

RELATION OF THE WORK TO YOUR OWN LIFE

There are a number of important questions about the relation of the Work to ordinary life. During, say, the first two years of coming to meetings and other activities, which are meant to weaken personality, you need the shelter of the Work. You enjoy the company of other people in the Work and feel more at home there, and therefore you begin to feel less confidence in yourself in the normal situations of ordinary life. But it is important that this process should not go on too long. As well as lessening confidence in your own personality, the Work should instil a new confidence and a new interest in your job and your friends and the social set that in the ordinary way you would belong to. Some of your friends outside the Work should begin to become more interesting and you should be more able to pick the best of them – not necessarily from the point of view of bringing them to the Work, but just as people. You have to get around and meet friends of your own age, also from the point of view of finding the right person to marry. Duty towards your parents must not be forgotten, and a new understanding may grow up with them. The meditation gives fresh openings for contacts with people who are in obvious need of it without realising the fact.

All this means that we must be careful not to involve the younger people in the Work too much; not to take up all their spare time. If any of you is feeling that the shoe is pinching too tightly you should not hesitate to confide in some friend senior in the Work – perhaps the one who brought you to it or the one who takes your Group, or anybody you think would understand.

(Perhaps Mr. Reed would use this as a basis for developing a conversation on the subject.)

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