



THE BOMBAY THEOSOPHICAL BULLETIN

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SYNERGY
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YEAR : 3 JANUARY-JUNE 2021

Blavatsky Lodge - Theosophical Society

Commemorative Issue

EST. 20th February 1880

My Brief Introduction
Coming in touch with Theosophy
Manorama Saxena

A Pianist at
Blavatsky Lodge
Freya Pagdiwala

An Unforgettable Healing by
Krishnaji (J. Krishnamurti)
Manjula Kanabar

Blavatsky Lodge- Mumbai
A Lotus flower in Full Bloom
Arni Narendran

**COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE OF SYNERGY
IN HONOUR OF 140TH YEAR OF
BLAVATSKY LODGE TS, MUMBAI
*A Lotus Flower In Full Bloom***

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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SYNERGY

*Year 3 January – June 2021 Commemorative Issue
Blavatsky Lodge – Theosophical Society*

The ‘Synergy’ issue released at Adyar Day 17th February 2021 Virtual meeting of BTF & Blavatsky Lodge was with compliments of Publisher & managing Trustee **Dr. Rajam Pillai** of Synergy Foundation Trust and distributed to Brethren in Mumbai and posted to Indian Section TS, Varanasi & Theosophical Society Adyar. It was also sent to many TS Lodges abroad. This colorful issue full of photos focused on Theosophy commemorates 140th Year of Blavatsky Lodge TS, Mumbai established by the Founders Madam H. P. Blavatsky & Col. H. S. Olcott on 20th February 1880 with **Bro. Arni Narendran**’s article ‘*A Lotus Flower in Full Bloom*’. The other contributors to this issue are: (1) Sis. Manorama Saxena, mother of Bro. Navin Kumar, sharing ‘My Brief Introduction coming in touch with Theosophy’ of 97 years of her life. (2) Sis. Freny Pagdiwala as

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.

'A Pianist at Blavatsky Lodge' reminiscing her Musical Sojourn especially at Blavatsky Lodge with her Crystal Choral Senior & Junior Choirs. (3) Sis. Manjula Kannabar sharing a spiritual experience of her life – *'An Unforgettable Healing by Krishnaji [J. Krishnamurti]'*. The issue is a window to spiritual life abroad with articles on *Yazidi Temple and Art inspired by Spiritual Insight*. Other contents are *'Report of Students Symposium'*, *'Book Review'*, *other information* and *'Tributes to Bro. Bertie'*, who was on Advisory Committee of Synergy.

Few extra copies are with BTF Secretary Sis. Mahazaver Dalal. Interested Brethren are welcome to contact her on 1 (M): +91-9833131216.

APPRECIATIVE FEEDBACK FOR 'ZOROASTRIANISM BOOKLET'

Sis. Manju & Bro. S. Sundaram of Indian Section TS, Varanasi:

Firstly, let me, on behalf of both of us, thank the members of the Blavatsky Lodge as also the members of the Bombay Theosophical Federation for the wonderful Booklet that we received the other day, so very affectionately sent to us.

Our heartiest congratulations for the most elegantly, aesthetically and thoughtfully brought out Booklet - 'ZOROASTRIANISM'.

'Small is Beautiful'- yes, the Booklet undoubtedly proves this true! Seemingly small and yet so very profound, great in depth!

The beautiful, artistic get-up, the pictures and photographs, the very informative content- the whole text based on the Presentation by Sis. Aban Purvez Patel - everything has been so enriching and inspiring- at places very moving too!

Both of us finished reading it at one go! And then read it again, sharing with interest, the anecdotes, the quotes, the thought-provoking instances which have enhanced and deepened the impact of the content. The language, the expression - so lucid and gentle! It has indeed been a wonderful reading throughout.

Dr. Deepa Padhi, International TS Vice-President:

Thank you for sharing such an informative and interesting booklet. To be honest, I did not have much idea about Zoroastrianism. I got to know many things from this beautifully made booklet. My congratulations to Sister Aban Patel and Sister Kashmir Khambatta.

Ms Marja Artamma, International TS Secretary:

Thank you. Well received.

Shri Shikhar Agnihotri, International Lecturer:

Thank you for sharing such an interesting and informative presentation and thanks & congratulations to Sis. Aban and Sis. Kashmir for preparing it so beautifully.

Shri U. S. Pandey, National Lecturer:

Hearty Congratulations to Sis. Aban Patel and Sis. Kashmir Khambatta for bringing out this informative booklet on Zoroastrianism.

(Bro. U.S. Pandey has even requested copies of the booklet to share with his members.)

Sis. Michele Pablo Senders, President Ojai Valley Theosophical Society, California, USA:

Dear Sisters, It is always nice to hear from you and especially as you share your latest work (e-booklet on Zoroastrianism). *I am always looking for ways to make the work put into a lecture carry its energy for other projects to reach a wider audience;* this is one such project (Booklet of Zoroastrianism) and we congratulate you! *This will also be very useful to get Zoroastrianism on the Theosophy Wiki.* (Sis. Michele & Bro. Pedro

are very kindly working on putting the booklet on Theosophy Wiki and will give us the Link, when ready)

For Booklet contact Sis. Mahazaver Dalal (M): 9833131216

**THEOSOPHY SHARED ON VIRTUAL PLATFORM
IN MUMBAI**

BLAVATSKY LODGE MEETINGS:

On Mondays:

Bro. Arni Narendran conducts the study of Bro. P. Pavri's book 'Theosophy Explained with Questions & Answers'. Interest in study of this book is rekindled thanks to reprint of the book by Bro. Rusi Toddywalla. Bro. Navin Kumar has sent soft copy to Brethren to facilitate their interactive virtual study sharing personal experiences.

On Fridays:

Sis. Aban Patel had conducted the study of C.W. Leadbeater's book 'Inner Life'. She completed, with sessions practically over a year, the First Part of the book with her in depth study and encouraging Brethren to think and speak on the points under study.

Bro. Navin Kumar continued with study of 'The Light on the Path' encouraging Brethren to think together.

Sis. Aban Amroliwalla gave talks on (1) 'How we remember our Past Lives' based on C. Jinarajadasa's book (2) Prayers & Effects (3) Raj yoga &– Pratyahara (4) Blessings of Meditation.

Sis. Aban Patel has started from 5th March 2021 study of **C.W. Leadbeater's book 'Power & Use of Thoughts'** with slides of 'Thought Forms' from CWL & Annie Besant's book 'Thought Forms'.

Meditation at the end of Blavatsky Lodge meetings: Bro. Arni Narendran conducts short meditations for wellness and Peace and Harmony.

VASANTA – GANESH – JYOTI LODGES' MEETINGS:

On Wednesdays:

Study of ‘Sevabhav Shikshan’, Gujarati book based on J. Krishnamurthy’s teachings about ‘How to impart Education’ is conducted by Bro. Vinayak Pandya. Dr. Ajay Hora and Bro. Harshvadan Sheth of Ahmedabad are Mentors. Brethren are encouraged to share their experiences as a teacher.

On Thursdays:

On 18th March 2021 study of Gujarati Book ‘**Mrityu ni Pankhar ma Vasant**’ (Spring in Autumn of Death) was started. This book is a true story of a 13-year young girl Stuti ‘**Atama-Swarupe**’ (as a soul) **after an accidental death communicating** with her Dear Ones and close associates like Dr. Ajay Hora **about journey of her soul after death**. This book is written by her mother Usha Chaturvedi. Late Shri Rohit Mehta, General Secretary of Indian Section in Foreword to this book writes that ‘the book will be a solace to people on death of their Dear-one’. Shri Harshvadan Sheth recalled that when Rohitji was giving series of lectures in Ahmedabad Stuti had died of accident. Father Arunbhai, who had kindly joined the meeting, informed that this book is honoured with an Award. The study is **conducted by Bro. Vinayak Pandya**.

Bro. Vinayak Pandya **displays books on screen** to help participants, who do not have copies. Their meetings end with **closing prayers by Bro. Bhavesh Pandya**.

**BRO. TARAL MUNSHI
ON PRAGYA CS STUDIO VIRTUAL PLATFORM
ON 28TH MARCH 2021**

Bro. Taral Munshi’s *Hindi Skit ‘Swayam ki talash’* was an adaptation of seven Q&A from Bro P. Pavri’s Book- ‘Theosophy explained with Questions and Answers’. Bro. Taral Munshi, an Actor, Director, and Scriptwriter connected to the Bollywood entertainment Industry enthralled the audience by Bollywood entertainment Industry enthralled the audience by his command over Hindi, his heart touching Monologue of Q&A and pictorial glimpses of Adyar. A

Compliment one participant gave was – *‘If a lay person sees your presentation, immediately he will like to join Theosophy’*. Thanks to Shri Shikhar Agnihotri Bro. Taral Munshi’s was able to spread Virtual Platform of Pragma CS Studio in Adyar, Chennai.

OBITUARY

Bro. M. P. Singhal, former International Vice-President, and Acting President (on sudden demise of Radhaji) **passed away peacefully** at his residence in Delhi **on 13th March 2021. When he was General Secretary of Indian Section TS**, he had graced an Annual Session of our Bombay TF as the Chief Guest. May his soul blessed with peace continue its noble work on Higher Planes.

Bro. Erv. Godrej Ratanji Panthaky, member of Blavatsky Lodge with membership of 23 years passed away **on 12th December 2020.** (Sorry, we learnt the news late) A Lawyer and Head Priest of Banaji Limji Agiyari was a Theosophist at heart. His wife Sis Mehroo is a member of Shanti Lodge over 40 years. His son Hoshedar, following in his footsteps as High Priest of Banaji Limji Agiyari, is member of Blavatsky Lodge. Whole Family was inspired by Late Sis. Mani Shroff (sister of Sis. Mehroo) to become members of Theosophical Society. With her **Bro. Godrej had performed the Zoroastrian Ritual at Parsi Temple in Adyar, during one of the International Conventions.** He used to periodically give donations to Blavatsky Lodge and was particular to send his fees with Late Dr. Darius H. Umrigar. May his soul be blessed with peace.

Blavatsky Lodge Library Member Dr. Minocher Nariman Sahukar passed away **on 5th January 2021.** He was a batch mate of Bro. Zinoo Master’s elder brother at Nair Hospital College. He was keenly interested in Theosophy and even at the age of 93 years was particular to receive his copy of BTF Bulletin. May his soul be blessed with peace.



Esoteric Tales of Cyrus Ryan
An Occult Guest at the Blavatsky Lodge
 By Bro. Arni Narendran

Two weeks ago, on our Friday reading and study session at the Blavatsky Lodge, Sister Aban Amroliwalla, picked upon a Book, which she had purchased during her attendance at the Toronto Theosophical Society. The Book was authored by a Toronto based psychic, who was associated with the Toronto Theosophical Society. Barely had Sr. Aban, read passages from the Book ***“Living on the Inner Edge”*** on two Fridays, the author appeared on the zoom screen on the third Friday. Sr. Aban was intending to read the chapter on Meditation. At Bro Navin Kumar’s behest, and fortuitously so, the author, went on to talk for the entire evening, mesmerizing the participants, narrating his entire Life’s journey into the Occult realms, keeping all the participants, spell bound.

Cyrus Ryan was born to a Canadian Christian family, but from the age of fifteen he was drawn to Indian and much later, to Tibetan culture and philosophy. Cyrus joined the Toronto Theosophical Society where he met his Spiritual Mentor, Tom Chan, an Indonesian Theosophist, who arrived in Canada, via Holland. His Teacher went by the name of R.N. (Named after a Siddha - sage from the remote Kotagiri, in the Nilgiri mountains on the Western Ghats, of Tamilnadu). He was an advanced Soul and had set up an Esoteric group in Toronto, initially active in the Theosophical Society, subsequently on their own. Cyrus, initially started his Spiritual journey, as a Saiva Siddhantist, however his journey took him through, Ramana Maharishi, Ramakrishna Paramahansa, Patanjali, Theosophy, Gurjeiff, Alice A Bailey and finally Vajrayana

Buddhism. From a Shiva worshipper he turned into a worshipper of Avolkiteswara, as manifest action of the Amitabha on this Earthly descent. He narrated his out of Body experience in the Astral Plane at Ellora caves, Belur Mutt, on the Banks of the Hooghly river in Kolkotta, and Thiruvannamalai, in the Arunachala Hills, the dwelling Ashram of Ramana Maharishi in the vicinity.

However, it was while on a journey through Pehalgham in Kashmir, enroute to Kailash Mansarovar, that Avalkiteswara appeared in a Vision, his striking form, emerging from the Shiva Linga. This lead him to a search in Tibet and Ladakh and his tryst with Tibetan Lamas, both in the physical and astral plane. His Soul was going through what Madam Blavatsky describes as a “Dweller on the threshold” experience, which every neophyte has to necessarily go through his Spiritual ascent. At some stage in his Life, He was in communion with Masters Serapis and Master DK (Djwal Kul), and a Siddha Master, who transformed from a huge Bat, flying towards him in the Ellora Caves.

Cyrus and his wife, Susie who has a strong psychic faculty, have travelled the world, from Luxor in Egypt to Columbia. He was narrating his experience in London, where Cleopatra’s needle was brought 3000 years ago and the psychic experience on that visit. A more interesting facet of Cyrus is that he is a Painter and does amazing themes on the esoteric Art, predominantly on Tibetan Buddhist themes. It was no wonder that Cyrus was drawn to the Blavatsky Lodge, albeit virtually, it was at our Lodge that Master Hilarion materialized during the time of our founder’s presence, in the city.

Bro. Arni Narendran - a Speaker at Virtual Meetings of Abroad

Bro Arni Narendran delivered a talk on the ‘**Universal Mind**’ at the **Adamant Lodge, Research seminar on ‘The Secret Doctrine’**. Other speakers on the event were Mr. Vladimir Bro Arni Narendran delivered a talk on the ‘**Universal Mind**’ at the **Adamant Lodge, Research seminar on ‘The Secret Doctrine’**. Other speakers on the event were Mr. Vladimir Yaryi, Ms. Evegeniya Shaboornikova,

(Moscow) Ms. Ifigenia Kastamoneti, (Greece) Ms. Esther Zigane (Australia) Ms. Brigitte Taquin (France).

Bro Arni Narendran along with Br Luke Ironside, convened on 6th March, a **Spanish meeting of the Virtual centre of Theosophical Studies**, which had participants, Ms. Stephannie Vargas (Bolivia) Ms. Agnes Mar (Costa Rica) Ms. Tapashri Ganguly (United Kingdom). **This first ever Spanish virtual meeting will attract more youth towards Theosophy.**

***SIS. ZEENA RASTOMJEE'S QUESTIONS
ANSWERS BY BRO. NAVIN KUMAR***

Triggered at Blavatsky Lodge Session on 'Past Life'

Q1: Is it good to remember past lives? Of what good is it? It is surely better not to have it.

Ans: When the consciousness of a person starts functioning fully in the Buddhic Plane, i.e. when one has received the fourth initiation, the memory of past life becomes available to him. Thus, Annie Besant and Leadbeater who had reached this level of the Arhatship they were able to see their own past lives and those of others. That is how they wrote the book "Lives of Alcyone."

At present our consciousness is working mostly at the level of the mind and that too the lower mind, so we cannot have the memory of past lives. At this stage knowledge of past lives may probably cause us more agony than any happiness.

Q2: Is an old soul good because it has lived through so many centuries? Would it not be wiser than a young soul?

Ans: Yes. Old soul means a person who entered the human kingdom from the animal kingdom early. Master Maurya and Master KH had entered the human kingdom in the Moon Chain while we were still in the Animal Kingdom (including Annie Besant and CWL).

Q3: How much time before a soul reincarnates? Is the slower the better?

Ans: The less developed a person the earlier he would reincarnate because he does not have the capacity to gain or to work on mental plane after discarding the body after death. A developed person likes to spend more time on Mental and Higher Mental Planes. The persons whose lives are traced in "Lives of Alcyone" usually had a gap of 700 to 1000 years between two incarnations.

Q4: Twins being different in aptitude and personalities, does it prove that astrology is baseless?

Ans: Astrology that depends only on date time and place of birth, in birth can only give the type of environment surrounding the person. It cannot be a perfect science for predicting the future unless one has knowledge of his past stock of Karma as well as the present Karmas.

Q5: Bro you mentioned Divine Plan so where do one's own efforts come in?

Ans: Divine Plan envisages the evolution of Human beings to the Superhuman Kingdom i.e., to become Adepts. We know of several Laws that operate under the Divine Plan e.g. The Law of Reincarnation, The Law of Evolution, The Law of Immortality of the Soul, The Law of Duty, The Law of Sacrifice, The Law of Karma. If one follows these laws one progresses faster under the Divine Plan and vice versa. Thus, the personal effort in following the laws of the Divine Plan decides the pace of one's progress.

THE THREE GREAT TRUTHS

The Soul of man is immortal, and its future is the future of a thing whose growth and splendour have no limit.

The principle which gives life dwells in us and without us, is undying and eternally beneficent, is not heard or seen or smelt, but is perceived by the man who desires perception.

Each man is his own absolute lawgiver, the dispenser of glory or gloom to himself; the decreer of his life, his reward, his punishment.

These truths, which are as great as is life itself, are as simple as the simplest mind of man. Feed the hungry with them.

-The Idyll of the White Lotus.

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I, Rustom R. Dalal, the Editor of The Bombay Theosophical Bulletin, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge & belief.

Dated 20-3-2021

Sd. R. R. Dalal (Publisher)

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Walking Meditation is like eating. With each step, we nourish our body and our spirit. When we walk with anxiety and sorrow, it is kind of junk food. The food of Walking Meditation should be of a higher quality. Just walk slowly and enjoy a banquet of peace. – **Thich Nhat Hanh**

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