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Fear not!

Christmas brings light into this dark world and it is comforting to read that the announcement of the birth of Jesus was preceded by these encouraging words: «Do not be frightened». If we read more in the «Book of books», we shall find a recommendation which we should like to adopt towards our friends, wherever they may be. «Cheer up the despondent». Many are those sharing our feelings who live frightened and rejected. Every day is a cause for new worries and every evening adds other fears to the bitter cup which is already filled to the brim. To such friends we should like to address these lines by calling out across the seas: «Fear not! You have the right to live too! Let those who are without sin throw you the first stone!»

Oh, how terrible is the feeling of any young man who realizes that he is not «normal». He will first fight the idea, thinking that it is only a silly inclination of his. Then he tries all sorts of things in order to «become» normal and each time means a new and painful failure. Fear and despair soon take hold of him. He is overwhelmed with the thought that, since he is an outcast, he has no right to live and that death is indeed better than a life of constant fear and hypocrisy. Our «Circle» now brings the good news to those in far-off countries that they are not alone, that friends of similar feelings and inclination also exist elsewhere and that we have won many a battle already. Yes, we have a recognized club in Zurich where we meet weekly. We have our magazine, this «Kreis» or circle which is a precious link between all of us. Our aim is not to preach a gospel of perversion but to cry out the true story of our kind, to give courage to those who need it and to kill the awful loneliness wreaking havoc among so many. Furthermore we want to correct the law that wrongs us and to create understanding among those who entertain nothing but hatred and despise towards us. And last but not least our meetings have enabled many a friend to find a dear pal with whom life can be enjoyed in frankness and harmony.

Our magazine needs the support of outsiders. We already have a large number of subscribers and friends in various European countries, but we should also like to add those living in English speaking countries. Oh, what an impulse it would be for us were we able to welcome many new members from England and Amerika! We want to cheer up the ones that are down-cast. Courage, confidence, hope, light within, these are the qualities to be sown among mankind, and if our «Kreis» partially succeeds in helping a lonesome heart, we shall feel rewarded for our efforts and at the same time encouraged for further action.

Christmas! So many friends will remember blessed hours spent with a dear friend under the lights of a Christmas tree. It was a secret happiness nobody could know about for it would have been taboo to speak loudly about the love that was in one's heart. And the mistletoe has very often helped friends to really get to know one another. When there was just a hunch about the other friend's true feelings, the mistletoe acted like magic... The two friends stopped under it, looked at each other,

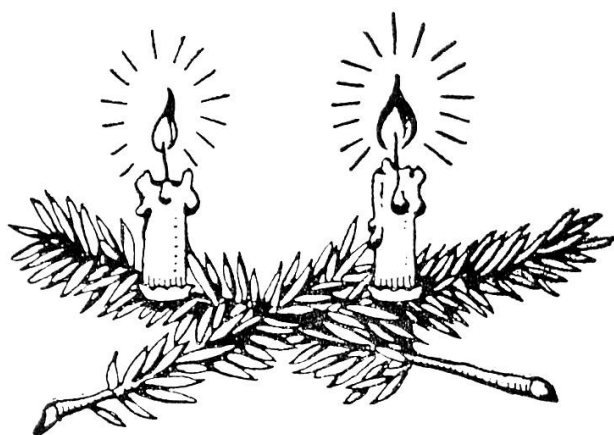
felt how fast their heart was beating, and all of a sudden they drew closer to one another until they understood that love would henceforth unite them forever. —

If our «Kreis» may help some of our friends overseas, let us tell them that they too can help us. It would encourage us a great deal to receive letters, articles from them, telling us how they feel towards us, what they like in our magazine, what they propose to change, what we should do to get better known. It is no easy task for our editors to publish articles in three languages. We shall however gladly continue doing so if we know that such articles are appreciated by our English and American friends.

On this Christmas day, we too would like to cry out to them «Fear Not» and to express the hope that 1952 may bring our remote comrades new happiness and courage enabling them to face the world with confidence.

Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year to you all!

Reno



SONNET LXXV

So are you to my thoughts as food to life,
Or as sweet-season'd showers are to the ground;
And for the peace of you I hold such strife
As 'twixt a miser and his wealth is found;

Now proud as an enjoyer, and anon
Doubting the filching age will steal his treasure,
Now counting best to be with you alone,
Then better'd that the world may see my pleasure:

Sometime all full with feasting on your sight,
And by and by clean starved for a look,
Possessing or pursuing no delight
Save what is had, or must from you be took.

Thus do I pine and surfeit day by day,
Or gluttoning on all, or all away.

William Shakespeare