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THE INDIAN SECTION NEWSLETTER

# insight



# KNOWING BEING DOING

**By Vibha Saksena**  
Noida Lodge

Nearly a century and half ago, some universal truths were given to us by the Mahatmas and their direct messenger, Madam Blavatsky. Only a corner of the veil was lifted, aimed at lifting the masses out of their swamp of superstition and misconceptions and propelling them on the path of spiritual progress. Universal Truths, are never lost but may remain silent for lack of speech. It is our responsibility to contemplate and assimilate them in the fabric of our daily life and help others to know them. Frequently, questions are posed as to their relevance in present times and in the challenges plaguing mankind at large. It is from this perspective I hope to examine our responsibility in the interconnected world.

Madam Blavatsky, urged us to hold the idea of “fundamental unity of all Existence” in the background of the mind when we embark upon any study. This Existence is not any collection of things linked together by some means. Rather, it is the One Absolute Being, the Reality within every form that exists - from the Atom, to the Man, to the God.

So, while the inner essence of septenary man is one with the Absolute Being, he manifests in the world as a triune; through his divinity, individuality and personality. Divinity (Atma-Buddhi) embodies the aspect of “Knowing”. Individuality (Atma-Buddhi-Manas) embodies the aspect of man’s “Being” and Personality (lower quaternary) is the embodiment of his aspect of “Doing”.

We shall now focus on the responsibility stemming from each of these aspects.

## KNOWING

As stated, divinity of man (Atma-Buddhi) embodies the faculty of “knowingness”. It is the innate awareness of the highest spiritual Truths and actual experience of unity of all Life. This occult fact, has been verified and validated by the perfected men. Oneness with all Life can be experienced in states of samadhi, by anyone who puts himself thru requisite spiritual-self-discipline.

This monumental truth brings home the realization that everything and everyone, is only seemingly separate and is factually united as the one fundamental Existence or the supreme Self. We are rays of the supreme Self; just like sunbeams of the Sun. The apparent separation, with everything and everyone around us, is merely due to this divine ray, being clothed in various grades of matter which is our material form.

“Oneness of Life” may not be experiential knowledge at the personal level; yet it becomes a great moral responsibility to abide by this Universal Truth; to look out for and serve all beings of the universal family; limited not just to human kingdom but including those lower in the scale of evolution - animals, plants and mineral.

“In serving others, he serves himself, as there is no other, all is One Life”. This is the tremendous import of “Knowing-ness” and this is the responsibility it sets upon man. To what extent are we shouldering this responsibility, is a question each one should ask himself. Answers to these questions are the milestones of one’s spiritual progress.

## BEING

“Being” is the process of continuous ‘becoming’; the One Life becoming mineral, plant, animal and now Man. Man too is continuously becoming - from brute-man to human-man to perfected-man. It is the individuality – Atma-Buddhi-Manas which makes him a human being, setting upon him the responsibility of “being human”.

### Brotherhood of Man

The thinking Principle, Manas, imparts intellectual knowledge about Oneness of Life, if not experiential. Though separate in form, we are one in Spirit; truly making us children of the same Father. So brotherhood becomes our first and foremost relation with all fellowmen. Hence, it is incumbent on every member of the Theosophical Society (TS) to make Universal Brotherhood of all Life a far more realised and living reality. In-fact, alleviation of global problems, depends in definite measure, upon actualizing this first object of the TS.

### Being human

Our spiritual efforts and endeavours are largely directed towards realizing the divinity within, the God within. But what does it mean to be human?

The Principal and founder of a school for children of the most deprived strata of the society, made a most touching statement when he said, “In our quest to be God we forgot to be human”.

This statement is a slap in the face of humanity.

A great Master of Wisdom and Compassion has said,  
“Since there is hope for man only in man  
I would not let one cry whom I could save! .”

The last two hundred years or so have doubtlessly seen exponential rise in science and technology. Even so, the progress ushered by this advancement is far out-weighted by

putting it to use for exploitation of nature and for weapons of war, bringing untold suffering to human and sub-human kingdoms alike. Moreover, what our eyes of flesh see, is only a miniscule part of the tremendous pain and cries of agony that go out into the subtle spheres around Earth. These ominous clouds created by man in the astral atmosphere of Earth, rain back his karma on him in ways incomprehensible to him, bringing in their wake global disease, death and natural calamities in some measure. Madam Blavatsky amply emphasised this to her pupils.

Let us bear in mind, the responsibility of those who know is far greater than those who do not. So, have we really abandoned our responsibility of being human? We need to ask ourselves now and set it right now. Leading by example is the only way our children will get it right, becoming harbingers of hope and progress in the true sense. The evolutionary cycle is surely though imperceptibly, marching our fifth root race to the sixth. Whether we transition peacefully and harmoniously, scaling the heights of spiritual progress or whether we transition by bringing about our own destruction and annihilation like the Atlantean root race before us, depends on how soon we wake up to our responsibility of being human in earnest.

Being human is to allow our divine nature to shine thru this cloak of matter; the divine nature which is obscured by the illusion of separateness leading man to selfishness. The heart of divinity is infinite compassion. Recognizing the Self in all, if one can manage even a drop from this infinite ocean, he would have worked his responsibility in some measure. Having mercy and compassion for all erring humanity and not give place to any other emotion such as resentment, annoyance, or vexation - this is the "Doctrine of the Heart". "We can never be wrong in helping our brother and supplying his wants ahead of our own needs", said Dr. Annie Besant. Each person is on a different rung of the ladder of evolution. Lending a helping hand to those on the lower rungs of the ladder of evolution is our responsibility of being human.

These are the laws of higher life, guiding us in our responsibility of being human.

## **DOING**

In our day-to-day life we spend more time "doing" than "being". 'Doing' means action and man is always responsible for his actions. The fifth principle, Manas, endows man with the power of thinking and with freedom of choice. Man is thus free to create causes but he is not free from the ensuing effects. He is responsible for those effects because instead of acting on instinct, he has the freedom to choose restrain, to choose righteous conduct. But remember, with great freedom comes great responsibility.

Ordinarily, responsibilities are determined by the roles we assume. Roles emerge from relationships we share. Most apparent relations being our family, social, professional and so on. As the circle of relation widens so does our responsibility increase. Yet our responsiveness tends to decrease, sometimes even to the point of indifference. This is because our immediate comfort zone is not affected if something happens far out there in the world, like a flood, famine, earthquake. So, such events may become drawing room conversation but a self-centred attitude prevents us from realizing that we are in some measure responsible even for such world events. This will make perfect sense if we comprehend the occult truths revealed by theosophy.

The One Absolute Existence manifests as this multifarious world of ours by the emanation of seven cosmic elements and pervades it as the One Life. The bodies of all beings are constituted of numerous gradations, permutations and combinations of these very elements, making this whole universe a conscious web of Life, one living organism. Every being is an integral part of this 'Whole'. So it follows that the 'doing' of every 'being' must necessarily affect the 'Whole'.

Man's doing is his Karma – thinking, feeling, acting; sending vibrations rippling across the web of life; perpetuating their effects throughout the universe and returning to him as per occult science of action and reaction – the law of Karma. This prompted Joy Mills to say, "Though I may not have caused an earthquake or a tsunami, yet my thoughts and feelings of anger, greed, prejudice and self-concern must contribute in some way to informing the universe, so as to having their effect in some measure, across time and space. So also, my thoughts and feelings of goodwill, love, compassion, and understanding must contribute to this informed universe, of which I am an integral part."

Precisely so, each of us bears a compelling moral responsibility towards all that happens in the world; a responsibility by way of right conduct in thoughts, feelings and actions. The universe is echoing our thoughts, we receive what we send, send only that which you want. Theosophy tells us there is an infallible cosmic order underlying all natural phenomena. This whole order of nature evinces a progressive march towards a higher life. If man's actions are in harmony with the cosmic order, aiding this progress, he becomes part of the great stream of evolution. But if his actions are in discord with the cosmic order, they disrupt the evolutionary progress, pitting him against the mighty laws of the universe, by which he is sure to be crushed in time. So, our 'doing' in terms of thinking-feeling-acting is the determining factor of our evolutionary progress. We can make it our saviour or our nemesis.

### **In conclusion**

So let us awaken to our responsibility: 'Knowing' the unity of all Life, serve others as ourselves, because there is no other; 'Being human', allow our divine nature to shine thru and 'Doing' such that it aids all evolutionary progress. The milestones of our spiritual progress are determined by the extent we shoulder these responsibilities with integrity.

# YITians and their learnings

As a learner of Theosophical literature, the learnings that I count the most are:

1. the significance of self-inquiry and self-awareness
2. freedom of mind
3. how to live in the present without being carried away by the burden of the past and worries on the future

**Bhaumik**

I have obtained clarity on one important aspect of life i.e. **Love**. It is not what we all know. Love is not desire, not attachment. Love is what we can only give selflessly, without any expectation. And if we expect love in exchange of love then that's not love even an animal can do it. We give it because we are loving, because love is pure.

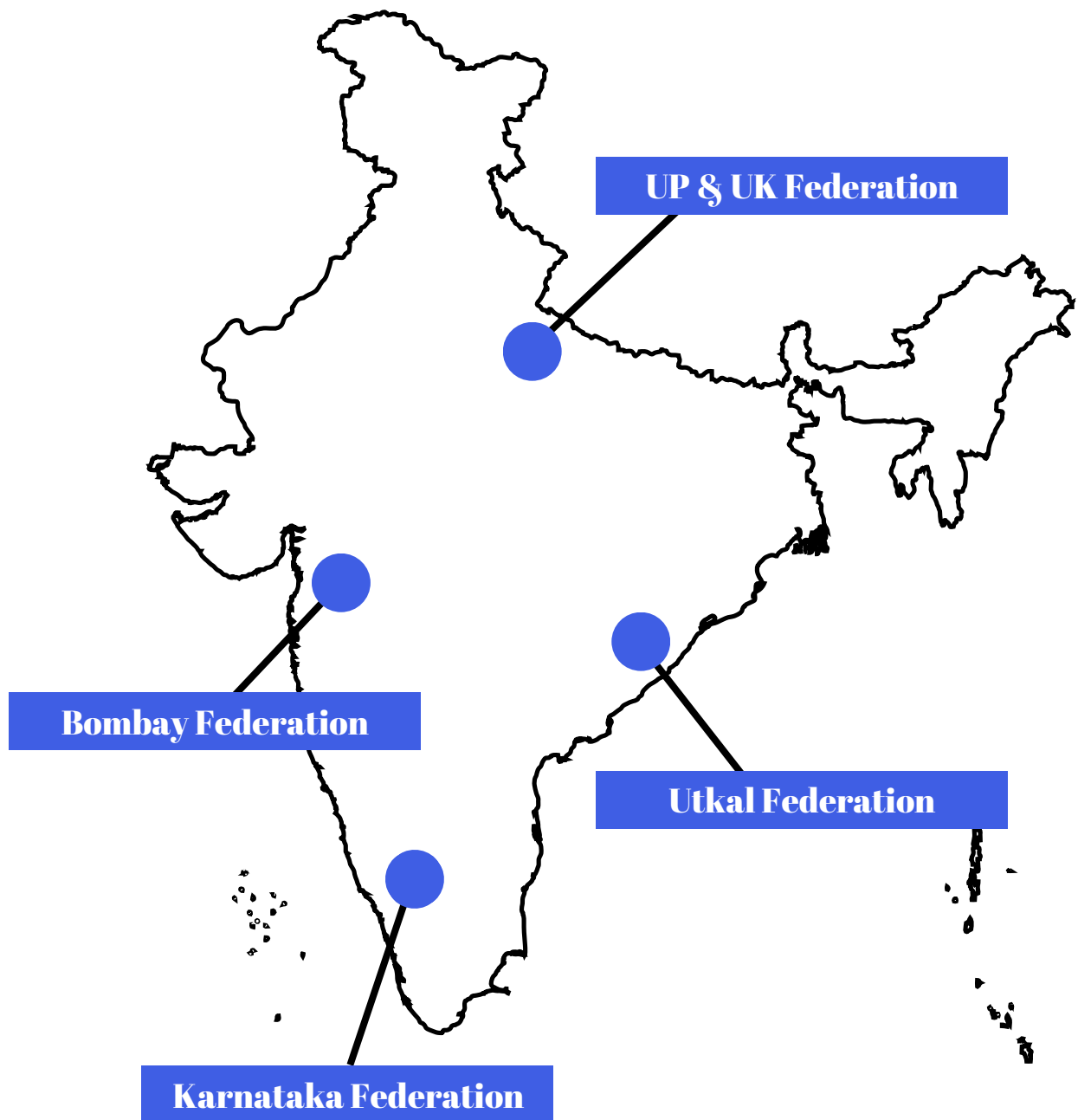
**Smitapragya**

I adore the teachings from various books and lectures and few of them are:  
We don't need to follow an authority without **enquiring** enough to know the deepest meaning. We are human beings first and then comes the choice of religions, beliefs, interests etc. Our human experiences are our true teachers. There is no end to learning and we all will evolve with time.

**Mannsha**

# FEDERATION HIGHLIGHTS

for period April-June, 2023



# BOMBAY FEDERATION

Bro. Zinoo Master's article on **'Does Zoroastrinism Enjoin Vegetarianism?'** was published in Jam-e-Jamshed Weekly issue of 2nd April 2023.

Bro. Taral Munshi translated presentations of all sessions in the Study Camp held at Vikram Lodge, Ujjain on 7th to 9th Apr 2023.

A study camp was organized jointly by Gujarat TF and Bombay TF from 26th Apr to 2nd May 2023 at the Himalayan Study Centre at Bhowali. The Resource persons were: Shri Harshvadan Sheth, President Gujarat TF, Shri Narshinh Thakaria, National Lecturer of Indian Section, Shri Vinayak Pandya, President Bombay TF



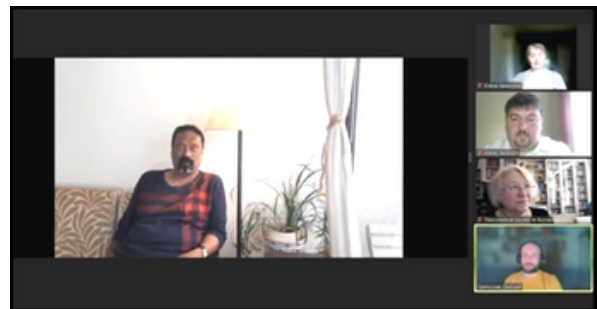
**Buuddha Purnima** was observed at Blavatsky Lodge on 5th May 2023. Bro. Navin Kumar spoke on significance of Wesak Purnima and Pancha Sheel. Sis. Kashmira Khambatta presented inspiring photos and sketches and lucid explanations about ceremony in Wesak Vally of Himalayas.

Bro Arni Narendran sent a video Greetings from Blavatsky Lodge on the occasion to the Adyar Theosophical Society in Moscow highlighting the need for integrating the Theosophical objective of Universal Brotherhood' in 'the Globalization', the needed effort in the new direction of contemporary economic thought.

**White Lotus Day** was observed on 8th May 2023 in Besant Hall, Blavatsky Lodge. New Members of Centenary, Shanti & Jyoti Lodges were welcomed with presentation of Diplomas.



**TRIVENI TUESDAY MEET expanding in to TRIVENI INTERNATIONAL FEDERATIONS** had its 1st Meet of Greece – Utkal – Gujarat – Mumbai on Tuesday 16th May 2023 on Theme 'Know Thyself'. The Guest Speaker Sis. Erica Georglades spoke in English. Bro. Bhabani Sankar translated in Odia and Sis. Vibha Saxena translated in Hindi. Bro. Taral Munshi was the Moderator. The presentation was based on Plutarch's thought - 'The Ship of Theseus'.





# KARNATAKA FEDERATION

On 4th Jun 2023 KTF conducted a joint meeting of all the Secretaries and Presidents of all the Lodges coming under North and Central Zones of Karnataka. Problems of the Lodges were discussed to arrive at solutions. Zonal heads, Bro. B K Nagarajappa and Bro. I A Basavaraja Reddy read out their reports. Bro. Adi Keshava Prakash informed the gathering about the modern way of efficient usage of communication technology.



On 24th and 25th June 2023, Bro. Shinde and Bro. Pradeep Mahapatra visited Bangalore City Lodge., Bro. Shinde and Bro. Dr. L Nagesh addressed the gathering. Bro. Shinde and Bro. Pradeep Mahapatra gave talks and Sis. Sandhya Rani translated their speeches.



# UTKAL FEDERATION

Bro. Pradip Mohapatra and Sis. Mitalini conducted study classes on Mahatma Letter at Ujjain from 7th to 9th Apr 2023 and Basic Theosophy at Bhowali. Sis. Mitalini delivered lecture on the topic Why and how Mahatma writes letter and how it is relevant today and The other one is Path way of Hastened attainment .



Sis. Vibha Saxena conducted a three days' study camp on "Om Mani Padme Hum" from 2nd to 4th May 2023 .



Shyama Prasad memorial lecture was conducted by National Lecturer Sis Suvalina Mohanty in a two days' workshop on the theme "Self-review as a Theosophist" on 18th and 19th Jun 2023



Two days' study classes were conducted by Sis. Purnamasi Pattnaik on the book "The Theosophic Life" written by Annie Besant and a lecture on Theosophy in daily life from 24-25 June 2023 at Bengal Theosophical Federation and Bengal Theosophical Society ,Kolkata.



Free homeopathy treatment given to the patients once a week.

Sanat Kumar lodge conducted study class on the book "Master and the path" by Bro Satyabrat Rath.

In Laxminarayan Lodge study classes were conducted by Bro. Pramod Mishra on Heritage of India.

Jagannath Lodge conducted online study class on the book "The Voice of Silence" every Tuesday by Bro. Pradip Mahapatra.

Maru lodge conducted online study class on the book "Divine Plan" on every Wednesday by Sis Purnamasi Pattanaik.

Sidharth Lodge conducted online study class on the book "Mahatma Letter" every Sunday.

# UP & UK FEDERATION

## **New Lodges:**

'Chaturbhuj lodge' started by faculty members of post-graduate Degree College at Bansaon (Distt. Gorakhpur), and 'Maitreya Lodge in Gr. Noida. Formal inauguration Satya Darshan lodge started in village Jogia (Distt. Kushinagar) few months ago, was done by Br. S.B.R.Mishra on 23rd May 2023 when diplomas to new members of this lodge were handed over.

## **Address to Students:**

Bro. S. B. R. Mishra delivered talk on topic 'Moral teachings through stories' in a group of students and teachers of Murari Inter College Sahjanwa (Distt. Gorakhpur) on 29 May.

## **Public Talks:**

Shashwat Yoga Sabha and PMC Gujarat organised online public talks by Br. U.S. Pandey on the themes/dates 'Reincarnation' on 06 April and on 'Science of Soul' on 15 June.

Sis. Vibha Saxena delivered a public talk on the theme 'Purpose of Life' in Cuttack lodge on 05 May.

Annie Besant Lodge Varanasi organized an Interactive session on The Bhagavad Gita on 23 April, Research scholars of Philosophy and Religion department of B.H.U. participated in this programme.

## **Visits to lodges by President Federation:**

Bro. U.S.Pandey visited Anand lodge Ghaziabad on 23 April when he discussed administrative matters with lodge officials and delivered a talk on the topic "Occult Functions of some human organs and their correspondences" during meeting of this lodge held on same day. Thereafter he conducted a meditation session also for participants in lodge meeting.

Bro. U S Pandey held a special meeting with members of Bhowali lodge on 31 May when he discussed administrative matters with lodge officials and also delivered two short talks.

## **Special Contributions/events:**

### **To Other Federations:**

Delhi Federation: Bro. U. S. Pandey delivered two online talks on topics 'How to study The Secret Doctrine?' on 01 April, and on "Obstacle is the Way" on 17 June.

Br. S. K.Pandey and Br. S. S. Gautam delivered online talks on the topics/dates on 'Gyan Yoga and the way of its achievement' on 29 April and on 'Life and work of H. P. Blavatsky' on 06 May respectively.

Utkal Federation: Sis. Vibha Saxena conducted a three days' study camp on "Om Mani Padme Hum" at Bhubaneswar from 02 to 04 May.

Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri delivered an online talk on topic 'Realizing the relationship' in Barabati lodge Cuttack on 29 May.

Gujarat and Bombay Federation (Joint Lodge meetings of three lodges): Sis. Vibha Saxena delivered an online talk on topic 'Know Thyself.' on 16 May

### **To Indian Section Programmes:**

Bro. S. S. Gautam translated the section journal "The Indian Theosophist" in Hindi.

Br. U. S. Pandey delivered online talks on the theme 'Study of The Secret Doctrine - Why and How?' on 30 April and on the theme "Foundations of Esoteric Philosophy in The Secret Doctrine" in two sessions on 28 May and 11 June.

Br. S.B.R. Mishra delivered an online talk on topic "Philosophy of Spirit' on 04 June.  
Sis. Vibha Saxena conducted study of ML 81 (cr,ed.)-part 1 on 23 June.

### **International Hqrs.**

A Five Days' "Theosophical Workers' Training Camp" was organised from 11 to 15 April at Adyar. Br. C. A. Shinde and Br. U.S. Pandey jointly directed this training programme.

### **Young Indian Theosophists Group:**

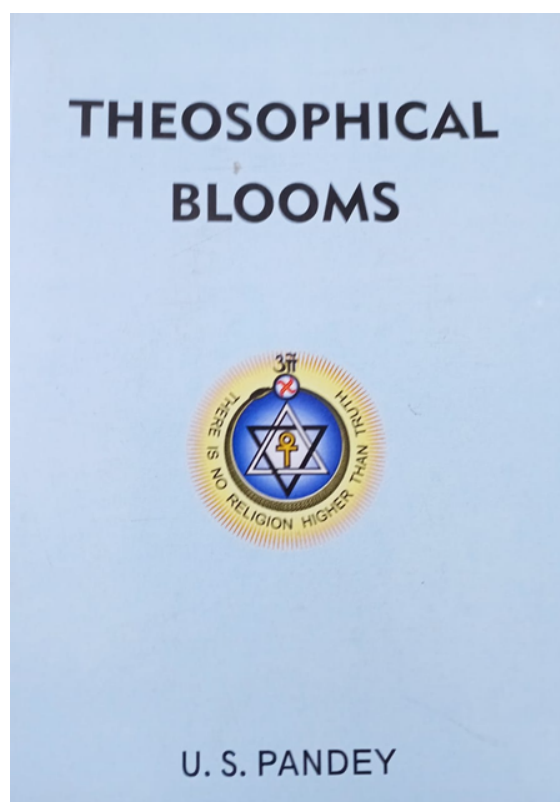
Sis. Suvralina Mohanty, Sis. Vibha Saxena, and Br. Shikhar Agnihotri delivered an online talks on topics/dates "Good Conduct" on 16 April , on "Nature of Memory" on 30 April and on 'Love' on 14 May respectively. Sis. Shruti Goel and Smrti Sagar spoke on the topic "Action speaks louder than words' on 28 May.

### **Study Camp at Bhowali:**

A five days' study camp was held at Bhowali from 02 to 06 June when study of The Stanzas of Dzyan (Cosmogogenesis) was directed by Br. U.S. Pandey. Members of U.P. & UK federation and of M.P. & Rajasthan federation participated in this study camp.

### **Publication of Book:**

A book with title Theosophical Blooms, which is a compilation of 25 articles in English and authored by Br. U. S. Pandey, was published in May 2023



# H. S. Olcott

WILL OF STEEL

By Shikhar Agnihotri  
Pragya Lodge

An American military officer, journalist, lawyer, agriculturist, Freemason and the co-founder and first president of the Theosophical Society.

The work that HSO did for his own country during the civil war & later for Asia in general and for India & Sri Lanka in particular and for the TS cannot be summarized in such a short space and therefore I thought that instead of sharing the whole life span of HSO, I would mention a few instances or impartial testimonies of others about HSO with a view to extract the character that he had, with a view to put some light on our approach to theosophy and daily life.

If I am asked to express the life of HSO in three words, that made him exceptional, I would say, without any hesitation – INTEGRITY, COURAGE, DEVOTION. Life of HSO, is a life of Yoga through Action, putting his WILL of steel in effect to fulfil any duty that he was given. And this is exactly what HSO did, while still very young.

Although he was studying at New York University but in 1851 Karma brought him to Ohio where his maternal uncle introduced him to farming and spiritualism too. He was only twenty-three when his success at the model farm of Scientific Agriculture that he set up near Newark, led the Greek Government to offer him the Chair of Agriculture in the University of Athens. He declined the honour, and founded in the same year 'The Westchester Farm School' near Mount Vernon, New York, which is regarded as one of the pioneers of the present system of national agricultural education.

He produced his first book entitled Sorgho and Imphee in 1858, the Chinese and African Sugar-canes, which ran through seven editions. The publication of this book brought him the offer of the Directorship of the Agricultural Bureau at Washington, and also offers of the managership of two immense properties, which he declined.

So, it is quite clear that from the very beginning, Mr. Olcott wanted to do the things for the love of greater good and not merely to benefit himself, even if it meant an apparent material loss, which again, requires WILL POWER that is born out of love.

And it is this will power that gave strength to stand alone courageously even in the midst of temptations and threats during the course of action, which he did receive when the Government, noting his ability and courage, chose him instead to conduct an enquiry into some suspected frauds at the New York Mustering and Disbursing Office. Every means was adopted to stop his resolute investigation, but neither bribes nor threats could check the determined young officer in his conduct of a campaign, more dangerous than the facing of Southern bullets in the field.

His physical courage had shone out in the Civil War; his moral courage shone out yet more brightly as he fought for four years through a storm of opposition and calumny, till he sent the worst criminal to Sing Sing Prison. The Government declared that this conviction was as 'important to the Government as the winning of a great battle'.

The Judge Advocate-General of the Army wrote:-

'I cannot permit the occasion to pass without frankly expressing to you my high appreciation of the services which you have rendered. These services were signally marked by zeal, ability and uncompromising faithfulness to duty.'

Mr Olcott now became Colonel Olcott. Later on, he worked as the Special Commissioner of the Navy Department, where with resolute and unsparing zeal he purified the Department, reformed the system of accounts, and at the end received the following official testimony:-

'I wish to say that I have never met with a gentleman entrusted with important duties, of more capacity, rapidity and reliability than have been exhibited by you throughout. More than all, I desire to bear testimony to your entire uprightness and integrity of character.'

If we look carefully at this testimony, it gives us an idea of a real theosophist, that where ever one is, whatever duty one is given, to do it to the best of one's ability is what is expected and nothing else.

In 1874, Olcott met H.P.B while both were visiting the Eddy farm to investigate the seances. His foundational interest in the Spiritualist movement and his budding relationship with Blavatsky helped foster his development of spiritual philosophy. He became one of the founder and the first president of the Theosophical Society in 1875.

The final thing I wish to share about HSO, is his last message before passing away on 17th Feb 1907, written down by hand on 02 Feb 1907, to be read over his body, speaks volumes about his aspirations.

"To my beloved brothers in the physical body: I bid you farewell. In memory of me, carry on the grand work of proclaiming and living the Brotherhood of Religions.

To my beloved Brothers on the higher planes: I greet and come to you, and implore you to help me to impress all men on earth that **THERE IS NO RELIGION HIGHER THAN TRUTH**, and that in the Brotherhood of Religions lie the peace and progress of humanity."

# BOOK REVIEW

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Book Name

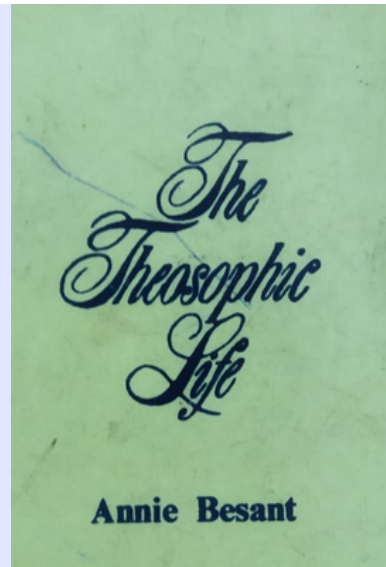
## **THE THEOSOPHICAL LIFE**

Author

**Dr. Annie Besant**

Review by

**K Dinakaran,  
Secretary,  
Kerala Theosophical Federation**



The Theosophic life is a book which deals with the important subjects which needs deep study and reflection. How a Theosophist should lead his life? What is Karma?, Reincarnation. All these topics are summed up in this small book (8x6 c.m) in size. The beauty of the book is that Dr. Besant took the task of engraving the whole story of Ramayan on a small grain!

She starts with saying " There are certain ways of looking at life that seem to grow naturally out of our Theosophical studies. So, for her Theosophy is not mere book learning, but to put into practice what we studied from the Theosophical teachings.

She quotes the biblical story of ' talents'. The rich man before going for a voyage entrusted few talents to his servants. After his return he asked them, what they did with them. The first one doubled it, so he asked him to keep it with him. The second one also did some business and multiplied it, he asked him also to take it. But the third one was lazy and kept the talent with him. So the master asked him to return it. Dr. Besant says there is a great truth in this story. We should utilise our talents - rich qualities, so that we will be helped by our Great Master.

Our Theosophic life will shine brighter if we work to help others who are our own brothers and sisters. The theory of Karma and Reincarnation helps us in this regard. The Reincarnation was part of the Christian Philosophy, but it was taken away later on. The theological theory of single life, eternal hell and eternal heaven has no logic.

People often say, if only my circumstances were different I could lead such much more useful life. Dr Besant refutes it and says " Error you are, doing the most where you are, anywhere else you could do worse, not better. "You are surrounded by exactly the things you want for the next step in the upward path.

She also explains Karma and says, real understanding of Karma is a stimulus to exertion. Karma is always in the making. In short she sums up "The theosophic life must be life of service".

# TOS UPDATE

On 28 June 2023, sewing machines and certificates were distributed to unprivileged women upon completion of their vocational training by TOS Sanatan Noida Group. Also a wheelchair was donated at Community Centre, Greater Noida.





# **E-Newsletter Committee**

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