



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

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Special Postal Cover honouring 'Education as Service' with photo of Besant Theosophical College, Madanapalle - 517325 released on 17th November 2018 (Foundation Day of TS)

MISSION OF TS

To serve humanity by cultivating an ever deepening understanding and realization of the Ageless Wisdom, spiritual self-transformation and the unity of all life

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NEWS & NOTES

**THEOSOPHICAL YEAR STARTS ON
DR. ANNIE BESANT’S BIRTHDAY 1ST OCTOBER
It is time to pay Annual Dues of Indian Section TS and
Lodge Fees for Year 2020-2021**

Annual Dues for Member Rs.150/-

Annual Dues for Spouse Rs.75/-

Annual Dues for Member under 25 years Rs.75/-

Indian Theosophist Annual Subscription Rs.30/-

Admission Fees for New Members of any category:

Indian Section TS Rs.100/- + BTF Rs.10/- + Lodge A. Fees

Please check the total Annual Fees with the Lodge:

e.g. Blavatsky Lodge Rs.300/-, Shanti Lodge Rs.200/-, Unity Youth lodge Rs.90/-,

Please Note: Regular Annual Payment for 5 years will qualify a member to apply to Indian Section for Life Membership. If

Editor – Bro. Rustom R. Dalal **Cover Page by:** Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta
Editorial Committee – Sis. Mahazaver Dalal (Reporter & in charge of Mailing List),
 Sis. Kashmiri Khambatta, Sis. Aban Patel and **Ex-Officio:** President Bro. Vinayak
 Pandya. **Note:** News, Notes and Programs to be printed in the Bulletin be
 forwarded by e-mail to kashmirakhambatta@yahoo.com latest by 16th each
 month. Readers’ Views are invited.

Annual Dues not paid for 2 years Indian Section will lapse membership. For copies of The Indian Theosophist, subscription has to be paid in the beginning of the year.

**MEDITATION CONDUCTED BY BRO. ARNI
NARENDRAN WITH SINGAPORE LOTUS LODGE
on 8th September 2020 on Zoom**

It was a virtual Talk and Guided Meditation on *‘Fear – Walking the Mountain Path’* with Narration of a real-life incident of being trapped in the woods on the mountain slopes of Bhutan. After peaceful, energizing meditation invoking Love & Light for humanity, Bro. Arni had said, *‘Man is Light. With light he walks on a path to become the Path’*.

BLAVATSKY LODGE AGM

Blavatsky Lodge Members, please note that Virtual AGM **on Zoom will be on Sunday 27th September 2020 at 11.00 am.** Meeting ID & Password will be given on TS Mumbai Whatsapp Group before the meeting.

THEOSOPHY BOOKS ONLINE

Bro. Navin Kumar gives a Link to Bombay Brethren

BRETHREN HEREIN BELOW IS GIVEN BY FAR THE BEST LINK FOR ONLINE BOOKS. THIS SITE CONTAINS ALSO IMPORTANT CHARTS ABOUT CHAINS, ROUNDS AND THE STORY OF HUMAN EVOLUTION.
<https://www.anandgholap.net/>

BTF & LODGE PROGRAMES OCTOBER 2020

With new cases of COVID 19 still surfacing **actual meetings at Lodge premises will not be held in October 2020.** Indian Section President Shri Pradeep Gohil has appealed in The Indian Theosophist of August 2020 not to hold actual meetings till Government permits institutions like us. Lodges will be informed when permission is granted. Keep in touch with your Lodge contacts.

DR ANNIE BESANT
A Great Practical, Spiritual Personage

Prof. C.A. Shinde
Librarian, Adyar Library & Research Centre
Shares Besant Diary from Adyar Archives

For Annie Besant, there was no activity that was not spiritual. In her view — no true spiritual revival is possible in India unless it becomes independent. No Nation ruled by a foreign bureaucracy seeking to impose foreign conditions can be spiritually revived. She said ‘India is not dead but sleeping’. In the book *The Life of Annie Besant*, Geoffrey West writes that her interest up to 1898 was primarily religious. So, from 1898 until 1903 she was busy with education and then she took up social reform and at last entered into politics. She was not a politician as the word is generally understood but she saw the real need of social reform in India. The illiteracy of the masses, the treatment of the poor classes, the non-recognition of the rightful place of women in the life of the nation attracted her attention and when she found unless these social evils in the country are eradicated that the ancient ideals of Hindu Life could not be restored.

She set the work before herself was the Regeneration of India. She lectured on the best that is in Hinduism, she preached new type of education, and urged Theosophical Lodges to start new schools and to keep the keynote of Indian ideals. It is essential to study specially for students who are interested in politics her lectures on Political Science and get a clear idea, to serve the nation. She spoke of India as her Motherland and so she is always remembered as the true founder of India’s Freedom. As policy she started ‘The Commonweal’ the weekly news in 1914 to help her political work in India and later as New India daily newspaper to express her varied opinions on religious, educational social and political problems, so that burning questions can be thoughtfully discussed for suitable public opinions

that help, for freedom of India, and to bring reforms in religions, in education, in society and politics, etc.

Religious Reform included individual liberty and mutual respect, regarding all religion as ways to God and recognizing the religious consciousness and not any outer authority, as the Inner Ruler of each. **Educational Reform** began with the increase of the number of schools & colleges for encouragement of the classical knowledge of India and of the vernaculars, for the wider spread of technical and artistic instructions, for the education of girls and of the masses and generally for universal education on National lines with open path from primary schools through higher schools to the university. In **Social Reform** she said we are in favour of foreign travel, in favour of co-operation, in favour of uplifting of the depressed classes, in favour of abolition of child marriage, the seclusion of woman the colour bar and the caste systems. In **Political Reform** she said we aim at the building up of complete self-Government from village councils through district and municipal boards and to a National parliament.

I suppose that everyone who could respond to her influence was helped according to his/her temperament. Many joined together for the freedom of India and in the movements of her plans of revolution. In education in religions and in social traditions. To me she was the very embodiment of service and loyalty to friends, to a cause, to a principle, to a superior, the finest fiber in human character. "She wrote wherever there is a lodge of the T.S. a little candle is lighted, and a tiny nucleus of Brotherhood glows rosily . . . I pray to our Masters for their blessings on all members who are faithful to Theosophy and who work to spread it in the world".

**The Besant Diary of principal events speaks
about her service to humanity and loyalty to noble cause.**

- 1847 October 1st, born in London, 5.39 p.m.
- 1847 October 1st, born in London, 5.39 p.m.
- 1852 Death of father, October 5th
- 1855 Met Miss Marryat who undertook her education till 1864
- 1861 First travel abroad (in Europe)

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- 1866 Easter, met the Rev. Frank Besant, whom she married in December 1867; A very devout Christian, she met her first religious doubt and conquered it temporarily.
- 1867 Met Mr. Roberts, “the poor man’s lawyer,” who awakened her interest in the outer world of political struggle, and became her first tutor in Radicalism. First experience of an angry crowd, whom she pacified.
- 1868 Received first payment for writing: thirty shillings for a story in *The Family Herald*.
- 1871 Attempted suicide: for the first time heard her Master’s voice.
- 1872 Met Mr. Thomas Scott who became her most helpful friend.
- 1873 Discovered the gift of oratory; End of marriage: left home and husband, compelled to leave her small son with his father, and permitted to take her baby daughter with her. Left Christianity.
- 1874 Various attempts to earn a livelihood.
 May 10th, death of mother to whom she was deeply devoted;
 August 2nd, joined the National Secular Society, and met Charles Bradlaugh.
 August 30th, her first article under the name “Ajax” appeared in *National Reformer*.
 August 25th, her first public lecture : on “The Political Status of Women”;
 September 27th, her second lecture delivered : on “The True Basis of Morality”;
 Took part in the election struggle of Mr. Bradlaugh: her first experience of rioting, and of English politics.
- 1874-76 Atheist
- 1875 January, resolved to give herself wholly to propagandist work, as a Freethinker and a Social Reformer; Heard the voice of Truth;
 Began lectures on the French Revolution, from the standpoint of the oppressed people
- 1875-76 Experienced attacks from angry Christians, and from stone-throwing audiences.
- 1877 April 6th, arrested for selling the Knowlton pamphlet; subsequently her first appearance in a law court as her own advocate; the trial led to the establishment of the Malthusian League
- 1877-90 Sub-edited *The National Reformer*
- 1878 Deprived of the custody of her eight-year old daughter, though ably pleading her own case.
- 1878-79 Championed the cause of Afghanistan
- 1879 Met Edward B. Aveling, D.Sc., who became her tutor, ‘a marvelously able teacher of science subjects, the very ablest in fact that I have ever met’; Matriculated at London University

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- Qualified as science teacher in eight different sciences.
- 1879-88 Helped to conduct a science school.
- 1880 August 25th, represented English Freethinkers at International Conference in Brussels ; With Charles Bradlaugh began the battle for the rights of Atheists.
- 1881 Championed the cause of the Transvaal
- 1882 Championed the cause of Egypt and Ireland;
Moved her office to 63 Fleet Street, from where she carried on her public work till 1891
- 1884 Met George Bernard Shaw
- 1885 Joined the Fabian Society;
Helped to form a Society of the Friends of Russia ;
Championed the cause of the Soudan.
- 1887 Met W.T. Stead
Helped to form a Society Defense Association;
November 13th, in the course of a struggle to establish the right of people to old open-air public meetings, led and defended one of the processions to Trafalgar Square which were violently attacked and dispersed by the police
- 1887-90 Member of the London School Board
- 1888 With Herbert Burrows organized and won the Match-Girls' Strike which made possible the birth of the New Unionism Organized the Matchmakers' Union;
With W.T. Stead started the project of building up a "New Church, dedicated to the service of man"
Studied the hidden sides of consciousness, Spiritualism, etc., for a great despair oppressed her that her philosophy was not sufficient.
- 1889 Heard a Voice bidding her take courage for the light was near.
Read and reviewed The Secret Doctrine.
May 10th, met H.P. Blavatsky
May 21st, joined the Theosophical Society, and became the pupil of H.P.B.
August 4th and 11th, lectured at the Hall of Science on "Why I became a Theosophist"
September 4th met, H.S. Olcott
- 1890 Resigned from the National Secular Society; Met C.W. Leadbeater
Founded (with H.P.B.) the Working Women's Club at Bow.
- 1891 First lecture tour in the U.S.A.
- 1891 Succeeded H.P. Blavatsky
- 1893 September, represented the Theosophical Society at the World Parliament of Religions, Chicago;
November 9th arrived in Colombo, and on
Nov. 11th lectured on "Karma"

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- November 16th, first landed in India, at Tuticorin, 10.24 a.m.
 December, her first Convention Lectures delivered: "The Building of the Kosmos"
- 1893-94 First lecture-tour in India, attracting audiences of thousands
- 1894 Engaged in the Judge "case"
 First lecture-tour in Australia and New Zealand.
 First address to Indian National Congress
- 1895 January, settled in Benares;
 Translated the *Bhagavad-Gita*;
 Awarded the Subba Row Medal ;
 Summer, began clairvoyant research
- 1896 April, lecture series in London, later published as *The Ancient Wisdom*
- 1897 Reorganized the American Section ;
 Edited and issued *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. III
- 1898 July 7th, started the Central College in Benares
- 1900 First lectured in India on Social Reform
- 1901 Started the Central Hindu College Magazine, which soon attained a circulation of 15,000
- 1902 Joined Co-Freemasonry
- 1904 Started a Girls' Schools in Benares; Paid a visit to the Pope at Rome
- 1906 Engaged in the Leadbeater "case"
- 1907 July 6th, elected President of the Theosophical Society ;
 August, pursued researches into occult chemistry,
- 1907-11 Increased the Adyar Estate from 27 to 253 acres
- 1908 Founded the T.S. Order of service (renamed, in 1921, the Theosophical Order of Service)
 Formed the Sons of India, and the Daughters of India;
 Started the Vasanta Press at Adyar
 Order of the Round Table started, with her as Protector;
 Dec. 31st, made the first public announcement of the coming of a World Teacher
- 1909 Adopted J. Krishnamurti and his brother.
 Travelled 45,000 miles during the year.
 Continued occult chemistry researches
- 1910 With C.W. Leadbeater engaged in clairvoyant research for the book, *Man: Whence, How and Whither*.
- 1911 January 1st first delivered the Star Invocation.
 June started the Order of the Star in the East.
 Dec. 28, was present at memorable meeting of the Order;
 June 15, lectured at the Sorbonne, Paris, on the "Message of Giordano Bruno to the Modern World".
- 1912 Founded the Temple of the Rosy Cross ;

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- Founded the Order of Theosophical Sannyasis.
 Heard the oration of Pythagoras at Taormina
- 1912-14 Engaged in a lawsuit with J. Naraniah
- 1913 January 1st, transformed the Theosophist Office into the Theosophical Publishing House at Adyar
 Entered Indian politics with the clearly stated object of claiming Dominion Status for India within the British Commonwealth;
 Handed over Central Hindu College to become nucleus of the Benares Hindu University ;
 Started the Theosophical Educational Trust ;
 Sept., formed a small band, which later developed into the Order of the Brothers of Service ;
 Reorganized the German section
- 1914 January 2nd, started *The Commonweal*, a weekly journal of national reform ;
 July 6th, re-elected President of the Theosophical Society;
 July 14th, started New India (Daily news paper) which lasted fifteen years and revolutionized Indian journalism;
 Started the Y.M.I.A and donated Gokhale Hall (Madras) to be a centre of free speech
- 1915 Wrote her famous summary of “What Does India Want?”
 Formed the Madras Parliament for parliamentary training and political propaganda ; Dec.16th, inaugurated Adyar Arts League,
- 1916 Started the Home Rule League, which soon reoriented the National Congress to a new vigour Externed from the Bombay Presidency
 Started the Girls’ College, Benares
- 1917 April 7th, founded the Order of the Brothers of Service ;
 May 8th, Women’s Indian Association organized in Adyar under her Presidentship, from which grew the All-India Women’s Conference at Lahore in 1931 ;
 June—September, interned by the Government of Madras;
 August, elected President of the Indian National Congress ;
 Dec, 26th, delivered her presidential address to the Congress, later published as *The Case for India*.
 Started S.P.N.E. with the National University at Adyar under the chancellorship of Rabindranath Tagore.
- 1918 Organized the Indian Boy Scouts, which amalgamated with the Baden-Powell Scouts in 1921.
- 1920 At the session of the Indian National Congress stood against Mr. Gandhi’s plan of non-co-operation—stood alone (with five others supporting her) against shouting thousands, three brief years after being a national hero and acclaimed by vast crowds.
- 1921 April 6th, appointed Hon. Commissioner for All-India of the Boy

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- Scouts Association;
 July 6th, re-elected President of the Theosophical Society;
 July 23-26, President of the first Theosophical World Congress at Paris (1400 delegates representing 39 countries)
 July 26th, lectured at the Sorbonne in French ;
 Dec. 34rd, welcomed back to India J. Krishnamurti and broth
 Dec. 14th, Benares Hindu University conferred on her the hon. Degree of the Doctor of Letters.
- 1921 Dec., instituted Adyar Day, to begin 17 Feb. 1922
 Started the 1921 Political Club in Madras, from which came the idea of drafting a constitution for India
- 1922 October, inaugurated the Brahmavidya Ashrama at Adyar
 1922-23 Engaged in the Martyn "case"
- 1923 Inaugurated the Youth Movement in the Theosophical Society;
 Inaugurated the Brotherhood Campaign for which wrote the powerful universal prayer, "O Hidden Life".
- 1924 Attended in Queen's Hall, London, the Golden Jubilee celebration of her public activities ; also in Bombay and Madras.
- 1925 Took the Commonwealth of India Bill to London, to be presented in Parliament; Attended a great Star Camp in Holland; Celebrated the Golden Jubilee of the theosophical Society at Adyar, to which 3,000 delegates came from all over the world; Established Temples of the Religions in Adyar ; Proclaimed three World Movements;
 Dec, 28th was present at a memorable meeting of the Order of the Star.
- 1926 Started the Theosophical Colony at Juhu, Bombay, laying a corner-stone.
- 1927 Started the Happy Valley in California, appealing for the Happy Valley Foundation Fund ; Eighty years "young" this year, she gave fifty lectures in twelve countries of Europe in twenty-one days, travelling by aero plane
- 1928 July 6th, re-elected President of the Theosophical Society.
 Recorded highest membership of the Society: 45,000 active members; On invitation wrote a statement for the World Peace Union ; Was ill in London, and had to cancel Queen's Hall Lectures.
 March 25th announced the existence and work of the World Mother.
- 1929 August 26th, inaugurated the fourth Theosophical World Congress at Chicago, sending there from a letter to President Hoover pleading for the abolition of war.
- 1930 Celebrated the Golden Jubilee of Blavatsky Lodge in Bombay, the foremost Theosophical Lodge in India;
 Last visit to Benares;
 Last visit to England; presided over the Convention;

Last visit to Europe ; attended the Star Camp at Oman, and presided over the tenth theosophical European Congress at Geneva; Attended the wedding of her granddaughter, Miss Sybil Besant, to Commander Lewis, in London on Oct. 1st.

- 1931 Celebrated the Blavatsky Centenary at Adyar in August ;
Resolved to make Adyar a Flaming Centre;
Delivered her last address on Dec. 24th
- 1932 Celebrated the Olcott Centenary at Adyar in August ;
Summed up the life-work of the two Centenarians in 25 2o4ds;
Awarded "Silver Wolf," the highest Scout honour
- 1933 September 20th, expired at Adyar, 4 p.m.

TRIBUTES TO ANNIE BESANT BY INDIAN POST



*Commemorate
Home Rule League
1916*



*In honour of
Besant Centenary
1837 - 1937*



*Tributes to
Dr. Annie Besant
1837 - 1933*

*Courtesy: Adyar Achieves
Thanks to Prof. C. A. Shinde
Librarian, Adyar Library & Research Centre*

***Bro. Arni Narendran’s invitation
to Young People from Mumbai to join New Energy
facilitating Theosophy to come together Virtually***

The Virtual Centre of Theosophical Studies (VCTS) a virtual platform promoting Theosophy with a focus on Young people has released its first Promo Video in September. The Video may probably be the first promo Video in the History of Theosophy. **It features Philippino Theosophist Ms Marlyn Ranola.** Philippines was chosen as the country which has a large Youth following of Theosophy. The Video conceptualized and script content is by **Bro Arni Narendran-Education Director-VCTS.** The video has been produced by **Ms. Ann Kelly.** This is thanks to the efforts of **Bro Vic Hao Chin Jr. ,** Founder of Golden Link College and **Bro Chally Romero,** who are passionate in diffusing Theosophy. They have partnered with the Singapore Lodge and have been promoting Meditation and Talks on weekends attracting hundreds of Theosophists across Asia, Australasia and Africa. New Youth leadership like **Brandon Goh** in Singapore, **Christopher Lee** in Philippines are taking Theosophy forward amongst Youth. Theosophical Society leaders associated with Adyar viz **Sr. Martja Artma, Sr. Deepa Padhi, Sr. Isis Resende, (Brazil) Rekha Nahar (Philippines)** are a great source of encouragement.

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