if we are going to protect our world and help some of the better dreams of human beings to come true.

This achievement bears witness not only to local friends, but to persons in many parts of the nation. I believe that probably nearly half of the contributions that have come in, have come from people who do not attend. They have read books, or perhaps subscribed to our Journal, or have felt a kinship across distances. We are sorry that those who live so far away have not been able to come and be with us, and we know that a number who helped to make this possible have passed out of this life in the years

when the project was developing. We hope that wherever they are, they will share with us in spirit on this to us solemnly symbolical occasion -- symbolical of the good we hope for many people, for all people, everywhere.

I think at this time we should unite for a moment in prayer:

Heavenly Father, in this labor we are aware of thy continual presence, thy protection and guidance. We have served according to our lights, to the best that we know, and we feel that this service is acceptable in thy sight.

Help us, therefore, to be further dedicated, to renew our consecration, to go on fulfilling the law of life as it is given to us to understand this law.

Strengthen us to use what thou hast provided in thy service.

Strengthen us to good works every day, and let this gathering be symbolical, that those who build and labor shall see the fulfillment of their works.

We have built together; we have tried to be good master builders.

We have raised this structure in honor of truth, of wisdom, and of love.

Let it stand as a light of thy way in this world, so long that it is thy will that it should remain.

We ask thy blessing on those who have helped in so many ways, and may the peace and light in their hearts be their reward for the good works that they have done.

Bless them all, guide them, and keep them, and help us to serve according to thy will, so long as it shall be thy will.

We ask it in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen

So on this occasion, we are simply symbolizing the works of all the friends who have helped. This is the original mortgage, marked paid in a circle at the bottom, and having made the necessary legal photostats to make certain that we are not left without documents should we need them, we are going to burn this original mortgage. . .

At the same time that we make this offering to the principles that we serve, we want again to thank everyone who has helped to make it possible -- the many friends everywhere in the world who have cooperated; the wonderful people on our own staff, who worked many extra hours to make this possible; the officers of the corporation, all of whom contributed strongly to the success of this enterprise; and everyone who has sent us good thoughts and good wishes -- from those who were able to help, to those who only could wish they could help. To all of them, we are profoundly grateful. We are grateful for the good thoughts that they have given us, and the efforts that they have made to help me to carry into conclusion one of the dreams that I cherished for many years.

God Bless You All

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3910 LOS FELIZ BOULEVARD  
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