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*Editor*

**PRADEEP H. GOHIL**

## A STEP FORWARD

At a time when millions of people on this earth are suffering in many ways, compassion is the need of the hour. Compassion leads to service and service is an ingredient of theosophical life.

If someone shows kindness, caring, and willingness to help others, they are showing compassion. This is a word for a very positive emotion that has to do with being thoughtful and decent. Giving to a charity takes compassion. Volunteering to work with sick people or animals takes compassion. When you have compassion, you are putting yourself in someone else's shoes and really feeling for them. Anytime a disaster like a hurricane or earthquake hits, others will feel compassion for the victims. When you feel compassion for someone, you really want to help out.

Someone has defined compassion as a deep awareness of and sympathy for suffering of others. This is just to be sympathetic and to have concern and pity for the sufferings or misfortunes of others. Another definition says that compassion is the humane quality of understanding the suffering of others and wanting to do something about it. In my opinion the second definition of compassion is more appropriate because it goes beyond awareness, understanding and sympathy for suffering of others, by wanting to do something about it. Helping such a person is an act of true compassion.

I would like to share with the readers five famous quotations on compassion: Albert Einstein, the great scientist, once said, "Our task must be to free ourselves by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature and its beauty". Albert Schweitzer once said in simple words, "The purpose of human life is to serve and to show compassion and the will to help others. Until he extends the circle of his compassion to all living things, man will not himself find peace." Alfred Monapert has said, "The monument of a great man is not of granite or marble or bronze. It consists of his good-

ness, his deeds, his love and his compassion." Thomas Merton said, "The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all living beings, which are all part of one another and all involved in one another". Finally, George Washington Carver writes- "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because some day in life you will have been all of these".

There is a very moving story of compassion. A small girl was drenched with mud while returning from school. When questioned about it by her mother she said, "Mom, it started raining heavily soon after I left school. My umbrella got flown away and as I tried to grab it, I slipped and was rapidly sliding into a deep ditch. Fortunately, my class teacher happened to see me. She ran with compassion for me, unmindful of getting wet and held out her hand to me and lifted me up". The mother asked, "but your teacher could have slipped too with you". "Yes Mom", replied the child, "but she had the compassion to save me, how could she slip?" And the teacher was thinking, "That little child, weakest in the class, perhaps most lonely, helped me recognize my strength and lifted up my own spirits". Just see the power of what compassion can do.

Compassion followed by true service in our own community is the need of the hour. It is a rock on which TOS has been built. Probably most of the theosophists were first attracted to Theosophy because TOS opened a way to guide, to channelize our intuitive desire to help the sick, the elderly, the afflicted, the needy and the poor in our community. Giving of time, giving of energy, giving of dedication, even giving of money to help the less fortunate, generated through compassion, are indeed the need of the hour and a step forward in the theosophical life.

## ADDRESS TO NEW MEMBERS

(5 JANUARY 2018)

I would like to welcome our new members and say that it is a pleasure to see young friends joining our Theosophical Society (TS). Those of you who associate themselves with it have their own thoughts about what it is that seems to resonate with you sufficiently for you to say: “This is something that I want to be a part of.” These are the things that you should not forget as you grow in your time and membership, study, and experience. At this beginning point everything is fresh and new, the motivating force is alive and you feel it. Like anything else, with time, sometimes you start to forget, and some of the aliveness of this moment can drop away.

The main thing that the theosophical effort relates to is a very deep quality of memory. If there is something that has moved inside of you which has brought you in this direction, it is some deeper power that you have gotten in touch with. Within each of us there is a life that is hidden. Because we have so many activities and so many demands it just gets covered over. At some point during our life we say: “Yes, I *will* yield to this thing that, like ‘The Hound of Heaven’ seems to always be pursuing me.”

What the TS offers, which is very different from other movements that I am aware of, is a complete view — the most grand context of who we are, what the nature of this Universe in which we reside is, and what the basic values for right behaviour are. It also offers something that you will not find *anywhere* else, which is the freedom for you to arrive at your own conclusions and your own experiences.

There are certain things that are said and taught, but the most important among all of them is that we are participants in the One Life. If nothing else, focus on that. Where you see signals of unity, oneness, brotherhood, and cooperation in your own world, focus on it.

The mind works in a strange way; once you start to become *aware* of something, somehow you start seeing it everywhere. I know people who apply that principle in the opposite direction, where they become fearful, they are afraid of the dangers lurking in the world. For people of that kind, who have allowed their mind to exercise this tendency in the wrong way, they are trapped in a life of fear, because everywhere they look, they think there is something that can harm them.

To look and to see where unity exists is the *opposite* way, which lends itself to an experience that will be called a happy life, a life that has the capacity for a deepening understanding. See where it is in your own behaviour, your own thoughts, that invites unity; and you start to find that there are certain very broad principles that you can experiment with. Any approach of this sort has very limited value unless it is something that *you* can demonstrate for yourself. If it is something that you have to be told, or where your belief is required, it has severe limitations. The Theosophical Society is not an organization for believers. The idea is that *you* will come to know, through your own self-effort.

So, where and how does unity come about? There are two little words that contain very big ideas that you might want to explore. Wherever you find something you can describe as love, you find unity. If two people are involved, the two people become one; if it is a family, the family becomes one; if it is a nation, that nation is one within your heart; if it is humanity, then it is one. This is the broad teaching, and it is something that *can* be experienced. You might discover for yourself that some of these things are only apparent to you in silence.

Your own efforts to cultivate the experience of silence will yield huge rewards. It is only when the chattering mind and always-grasping desires get a little bit quiet that something else appears. Even in this room, while I am talking, there is another talking going on, the birds are speaking, and so is the breeze. If we get a little bit quieter, you can hear the beating of your own heart. But it is all going on beneath our awareness because we are just shouting with our minds. Quiet, and ultimately silence, will open doors and vistas, and when these doors start to open, you will find it is in that process that the things you study become verified. The things that were previously concepts or ideas, *now* you find, by your own experience, to be truths. Maybe it is not truth the way

you understood it as an idea, but it is something that then you can refine for yourself. This is the approach, and it applies at any stage of life.

As new members, these are some of the ideas that I want to bring to your attention. As the years go on, you will develop your own ways of looking at Theosophy. There will be aspects of it that will be much more deeply appealing to you, and those will be the things that you will expand. But ultimately love and compassion open the door, and the practical application of those two keys is found in the field of service. Sometimes our view of service becomes a problem, because if you are serving, it is you and the other, there is still some separation. But you do not have to label as service the conscious compassionate actions that you take, they will make for unity.

Having been once a new member, I consider myself fortunate that I did *not* come from a theosophical family. I would have felt very fortunate if I had, but it was not given to me. I had to find Theosophy; and in finding it the blessing was that I did not encounter it from the point of view of a home training; for me it was completely fresh. Certainly there are great advantages to having Theosophy in the home from birth, but that was not the advantage I was given. I was given a different advantage.

Experiment, try. It is part of trying that you fail. You will make a thousand mistakes, but as long as you make a thousand and one efforts, you will get on. It is a long, long process. Theosophy deals with not just this life. The fact that it has some attraction to you shows that this is not your first exposure to it; many lives lead up to a moment such as this. Sometimes we are renewing a connection we have had in the past, but which has escaped us until this moment in our lives. You are renewing something. When I first joined the Society, the image of a golden chain with many links was described to me. Each one of us becomes link in this golden chain, *all* of us connected together.

As time goes on, and as you deepen in your own experience, you may find yourselves sitting in this place talking to others; that is one of the things which also happens. I consider myself very fortunate to be here at this point to water the seed that has already come to life inside of you. Life in its fullness is contained in that seed, but it does not look anything like what you grow to become. This is the wonder that will

awaken within all of you — what it is that your self-effort will bring about.

The fact that you can count on the support of the people who surround you in this hall today is a wonderful thing. You can draw on it in their presence or in your own solitude, it is always there. Beyond that, the Society, with all of its membership, comes into being in response to a pattern that we feel, but do not see. The pattern is projected by great beings, the Masters of the Wisdom, the Mahatmas standing behind this Theosophical Movement. Attention to the subject of the Masters can be seen as a simple thought, but it can attract great help, particularly if you persist. Think of this connection, because it is where the direction, the guidance, and the genuine help for this Movement comes from.

Again, it is a blessing to be here with you, to welcome you into this body of fellow members, brothers and sisters, and to wish you every good thing as you pursue your membership. As you deepen in your own happiness, which will certainly flow from this choice that you have made to set foot in a certain direction, stay with it as you feel it at this moment. Do not forget.

(Courtesy: *The Theosophist*, June 2018)

Unity is our strength, and that unity within the Theosophical Society is palpable in spite of whatever occasional disturbances there might be. May the Theosophical Society remain for long a true instrument to carry humanity forward on the Road to Universal Brotherhood, Truth and Righteous Living.

RADHA BURNIER  
Presidential Address  
129<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
26 December 2004

## THE PURSUIT OF WISDOM

The character of any organization does not depend entirely upon its aims, however wonderful and noble they may be, because those who constitute the organization will interpret those aims in their own way. Therefore, the actual character of such an organization as the Theosophical Society (TS) depends upon the individual members, what they think, how they feel and act. There can be no objects nobler than those of the Society. The very word “Theosophy” suggests something transcendental, supreme, out of this earth. The name of the organization and its objects as formulated are as wide and lofty.

Yet, with such aims, is the Society actually fulfilling its mission of promoting the progress of humanity, making an impact upon the human mind and affairs? When one looks at it in that manner and thinks of how wonderful an organization the TS can be, in fact as well as in theory, one realizes that a radical change must come about in the mentality, in the outlook and way of life pursued by the members themselves. Then anyone who looks at the Society will feel immediately that it is something outside the ordinary, that the truth which we call Theosophy is perhaps much more important than the truth which people seek in other fields, such as modern science.

It is not a change in organization that is needed. There are many people who make suggestions and proposals for tinkering with the organization and methods of propaganda. There are suggestions such as: let us not have Lodges at all, but depend only upon study classes; or, we need to use television and radio instead of having lectures; we must employ experts in public relations; and then the TS will come to be known and will become a world force; and so on.

But what is important is a change in the quality of the life that flows through the organization; that seems so much more important

\* Mr. N. Sri Ram was President of the Theosophical Society from 1953 to 1973, and Editor of *The Theosophist*. This is an extract from a talk given at Adyar on 25 January 1970.

than procedures and outer forms. Is the life flowing in every part of the organization? Or does it just stand still, like water in a stagnant pool? Are we merely cutting stencils of thought in smaller or larger quantities and selling them, to use an American expression?

The very nature of the mind is to fragment the expression of life which is an energy that always flows and expresses itself in various forms, but everywhere life expresses itself in a certain inner unity. But the mind, looking at the form and not at the energy that flows from it or its nature, fragments that expression and sees only the parts. It then puts the parts together to make a whole; it is good at assembling! That is the nature of the present mechanical civilization. The parts are assembled cunningly, a very elaborate organization is created for a particular purpose and no other. So our present civilization is essentially technological, but soulless.

In the pursuit of what is called knowledge the analytical mind breaks everything into different parts, studies their formal aspect but allows the life within to disappear. Where Theosophy becomes a mere matter of intellectualism it will fail to reach the hearts of people. They may be stimulated for a time by one subject of discussion or another but that will not really make a change in their lives or make Theosophy attractive.

Some say that science has gone far beyond Theosophy as presented in our books, and, as other pursuits are more pleasing to the modern mind, we cannot make any impression with such an old fashioned and sticky thing as Theosophy. People who say this perhaps do not understand the nature of this Wisdom which we call Theosophy, and merely look at it superficially.

In one of the letters from the Mahatmas the Master says, “few of us would care to play the part in life of a desiccated pansy between the leaves of a volume of solemn poetry”. The Mahatmas are not bloodless, dried-up, prosaic, just repeating certain words. The knowledge of the Mahatmas does not pertain merely to the superficial aspect of things, but of that which lies within, of life as well as of form. It is not just head-learning consisting of mere intellectual concepts but does not touch the nature of the person or affect the quality of his life. The learning occupies the brain and the brain occupies itself with the learning.

The Adepts have knowledge gained by a process of knowing through living their lives completely, and this knowing is not isolated from life, but is an expression of it. When knowledge is gained in that manner then it is not just mental knowledge. So, what we should seek is not merely to occupy the mind with themes which we consider important, but to act in a different way, which will bring about a change in our very being.

When we use the words “science” and “religion” they really refer to these two different modes of action. Science, in the modern sense, can be pursued on the intellectual plane, the heart has nothing to do with it. But when we speak of religion, it refers to a different kind of action that takes place in the individual. Perhaps one might use the words “mind” and “heart” instead of “science” and “religion”. But unfortunately, the heart can be as narrow as the mind, as rigid and stilted, and also the word “heart” conveys different meanings to different people. One may have all kinds of personal and petty emotions and reactions which might be termed the heart of the individual. But there is no other English word which can convey that quality or aspect of consciousness which is capable of functioning as a totality.

What really characterizes the religious attitude or spirit is not the beliefs or the practices or the allegiances; these vary from one religion to another. We are not speaking of any particular religion but of Religion itself, of what characterizes the religious attitude. It is wholeheartedness, complete dedication. In a religious man you will find the total response, devotion in the real sense is total, complete; there is no reservation whatever, nothing is held back. And that is really the action of the totality of one’s being. The attitude of the religious man is really one which is completely unified, totally undivided. The Sanskrit word *advaita* refers to this unity which exists within oneself. When people say that there is the One and no other and therefore there is no duality at all, that is only an idea. But it is possible, as a matter of living, of one’s own experiencing, to be completely undivided in oneself.

Our true nature, which is ever unconditioned, is that of peace, goodness and undividedness. In the Upanishadic stanzas used for meditation, there are the words, *āntam*, *āvam*, *advaitam* — peace, goodness, undividedness. And that nature can be experienced within ourselves. We can know for ourselves that it is possible to live with a nature

which is unified, completely undivided, which is at peace in itself, in which there is not a dual conflicting personality. Such a nature can act with the whole of itself, without any reservation, and such action is very different from the action of the mind, which is only an instrument of the whole being of man.

Without being religious in any conventional sense, it is possible to be wholehearted and completely selfless, in a state of love. If a person is in that condition, if he is really selfless, if it is not the so-called love which is an expression of the self for its own purposes, then he is wholehearted. In fact, that is the only state in which one really experiences the wholeness of one’s being. Love, in the real sense, is wholly voluntary, it is pure goodwill. It is only at such times that one experiences the truth of what might be described as the totality of action. *One’s whole nature acts.*

Therefore, no one is truly religious except when he acts with a nature of love, a nature which is without a self. We speak of a man as religious when he shows devotion. The word “devotion” which conveys the idea of wholeheartedness, self-abnegation, a certain force which is capable of action, really denotes love without any element of self. We may have a sense of awe when we are in the presence of a great Being, but that sense of awe is not fear. There is the biblical phrase, “Perfect love casteth out fear”. Fear arises because you are afraid that another person may hurt you. But when you completely trust another person, then there can be no fear. You do not think of what might happen to you, because there is no “I” or “you” in this love. It is possible to be in that state of love only when there is no element of fear. Fear inhibits. You approach someone for a reason, but are inhibited by your fear that he may not think well of you, that he may find out your weaknesses, and think you are petty. That means you are afraid of losing your own self-esteem, you fear that you will fall in this great person’s estimation. But only if you do not seek anyone’s estimation, or feel the need to be thought good or important, and have no fear at all, can you give absolute love.

Our so-called devotion is mostly a kind of service, or loyalty with expectations. They may not be verbally expressed, but do exist. We expect, at least, approval, goodwill, blessing or some kind of a benefit. If I say that I am loyal to my God, in that very expression there is a feeling of possession; I am loyal to him because I desire his grace, his

goodwill, his protection; I want to be able to call upon him whenever I am in trouble.

When we understand the true meaning of the word “heart” which is not one’s petty personal emotions, we can realize that it is to be associated with all that is most beautiful in life. It is a wonderful feeling, devoid of fear and expectation; a state of being undivided, in which there is only the giving of itself. And that really points to certain depths which the mind cannot fathom, however clever one may be, however good the intellect may be. One cannot talk much of soul-wisdom, which *The Voice of the Silence* distinguishes from head-learning, because it does not lend itself to the language of the mind. It has to be experienced personally. Nothing more can be said about it.

The principal quest of the Society is not just knowledge of various aspects of Nature which are beyond our present ken. You may know about various Rounds, Chains and so on, but you still do not become a different being because of that knowledge. The true value of knowledge is perceived only in the light of whatever wisdom one may possess.

The word “Theosophy” means this Wisdom, which the *Bhagavadgītā* describes as life giving, and not just information because that does not make much of a difference to our lives. If, in each of its parts, the Society pursues this Wisdom, as distinguished from mere knowledge, it will have a different character. Then the Society will be really able to be a factor in bringing about the change that is needed by the whole world. One’s entire life has to be dedicated to the pursuit of Wisdom, and not just in the study classes. Really speaking, the Wisdom is a certain approach which has to manifest itself all the time and in relation to all incidents, circumstances and people. It would be a wonderful Society if even a good number of its members are really dedicated to the pursuit of that extraordinary thing which is called Theosophy. The ordinary is what the mind can grasp, but the extraordinary is something which is to be experienced only in the depths of ourselves, and we can experience it only when our whole nature is rid of all impediment, when it has been cleansed of all its wrong ideas, its wrong beliefs and wrong thinking.

(Courtesy : *The Theosophist*, April 2018)

## NEWS AND NOTES

### Bengal

The 138<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Bengal Theosophical Society (BTS) and the 98<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bengal Theosophical Federation (BTF) were held on 5 May with a lot of eventful programmes at BTS hall. All the dignitaries present in the evening gave some insightful thoughts on the theosophical movement.

The programme started with prayers of all faiths followed by one minute’s silence for the departed soul of Sis. Vinodini Goenka who left her mortal coil on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2018.

Bro. B.L. Bhattacharya, National Director of TOS, inaugurated the function by lighting candle in front of the photo of Madame H.P. Blavatsky. It was followed by opening songs rendered by two sisters of Mayfair Lodge.

Bro. B.L. Bhattacharya threw light on the historical evolution of the theosophical movement. He told that today a new wave has come where the people belonging to younger generation are taking interest in theosophy. A new movement is to be generated where both young and old can work hand in hand. Lastly he spoke on the eternal truth which is the basis of theosophy. This eternal truth comes from the light of our inner self- *Attodeepo Bhavo*- which was the last sermon of Gautama Buddha to his disciple Ananda.

Prof. Syed Shah Marhoonul Alquadri of Moulana Azad College was the Chief Guest. He emphasized on the relevance of Theosophy in today’s world saying that every religion has a spiritual aspect from which originates the principles of Theosophy. He also stressed that for the survival of the theosophical movement in contemporary world we need to attract and create impact on the younger generation.

Bro. Pankaj Kumar Datta, President of BTF, presided over the meeting and said that no religion can say that it is complete in itself. Theosophy embraces the essence of all religions and has struggled to find the eternal truth. This significance of theosophy has made it relevant to fight all the discriminations prevailing in today’s world.

Bro. Hemendu Bikash Chowdhury, President of BTS, in his welcome address reminded about some significance of the history of theosophical movement and in this context he said that we must not forget the contribution of the theosophist Hirendranath Dutta who donated to us the building of the Theosophical Society of India in Kolkata. This year is his 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we must celebrate this all over India with due respect so as to revive and popularise the theosophical movement.

Bro. Biswajit Ganguly of Arobindo Bhavan as guest of Honour told that Theosophy is the need of the hour. Today in this world of intolerance and violence theosophy has the immense potentiality to show love and harmony to the world with people from all religions working together yet not surrendering their own individual believes.

Bro. Satrajit Chakrabarty, a young member of BTS, shared his interesting views about how science and religion are intermingled. Bro. Ratan Chandra Das, Secretary of BTS and Sis. Arati Nandi of BTF read out their activity reports and their brief interaction were very much in tune with the essence of Theosophical thoughts.

Sis Kamalika Bhattacharya gave a unique presentation with some interesting interpretations titled “Let Nature be Thy Guide”, which was deeply rooted on the theosophical thoughts. Human beings and nature are interdependent on each other and it depends on this relationship how we can make a beautiful world. We must learn each day and each moment the unconditional love that nature has bestowed on us.

Lastly, the cultural presentation based on the theme ‘Self- exploration through various philosophical thoughts’ was introduced by Bro. B.L Bhattacharya and Prof. Alquadri. It was followed by a musical presentation *Rup Aruper Mayay* based on the spiritual folk songs of Bengal in the light of *Caryapada* directed by Sis. Madhuree Chowdhury and presented by *Attodeep*, a platform for interaction of Indian philosophy and culture. From the historical point of view, these songs are a part of the cultural, religious and linguistic heritage of Bengal with an insight of *Vajrayana* Buddhism as they reflect *Caryapada*, the earliest poem-songs in Bengali. The mystic singers, wandering minstrels of Bengal preserve this ancient and fascinating Indian tradition *Caryapada*. The songs of these mystic singers are also a synthesis of different reli-

gious expressions like *Sahajiya* Buddhism, *Vaishnavism* and Sufism. The programme ended with a standing ovation given by the enthusiastic audience to the performers of *Attodeep*.

The meeting was conducted by Bro. Swarnabha Bala and the vote of thank was given by Bro. Satyapriya Chakravorty.

White Lotus Day was observed of 8 May 2018 at the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of BTS with members from different Lodges. Bro. B.L. Bhattacharya, read 10 sloks of *Bhagavadgita*, Bro. Niharendu Roy read from *The Voice of the Silence* and Bro. Pradeep Hahar spoke on *The Light of Asia*. Sis. Jayashree Das of Jnanmarga Lodge, Sis. Anita Shah of Mayfair Lodge, and Sis. Minakshi attended the meetings. Bro. Ratan Das, Secretary of BTS, made all the arrangements.

## **Bombay**

WESAK POORNIMA CELEBRATION AT BLAVATSKY LODGE on 30th April 2018 evening (around the time of Full Moon): In the Green Room, a table near Lord Buddha’s statue was prepared by Sis. Kashmira Khambatta and Sis. Navaz Dhalla. Below the table there was a beautiful *Rangoli* of Lord Buddha sitting under the Boddhi Tree done by Sis. Kashmira Khambatta. The meeting was opened with all reciting the Buddhist Prayer. Sis. Aban Patel speaking on the occasion explained how Lord Buddha became the First Flower of Humanity. She described the ceremony taking place in Wesak Valley with Sis. Kahmira Khambatta’s beautiful PPP, which had diagrams of Wesak Valley, Formations taking place by the Adepts and Initiates, the Rod of Power and Lord Buddha appearing with His splendid Aura having spheres of beautiful colours. Brethren recited ‘The Greatest Blessing’. The Meeting ended with recitation of the Universal Prayer and partaking of water from a bowl kept on the ceremony table.

BLAVATSKY LODGE’s SUNDAY MEETING of 6 May 2018 (First Part) to fondly remember Blavatsky Lodge’s attendant LATE GANPAT JADHAV: ‘He was more than a man. He was brought to us by Masters. His was selfless service’ said Bro. Keki Plakhiwalla. ‘More than members, it was Ganpat’s Karma with the Lodge’ felt Sis. Meherangiz Baria. ‘He was a true Theosophist’ observed Sis. Jasmine Cawasji. BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya said, ‘He was an advanced soul’. Bro. C.V.K. Maithreya of Chennai & Bro. Amubhai Raval of USA had sent donations



for him. When he was there, BTF's Annual Sessions' Chief Guests used to stay at the Lodge. Other Brethren who fondly remembered Ganpat for his devotion, dedication & commitment to Blavatsky Lodge and Theosophical activities in Bombay over 50 years were Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, Sis Keta Mody, Sis. Zeena Rastomji, Sis. Manjula Kanabar, Sis. Mahazaver Dalal and Sis. Shehernaz Vatchha. Brethren missed his smiling face and warm welcome as one would climb Blavatsky Lodge's steps. He used to care for members and would inquire when they were not well. To neighbours and Sis. Tushna's students, Blavatsky Lodge was the place where Ganpat was. He knew preparations for all TS & Allied Activities and kept things ready. Sis. Manjula said that before the carpet for the Ritual of the Mystic Star was made Ganpat used to draw the Mystic Star for the Ritual. He being a great caretaker one had to convince him that the Lodge's articles would be used with care. He even told members not to be careless with their things. He took care of the needs of *Prarthna Sabha* and even outsiders' programmes like Zonta Competition. Brethren were sorry that Ganpat on his death-bed was keen to meet members, but before they could visit him, he passed away. His son Prakash was emotional and could only say that his father had joined Blavatsky Lodge in 1965. Sis. Ketayun Irani said, 'I feel he is here'. Brethren observed silence as Bro. Berthram Redwood recited a special prayer for Ganpat.

BLAVATSKY LODGE's SUNDAY MEETING of 6 May 2018 (Second Part) with Talk by BRO. BERTHRAM REDWOOD on 'GNOSTIC WISDOM': Bro. Berthram Redwood said that the Esoteric Knowledge comes out of Repository of Philosophical Knowledge. A Repository of Gnostic Knowledge was once retrieved from a buried pot. The era when consciousness of humanity was tired of wars and infighting, Roman Catholic Church was formed for 'Peace All Around' and Evolution. H. P. Blavatsky has given Spiritual Alchemy in her book *The Isis Unveiled*. She has given new outlook to humanity on issues like Vegetarianism, Reincarnation, Respect for Women, Compassion for all Beings, etc. Bro. Berthram added that Knowledge is to be used to get Wisdom. Learning from experiences will give understanding, which will help to go beyond Mental Intelligence. The Great Intelligence will guide the Aspirant. Follow the Laws of Nature and with Goodwill, Understanding & Love become good human beings. Gnostic Teachings lead one to Brotherhood.

## **Royalaseema**

Sanmarga Theosophical Lodge of Bellary celebrated Jagadguru Shankaracharya Jayanti on 20 April. The portrait of Shankaracharya was displayed on this occasion with floral decoration. Bro. Shankar, guest speaker, spoke on this occasion about the life and teachings of the Jagadguru. Twenty-eight members attended the meeting.

Buddha Poornima was observed by Sanmarg Lodge on 29 April. Bro. S. Rangaiah Setty and the guest speaker Bro. Rajashekara spoke about the life and teachings of Lord Buddha. Forty-eight members were present in the meeting.

White Lotus Day was observed by the Lodge on 8 May. The programme started with the Prayers of All Faiths. Dr. A.I. B. Reddy spoke in brief about the life of HPB and the significance of White Lotus Day. All the 25 members who participated in the meeting offered floral respect at the portrait of HPB.

A meeting to celebrate J. Krishnamurti's 123<sup>rd</sup> birth anniversary was organized on 12 May in which Dr. A.I. B. Reddy gave a talk on the life of Krishnaji and emphasized on the significance of Truth in life. Then the members offered flowers at the portrait of Krishnaji.

At the end of all the aforesaid four meetings *prasad* was given to the members.

## **Telugu**

The Blavatsky Theosophical Lodge of Nellore celebrated *Vaisakh Poornima* (Buddha Jayanti) on 29 April. Bro. A. Nagaratnam, Secretary of Blavatsky Lodge, gave a talk on this occasion on the significance of the day. Besides, the explained the teachings of Buddha.

The Lodge observed White Lotus Day on 8 May. Bro. A. Nagaratnam spoke on this occasion about the life of Madam Blavatsky and also explained the importance of the books written by her. Bro. R. Bhaskar Naidu, a member of Blavatsky Theosophical Lodge, spoke about the significance of White Lotus Day.

## **Utkal**

A day-long study camp on *Old Diary Leaves* (Vol. III & IV) was held at UTF Hall, Bhaubaneswar, on 25 March. The resource persons 258/ THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST, July./ 2018

were Bros. Satyabrath Rath, Ashok Patnaik, Pradep K. Mahapatra, Sis. Mitalini Mahapatra and Sis. Purnamasi Pattnaik.

Sis. Bandana Oberain delivered a talk on the 'Significance of Good Friday & Easter Sunday'. It was held at Barabati Lodge on 2 April.

Prof. Sahadeb Patro, President of Utkal Federation, conducted a study class on I.K. Taimni's book *Ultimate Reality & Realization*. It was held at UTF Hall, Bhubaneswar on 22 April.

The following programmes were held in the premises of UTF, 346, Gautam Nagar, Bhubaneswar:

**"Vesak Festival"** was celebrated on 30 April 2018 at 6.30 P.M. Sis. Purnamasi Pattnaik, Secy. UTF, read out the chapter "Vesak Festival" from the book *Masters and the Path*. Bro. Pramod Chandra Mishra spoke on the life of Lord Buddha. Prof. Sahadeb Patro presided over the meeting and delivered a short talk on the significance of the day. The members of Maru Lodge hosted the function.

Sis. Kusum Satapathy, former International Secretary, delivered an inspiring talk on "Beauty Without Cruelty". It was held under the auspices of Bhubaneswar Lodge on 06 May. The meeting was well attended and appreciated by all the members.

On 08 May "WHITE LOTUS DAY" was celebrated. Prof. Sahadeb Patro, President UTF, presided over the function and read out the second chapter of *Bhagavadgita*. Sis. Purnamasi Pattnaik read out a chapter from the book *The Light of Asia*. Sis. Mitalini Mahapatra read out a chapter from *The Voice of the Silence*. The members of the Siddharth Lodge hosted the function.

The 53<sup>rd</sup> FOUNDATION DAY of Utkal Theosophical Federation was celebrated on 16 May. Dr. Askhya Kumar Mishra delivered an illuminative talk on this occasion on "Can Virtue be Cultivated?". Bro. P. K. Mahapatra, the then Jt. Gen. Secy., Indian Section, also gave a short talk regarding the significance of the day. Prof. Sahadeb Patro presided over the meeting.

The members of Barabati Lodge at the members of UTF jointly celebrated "Buddha Poornima" & "White Lotus Day" at the Federation hall in Bhubaneswar.

WHITE LOTUS DAY was celebrated at Cuttack Lodge, Kaligali, Cuttack on 8 May.

Swami Sachidananda of Pragyan Foundation delivered a talk on *Manaku Kahinki Adhyayana Kariba* at Cuttack Lodge on 27 May.

Study class is conducted by Bro. Ashok Patnaik at Bhubaneswar Lodge on every Sunday. The book being studied is *An Approach to Reality* by N. Sri Ram.

The members of Maru Lodge (Bhubaneswar) are studying the book *Sri Guru Charane (Adhyatmika Prabachan Mala)* translated by Pro. Chintamani Mohapatra. The study class is conducted by Sis. Purnamasi Pattnaik on every Sunday.

Bro. Satyabrata Rath conducts the study of the book *The Ancient Wisdom* by Annie Besant. This is organized by Sanat Kumar Lodge on every Wednesday.

Sis. Mitalini Mahapatra conducts the study of the book *Master and The Path*. It is held on every Sunday at Sidhartha Lodge (Bhubaneswar).

### **Uttar Pradesh**

The three Theosophical Lodges of Lucknow jointly celebrated the White Lotus Day at Satyamarg Lodge on 8 May.

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri gave a talk at Pilibhit on 'The Technique of Spiritual Life'. It was held on May 20. Mrs. Vasumati Agnihotri gave a talk at the same venue on 'Spirituality and Health'.

Chetna Yog Sansthan at Rampur organized Bharat Samaj Pooja on 22 May. It was followed by discussion on 'Spirituality and health' by Mrs. Vasumati Agnihotri. She gave a talk on the same subject in Sitapur.

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri conducted Bharat Samaj Pooja at Muradabad on 23 May. It was followed by discussion on 'Spirituality and health' by Mrs. Vasumati Agnihotri.

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri spoke on 'Finding the Homing Signal Within' at Rampur on May 23. He spoke on the same subject at Pilibhit on May 30.

The following talks were held at Nirvan Lodge, Agra, in the month of May: 'Spirituality and Duty' by Bro. Gyanesh Chaturvedi, "White Lotus Day' by Bro. Praveen Mehrotra, 'Folk literature in Braj' by Bro. Bhagwan Sharma and 'Self-realization & Self-realized' by Bro. Harish Sharma. Besides, Bharat Samaj Pooja was performed on 27 May and a free medical camp was organized in memory of late Smt. Baleshwari Gupta who was a member of the Lodge.

A seminar on 'Form of the Theosophy' was organized by Nirvan Lodge on 31 May in which the speakers were Dr. Pratibha Sharma, Bros. S.K. Sharma, Praveen Mehrotra, N.S. Jain and Gyanesh Chaturvedi.

On invitation of the President of Inter American Theosophical Federation, Bro. U.S. Pandey participated as a guest speaker and panelist in their convention organized at Sea from 18 to 21 May, 2018. Before the formal opening of the convention he participated in a meeting of Miami Lodge of the Theosophical Society of America held on 16 May.

The convention was organized on board a cruise from Miami to Bahamas between 18 and 21 May and its theme was 'Theosophy in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century'. On 18 May, after recitation of the Universal Prayer, Sis. Nori Rao, President of Florida Federation and Sis. Isis Resende, President of Inter American Federation, welcomed the participants. About 40 delegates from different countries, mainly from North and South America participated. Bro. Tim Boyd, International President, inaugurated the convention.

Bro. Pandey, during his talk as a guest speaker, mentioned about the statements of H.P.B. made in her books, regarding the work to be done by the members of the Theosophical Society so as to make 21<sup>st</sup> Century look like a heaven, to enable more practical teachings to be given and manifestation of coming etheric force. He was also invited to be a panelist during discussions on the theme by a panel of members and during interactive session before the closing of convention. During panel discussion he mentioned about Mahatma's two statements in his letters, saying that crest wave of intellect should be diverted to spirituality and that helping hand be given to him to hold back the dark forces from gaining complete victory.

On invitation from the Secretary of Baltimore lodge, Bro. U.S. Pandey delivered a talk during the meeting of that lodge held on 27 May

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on the theme "Occult Functions and correspondence of some human organs and senses". Before the meeting, Sis. Ann Ford, Secretary of the Lodge, welcomed the participants and the speaker. On the request of the Secretary, Bro. Pandey gave a resume of proceedings of the convention of Inter American Federation held at Sea between 18 and 21 May.

Shri Mahesh Chandra Agrawal (Dip. No. 98986) of Rampur passed to peace on 05 June, 2018.

### **Study Camp at Bhowali**

1). A study camp was organized by Rayalaseema Theosophical Federation at the Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali, from 22 to 28 April, 2018. The book *The Key to Theosophy* translated into Telugu on the topics chosen for the study was given to all the 28 participants.

Bro. N.C. Krishna directed the study and the resource persons were Dr. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy and Bro. M. S. Raghunath. The proceedings were in Telugu.

The day started with meditation for which the members used to gather at the study hall by 7 a.m. Bro. N.C. Krishna explained the actual process of meditation in simple steps and involved in the meditation with the group. Members were blessed with wonderful experiences during the morning 30 mins of meditation. It was followed by Bharat Samaj Pooja, in which all the members used to join with lot of discipline and devotion. Bro. Raghunath shared a copy of the process of *pooja* in Telugu with all the members which helped them to chant the mantras rhythmically

First session in the morning started with reading of the book, *The Key to Theosophy*. Bro. N.C. Krishna & Bro. Raghunath did lot of ground work prior to the camp and prepared a handbook in the form of questions and answers in Telugu. It was very useful for the beginners. Bro. N.C. Krishna explained in a simple manner that a new member can easily understand the basics of theosophy. The members were very enthusiastic and committed, they requested for an extra session to complete the study of the book during the camp.

The second session in the morning was on the study of "Masters' Letters". Bro. Basavaraja Reddy read and explained the content of those

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letters. It was a great privilege to listen to these letters at such a sacred place.

The third session was conducted by Bro. Raghunath. In this session, moral stories were told and these stories were correlated with theosophy. This session was very lively and the moral stories were narrated in such a way that how a theosophist should play his role in the lodge, as well as in the society. All members were divided into two groups and asked to discuss among themselves and then one from each group was asked to present the ideas of the group in terms of the development of his respective lodge.

At the end of each session, there was a question & answer session. Members clarified many doubts in this session and all the questions were answered by Bro. N. C. Krishna & Bro. Basavaraj Reddy. When a member raised a doubt, rest of the members received the fruits of wisdom in the form of clarifications.

On the last day of the camp, all the participants got an opportunity to speak about theosophy. It was a great privilege for the members to express their views on theosophy.

The lectures on the Letters of the Masters were given by Dr. A.I. Basavaraja Reddy and Bro. M.S. Raghunath who dealt with the subjects like Lodge's work, study, attitude of the members. There were interactive sessions coupled with group discussions on the topics covered during each lecture. How to propagate Theosophy was a subject on which all the participants spoke during the camp. The participants were encouraged to exchange their views on the subjects of Theosophical importance.

Written suggestions were also invited from the participants regarding the methods we should adopt to propagate theosophy among those who are not yet exposed to the ideas of theosophy.

2). A Study Camp at the Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali on J.K.'s Teachings was organized by Karnataka Theosophical Federation from 4 May to 13 May 2018. It was directed by Bro. B.V. Thippeswamy, President of Karnataka Theosophical Federation.

The theme of the study was 'YOU ARE THE LIGHT TO YOUR-SELF'.

The camp was inaugurated by Bro. V. Narayanan, Treasurer, Indian Section, Varanasi, with his blessing words.

The schedule of the camp daily consisted of four sessions, two in the morning and two in the evening, followed by discussions on the topics presented by the speakers. In the evening 'Short Lecture' sessions were organized to involve the participants and to motivate them to study and get prepared for the theme to be elaborated. Voluntarily, many participants took active part in these sessions.

Nearly ten speakers, along with the Director, conducted the sessions on various topics most effectively, covering different dimensions of J.K.'s teachings, consisting of his biography, Freedom from the Known, Self-Knowledge, Truth-The Pathless Land, You are the World, Awareness, on God and incidents in J.K.'s life. Besides these, concepts of J.K. and the experiences of world renowned scholars who were closely associated with JK were also discussed which really focused on JK's life and teachings. The question-answer sessions were interesting with the active participation of the listeners.

The eminent speakers who presented different topics were: Bro. B.V. Thippeswamy, President, KTF; Sis. K. Parvathamma, Secretary, KTF; Bro. Chokkareddy, Joint Secretary; Bro. R.V. Vastrad, National Lecturer; Bro. M.S. Sridhar, Research Scholar; Bro. Vasudeva, Sis. Puttamma, Bro. B. Narasingappa, Bro. Nagaraj and Bro. Narayanappa.

At the end of each session, there used to be unique concluding remarks given by the Director, which helped the participants to go deeper into the concepts of JK.

Daily schedule started with *Jyoti Pooja*, followed by meditation conducted by Bro. B. Narasingappa. Various types of meditation including counting meditation, writing meditation, *Ana-Pana-Sati* and their significance were explained with practice.

A special feature of the camp was, number of practical sessions on how to come out of fear and sorrow, observer and observed phenomena, seeing the things as they are, abdominal breathing and other techniques were effectively conducted by the Director which was really a new experience for the participants. On the last day of the camp

a schedule was provided by the Director to the participants on how to practice JK's teachings in daily life.

At the end of the camp, there was a good feedback not only regarding the study camp but also about the arrangements of food and accommodation made by the Indian Section for the comfortable stay of the participants.

### 3). NATIONAL YOUTH STUDY CAMP

A National Youth Study Camp was organized by the Indian Section at the Himalayan Study Centre at Bhowali, Uttarakhand, on 25-26-27 May 2018.

The camp was coordinated and directed by the National Lecturers Dr. Varsha Patel and Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri along with the qualified faculty members from all over India.

There were 44 delegates who attended the camp. The delegates came from Lucknow, Ahmedabad, Delhi, Ghaziabad, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Bhubaneshwar, Ujjain, Bhowali, Dehradun, Allahabad, Pachpahar (Rajasthan).

After arrival of the delegates, a debriefing meeting was held in the evening on 24 May 2018. The activities of the camp started with mild exercises session on 25th morning by the Yoga Teacher Mrs. Swati Reddy. It was followed by Bharat Samaj Pooja, which was conducted by Mrs. Vasumati Agnihotri and Mrs. Kathyayayni.

The formal opening of the camp took place on the 25 May at 09:00 a.m. by lighting of the lamp by the youngest delegates (Pranshee Mohanta, Mannsha Mishra, Vansh Goel, Suhani Verma, Pragya Vyas, Kavya G. Jadeja). It was followed by the prayers of different religions and Universal Prayer.

Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra and Bro. V. Naraynan inaugurated the camp by extending their good wishes and the blessings of the GS Bro. Pradeep Gohil. Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri read out the greetings and the messages received from the Intl. President Bro. Tim Boyd (Video Message), Intl. Vice-President Sis. Deepa Padhi, Intl. Secy. Sis. Marja Artamma and the messages from various Federations' office bearers. Then, a few thoughts were shared by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri on the

theme of the camp which was "Inner Flowering" and the spiritual richness of the Bhowali Centre of the TS.

The following sessions were conducted during the course of three days:

1) Presentation on Theosophy, Theosophical Society and the Modern world crisis by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri.

2) Presentation on Man and his bodies by Dr. Varsha Patel.

3) Introduction of the delegates and how they came to theosophy; Interactive session conducted by Ms. Smitapragyan Patro.

4) Meditation Session (On 25 & 26 May)-Theory and Practical—was conducted by Mrs. Malini Shraavanbelagola. It was very well taken by all the participants.

5) Group discussion/presentation on: i) Ambition—Boon or Bane?, ii) God, Prayer & Grace, iii) Gossip—A substantial sin.

6) Lecture on 'Importance of TS work and duty in daily life' by Ms. B. Sandhya Rani

7) Symposium on 'Law of sacrifice and bliss in daily life' was organized in which Ms. Hitaishi Panchal, Ms. Smitapragyan Patro and Mrs. Suvralina Mohanty shared their views.

8) Elocution event was organized on the theme, "Secrets for a happy life" in which all the children namely Pranshee Mohanta, Mannsha Mishra, Vansh Goel, Suhani Verma, Pragya Vyas, Kavya G. Jadeja, Varad Vyas, Sankalp Samant, Kumar Aditya Sinh G. Jadeja, Divyaraj Sinh G. Jadeja, Shruti Goel & Kritika Goel participated.

9) Drawing of the scenes was organized on the theme, "Beauty of Bhowali" and the children drew beautiful drawings.

10) Health Tips were given by Mrs. Vasumati Agnihotri based on Naturopathy and Acupressure, which were well taken by the delegates.

11) Presentation was made on Yoga and Spirituality by Mrs. Swati Reddy which inspired many delegates.

12) Cultural programme in the evening was successfully conducted

by Mrs. Suvralina Mohanty, Mannsha Mishra and Suhani Verma, in which all the delegates contributed. Besides, Mrs. Suvralina Mohanty along with Pranshee Mohanta and Mannsha Mishra presented classical Oddissi dance on the theme of Dashavataram.

13) Question and answer session was organized with the panelists being Mrs. Mitalini Mahapatra, Dr. Varsha Patel and Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri.

14) All the children who participated in the drawing/elocution event were given a Tulsi plant as a gift and all the participants were given the certificate of participation in the camp.

Vote of thanks was given by Dr. Varsha Patel. The youth study camp then concluded and the prayers of different religions were chanted followed by the Shanti Mantra.

The camp was very inspiring and the delegates expressed their wish to have it again for a longer period of 5-6 days.

Thanks to the Indian Section for their organizational and financial support to this camp and the faculty members for their active participation and the local management for board and lodging arrangements.

### **National Lecturer**

The following Theosophical activities were conducted by Sis. Varsha Patel between March and May, 2018: She delivered talk at Ahmedabad Lodge on 7 February, 7 March and 4 April on the topic "The Voice of the Silence".

On 24 March and 28 April, she delivered talk at Rohit Lodge in Ahmedabad on "Light on the Path".

In the month of May 'White Lotus Day' was celebrated by Ahmedabad Lodge in which Sis. Varsha Patel shared her views on the topic '*The Voice of the Silence*' and the significance of 'White Lotus Day'. She also spoke in brief about the life of HPB. Besides, a few stanzas from the *The Voice of the Silence* were read out by her.

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri's tours in U.P. have been covered in the news of Uttar Pradesh.

## **OBITUARY**

**Bro. Rusi Toddywalla**, a Life Member of Blavatsky Lodge, Diploma No. 37765, a stalwart and dedicated Theosophist over 60 years, passed away on 5th May 2018. He was a dynamic President of Blavatsky Lodge and Bombay Theosophical Federation. He was one of the key organizers of three memorable celebrations: (1) Centenary of TS International 1875-1975, (2) Centenary of Blavatsky Lodge and TS in India 1879-1979 (3) Golden Jubilee of BTF 1931-1981. He was a pillar of the Theosophical Order of Service, Mumbai Region, for which even at the advanced age he worked for 8 to 10 hours a day. He had the honour of being the Chief Knight of India and graced the Maitreya Round Table Meetings till last year to inspire youth to live up to the ideals of the Order of the Round Table. Till his last he was the Convener for Great Bro. Jamshed Mehta's Birth Anniversary Meetings. At TOS Colloquiums he was a Role Model for all.

A commemoration meeting for Late Bro. Rusi Toddywalla was held under the joint auspices of the Theosophical Order of Service (TOS) Mumbai Region, Bombay Theosophical Federation (BTF), Blavatsky Lodge-TS and Maitreya Round Table. It was held on 27th May 2018 at the Besant Hall of Blavatsky Lodge. The meeting started with the Universal Prayer. Sis. Thrity Dalal, who is active in all the aforementioned four organizations, conducted the meeting.

Sis. Meherangiz Baria, a former President of Blavatsky Lodge TS and a member of T.O.S. Committee, read out the condolence messages received from several quarters including The Governor of Maharashtra CH. Vidyasagar Rao, who is also the Patron-in-Chief of TOS Mumbai Region, TS International President Mr. Tim Boyd, former International Secretary TOS Ms. Diana Chapotin, National Director TOS India Mr. B.L. Bhattacharya, National Secretary TOS K. Sivaprasad, Former General Secretary of the Indian Section TS Shri S. Sundaram, President TOS Maharashtra Region Mr. Sanjay Potey, BTF President Mr. Vinayak Pandya, Distinguished Patrons of TOS Mumbai Region - Former Attorney General Mr. Soli Sorabji, Eminent environmentalist Dr. Pheroza Godrej, Chairman WZO Trust Funds Mr. Dinshaw Tamboly, Former Chief Knights of the International Order of the Round Table India C.V.K. Maithreya and Mr. Mahadeo Desai, kind and compassionate sponsors

of TOS sponsorship project from India, United Kingdom, Chicago, Canada and New Zealand, dedicated TS and TOS members, other outstanding personalities and admirers.

The following speakers paid reverential tributes to Late Bro. Rusi Toddywalla. Bro. Umesh Kashikar, P.R.O. to the Governor of Maharashtra; Sis. Mahazaver Dalal, BTF Secretary; Cmde. Aspi Marker, retired senior naval officer; Sis. Kashmira Khambatta, Blavatsky Lodge's President; Sis. Arnavaz Jehani, a Former Leading Knight of Maitreya Round Table; Sis. Deepa Kapoor, Director TOS -Tanzania, Africa; Bro. Navin Kumar, Blavatsky Lodge's Vice-President; Mr. Arvind Rathod, Chairman of All India Disabled Rehabilitation Educational Institute; Mrs. Roxana Bhada, Trust Secretary-cum-Chief Accountant, Sir Jamsetjee Jeejeebhoy Parsee Benevolent Institution; Bro. Arni Narendran, Blavatsky Lodge's Treasurer; Sis. Roshni Irani, Former Principal of Gamadia Girls High School; Sis. Ruby Khan, Jt. Treasurer of Blavatsky Lodge; Sis. Ketayun Irani, Blavatsky Lodge's Committee Member; and Sis. Parinaz Gandhi, TOS President, speaking on behalf of the family.

Devotional bhajans on the occasion were rendered by Bro. Jamshed Kotwal. Sis. Mani Mullan paid her musical tribute to Bro. Rusi by rendering *Jaankho Jaankho Divo Maro Jojé Ré Bujhaié Na*.

Sis. Thrity Dalal read out the Resolution and all stood in silence sending out thoughts of love, peace and gratitude to the departed soul.

**Sis Kusum Satapathy**, former International Secretary, passed to peace on 28 May 2018 at her residence in Cuttack. She belonged to a theosophical family and was a member of the Theosophical Society since childhood. Her father Late Sri S. S. Varma was the International Treasurer, T.S. Adyar. He was also the author of the book *Teachings on Discipleship* and other theosophical books. Sis. Kusum Satapathy joined in allied services in customs department of Govt. of India and rose very high in the department and was respected for her efficiency and integrity. She got married to Dr. Chittaranjan Satapathy of the same department and both of them were an ideal couple in pursuit of Theosophical work. She served as International Secretary of the T.S. Adyar, between 2009 and 2013. She was very much respected and loved by the staff and the members visiting Adyar. Recently Kusum ji and her husband Dr. Chitranjan Satapathy had returned to Cuttack. It has been men-

tioned in the June issue of the Utkal Federation's Bulletin: "We were expecting a lot of advice and guidance from her. But the untimely death took her away from us. May her soul rest in peace".

### **The 11th World Congress of the Theosophical Society in Singapore from- 3 to 8 August, 2018.**

Theme: "Consciousness, Contemplation and Commitment -  
The Future is Now"

The cost of Board and Lodging at the Day's Inn Hotel is about Rs. 78,000 for six nights and the return air fare from India can be about Rs. 12,000 to Rs. 20,000. The hotel stay will be from 3 to 8 August (inclusive of both nights) and includes breakfast, lunch, dinner and two servings of tea/coffee during breaks. There will be a banquet late in the evening on 8th August after the half-day tour of Singapore. Breakfast will be given on 9th morning also and one may check out by 12 noon on that day. It is a great opportunity to see theosophy in action during the World Congress.

For more information please contact: Ms. Marja Artamaa, Secretary, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020; Email-secy.hq@ts-adyar.org; Phone: 044-2412474

### **Study Class/Camp**

1). A study class on "Bhagavadgita in the prespective of Theosophy" will be conducted by Bro. Narasimha Thakeriya, National Lectuer, from 6 to 8 July at UTF Hall, Bhubaneswar. Bro. U.S. Pandey, National Lecturer, will direct the study on Geoffrey Hodson's book *The Pathway to Perfection*, at the same venue from 3 to 6 August 2018.

2). Bro. Pradip Mahapatra will conduct a study class on *Human Regeneration*, a book written by Radha Burnier. This will be held at BTS Hall, Kolkata on 7-8 July, 2018.

3). Bro. Bipul Sarmah, National Lecturer, will conduct a study class from 8-10 September 2018 at Bhubaneswar, on the book "*Life Your Great Adventure-A Theosophic View*" written by Eunice and Felix Layton. For details contact : Sis. Purnamasi Pattnaik, Secretary, Utkal Theosophical Federation, Mob. No. 09437276204.

4). The Bihar Theosophical Federation is organizing a study class at Motihari on "The Path - Inner Freedom in the light of Theosophy", from 22nd to 24th September-2018.

**Reference Books are:**

1. *At the Feet of Master* by Alcynoe.
2. *The Master and the Path* by C.W Leadbeater
3. *The Voice of the Silence* by H P Blavatsky.
4. *Light on the Path* by M. Collins
5. *The Way of Disciple* by Clara M. Codd
6. *The Path of Discipleship* by Annie Besant

Resource Persons-

1. Bro. Chitaranjan Sinha Kanak
2. Bro R. K. Prasad & Others

Bro. Pradip Mahapatra, a member of the Executive Committee of the Indian Section, TS, will be the chief guest and Bro. Bipul Sarmah, National Lecturer will be special invitee.

Members of all the Federations under the Indian Section are welcome to participate in the study class.

The delegates coming from outside Motihari, Bihar, will be provided board & lodging from 21-09-18 to 25-09-18 for which each delegate will pay Rs.300/= as fee on arrival at Motihari. Those who are willing to participate may kindly send their names to Bro Raj. Kishore Prasad by 16 August 2018.

For details contact Bro. Raj Kishore Prasad, Secretary, Bihar Theosophical Federation, Mob. 9835643048; 9113174507.

5). Assam Theosophical Federation is organizing Study Camps in the months of July, August and September. On 28 & 29 July, 2018, the camp will be held on the book *A Textbook of Theosophy* by C.W. Leadbeater, at Guwahati. On August 4 & 5, on the book *The Doctrine of the Heart* by Annie Besant, at Dergaon and on 25 & 26 August 2018, on the book *A Textbook of Theosophy* by C.W. Leadbeater at Nalbari. All the camps will be conducted by National Lecturer Bro. Bipul Sarmah.

6). A two-day study camp on 14 & 15 September 2018 will be conducted by Bro. Pradip Kumar Mahapatra at Guwahati on "Spiritual

Journey as defined in the Mahatma Letters ". Two public lectures at Nalbari and Guwahati will also be delivered by him on 13 and 16 September 2018.

**NATIONAL SEMINAR at GWALIOR, MP**

1) MP and Rajasthan Federation and Gwalior Theosophical Lodge are jointly organizing a NATIONAL SEMINAR on "SATYAM SHIVAM SUNDARAM in the light of the THEOSOPHY" on 26-28 October 2018 at Gwalior. Reference Books:

1- *Truth, Beauty and Goodness*, by Radha Burnier.

2- *Self- Culture*, by I. K. Taimni.

3- World around us, *Collected writings from the Watch Tower* of Radha Burnier and other books of different religions.

RESOURCE PERSONS - 1 Bro. Ashok P. Lokhonde, Chairman West Zone Propagation Committee.

2) Bro. Sikhar Agnihotri, National Lecturer and others

Members of all Federations under the Indian Section are welcome to participate in the Seminar. The delegates coming from outside Gwalior will be provided Board and Lodging from 25.10 [AN] to 29.10 [FN] for which each delegate will pay Rs.500/- as fees on arrival at Gwalior. Those who are willing to participate are requested to send their names to the following persons by 31.08.2018

Persons to be contacted 1) Bro. D. Dubey, Mob. No. 8890969696, 9352421213; 2) Bro. Sanat Ku. Vyas, Mob. No. 8226007650, 940663550; 3) Dr. Hari Shankar Dwivedi, Secretary, MP & Rajasthan Federation - 9425119409, 07512626733.



## **North India Study Camp**

### **Theme : Self –Transformation**

The North India Study Camp on “**Self-Transformation**” will be held from Friday, 23 November, 2018 to Sunday, 25 November, 2018 at the Indian Section Headquarters, Varanasi. It will be conducted by Mr. Vicente Hao Chin Jr (Vic).

Members are required to remit an appropriate amount based on the type of accommodation they select, latest by 15<sup>th</sup> October, 2018:

1. Deluxe Room- Rs. 1350/-
2. Special Room- Rs. 1150/-
3. Ordinary Room- Rs. 1050/-

The amounts include registration fee, accommodation charges and meal charges. The accommodation will be provided from the evening of Thursday, 22 November to the afternoon of 26 November 2018. Dinner will be provided on 22/11 and breakfast and lunch will be provided on 26/11/2018.

The accommodation is limited to 29 in Deluxe Rooms, 22 in Special Rooms and 44 in Ordinary Rooms. It will be provided on a first come first serve basis.

If you cancel your registration before 5 November, 2018, only Rs. 100 will be deducted and the refund will be made after 15 December 2018.

For the members of Varanasi and those who do not require accommodation or food, there will be a registration charge of Rs. 200.

Remittances are to be made to Vijaya Bank, Kamachha Branch, Varanasi, Account No. 718301010005045 IFSC Code VIJB0007183 in the name of the Indian Section, The Theosophical Society. You must inform Mr. A.N. Singh (Accountant, Indian Section, The Theosophical Society, Varanasi; email – theosophyvns@gmail.com; Phone No. 0542-2400773) giving details of your transfer amount, date and mode of payment without which you cannot be registered. You may pay by cash or draft as well.

Please give details of your arrival & departure date and time and your mobile no. and email address.

Pradeep H. Gohil  
General Secretary