



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF
THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

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HAPPY NEW YEAR 2021

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**The new year
stands before us,
like a chapter in
a book, waiting
to be written.**

MELODY BEATTIE

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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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BTF PRESIDENT BRO. VINAYAK PANDYA'S NEW YEAR MESSAGE

I wish happy, healthy, cheerful, exciting & prosperous 2021 to all our members and their family. May Master's blessings shower on all creatures. Masters gave us enough guidance and inspiration to implement and share Ancient Wisdom and work for humanity and all creatures of world during Pandemic. I take this opportunity to thank all our members for guiding, admiring, inspiring, helping and praying for me for our Federation activities. I pray to Almighty for members who have *Gone to Peace*.

Editor – Bro. Rustom R. Dalal **Cover Page by:** Sis. Kashmira Khambatta
Editorial Committee – Sis. Mahazaver Dalal (Reporter & in charge of Mailing List), Sis. Kashmira 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 kashmira.khambatta@gmail.com latest by 16th each month. Readers' Views are invited.

I take this opportunity to communicate with you. We have been associated with Theosophical movement in the city of Mumbai.

TS was formed in USA, then it came to Bombay (now Mumbai) and finally settled its headquarters at Holy Adyar campus.

Year 2020 was most challenging for everyone in the world. Pandemic has created lot of change in our behavior, yet we have been conducting various activities as part of our Theosophical movement. What we could do and what we could not under Pandemic are as under: -

- 1) Online Lodge meetings
- 2) Bharat Samaj Pooja till March 2020
- 3) Suryaben Jamubhai Dani Notebook making and distribution to deserving students was postponed due to pandemic situation
- 4) BTF monthly magazine: some issues were E-Bulletin.
- 5) Minoo Mulla & Jamubhai Dani Elocution competitions for children could not be held.
- 6) Annual online 2-day session instead of 3 days.
- 7) Celebration of Red-letter days of TS even Online
- 8) Providing Besant Hall for prayer meetings. Most of the time it couldn't be given due to pandemic.
- 9) Book shop at Blavatsky Lodge was closed from end of March 2020.
- 10) Theosophical Order of services (TOS) Activities. This activity helps more than 500 students by way of scholarship for their education.
- 11) Administration of our Lodges, Federation, Membership work, communications, Maintenance of property, Raising of funds continued.

12) Most of our members participated in most of online lectures and guided meditation programs.

I would like to recapture significant events in Theosophical Society. We have dynamic president Mr. Tim Boyd. He believes in changes and taking everyone together. He takes everyone's input before arriving at any decision to make it a joint decision. We had wonderful unique online International and Indian Section Convention in 2020.

Our biggest challenge is to spread Theosophical knowledge amongst the nonmembers. Once this is done we should get appropriate new members. Let me inform you that this pandemic has brought many positive things. This has taught us how to remain isolated, wear mask, cleanliness with washing hands, take steam, reduce other disease, work online, increase brotherhood, realize that money is not everything and to come closer to spirituality. It cut down barriers of Lodges, Sections. We started attending online meetings. It's really a new experience for most of us.

Hope to see you all more often in our gatherings. You can reach me on my email ID: cavrpandya@gmail.com or on Mobile: +91-7021778977.

With warm fraternal regards
Vinayak Pandya

NEWS & NOTES

BLAVATSKY LODGE VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Blavatsky Lodge Virtual Zoom Meetings of Mondays & Fridays are attended by 15 – 20 members, including members of North Bombay Lodges. *On Mondays **Bro. Arni Narendran** is conducting a study of book '*Theosophy Explained with Questions & Answers*' by **P. Pavri**. Sharing his personal experiences and what he learns from

attending virtual meetings of TS of other countries gives in depth explanation. He ends his meetings conducting *Wellness Meditation*.

*On Fridays **Sis. Aban Patel** conducted study of '*Inner Life*' by **C. W. Leadbeater**. She completed the First Part of this Book with sessions over two years. Her lucid presentation with explanations and examples from life made the difficult book easy to understand. After a break of month or so she will start the study of 'Inner Life' Part Two.

***Bro. Navin Kumar** in the last year had conducted study of part of the book of '*The Light on the Path*' – one of the Three Gems of Theosophy. In December he continued to conduct the study of the book. His brief summary of the book in an answer to question '*What is the harm in having good desires?*' is published in this Bulletin.

The study is conducted for encouraging **Brethren to share their thoughts** and life experiences on the subject of the study.

Thanks to **Bro. Vinayak Pandya's** Recurring Zoom Meeting ID, study is conducted un-interrupted compared to consecutive two free meetings.

VASANT – GANESH - JYOTI LODGES JOINT VIRTUAL MEETINGS

Meetings hosted by Bro. Vinayak Pandya are held on Wednesdays for the study of Gujarati Book '*Seva Bhav Shikshan*'. **The book is a translation of J. Krishnamurthy's book by Parmanand Vithaldas Thakkar published by Gujarat Kathiawar Federation, Bhavnagar in 1939. This book has Foreword by Dr. Annie Besant.** When the study is **conducted by Dr. Ajay Hora**, pages of the books with large prints are displayed on the screen for the benefit of Brethren. At one of the meetings Ms Sonal Murali, Past Faculty of JK's Rajghat School, Varanasi and current Principal of Adyar Theosophical Academy, was an honoured Invitee. Sis. Padmnaben Mehta chants Bhajans and Bro. Bhavesh Pandya leads the concluding prayer.

BLAVATSKY LODGE OUTREACH

International Cultural Meet- Manila, Philippines

Blavatsky Lodge members presented a mélange of Poems, Song and Greetings at the recently concluded International Virtual Cultural Event in Manila. The event organized by the Theosophical Society Philippines, was a huge success with as many as 130 participants in zoom. Philippines, Singapore, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Pakistan and Italy contributed to a fun filled Theosophical gathering. **Sr. Kashmira Khambatta, Sr. Jasmine Cawasji, Bro Arni Narendran, Sr. Zeena Rastomjee, Sr. Deepa Kapoor, contributed to the Blavatsky Lodge Mélange. Blavatsky Lodge video was prepared by Sis. Kashmira Khambatta.** Delegates from Australia, Holland, South America, Tanzania, and New Zealand were part of the jubilant gathering organized by the Section President and General Secretary - Bro Charlton Jules Romero and his Brilliant team of Young Theosophists.

Launch of VCTS - Virtual Centre of Theosophical Studies PROMO VIDEO

Bro Arni Narendran, Blavatsky Lodge Hon. Treasurer, participated in the Global Launch event of the VCTS Promo Video at the Pragma Lodge, Lucknow of the Uttar Pradesh Federation. The event facilitated by Bro Shikhar Agnihotri and Sr, Vibha Saxena (who is associated with the VCTS) happened to be the Guest Speaker of the day. **Bro. Arni Narendran spoke** to the well-attended audience about the Mission and purpose of the VCTS, in the capacity of Education Director. At present English and Spanish Education videos have been released under the ‘Wisdom Capsule’ series. He hoped that soon we may embark on Hindi videos, to serve the aspiring Theosophists in the sub-continent.

A RARE COLLECTORS PUBLICATION

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WITH ARTICLES FROM THEOSOPHISTS OF INDIA

Thanks to Dr. Rajam Pillai of Synergy Foundation a rare artistic publication printed by her with artwork of a Portuguese Brother and with profound thoughts of Theosophists of the world was received by BTF Bulletin Editor. The publication is titled '*The Secret Doctrine-The European School of Theosophy – 2021*'. In the section '**Reflections of the Pandemic**' the Theosophists of USA, England, Philippines and India have shared their Theosophical experiences. **Bro. Arni Narendran** writes on '*Envisioning The Lotus of the Mind*'. **Sis. Meherangiz Baria** writes on '*The Power of the Divine Mind*'. **Sis. Elka Sinha** says 'Prana comes to our Aid'. (Sis. Elka, whenever she comes to Bombay, participates in Blavatsky Lodge and BTF programs)

VCTS Education-Director Bro. Arni Narendran as his Mission to discover new talent over the world is encouraging Lodges and Brethren to reveal their talent. He encouraged Sis. Meherangiz Baria to write for this publication. He has admitted **Bro. Taral Munshi** to VCTS for Hindi translations.

BLAVATSKY LODGE REQUEST TO NOTE

Blavatsky Lodge is closed under Pandemic and so even the Staff does not come to the Lodge for their work. Hence, there is no one to receive a phone call. For any work or query, please contact President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta (M):9821459504 Vice President Bro. Navin Kumar (M):9819334333 or BTF secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal (M):9833131216.

What is the harm in having good desires?

Question of Sis. Zina Rastomjee
Answered by Bro. Navin Kumar

Monday 5th October 2020 at Blavatsky Lodge Zoom Meeting, Sis. Zeena Rastomjee raised the issue, **‘What is the harm in having good desires?’** Bro. Navin Kumar had said that he would try to answer this later. **In his answer he summarized what ‘The Light on the Path’ says as follows:**

To understand this question there are three preparations:

- 1. Before the eyes can see they must be incapable of tears.*
- 2. Before the ears can hear it must have lost its sensitiveness.*
- 3. Before the soul can stand in the presence of the Masters its feet must be washed in the blood of the heart.*

Kill out ambition	But work as those who are ambitious
Kill out desire of life	But Respect life as those who desire it.
Kill out desire of comfort	But be happy who life for happiness.
Kill out all sense of separateness	Yet stand alone and isolated because nothing that is embodied, nothing conscious of separation, nothing that is out of the Eternal, can aid you
Kill out desire for sensation	But learn from sensation and observe it, because only so can you commence the science of self-knowledge.

Kill out the hunger for growth	But grow as the flower grows, unconsciously, and open your soul to the Eternal.
Desire only that which is within you	For within you is the Light of the world.
Desire only that which is beyond you	For it is beyond you, because when you reach it you have lost yourself.
Desire only that which is unattainable	Because it forever recedes. You will enter the light but never touch the flame.

THE CONCISE LIGHT OF YOGA – AUM

Shared by Sis. Shernaz Vatchha

According to Sri Vinoba Bhave, the **Latin word Omne and the Sanskrit word Aum** are both derived from the same root meaning all, and both words convey the concepts of omniscience, omnipresence and omnipotence. Another word for Aum is *Pranava*, which is derived from the root *nu* meaning ‘to praise’, to which is added the prefix *pra* denoting ‘superiority’. The word, therefore, means ‘*the best praise or the best prayer*’.

The symbol AUM is composed of three syllables, namely the letters, A, U, M when written with a crescent and dot on its top. A few instances of the various interpretations given to it may be mentioned here to convey its meaning.

The letter ‘**A**’ **symbolizes the conscious** or the waking state (jagrata-avastha), the letter ‘**U**’ the dream state (swapna - avastha) and the

letter '**M**' the dreamless sleep state (susupta – awastha) of the mind and spirit. The *entire symbol, together with the crescent and the dot*, stands for the fourth state (turiya- awastha), which combines all these states and transcends them. This is the state of Samadhi.

The letters A, U, & M symbolize respectively speech (vak), the mind (manas) and the breath of life (prana), while the entire symbol stands for the **living spirit**, which is but a portion of the divine spirit.

The three letters also represent the **dimensions** of length, breadth, and depth, while the entire symbol represents Divinity, which is beyond the limitations of shape and form.

The three letters A, U, & M symbolize the absence of desire, fear and anger, while the whole symbol stands for **the perfect man** (a sthita-prajna), one whose wisdom is firmly established in the divine.

They represent the **three genders**, masculine feminine and neuter, while the entire symbol represents **all creations together with the Creator**.

They stand for the **three gunas or qualities** of sattva, rajas and tamas, while the whole symbol represents gunatita, one who has transcended and gone beyond the pull of the gunas.

The letters correspond to the **three tenses**- past, present and future, while the entire symbol stands for Creator, who transcends the limitations of time.

They also stand for **teaching imparted by the mother, the father and the Guru** respectively. The entire symbol represents Brahma Vidya, the knowledge of the Self, the teaching which is imperishable.

The A, U, & M depict the **three stages of yogic discipline**, namely asana, pranayama, and pratyahara. The entire symbol represents Samadhi, the goal for which the three stages are the steps.

They represent the **triad of Divinity, namely, Brahma- the creator, Vishnu - the Maintainer and Siva- the Destroyer of the Universe.** The whole symbol is said to represent Brahman from which the Universe emanates, has its growth and fruition and into which it merges in the end. It does not grow or change. Many change and pass, but Brahman is the One that ever remains unchanged.

The letters A, U, & M also stand for the **mantra ‘Tat, Twam, Asi’** (‘That Thou Art’), the realization of man’s divinity within himself. The entire symbol stands for this realization, which liberates the human spirit from the confines of his body, mind, intellect and ego.

After realizing the importance of AUM, the yogi focuses his attention on his beloved Deity adding AUM to the name of the Lord. **The word AUM being too vast and too abstract,** he unifies his senses, will, intellect, mind and reason by focusing on the name of the Lord and adding the word AUM with one pointed devotion and so experiences the feeling and meaning of the mantra.

The yogi recalls the verses of the ***Mundakopanisad***: ‘*Taking as a bow the great weapon of the Upanisad, one should put upon it an arrow sharpened by meditation. Stretching it with a thought directed to the essence of **That**, penetrate the Imperishable as the mark, my friend. The mystic syllable AUM is the bow. The arrow is the Self (Atma). Brhman is the target. By the undistracted man is It penetrated. One should come to be in It as the arrow in the mark*’.

***It’s a Way of Life to discover Yourself
and Your Purpose in Life***

Shares on Face Book

Sis. Ruby Lilaowalla, Life Member of Blavatsky Lodge

[Editor: Sis. Ruby Lilaowalla has addressed Theosophical Workshops
along with Bro. Keki Palkhiwalla
at Blavatsky Lodge]

Just received The Bombay Theosophical Bulletin for the month of December and the saying on its cover is so inspirational that I want to share it with you all. It goes

***When you choose Joy, you feel good
and when you feel good you do good
and when you do good, it reminds others
of what Joy feels like and it just might
inspire them to do the same!***

I was introduced to Theosophy in 1985 by my college friend Gool Vajifdar. I was going through a very tough time in life and she gave me a book on Theosophy. I spoke about the book to ground-floor neighbours Yasmin and Nergish Kapadia only to realize that they were Theosophists too. Yasmin made me a member of Jamshed Mehta Lodge in Q Block, Cusrow Baug, where I started giving lectures in English and Gujarati on spiritual subjects during which I met some wonderfully evolved persons who I called my Theosophy-Family – like Ratamai Peer, Brother Bulsara, Mr. Sanjana, Perin Bharucha, Dinamai Dordi, Shirinbai Daruwalla and several others.

When I was invited to Karachi for lectures by Mr. Behram Avari, I learnt that Theosophist Jamshed Mehta was known as the Saint of Karachi. Jamshed Mehta Theosophy Lodge also invited me to Singapore for lectures. A lady called Manize Seth was running the lodge beautifully.

Theosophy has existed since the time of very ancient civilizations like the Atlantis, Lemuria, Mu, Egyptian, Babylonian, Sumerian, Greek & Roman. It's not an organized religion..... ***It's a way of life to discover yourself and your purpose in life leading you to the ultimate reality!!***

Adyar Diary – Quotes for January

*You are surrounded by exactly the things you want for the next step on the upward path ... - *The Theosophic Life*

*Avoid all actions that are haphazard or purposeless. – *Marcus Aurelius*

* Every beautiful form of action and behavior expresses a quality of the soul. - *Thoughts for Aspirants – Second Series*

* We need to be free from the influence of our past, of its pressures and pains, the habits of thought, speech and action formed in our ignorance. - *Thoughts for Aspirants - Second Series*

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