



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

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THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL FEDERATION

Volume 91



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March - 2022



Jamshedi Navroze heralds the onset of Spring, the day of Spring Equinox, when day and night stands equal in length, space and time as the Sun shines directly over the Equator, entering the Zodiac Sign of 'Aries'. It's the time when Nature sheds all that is redundant and superfluous to enter into a new festive garb.



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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**INDIAN SECTION TS PRESIDENT SHRI PRDEEP GOHIL'S
GUIDELINES FOR
ABOLITION OF ADMISSION FEES & ANNUAL DUES
(As per his E-mail Dt.24-01-2022)**

FOR ADMISSION FORM: A copy of the **Aadhar Card properly signed by the applicant** must be attached with the Admission Form which too must be signed by the new member; he/she must specify whether the **free copy of "The Indian Theosophist" is required in English or Hindi**, must have a full and detailed residential address, email address or a "care-of" email address, telephone number or "care-of" telephone number and a **latest photograph**, without which membership will not be approved.

EXISTING MEMBERS ANNUAL E-MAIL: Every existing member must send an email to the Indian Section Headquarters at **renewalindsecmem@gmail.com** before **5 pm on**

Acting Editor – Sis. Mahazaver 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

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in the Bulletin be forwarded by e-mail to kashmira.khambatta@gmail.com latest by 16th each month. Readers' Views are invited.

30th September every year as per the format given below which must have their signature. The same is applicable for Life Members.

"I would like to continue my membership in the Indian Section of the Theosophical Society".

Member's Name	Name of Lodge	Diploma No.	Signature of Member	Date
.....

The fully filled, signed, and dated copy of the above format must be scanned and sent to the email address given above between 1 July to 30 September. Copies sent by post will not be accepted.

One copy is sufficient for all family members living at the same place but all T. S. members must sign it.

The members will not be required to pay any International Dues or Federation Dues. However, they will be **required to pay Lodge Dues**, if any. **There will not be any life membership for Lodges.**

There will be **no annual subscription of The Indian Theosophist**, but every member must specify whether they want it in English or Hindi.

Starting from April 2023, every Federation will get Rs.75/- per Ordinary Member (not counting the life members) as of October 1 of the previous year **for propagation of Theosophy**. The allocation of money for life members to the Federations will be as per earlier practice.

Other guidelines for Federation and Lodges are already informed by BTF Secretary's e-mail to the BTF Council Members and the Lodge Officers. For any query, please contact BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya Mobile No. +917021778977, BTF Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal Mobile: +91 9833131216 or your Lodge President/Secretary.

LIFE MEMEBRS PLEASE NOTE

- **Members who have become Life Members up to 30th September 2021, their Indian Section TS LIFE MEMBERSHIP is alive.**
- However, they need to send an e-mail as explained in Indian Section TS President Shri Pradeep Gohil's Guideline.
- According to the Amendment coming in effect from 1st January 2022, there will not be any Admission Fees, Annual Dues and Life Membership Fees. Hence, there will not be any new Life membership.
- **According to Indian Section Constitution there is no Life Membership of Lodge so even the Life Members will have to pay Lodge Fees.**

CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. RAJAM PILLAI ON FELICITATION WITH VAGHDHARA NAVARATNA SAMMAN-2022

The Award was conferred by VAGHDARA RASHTRIYA MANCH and the award was announced by the President of the Manch Dr.Vageesh Saraswat. The Award will be presented at a ceremony on International Women's Day 8th March 202 in Mumbai.

Dr Rajam Natarajan Pillai, Blavatsky Lodge, Managing Committee member, long time Gandhian activist has been conferred the prestigious Award along with eight others **for their contribution to Hindi Language in various fields.** Bollywood Diva and Member of Parliament Ms. Hema Malini has been awarded the *Lifetime*

Achievement Honour (Jivan Gaurav Samman) alongside the other Awardees.

Dr..Rajam Pillai retired as the Head of Department-Hindi from SIES College in Mumbai. She was associated with Mani Bhawan for many years and was the **editor of the Hindi journal 'Gandhi Prawah'**. She is the Chairman of the Synergy Foundation and Editor of the '**SYNERGY JOURNAL.**' a Global Magazine with articles in English & Hindi dedicated to Theosophy, Arts and Poetry. It is distributed free amongst the University students and Academia in Mumbai and overseas .**She has written many articles in Hindi, Urdu and Marathi** and published a *Book on 'Woman Saints of Maharashtra'*. .She has participated in International Hindi Conferences in Surinam, Berlin, and London. She has **translated the works of His Holiness Shankaracharya of Kancheepuram and that of Mata Amritanandamayi to Hindi.** Ms. Hema Malini and Dr Rajam Pillai have been specially mentioned in their citation for **their contribution to National Integration and Universal brotherhood** through performing Arts, Cinema, and writings **through Hindi, despite their Mother tongue being Tamil.** Presently Dr. Rajam is a visiting faculty of the Bhawan's College of Management, Mumbai. Bombay Theosophical Federation joins Blavatsky Lodge in recording their Felicitations to Dr. Rajam Pillai.

SECRET DOCTRINE RESEARCH PROJECT MOSCOW

Bro Arni Narendran, participated in the 'Secret Doctrine Research Project' **as a Panel Member,** which is being globally **organized by the Adamant Lodge** of the Theosophical society of

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Russia, based in Moscow. The President and Secretary of the Lodge Bro. Vladimir Yari and Sis. Evegeniya Shaburnikova have embarked on an ambitious project on a Global scale engaging Theosophists of long standing and academics from various universities of the World.

Congratulations Bro. Arni Narendran for being invited by Moscow Lodge to participate in their Global Project.

**BTF PRESIDENT BRO. VINAYAK PANDYA PRESIDED
OVER LATE VEERABEN DASTUR MEMORIAL SHIBIR IN
SURAT**

Sis. Keshwar Dastur in memory of her Dear Aunt and a Great Theosophist of Ahmedabad Late Veeraben Dastur organizes Annual Study Camp – ‘Shibir’ for Brethren of Gujarat Federation. This year on 6th February 2022 it was One Day Virtual Shibir in Gujarati Hosted by Sanatan Lodge of Surat. **BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya was the President of the Shibir. In his talk on ‘BrihamVidya nu Karya’ he shared** inspiring incidents from the life of Late Veeraben Dastur and spoke on how to live Theosophy for the good of humanity.

INDIAN SECTION WEBSITE HOMEPAGE

Indian Section TS Website Home Page of 8th February 2022, with colorful pictures, in Recent Posts includes links to Triveni Tuesday Meet and BTF Bulletin of Feb. 2022.

TRIVENI TUESDAY MEET NEWS

Triveni Tuesday Meet is spreading its wings from Three Lodges of Gujarat & Bombay Federations to speakers and participants from all over India. From January 2022 with the Talk of Bro. Vick How Chin Jr. of Philippines, he has started inviting once a month Lecturers from

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other parts of the world. Indian Section TS President Shri Pradeep Gohil in his Report at the Indian Section Convention during the 146th International Virtual Convention had acknowledged propagation of Theosophy by Triveni Tuesday Meet. Lately there have been sessions on understanding of Vedanta Philosophy. It is thanks to innovative networking of both Bro. Taral & Sis. Archana Munshi.

VIRTUAL MEETINGS OF BLAVATSKY LODGE

Blavatsky Lodge has Study Classes are **on Mondays conducted by Bro. Arni Narendran of book ‘Theosophy Explained by Question & Answer – by Pavri’ and on Fridays conducted by Sis. Aban Patel of book ‘Inner Life - II’ by C.W. Leadbeater.** These meetings are attended by 20-25 Brethren of Mumbai and from Varanasi to Adyar.

‘Gurudev Goshthi’

VIRTUAL THURSDAY MEETINGS OF VASANTA-GANESH-JYOTI LODGES

Vasanta Lodge in light of their Thursday Meetings to study Gujarati Books with interactive understanding of the Teachings of The Great Ones, Founders & Stalwarts of Theosophy and Spiritual Teachers have titled their meetings ‘*Gurudev Goshthi*’ – [*Discourse with Gurudev*]. The last book they studied was ‘*Apana Sanyogo nu Rahasya*’ [*Hidden Purpose of Our Circumstances*] **authored by Shri Venishankar G. Bhatt of Bhawnagar, Gujarat.**

OBITUARY

Bro. C.V. K. Maitreya of Adyar and a Friend of Bombay TS passed away on 17th January 2022. When he was stationed in

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Mumbai, he was an active participant of TS activities in Mumbai and was even member of three Masonic Lodges of Mumbai. He was the Guest Speaker for Blavatsky Lodge 125th Anniversary programme. He has addressed TS events of Lodges/Federations of India and TS events of other countries. May his soul be blessed with Eternal Bliss.

Sis. Ruxan Homi Messman of Blavatsky Lodge passed away on 28th September 2021. Sorry, we learnt very late about the date she expired. She was a member for 13 years. She used to attend to Blavatsky Lodge activities with her husband Homi Messman. May her soul be blessed with Peace.

ADYAR DAY CELEBRATIONS

TRIVENI TUESDAY MEET on 15th February 2022 had talk by Sis. Keshwar Dastur on ‘Sharing her Reminences of Adyar’. Radhaji had asked her to serve Adyar. She was hesitant, but with her aunt Veeraben Dastur’s encouragement she went to Adyar initially for two years, but she ended up serving Adyar and Radhaji over fourteen years. She also spoke about what Adyar unfolded in her life. Shri Harshad Dave in Gujarati and Shri Harshvadan Sheth in Hindi had conveyed Keshwarben’s inspiring experiences of Adyar.

BTF & BLAVATSKY LODGE virtual meeting was on 17th February 2022 morning. Sis. Ruby Khan paid homage to **Giordano Bruno. Dr. Ajay Hora** spoke about how his mother Mugdhaben wrote ‘*Adyar Song*’ and taught him about ‘Karma’ when he was hardly 6 years of age. **Dr. Rajam Pillai** read from HPB’s article in which she says, ‘*Without Col. H. S. Olcott there would not have been worldwide Theosophical Society*’. **Sis. Archana Munshi** spoke about how **J. Krishnamurthy** was spotted by C. W. Leadbeater as the future World Teacher and how with the Masters’ guidance he wrote ‘At the Feet of the Master’. **Bro. Navin Kumar** in Hindi related incidents of C. W. Leadbeater’s life leading from one stage to the other from his book ‘*How Theosophy came to me*’. **Sis. Jasmin Cawasji** read inspiring passage from C. Jinarajadasa’s book ‘*Letters from Masters of*

the Wisdom'. **Dr. Sushma Shrivastava** said that 17-2-2022 is the **Centenary Day of Official announcement of 'Adyar Day'**. *Adyar Song* lead by **Bro. Vinayak Pandya** was sung by all. **Bro. Taral Munshi** sang his composition of '*Pyara Adyar Tera Mera*'. **Sis. Mahazaver Dalal** shared her experience of Adyar and **Sis. Armaity Tirandaz** said that Theosophy is the backbone of support in her life. In the end **Bro. Vinayak Pandya** said that as a gesture of our Love & Gratitude for Adyar we must give donations, which are used for causes dear to Col. H. S. Olcott like Olcott School.

Adyar Day Donations can be directly deposited in Bank A/c:
A/c Name: The Theosophical Society **Bank:** Indian Bank
Branch: Gandhi Nagar, Adyar **A/c NO:**439620551
IFSC Code: IDIB000A002

***THE QUALIFICATIONS AND PREPARATIONS
 OF THEOSOPHICAL WORKER [PART II]
 WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO (1) INNER LIFE AND
 (2) INDESPENSABLE QUALITIES***

***Talk by Sis. Aban Patel at Indian Section TS
 Virtual Programme of 14th November 2021***

We all who have gathered here today are Theosophists or Theosophists in the making. But if a question is asked by a layman, what is Theosophy? Our answer will be Ancient Wisdom, Sacred knowledge of the Wise - the Brahma Vidya. Correct? Then, the next question will be who is the true Theosophist? The short answer will be the person who knows and follows the three objects of Theosophy, namely (i) Brotherhood of Humanity (ii) Study of Comparative Religion, Philosophy & Science and (iii) Investigation of Unexplained Laws of Nature and Powers latent in man.

Ok. But I ask myself **are all these three objects achievable in one lifetime?** My answer will be maybe, maybe not. So, the next

question is, **what do we need** to understand all these three objects? The answer is **KNOWLEDGE / QUALIFICATIONS & PREPARATION** to do the work as a good Theosophist.

No knowledge, or wisdom will come to us humans without **learning, studying and most important putting that knowledge into practice**. So, therefore, if we, as workers wish to spread the knowledge of Theosophy, we need to prepare a plan - a blueprint as we say and systematically study the books written by our Elders, imbibe this knowledge and then impart this sacred knowledge to our ken. Here I would like to quote what **Madam Blavatsky** has to say in her book “The Key To Theosophy”, when she was asked whether it is duty of every member of TS to teach others and preach Theosophy? She affirmed and I quote ***“No fellow has a right to remain idle on the excuse that he knows too little to teach; for he may always be sure that he will find others who know still less than himself. And also it is not until a man begins to try to teach others that he discovers his own ignorance and tries to remove it”***.

My subject of today’s talk is in continuation of last Sunday 7th November 2021 talk on the book **“Principles of Theosophical Work”** written by **Dr. I.K.Taimni**. Chapter 4 (Part 1). Now I will continue to speak about Part 2 of the same chapter with reference to, (i) Inner Life (ii) Indispensable Qualities.

INNER LIFE: What is Inner Life? Inner Life means to know who we are? We are not mere physical bodies, with a tag of caste, religion, color, gender, etc. **Bishop Leadbeater** in his book Inner Life Part 1 has said ***“First, man must realize that he is not his physical body. He is not his feelings, and further on still that he is not even his mind. This brings him eventually to the realization that he is the ego or soul and still later on he realizes that even that ego is only apparently separate, and that there is in reality but One***

transcendent unity.” As we have the last verse in our universal prayer: “Oh hidden love, embracing all in Oneness, may each who feels himself as one with Thee, know he is one with every other”.

We all know that man has seven bodies, 3 Upper Triad i.e., Atma, Buddhi, Manas. These three are permanent. We come with these bodies birth after birth. The 4 Lower Quaternary, which are destroyable once our breathing stops. They are, Kama-Manas, Astral, Prana-energy/vitality, Lingasarira-subtle and Sthulararira - gross physical. **To reach the highest consciousness we have to start with physical consciousness** and gradually ascend to astral, then to mental and then to Buddhic and Atmic. As a worker we may not reach the highest consciousness, but once we are aware that man has to reach the highest consciousness sooner or later, **we become mindful of our thoughts, speech, and action and so gradually our latent spiritual faculties start developing.**

The effectiveness of the work that we do for the T.S. or for that matter any spiritual movement like ours depends not only on our knowledge, not only our training, but also to a very great extent upon what we are. That is, on the extent to which we have unfolded our latent spiritual faculties and acquired that power of influencing people about us, irrespective of the spoken word. It is observed that people are not generally influenced by what we say but by the power and the subtle influence at the back of those words. They may admire a brilliant speaker for his oratory and may be influenced temporarily when a strong appeal is made to their emotions, but the effect does not last and is never very deep, unless it is matched with the speaker's sincerity, earnestness and more direct expressions of spiritual nature is such, that even long after such person's words and actions influence our life.

A Theosophical worker has not only to influence the minds and emotions of people around him but has to arouse to some extent those latent spiritual principles in them which are known as Buddhi and Atma in our literature. The awakening of these principles, in some measure at least, can give them the capacity to perceive truths of the higher life, to change their outlooks and to tread the path of inner unfoldment.

It is necessary for us all to realize that we can communicate to others only what we ourselves possess and no amount of talking and lecturing can enable us to exercise this dynamic spiritual faculties within our own self are still slumbering. To touch and arouse their deeper intuitions and aspirations we must ourselves be spiritually awake and trying to live the inner life of the Spirit. This process of Inner Enfoldment which is going on very slowly in the case of every one of us can be accelerated only by *Sadhana*, which systematically discipline our lower nature and help progress development of our spiritual faculties. (Gita's shloka 61 of chapter 2)

Taniservanisayamyuktaaasitmatper.

Vashe hi ysayeindraayanitasyapragyapratishthita.

Meaning,

***“Having restrained them all, he should sit harmonized,
I his supreme goal; for whose senses are mastered,
of him the understanding is well poised”***

What are the elements of this self-discipline? What are those special qualities that we should make part of our life, our character?

Answer to this question is, i) To read the literature, the great works of our Masters and Elder Brethren who have so painstakingly left behind for us & try understanding these concepts, (ii) Attend the Schools of Wisdom which are arranged by the authorities, (iii) Listen to the Talks

and attend the seminars arranged for us at various centers. (iv) And last but not the least try to put in practice all that touches our hearts and minds, so that slowly but steadily our Inner Enfoldment takes place.

Now, I will speak about certain points which may help us to tread the Path and find our Higher Qualities gradually blossoming forth. These steps are normally exercised by all spiritually inclined people.

Indispensable Qualities: Though it is not possible to deal here with the bigger and more comprehensive problem of Self-culture, it is perhaps necessary to draw the attention of the earnest worker to a few special qualities that are almost indispensable in Theosophical work and the absence of which mars the usefulness of many ardent worker. These qualities he should try to acquire in a sufficient degree as quickly as possible, so that his effectiveness as a worker may be commensurate with his capacities and the desire to help. They are as under:

1. **Initiative:** Although, the work of the Society is done through an organization and there is a machinery in every section for carrying out its plans, it is necessary that it has to depend upon individual members scattered throughout the world, to push forward its work to reach in remote corners wherever, the Lodges are situated. This needs hard work and the power of taking initiative which characterizes all pioneers. Without this driving power it would be difficult to reach out to all by the workers, who pledged himself to dispel human ignorance and bring light of Heaven to earth and to achieve definite results. Here I think if we set up Goals to reach certain level of work, it will help us a lot. Goals are planned objectives that an organization tries to achieve. There can be short term goals or long-term goals. But before setting up the goals all the members sit together and discuss what their plans are. If we need to improve the Theosophical knowledge of the members, we can take

study classes. There we can discuss which book, of which author to be taken up for study. For increase in membership, decide on numbers how many new members we will add, during the year etc. for this we must study the concept of Goals as done by Corporates and companies. i.e. SMART Goals.

**Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Relevant,
Trackable or Timebound.**

2. **Striving after Perfection:** There is an exquisitely beautiful way of doing things which makes Divinity to shine through our work. That is; the necessity of efficiency in our work. But efficiency is only one of the elements; there are other elements too, if we wish to produce the perfection in our work. They are beauty, harmony, proportion, love, co-operation, compassion and many others. Those who have developed intuition can still feel and understand intuitively what it is and how to strive after it. In our enthusiasm to see our work expand and bring tangible results, we are apt to overlook this element of quality and do things rather in slip shod way. It is only with the quality of our work we can stamp it with the impress of perfection and enable it to become a vehicle of Divine Life. Therefore, cleanliness of the place, proper arrangement of our Library books, decorating the walls with the photographs duly framed of our Elder Theosophists hanging on the walls, regular dusting of furniture etc. are some of the aspects which need to be given attention to, so the very first impression of new entrant to T.S. will be a pleasant one. At certain places we have huge imposing edifices which are considered to be heritage buildings. Utmost care must be taken to keep them in perfect condition and the workers must realize that they are not mere structures, but they are the Supreme Temples of Learning and due respect be given.

3. **Tolerance:** The T.S. is a vast organization spread all over the world, comprising people belonging to different nationalities, races, cultures, and faiths. Its members are working in almost all spheres of thought and activity, trying to throw the light of Divine Wisdom everywhere. Society thus brings into intimate relationship people having different temperaments and working in different fields of human endeavor, and it should not be difficult to see that for the harmonious working together of such diverse elements the one quality which is most needed is Tolerance. What lubricating oil does for a machine, tolerance does for our heterogeneous organization. It prevents friction, counteracts disruptive tendencies, and allows the working of the whole organism to function smoothly. There will be instances when we differ from one another, but we must recognize theoretically his right to think and act differently. But we should not keep grudge or contempt for the person who differs from our point of view. As we say, ‘each to his own’ or ‘we may agree to disagree’. This tolerance will not create any contempt, but we will learn a lot from each other’s point of view. The tolerance that we need implies a clear recognition that every soul is divine in origin and is unfolding its life in its own unique way, treading its own path which must necessarily be different from our own. If we have to oppose others we should do so without malice in our heart, in the spirit of an agent of the Plan who has to carry out the Dharma of his position as he sees it. (in Gita Arjun is told by Krishna to do his duty and do not expect its fruits. shloka 47, chapter 2):

***“Karmanayevadhikaraste, maafaleshukadachan;
Maakarmafalhetubhurh, mateysangostavkarmani”***

Even if we see faults and even vices in others we should not feel repulsion. But instead try to reach out to the divine life which is imprisoned in the undeveloped and uncontrolled bodies in a spirit of comradeship, and should make an endeavor to help our brother to get rid of the impediments. This attitude alone will help us to work together in perfect harmony.

4. **Co-Operation:** As we are not merely a body of men and women sharing the vital truths of Theosophy, but also a band of workers pledged to disseminate these truths far and wide and to bring about far-reaching changes in the modes of thought and outlooks prevailing in the world, mere tolerance, necessary though it is, is not sufficient. What is wanted, in addition is the attitude of active co-operation, the readiness and the capacity to work with people of all kinds of temperaments and modes of thinking in the pursuit of common goal. As we cannot choose our co-workers in our place of work/offices, but have to work with them, similarly, here too we have to co-operate with our co-workers as best as we can. Hence, the desire to give to our fellow workers all help, moral support and cooperation is the best way we can bring best results in the work of our Lodges and Federations. But we must remember to be always ready to help where help is needed and yet to have no desire to interfere. This is an attitude of mind not easy to acquire but has to be acquired by every worker who wishes to qualify himself for the privilege of working under the guidance of the Elder Brethren.

In the end, it will be appropriate to remember the oft quoted words of **Madam Blavatsky** to the learner of Theosophy, "*Behold the truth before you: A clean life, an open mind, a pure heart, an eager*

intellect, an unveiled spiritual perception, a brotherliness for all, a readiness to give and receive advice and instruction, a loyal sense of duty to the Teacher, a willing obedience to the behest of TRUTH once we have placed our confidence in and believe that the Teacher to be in possession of it; a courageous endurance of personal injustice, a brave declaration of principles, a valiant defence of those who are unjustly attacked, and a constant eye to the ideal of human progression and perfection which the sacred science depicts- these are the Golden Stairs up the steps of which the learner may climb to the Temple of Divine wisdom." Amen!!!

I have visited many a wonderful land and seen many a famous sight, but there is none to equal the extraordinary intangible something of our Adyar. There is an atmosphere there that does not exist in many a church or temple and there is a presence there that we expect to pensive in a sacred shrine.

- **J. Krishnamurthy**

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