

THE INDIAN THEOSOPHIST

AUGUST 2024 **VOI. 122** **NO. 8**

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Editor

PRADEEP H. GOHIL

A STEP FORWARD

Love and unity of life are intertwined. Love is the bedrock and cornerstone of every thriving relationship. Hence it underlines unity. For example one cannot forgive someone without the parson. Likewise, one cannot be united with people without loving them. Wherever there is love, there will be harmony and peace and love's balanced rhythms will create a united world. Where hate is there, it will follow the degeneracy of disunity as night follows the day. Man has to learn that the spiritual progress comes from giving love and service to fellow man rather than taking service against his will.

Once the consciousness of the Buddhic plane has been developed to some extent in us, we will start understanding that one must always pursue the greatest good of the greatest number. But the minority cannot be ignored. Indeed, everyone must be taken into account, because all are one. If we see all the love in the world is the one Divine Beauty, and all the holiness of the world is the one Holiness of God, then we can see that all consciousness are one and all the world is one.

Always be full of thought for others, and then, as the Master says, there will be no room, no time, for thinking about yourself. This will make you happy. If you ever find yourself inclined to grieve, to feel the least regret about anything which affect you personally, you should fill your mind at once with the thought of helping and of working for others. Grieving over things which affect you is selfish, and it only serves to make one unhappy. Yet it is what many people do. They sit down and say. "Oh how sad it is. How hard it is. This thing is very hard on me. That person does not care for me, does not look after me, does not love me"- and so on.

All this is selfishness. The remedy, both for your own grief and the selfishness, is to go at once and do something for someone else. Go and work. Your mind cannot be filled with two things at once, and

the moment you cease to think of yourself, you begin to be happy. What people generally call love is a little love underneath with a great coating of selfishness over it. The moment there is pain through love, it means that selfishness is also there. Such love will not give you the experience of oneness in life.

I will give an example of how oneness is built through true love. One 24 years old girl was getting married but she had lots of fears. She said that these days so many divorces are taking place but she wants this relationship to be for lifetime. She wants to experience true love. But she said that I do not know what is true love. First of all we need to know that we all are pure love and we all have been experiencing that. We are made by God with love, of love and pure love. But when you talk about love between two people, it is worldly love. However, when you do not see any difference between the other person and yourself, it is true love which has resulted in oneness.

As a devotee starts having true love for God, the difference between him and his God dissolves and as they become one he finds God. This is seen in the life of Meerabai where her love for Lord Krishna was so pure and intense that she became one with him. Oneness needs to be experienced to find God because that is the truth. Without experiencing truth how would we see God.

Love is not about someone being superior or inferior. It is not about the equality too. It is about oneness. When you experience that two of you are one then you experience true love. For a husband and wife, they are one unit. They are one-a part of each other. Our scriptures have presented them half embodies in each other. If you really want to experience true love, you need to start considering your spouse as a part of you in every situation. However, what if he or she does not consider this? Well, you will be feeling, he or she would be feeling that. The day your feelings would start changing, know that in your heart those feelings are changing in both of you. Then take corrective steps immediately. Be one, be divine.

The paraphrase what the Master has given of the fourth qualification, Love is eminently characteristic of Him. He goes behind

the word itself to the reason for it. He says: “what is your reason for wanting liberation? In order that you may be free to help better, you are trying to make yourself one with God. What is this God? God is love. You must develop love if you want to be one with Him. Therefore, this qualification is in reality Love.” It is this love that results in service and makes one realize the oneness of life.

Love in daily life means two things; first, that one should be careful neither to hurt any living being nor to harm anyone; second that he will always be watching for an opportunity to help. These are two sides of the same thing- the passive that one shall neither hurt nor do any harm, and the active that he shall do good. Julieanne O’Conor said- “Love for all the people, animals and plants make me realize that I am one, and when I am one, I am none, and when I am none, I have won” As the Divine within us tunes into the Divine the world over, it makes it impossible for us to exploit it continuously, but only to nurture, sustain and love it. When we do that, we will realize that we are a part of it as we are all one. If we can pour love on each and every life around us, we will be able to connect with the sense of oneness that we seek. All things are a part of a sacred reality. Starting with love we can take a step forward towards the oneness with every thing in this world.

* * *

Love in fact explains why a person lives a human life, because it transforms everything in his nature, it is considered to be the most important of all the qualifications. Without growing in love a person cannot grow in spirituality. Pure love is spirituality. We take Love to be anything which attaches one person to another, but it is a giving without thought of return and giving all the time, to everything seen and unseen.

RADHA BURNIER

“A Simple But Profound Message”

The Indian Theosophist, May-June, 2010, p. 156

*SHEO KUMAR PANDEY **

SOUL WISDOM AND THE SECRET DOCTRINE

Krishna ji once said, ‘why do people think that only a, b or c can be their Guru? Why can’t life itself be the teacher?’ In my opinion, here, the meaning of life is every relationship and every contact. It is not just about the human contacts; but all types of contacts, all types of relationships and experiences. Experience has a deep connection with human transformation. It also happens that a single experience sometimes changes someone completely; whereas most people do not get transformed even after going through many experiences. Gautam was changed from within by the experiences of the count. He left his home and went in search of the cause of suffering and became Buddha. If the consciousness is receptive then even a single experience is enough to transform a person. Knowledge gained through experiences is real knowledge, the rest is hearsay knowledge. All oral knowledge does not directly bring any internal change in human life; it is not of any use we can say, but it is not so. Buddha instructed us to follow the five precepts – do not lie, do not steal, do not use violence, do not take drugs, abstain from adultery. Everyone has this knowledge that stealing, lying etc. are not good deeds, But in spite of knowing this, we sometimes steal, and even commit violence. Whether theft is small or big, theft is theft. So is violence. Addiction is prevalent like a disease in all countries. When there is a shortage of money, even small intoxication compels one to steal. One addictive habit alone gives rise to hundreds of disorders. If someone lies, steals our things, insults us, behaves bitterly, we get distressed, distracted and our mind becomes disturbed. But when we behave like this with others, we forget these things.

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Panchsheel is an important message to establish peace in the society. When this knowledge is put into practice, it becomes wisdom. The fact that misbehaviour is the cause of suffering and unrest, it becomes empirical knowledge when it comes into practice in our life. Buddha calls this '*bhavit pragyan*'. About twenty-five centuries ago, when Buddha attained enlightenment, he looked through his inner eyes and said, "*Sabba loko pakampito, pakampito*" – The whole universe is vibrating. There is no denseness anywhere; there are waves and waves everywhere. Science realized this after a long time. We have gained this knowledge through science that everything is wave-like. For us it is narrated knowledge, for Buddha it is felt knowledge. He came to know this from his own experience in a state of deep *Samadhi*. We came to know this by reading books. At least this knowledge is of such use to us that we can form the belief that apart from this visible world there is also an invisible world and we can set out in search of what is my place in this vast universe and what is my usefulness? What is my relation to other components of the universe? Study of philosophy, upanishad, science etc. helps us in obtaining many such informations. We can know whether nature moves randomly or is governed by some special rules. We are also a part of this nature. If everything is rule bound then there should be harmony and equilibrium everywhere. But it is not true. If it is so, then it is the prime duty of every human being, and only human beings, to acquire information about the rules of creation and help in maintaining the balance of nature. This is the only way to establish peace in the world. It is written in *Bhagwad Gita* – "the person who does not behave in accordance with the cycle of creation, that is, does not follow his duty, lives a life full of sins, enjoying the pleasures through the senses". (3/16)

Here duty means moral duties, not the duty which is done under any emotional pressure or out of attachments, as Mahaguru Dronacharya and Bhishma Pitamah did by supporting the Kauravas. The summary is that God himself was with the Pandavas. During the war '*Gita*' emanated from the mouth of God. Deeper meaning of which is that order is born out of chaos. And the one who brings order

is not an ordinary person. It is either the incarnation itself or a great sage or a saint. The one who has knowledge of the creation cycle or divine plan can establish the system. We can acquire this knowledge either by studying the secret code propounded by the sages or by getting into the depth of our heart in a state of *Samadhi*, like the great saints do. Both paths are open before us. '*The Secret Doctrine*' is one of such great works of the secret knowledge tradition for which the great founder of the Theosophical Society, H P Blavatsky claimed that she was not its author but its writer and this knowledge was made available to her by the great teachers of the 'Himalayan Rishi Sangh'.

A comprehensive, all embracing outline of the rules and processes governing the universe has been presented in the book. Blavatsky said that this book is only a small part of the secret knowledge received by the high members of the '*Gupt Sangh*' – it is as much as can be understood by the men of the next century. She said that this knowledge has been obtained from a great book called '*Kiu Ti*', which is in many volumes. Whatever knowledge related to the origin of the world and the evolution and development of man is given in *The Secret Doctrine* has never been given before anywhere else. The complete scientific description of the creation cycle, mentioned in *Bhagavad Gita*, Upanishads, or any other religious scriptures of the world is not available anywhere else except in *The Secret Doctrine*. It is a co-ordinated form of Religion, Philosophy and Science, which was first published in three volumes. The first two volumes have three subsections each and the third volume is the directory and index. It would be appropriate to mention here that after reading this book Dr. Annie Besant joined the Theosophical Society. She came to India and as soon as she took her first step on Indian soil, she said "I have come to my own country". It is not possible for Indians to repay the debt that this great scholar woman – Dr. Besant – provided to the Indian people at the level of social, spiritual, educational, political and selfless service by living in India throughout her life.

Through the window of this book, *The Secret Doctrine*, we can look at the vast world. Not only this, we can also find the solution to

every problem that comes in our life through this book. The only condition is that we must have the ability to understand. The world is full of intellectual knowledge but not everyone can understand everything. While presenting the Secret Doctrine Madame Blavatsky had said, “it is not for the dullards”. Almost one hundred and thirty-five years have been completed since the publication of this book. It was important when it was written, it is important even today and will be so in the future too. But Blavatsky had clearly stated that there is no need to blindly believe any word, nor is there a need to show-off knowledge by memorizing its parts. All that is needed is to read it, internalize it and apply it in practice as much as possible. So that knowledge can become our own. While discussing the secret doctrine Dr Besant had said something which was published by ‘*The Theosophist*’ magazine in the year 1933:

What is new in it? What is new in *The Secret Doctrine* is not the knowledge discovered by orientalists and nor can it be called another sacred text of the world. What is new, is the understanding that provided HPB the ability to propound a single powerful concept of the world, human development and the interconnectedness of the entire universe by selecting from the knowledge scattered here and there. Not because of the book’s knowledge but because of this truth, she established herself as one of the greatest teachers of her time. With this special ability of hers, she collected the facts scattered here and there in books and scriptures and proved that a definite form could be created from them. She was not a scholar or scientist, nor did she have any education or training which would have given her the ability to gather and integrate fragments of knowledge. In such a situation her work is also amazing and great because before this no orientalist despite having erudition had done this work, nor had all those scholars who had the knowledge of Oriental language and literature, with the help of which they could have done this work. There was not a single knowledgeable person who tried to synthesize the complex knowledge and could

formulate the concept of a powerful Universe by taking it out of the chaotic situations. But this great Russian woman, who was poorly educated and was not even a scientist and who never pretended to be, had acquired such knowledge from somewhere that she did what even the great scholars could not do. She organized the intricate and confusing Oriental literature and propounded such a strong and powerful method or plan of development which made it easier for us to understand the world and the man”.

‘*The Secret Doctrine*’ was presented to the world by Blavatsky in the year 1888 to show that nature is not an unexpected or accidental combination of atoms. She was never a critic of science but she was strongly opposed to the petty arrogance of those scientists of her time who thought that they had complete knowledge of ‘truth’ and who had sarcastic contempt for the occult, because they considered that whatever can be seen and heard through the physical senses is only true. They ignored the immaterial aspect of truth. According to Blavatsky science is an important part of human knowledge and it should investigate itself in every direction of nature. E. Lester Smith writes in his book ‘*Inner Adventures*’ – ‘we must ask ourselves whether the physical world is as permanent as we think’. While examining the microscopic level of the atom scientists observed that the electrons behave as matter and wave at the same time. The same object shows different characteristics when viewed through different instruments. To understand the behaviour of objects moving at high speed or located at great distances, relativistic or Quantum theory is required. In such a situation the ordinary Newtonian theory is not capable of explaining. We are left wondering what can be called permanent and reliable. Then only one answer appears to be true which our Sages and Seers have seen and proclaimed through the ages – ‘All except the Eternal (*sat*) is ‘*Maya*’. *Maya*, because as we go deeper to understand the particles of matter, its form and properties keep changing. Not only the physical world is an illusion, the invisible world is also a form of ‘illusion’. In the relativity of the ‘Eternal’ everything is impermanent.

Everything is an illusion and that which is impermanent is 'Maya'.

Since the publication of '*The Secret Doctrine*' science has progressed in many directions, so some scholars may feel that the scientific references given in it no longer hold any importance. But it is not true. The references may have become old but they are not inconsistent even today. The main hypothesis propounded by HPB more than a century ago to reach the depth of Physics is equally valid in today's context. Even today scientists have not been able to reach the truth. They are running behind the shadows. HPB had made them aware of this at that time, but even today the scientists have not been able to remove the veil from the shadows and reach the 'truth'.

Alfred R. Wallace, Darwin's colleague and co-author of the theory of evolution, wrote to HPB regarding her first book, '*Isis Unveiled*':

"I wonder for the wonderful knowledge revealed in these beautiful volumes and for the deep interest shown in them. It opens a window to new ideas before the entire world whose importance will never diminish with time".

'Journal of San Diego History' wrote –

'It is said that brilliant scientists like Albert Einstein and Robert Millikan always kept '*The Secret Doctrine*' on their desks'.

An article of Jack Brown "I Visit Einstein", which was published in 'Ojai Valley News' was republished by Dr. Algeo in '*The American Theosophist*' magazine in 1987. In 1935 the great scientist Einstein had expressed the following statements regarding *The Secret Doctrine*:

"This is a wonderful book and I even asked my fellow physicist Professor Heisenberg to get a copy of it and keep it on his desk. I inspired him to immerse himself in this book whenever he was facing any problem. The uniqueness of this book will definitely give peace and inspiration. For example, at one place HPB has written something which intrigued me and I was amazed that how consistent it is with modern physics. She wrote – 'this

is enough to show how ridiculous and absurd is the simultaneous acceptance by scientists of both the indivisibility and flexibility of the atom. Atom is elastic, hence divisible and must necessarily contain sub-atoms. If they are non elastic then they do not have dynamic importance or even if they are elastic then in this condition they can be divided without any doubt and so on till infinity (ad infinitum). But the infinite divisibility of the atom disintegrates the matter into small common centres of energy, which means denial of the possibility of seeing the matter in an objective form'. There are many other important statements like this which I consider interesting."

In this way we find that many scientists, literateurs, philosophers, and spiritualists of that period showed interest in *The Secret Doctrine* and found appropriate guidance. This book of occult knowledge may or may not be for anyone else but it is an invaluable heritage for those curious about occult knowledge. Her life span was extended to complete this book, she gladly accepted this extended painful life and completed the book. We express our heartfelt gratitude to that great lady.

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To study *The Secret Doctrine* in its fullness, to enter creatively into the encounter with its immortal truths, is to come to the work with an 'open mind, a pure heart, an eager intellect', and a gradually 'unveiled spiritual perception', seeking what has been sought by the wise ones of all ages: a knowing beyond all language and all belief. It is, finally, to heed the injunction given by H.P.B. herself to her students: 'Follow not me, nor my Path, but the Path I show, which leads to the Masters'. That path leads us also to the heart of the universe, the heart of our fellow men, the heart of Life itself.

JOY MILLS

"Interpreting The Secret Doctrine: 1888-1988"
(Lecture delivered at the European Congress, Aug. 1988)
The Theosophist, October 1988, p. 19

A CLEAN LIFE

“A clean life” is cited as the first step of “The Golden Stairs”, given to us by Madam Blavatsky and regularly chanted at several TS meetings. And yet, merely mouthing these words, without imbibing the teachings in daily life, has little meaning. This is true for all theosophical teachings – to study them, contemplate on them and make them real in daily life, is what is most essential.

“The Golden Stairs” lead to the “Temple of Divine Wisdom”, the wisdom possessed by gods, who are the higher intelligences, lofty celestial beings in the hosts of hierarchies that make up the universe. On the other hand, man is as yet an imperfect being, still grappling with his ignorance about man, god and universe. This ignorance keeps him bound to mortal earthly reincarnation by the law of karma. Ignorance can be dispelled by divine wisdom, setting him free from this long and dreary cycle of rebirth so he could continue evolving through higher realms to the source of divinity itself.

Question arises as to how can man acquire that liberating divine wisdom which really is the possession of gods. Occult tradition tells us that man in truth is god; albeit a god in exile presently, we may add. By the virtue of man actually being god, the divine wisdom has always been his own, it need not be taught to him or given to him by a higher Being. In-fact it is enshrined in the temple which is man himself. It is his own inner essence. “The Golden Stairs” are the steps which lead to this inner essence.

One may well note that the real source of “The Golden Stairs” is a Master of Wisdom. Madam Blavatsky tells us these precepts were taken from the letter of a Master.¹ The first of these steps is “A clean life”. Even a journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step. Thus, it is imperative to take this first step to make a beginning. Success

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in this step requires first and foremost crystal clarity about what it means to have a clean life.

“Observe,” writes the Master, “that the first of the steps of gold which mount towards the Temple of Truth is—A CLEAN LIFE. This means a purity of body, and a still greater purity of mind, heart, and spirit.”²

One needs to dwell on each word to understand deeply what the Master means by purity of body but more importantly purity of mind, heart and spirit.

Purity of physical body, in addition to external hygiene, is also determined by the food taken in by the body. It is important by what means the food is procured. It should be obtained by ethical means, without causing harm to anyone. It should be conducive to the health of the body and consumed in moderation. Purity of the physical form alone is not sufficient for a clean life. Inner purity of the emotional and mental form is of more importance for the cleanest expression of life. An ethical living, uncontaminated by impurities in thoughts, words, emotions and actions constitute towards a clean life. The following lines continue from the pen of the Master:

“How many of them [you] violate one or more of these conditions (of the right Path), and yet expect to be freely taught the highest Wisdom and Sciences, the Wisdom of the gods. As pure water poured into the scavenger’s bucket is befouled and unfit for use, so is divine Truth when poured into the consciousness of a sensualist, of one of selfish heart and a mind indifferent and inaccessible to justice and compassion.”³ . . .

Unless the bodies are purified, the expression of life through them cannot be clean. Life is expressed through actions performed by physical body, emotions and feelings expressed by astral body, thoughts created by mental body. In his book “*Self Culture in the Light of Ancient Wisdom*”, Dr. I.K. Taimini pointedly explains that cleanliness

of emotional and mental body implies transmuting its coarser matter into the more sublime and subtle matter respectively. This is brought about by elevating our emotions and thought to align with our higher nature.

Explaining what constitutes a clean life, Madam Blavatsky says:

“...gentle kindness to all beings, strict honesty (not according to the world-code, but that of Karmic action), virtuous habits, strict truthfulness, and temperance in all things; that these alone are the keys that unlock the doors of earthly happiness and blissful peace of mind, and that fit the man of flesh to evolve into the perfect Spirit-Ego”.⁴

Master urges all theosophists to take heed of an ancient maxim and live accordingly:

*“There is a very, VERY ancient maxim, far older than the time of the Romans or the Greeks, more ancient than the Egyptians or Chaldeans. It is a maxim all of them (Theosophists) ought to remember and live accordingly. And it is that a sound and pure mind requires a sound and pure body. Bodily purity every adept takes precautions to keep. . . Most of you (Theosophists) know this.”*⁵

In spite of knowing this very few live up to it. There is a saying in the Indian tradition “जैसा अन्न वैसा मन”. The truth of this saying stems from the fact that every eatable is ultimately constituted of the three qualities of matter in certain combinations: *sattvic*, *rajasic* and *tamasic*. Any food when ingested, in addition to its effects on physical body, its three qualities – *sattvic*, *tamasic* and *rajasic*, also play upon the matter of astral and mental body, correspondingly modifying their nature. This naturally impacts the mind and emotions. Thus, we see the effect of food on attaining a sound and pure body which in turn leads to a sound and pure mind.

The Master’s words addressed to all on a having “a clean life” continue as:

*“. . . But though they have been repeatedly told of this sine qua non rule on the Path of Theosophy and chelaship, how few of them have given attention to it. Behold, how many of them are sluggards in the morning and time-wasters at night; GLUTTONS, eating and drinking for the sensual pleasure they give; indolent in business; selfish as to the keeping of their neighbours’ (brothers’) interests in view; borrowing from brother-Theosophists, making money out of the loan and failing to return it; lazy in study and waiting for others to think for and teach them; denying themselves nothing, EVEN OF LUXURIES, for the sake of helping poorer brothers; forgetting the Cause in general and its volunteer; hard workers,—and even debauchees, GUILTY OF SECRET IMMORALITY in more than one form. And yet all call themselves Theosophists; all talk with outsiders about ‘Theosophical ethics’ and things, with a puffed up, vain conceit in their hearts. . .”*⁶

Clearly then, our day-to-day living, right from timely sleeping and waking, moderate eating habits necessary for good health and not only for taste, agility and quickness for work, all constitute a clean life. Cultivate a selfless attitude by keeping the good interest of all at heart and never financially cheating anyone.

Mental laziness too must be given up. Madam Blavatsky mentioned:

“To the mentally lazy or obtuse, Theosophy must remain a riddle; for in the world mental as in the world spiritual, each man must progress by his own efforts. The writer cannot do the reader’s thinking for him, . . .”.

Adopting a charitable attitude even if it means depriving own self of something; living upto highest morals in sex life, all goes a long way in having a clean life. Even before we can speak to others about theosophical ethics, our own heart and mind need to be cleansed of vain conceit. Above all, we are required to uphold the ‘Cause’ at all

times for which the Theosophical Society exists and support all its volunteers and true workers.

Finally Master writes:

“Though such a person with any of the faults as above declared should fill the world with his charities, and make his name known throughout every nation, he would make no advancement in the practical occult sciences, but be continually slipping backward. The ‘six and ten transcendental virtues’ the Pâramitâs, are not for full-grown yogis and priests alone, but for all those who would enter the ‘Path.’”

Is this not motivation enough to give up mental laziness, learn ourselves and practice the Pâramitâs. Many have been studying and practicing theosophy for a long time. When will come the time we truly live “A Clean Life” and mount the first golden step towards the temple of Divine Wisdom?

References

1. H.P. Blavatsky *Collected Writings*, First Edition Vol. XII, The Theosophical Publishing House, Madras, 1980, p. 503
2. *Ibid*, p.596
3. *Ibid*, p. 597
4. *Ibid*, p. 598
5. *Ibid*, p. 597
6. *Ibid*
7. *Ibid*, p. 598

Our nature needs to be unfolded from within, and when it is we are transformed.

N. SRI RAM

The Way of Wisdom

The Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, 1989, p. 3

NEWS AND NOTES

Bombay

WHITE LOTUS DAY – TRIBUTES TO HPB - 8th May 2014 in Besant Hall: BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya in his welcome address spoke about the last wish of HPB; Dr. Ramesh Deshpande, a new member of Blavatsky Lodge spoke about the inspiring life of HPB; and Sis. Farah Irani, a new member of Shanti Lodge explained the significance of White Lotus Day.

Bro. Taral Munshi, President of Jyoti Lodge read verses from the book ‘*The Voice of the Silence*’, which was continued by his wife Archana and they ended reading with the seven portals of the last chapter. Then, BTF President Bro. Vinayak Pandya presented Diplomas on this occasion to new members Sis. Iponaea Chaudhry of Centenary Lodge and Bro. Gaurav Rawal of Ghatkopar Lodge. Blavatsky Lodge’s Vice President Bro. Navin Kumar, as per the wishes of HPB, chanted the verses of *Bhagawad Gita*. He recited the *Immortality of the Soul* in Sanskrit.

WESAK BLESSINGS MEETING on Thursday 23rd May 2024 Evening in Green Room: Blavatsky Lodge President Sis. Kashmira khambatta welcomed all and with her Power Point presentation spoke about Wesak Poornima Celebration taking place in the Wesak valley. Her presentation was based on CWL’s book ‘*The Masters and the Path*’ and Sis. Khorshed Avavri’s booklet ‘*The Miracle of Wesak Purnima*’. PPT had beautiful pictures of the Wesak Valley and sketches of *the Wesak Valley* and *the Rod of Power*. Brethren one by one recited *MahaMangala Sutta – The Greatest Blessing and Translation of Buddhist Prayer*. Brethren meditated invoking the Grace of the Lord Buddha till Full Moon Time 7.23 pm and then partook the Holy Water kept on the Alter.

BLAVATSKY LODGE TUESDAY TALKS

On 23rd April 2024 PPT presentation by Sis. Kashmira Khambatta was courtesy Lucifer 1889 on HPB’s article ‘Memory in Dying’. On 30th April 2024 Sis. Kashmira Khambatta shared

'*Reincarnation – A True Story*' by Dr. K.S. Rawat– a parapsychologist, Director of International Centre for Reincarnation and Survival Research.

Sis. Zeena Rastomjee, member of Blavatsky Lodge, TS, conducted a workshop on 7th May on *RHYTHM* with a talk on theory and demonstration with music and dance. What is rhythm? Everything is rhythmic - in nature, in our bodies and in the Cosmos. Vibrations too are a form of rhythm. Our thoughts, we ourselves and everything around us is in vibratory mode. Each of us is born with a sense of rhythm- even a baby, prehistoric man or even a deaf person.

OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN VEDANTA FROM BRO. JANARDAN SHERIGAR: A weekly 30-minute Zoom class for the benefit of TS Members to introduce basics of Vedanta will be conducted by Blavatsky Lodge TS Member Sri Janardana Sherigar - (now Swami Sathyanishtananda) at 4:00 pm on every Thursday. The link to join the sessions is as under. <https://us05web.zoom.us/j/81908650700?pwd=bFIDbot3kreKyeLEPzJtbKMbJUtomt.1>

JOURNEY TO HIMALAYAN STUDY CENTRE, BHOWALI: In Theosophical Travelogue Sis. Archana Munshi writes: When we came to know about Gujarat and Bombay TS Federations joint Study Camp to be conducted on the book "*The VOICE OF The SILENCE*" in Gujarati "*MAUNNO NAAD*" at the Himalayan Study Centre in Bhowali, my husband Taral and I decided to attend it. From Mumbai five of us were BTF President Bro. Vinayak Bhai Pandya & Sis. Maltiben Vinayak Pandya of Vasanta Lodge, Bro. Gaurav Rawal of Ghatkopar Lodge and Taral Munshi & myself of Jyoti Lodge.

May 20th 2024 is Taral's Birthday. On this auspicious day Taral launched his dream project - Theo Jyoti News Channel and Theo Jyoti OTT Chanel exclusively for Theosophy News and Propagation of Theosophy by realizing "LOGOS" of both Channels. The implied colours of both the Logos were chosen from the book "*Man Visible and Invisible*" by C.W. Leadbeater. The meaning of each colour of both logos were explained at the launch by Taral Munshi.

Study programme started from 21st May 2024 morning on

"*Maun no Naad*" – "*The Voice of the Silence*". This book is made in three parts. The First Part – Fragment I: *Anahat Naad* which was explained by Gujarat TF President Shri Harshavadanbhai Seth.

On the 22nd May 2024, Shri Vinayak Bhai Pandya explained The Second Part – Fragment II: *The Two Paths*.

On the 23rd May 2024 Narsimhbhai Thakariya told us about The Third Part – Fragment III: *The Seven Portals (Entrances)*.

Fortunately for us, Vaishakh Poornima - Buddha Poornima was on the 23rd May 2024, when we all sat in meditation waiting for the moon to rise in the courtyard in front of Radha Burner Hall.

24th May 2024 was revision day, when we tried to understand the subject more deeply. Evenings were to enjoy singing songs. On the last day all sang Garba in praise of Mataji's Jagdamba. A surprise at the cultural evening was Bro. Taral imparted knowledge learned during these three days as a SKIT with the characters of Ustad by Bro, Taral and Jamura Chela by youngest participant of 16 years. This was another successful presentation of Taral's concept of "THEOSOPHY BY ART".

These inspiring days spent at beautiful Himalayan Study Centre in Bhowali will never be forgotten. All Brothers and Sisters left with a mutual feeling of belonging to One Big Family.

'SYNERGY' for YOUTH at BHOWALI CONFERENCE: Launch of *SYNERGY* issue Year 6 January – June 2024 during the Youth Theosophical Movement at the Indian Section TS Himalayan Study Centre, Bhowali- At the Conference of WORLD FEDERATION OF YOUNG THEOSOPHISTS with Theme: **THE FLAME OF THEOSOPHY.**

Bro. Arni Narendran, Hon. Director of WFYT in his message on 28th June 2024 from Nairobi, Kenya, East Africa, thanked Dr. Rajam Pillai, Editor & Publisher and the Synergy Trust. Sis. Catalina & Sarah Ortega's valuable contribution and Shri Shikhar Agnihotri gracing the Conference as the Special Guest. He added that the

gathering was a huge success to bring Hope & Light to Younger Generation of India & other Nations.

ENCHANTING EXPERIENCE AT BALGRAM: A bus full of TOS Members, TS Members & others led by TOS Secretary Sis. Parinaz Gandhi had started early on bright Sunday morning of 26th May 2024 for the Educational Excursion to Antar Bharati Balgram, Lonavala – writes Blavatsky Lodge President Sis. Kashmira Khambatta. Balgram- a beautiful Child Care Institute that promotes Family based care to the underprivileged children facing challenges of: 1. Disintegrated family due to loss of one or both parents, 2. Domestic abuse, 3. Below poverty line homes, and 4. Children struggling with emotional and mental health. Balgram Centre started in 1967 with just five children is now a flourishing campus with around 100 children between the ages of 6 to 18 living in 10 family homes.

On 11-6-2024 Sis. Meherangiz Baria showing some of the audio-visuals of 'Paradise on Earth' – Kashmir provided a glimpse of the abundant beauty and splendour of nature that exists around us. She said: *we experienced that our consciousness automatically rises in the presence of Nature and Theosophy helps us to understand the reasons for the same.* She touched upon few matters that the study of Theosophy has revealed about Nature.

Obituary

Sis. Freny Jal Sethna, Annad Lodge Stalwart, at the age of 93 embarked on her heavenly journey on 26th May 2024. She was the daughter of Jusawalla Family, who has been staying in the Vasanta Theosophical CHS, Juhu with their distinctive contributions from early years of formation of VTCHS. Freny Aunty, as fondly called, was a devoted Theosophist at heart over 48 years. Tributes were paid by Bro. Nilesh Mehta, a member of Anand Lodge and Resident of VTCHS.

Delhi

Delhi Theosophy Federation has been hosting meetings regularly both on-line and off-line amongst its active lodges.

Indraprastha Lodge and Wisdom Lodge conducted on-line study classes on the book *At the Feet of the Master*. These were held on the first, third and fifth Sunday in the month of June 2024.

Study classes on Patanjali Yoga Sutras on the first section on *Samadhi Pada* has been the most popular and most demanded series by its members as taken by National Lecturer Bro. Rajiv Gupta in Shankar Lodge regularly during physical meetings.

The following on-line meetings in Shankar Lodge were on the topics: 1. 'Attachment and Freedom' by National Lecturer Bro. Pradip Mahaptra on 1 June 2024.

2. 'Mystery of Death and After' by National Lecturer Bro. Ashok Kumar Lokhande on 15 June 2024.

Tamil

Federation's President Bro. R. Krishnamoorthy gave lecture on 'LOVE LEADS TO PERFECTION' on 31 March 2024 at the 100th South Indian Conference held at Adyar. Besides, the Vice-President of Tamil Federation Sis. M. Vijayalakshmi also gave a talk in the same conference on 'REACHING THE ETERNAL BEING'.

Tamilnadu Scientific Forum presented 30 books relating to Science to the Madurai Lodge in the meeting held on 28 April 2024.

Shri. Prakasam, Supdt. of Police (Retd), spoke on 'Saint Arunagirinathar and Thiruppugazh' in the monthly meeting of Lotus Lodge, Vellore, held on 21 April.

In the monthly meeting of Sri Krishna Lodge, Puducherry, Bro. Sai Vaithianathan spoke on 21 April about the then prevailing circumstances which led to the inscription and publication of the three prime books on theosophy, viz., (i) *At the Feet of the Master*, (ii) *The Voice of the Silence*; and (iii) *Light on the Path*.

Shri. Gopal delivered a short talk on *KAIIVALYA NAVANEETHAM* an Advaita Classic in Tamil, frequently referred to by Bhagavan Ramana Maharishi and by eminent scholars as well. It was held on 25 May at Ussoor Lodge.

Vellore Lotus Lodge observed White Lotus Day on 8 May. Besides, the Lodge felicitated its former President and senior member Bro. Rathinavel on 26 May. It was followed by his talk about the life of child prodigy Saint Thirugnanasambanthar. Sri. Velu. Tilirumavalavan spoke on 'Health is Happiness' in the monthly meeting of the Lodge held on 30 June.

Nagarcoil Lodge President Bro. K. Abathukatha Pillai spoke about J. Krishnamurit in the meeting of the Lodge held on 19 May. It was followed by Bro. V. Gopal's lecture on 'Humanity in *Kamba Ramayanam*'.

In the monthly meeting held of Puducherry Sri Krishna Lodge Sis. Kasthuri spoke about 'White Lotus Day' and Bro. Sai Vaithianathan gave a lecture on the 'Light on the Path'. These two talks held on 26 May.

Bro. Krishnamoorthy gave lecture on 'Love enemies' in the monthly meeting of Nagarcoil Lodge on 16 June. Then, the Executive Committee's meeting was also held on the same day.

Sis. Gananambigai spoke about 'Life History of C. Jinarajadasa' and Bro. Sai Vaithianathan gave a talk on 'Light on the Path' at Sri Krishna Lodge, Puducherry on 16 June.

Visit to School: Tamil Federation Secretary Bro. P. Devarajan, participated in the Annual Day celebration of PUVITHAM MODEL SCHOOL at Nagarkoodal village on 14 April. He briefed about the fundamentals of theosophy to the students and teachers of the school and the general public who attended the aforementioned celebration.

TOS Activities: Members of Madurai Lodge offered buttermilk to the devotees/public during the RAMA NAVAMI Festival on 17 April.

Sis. Desi Dharmalingam of Dharmapuri Lodge provided food/water bottles to the attendants of the in-patients of the Govt. Medical College Hospital, Dharmapuri on 6 days during Apl-24 and on 16 days during the months of May and June (viz., 8 days in each month). On

an average 80 such attendants were benefitted daily incurring about two thousand rupees per day. Her charities were over Rs.40, 000/- on this account.

Fedn. Secretary Bro. P. Devarajan offered breakfast to about 100 persons on 14 May- on the first day of 'Vaikasi' Tamil month donating Rs.1, 500/-

Lotus Lodge, Vellore conducted free eye camp on 02 June in collaboration with Dr. Agrawal's Eye Foundation, Gudiyatham.

Bro. M.Subramanian and his wife Sis.S.MaIrvizhi of Dharmapuri Lodge gave away cash award of Rs.1,000/- and book award (Thiruvagam Complete verse) each to 6 girls and 6 boys students of Govt. Girls/Boys H.S.School of Kambainallore in June '24. These students secured I, II, III places in the Public exams. held for X and XII standards in 2023-24.

Telugu

A meeting on the occasion of Buddha Poornima (23 May) was organized at Buddha Bihar, Hill Top, Vemagiri, Rajahmundry. Short lectures were delivered in the meeting by Federation President Bro. K.S. Ramachandra Rao, Bro. A.T. Babaji of Tadepalligudem and Bro. K.B. Gopalakrishna of Rajahmundry. All the speakers gave excellent lectures. Besides, a meditation for 30 minutes was conducted there. The place also has a Buddha statue, 84 feet tall, at Vemagiri Konda. Vudatha Ranga Rao (Secretary), Vulli Satyanarayana Murthy, Mudragada Ramana, and Harsha Vardhan from Godavari Theosophical Society attended the meeting.

The Godavari Theosophical Order of Service, Dowleswaram, initiated two service projects on 26-6-2024 to help and finance students joining intermediate college. Under the leadership of our TOS President Matta Janardhana Rao Garu and TS President P. Saiy Tata Rao Garu, along with Secretary Vudatha Ranga Rao and members Mudragada Ramana, Vulli Satyanarayana, Rudra, and Dharma Raju, the projects aim to assist K. Padma Latha and N. Devi. In all, an amount of Rs 21,000/- were donated by fifteen members.

Rs. 10,000 have been given to each student, for a total donation of Rs. 20,000. The remaining amount has been credited to the account for the next service project.

U.P. & Uttarakhand

Bro. U.S. Pandey gave a talk at Bhowali Lodge on 2 June and the topic of his talk was 'Number Seven'. Besides, he discussed administrative matters with the lodge officials there.

Bro. Ashok Kumar Gupta spoke at Dharma Lodge, Lucknow, on 5 June about 'What is Man'. The three talks delivered by Bro. U.S. Pandey at the same venue were on 'God and Gods', 'Foundation of Yoga', and 'Self-transformation by Awareness' – which were held on 12, 19 and 26 June respectively. Besides, a guided meditation session was held on 19 June.

A symposium on the topic 'Theosophical Living' was held at Nirvan Lodge, Agra, on 6 June. Then, Bro. Prabhakar Sharma spoke about 'Sundar Kand' on 13 June, Bro. H.B. Pandey's subject of talk on 20 June was 'Gita-Ch-4' and Bro. Praveen Mehrotra explained 'Thought Power' on 27 June.

Bro. Arvind Rai gave two talks on 'Man and Seven Bodies' at Sarvhitkari Lodge, Gorakhpur, on 5 and 12 June. Then, Dr. V.K. Dividi's two talks at the same venue were on 'Yoga' on 19 June and 'Meditation and Illness' on 21 June respectively. Bro. A.P. Srivastava spoke about 'Who am I' on 26 June.

Bro. S.B.R. Mishra gave a talk on 'Ashtang Yoga of Patanjali' at Sanatan Dharm Lodge, on 23 June. Besides, he explained 'Law of Karma' at Satya Darsan Jogiya (Dist Kushinagar) on 9 June.

The subject of talk of Bro. Sheshnag Tripathi at Brahm Vidya Lodge, Jigna on 21 June was 'Significance of Yoga'.

Bro. P.S. Parihar spoke about 'Ashtavakra Gita' at Chohan Lodge, Kanpur on 9 June. Bro. Shivbaran Singh explained 'Atm-samyam Yoga', on 16 June. The topics of Bro. S.S. Gautam's two talks at the same venue were 'Life a Cycle' on 23 June and 'Path of

Arhat' on 30 June respectively.

A group discussion on 'Yoga- Sutras of Patanjali' was held at Annie Besant Lodge, Varanasi, on 21 June.

The study of the book '*Nirvana*' was completed at Noida Lodge on 16 June.

A group discussion on the topic 'Challenges in daily life and solution from Theosophy' was conducted at Prayas Lodge, Ghaziabad, on 10 June. Besides, study of the book *In His Name* was conducted by Sis. Suvrilna Mohanty on 17 June.

Study Camp at Bhowali

A study camp on 'The Stanzas of Dzyan- Anthropogenesis' was directed by Bro. U.S. Pandey at Bhowali from 3 to 7 June.

A study camp on 'The Flame of Theosophy- Revisiting the Fundamentals' was organized by 'World Federation of Young Theosophists' from 22 to 26 June and it was directed by Bro. Shikhar Agnihotri.

In other Federations: Sis. Suvralina Mohanty gave a talk on 'The way you do anything is the way you do everything'. It was held at Barabati Lodge, Cuttack, on 29 June.

Sis. Vibha Saksena spoke about 'The Golden Stairs' – this talk was held under the auspices of Marathi Federation on 3 June.

Bro. S.K. Pandey gave an on-line talk on the topic 'A Moment of Awareness' and it was organized by Shankar Lodge, Delhi, on 29 June.

In other Forums: Bro. S.B. R. Mishra spoke on 'Purification of Inside of Man' which was held at Buddha Polytechnic on 8 June. Besides, he gave a talk on 'Teachings of Krishnamurti' at Eves' Welfare Spiritual Club on 15 June.

Indian Section Headquarters

White Lotus Day was observed on 8th May, 2024 in the Annie

Besant Hall of the Indian Section, HQ, jointly by the Indian Section and Kashi Tattva Sabha (KTS) in hybrid mode. The programme started with the prayers of all religions and universal prayer conducted by the students of Vasant Kanya Inter College. Excerpts from the books *The Voice of the Silence* and *The Light of Asia* were read by Dr. Mishra Khusboo Ashok Kumar and Mrs. Bharati Chattopadhyay. Smt. Uma Bhattacharyya read the *Bhagavad Gita* in Sanskrit, while Dr. Annapurna read its Hindi version. A lecture on “Blavatsky: A Unique Character” was delivered on this occasion by Smt. Manju Sundaram. In her speech, she emphasized the timeless wisdom, honesty, visionary nature, and straightforward personality of HPB. She elaborated on the challenges and obstacles that HPB encountered while pursuing her spiritual aspirations and timeless wisdom.

The Vote of Thanks was given by Dr. Kumud Ranjan, President, KTS.

INDIAN SECTION STUDY CAMP, VARANASI (From 25 Oct. to 27 Oct. 2024)

Theme: **THE IDEAL OF HUMAN PROGRESSION AND PERFECTION”.**

The three-day Indian Section Study Camp on “THE IDEAL OF HUMAN PROGRESSION AND PERFECTION” will be held from 25 to 27 October, 2024 at the Indian Section, HQ, Varanasi. It will be conducted by Sis. VIBHA SAKSENA, National Lecturer of the Indian Section. Members are requested to remit an appropriate amount based on the type of accommodation, they select latest by 1st October 2024.

The registration will start from 1st August 2024. 1. Suryashram and Shantikunj- Rs. 3100 (Rs. 300/day for Accommodation, Rs. 425/day for food) 2. Other Rooms and Dormitories at- Rs. 2700 (Rs. 200/day for Accommodation, Rs. 425/day for food) The amount includes registration fee of Rs. 200, Accommodation charges and Food charges. There are Rooms with AC having 10 beds, the bed charges

are Rs.700 per day. Accommodation will be provided from the afternoon of 24 October to 28 October (up to 10 am). Lunch and Dinner will be provided on 24 October and Breakfast on 28 October.

The accommodation will be provided to 64 persons in Suryashram and Shantikunj and 88 persons in Dormitory and in other rooms on FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS. The delegates who want to stay more will have to pay extra Board and Lodging Charges. If registration is cancelled before 15/10/2024 then, Rs. 200 will be deducted and the rest of the amount will be sent to you after 15th November 2024. For the members of Varanasi and those who do not require accommodation or food, there will be a registration charge of Rs. 200 without food.

Food charges, if needed, will be Rs. 425 per day. Remittances are to be made to BANK OF BARODA, LUXA ROAD BRANCH, Varanasi, Account No. 28600100018425, IFSC Code- BARB0LUXABS in the name of the Indian Section, The Theosophical Society. In IFSC code the underline is ‘Zero’. One must inform Mr. A.N. Singh, (Accountant, Indian Section, TS Varanasi) by email (theosophyvns@gmail.com) or Telephone No. 9935395712 giving details of your name, address, transfer amount, date, and mode of payment as per the FORM attached with special request if any, without which one cannot be registered. For any clarification kindly contact Pradip Mahapatra, Camp Officer, Telephone No. 9437697429 / peekem0277@gmail.com

Pradeep H. Gohil
President
The Indian Section, TS, Varanasi

INDIAN SECTION STUDY CAMP, VARANASI- 2024

REGISTRATION FORM

Name.....Diploma No.....
Date of Birth.....
Lodge Name.....
Federation.....
Address.....
.....
Mobile No..... E-mail.....
Mode of payment..... Transfer Amount.....
Date of payment.....
Arrival date and time.....
Departure date and time.....
Signature.....
Special Request for accommodation if any

**149TH INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
INFORMATION**

Theme: Practical Theosophy and the Art of Self-Transformation

The 149th International Convention of the Theosophical Society will be held at the International Headquarters, Adyar, **from 31 December 2024 to 4 January 2025** (departure 5 January). All members of the Society in good standing are welcome to attend as delegates. Non-members are not eligible for accommodation but can register for the Convention and meals at the canteen. The entire programme can also be viewed live free of charge on the YouTube channel, “**Theosophical Society Adyar**”.

ACCOMMODATION FOR MEMBERS ONLY

Leadbeater Chambers (LBC): LBC has rooms with two beds and an attached bathroom in each room. A third bed can be added in some of the larger rooms for a group of three. Availability is limited. Hot water via solar water heater.

New Quadrangle (NQ): NQ has rooms with two beds and an attached bathroom in each room. Availability is limited. Hot water via solar water heater.

Basic Accommodation (BA): The basic accommodation has been upgraded, but the numbers are limited. On sharing basis with more than two delegates in one room and common rest room. Hot water via electric geyser is available.

ALLOTMENTS

Accommodations will be decided by the Convention Committee during December 2024 and the result will be informed by email. **Allotment will be on first come first serve basis. Registration requests sent in after the last date of registration will not be accepted. Registration without stay will be open until the start of the Convention.**

PACKAGES

The rates below are per person from 30 December 2024 dinner to 5 January 2025 lunch. Any meals outside the package dates are to be arranged by the delegates themselves. **Local delegates can contact Bangalore City Lodge (BCL) office in Bhojanasala (30 Dec 2024 onwards) to check the possibility of ‘on-the-spot request’ of meals.** For any other requests, kindly email the Convention Officer before registering.

Overseas delegates:

A. LBC: US\$ 420 — incl. registration fee, accommodation, and meals at LBC.

A1. LBC: US\$ 190 — incl. registration fee, and meals at LBC Canteen. No accommodation.

B. NQ: US\$ 210 — incl. registration fee, NQ accommodation, and meals at BCL canteen at Bhojanasala.

C. BA: US\$ 150 — incl. registration fee, basic accommodation, and meals at BCL canteen.

C1. BCL: US\$ 110 – incl. registration fee, and meals at BCL canteen. No accommodation.

D. Registration only: US\$ 70 - without meals and accommodation.

Indian delegates:

E. LBC: Rs. 14,500 — Registration fee, accommodation, and meals at LBC.

F. NQ: Rs. 6,500 — Registration fee, NQ accommodation and meals at BCL canteen.

G. BA: Rs. 5,000 — Registration fee, basic accommodation and meals at BCL canteen.

H. Rs. 3,500 — Registration fee and meals at BCL Canteen, without any accommodation.

I. Rs. 500 — Registration only without meals and accommodation. (*See over*)

PAYMENT

Overseas delegates: Register on-line and make the payment. If for some reason you cannot pay with the on-line form, payments will be collected from you “on arrival”. Then you may pay the applicable package rate by Master/ Visa credit card. Please remember to take your travel insurance before arriving at Adyar.

NO PAYMENT IN CASH WILL BE ACCEPTED.

Delegates from India: Register on-line and make the payment in INR either (a) on-line with registration (preferred), or (b) by cheque / bank draft payable to “The Theosophical Society” couriered to the Convention Officer, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600020, India. (Whatsapp: +91-884092628).

It is mandatory that delegates send an email with the information about the payment to the Convention Officer at convention@ts-adyar.org soon after completing the on-line payment process or after sending the cheque, mentioning the following: delegate(s) name, bank name, date of transfer, and transfer reference ID. The date of registration for such cases will be the date of realization of the cheque/ draft.

REGISTRATION FORM

Last date to register with accommodation: 26 November 2024. On-line registration with instructions for paying will appear on the Convention website convention.ts-adyar.org Registration opens on 1 September 2024, 10 am Indian Time (UTC+5.5 hours). If accommodations become full, the status will be intimated on the website.

Delegates who are (or cannot be) allotted accommodation will be intimated by email by 20 December 2024.

Delegates who cannot be allotted but have paid will have their payment returned **at least 15 days** after the Convention.

Last Date of Cancellation: 10 December 2024

For delegates wanting to cancel their registration and accommodation requests, the last date is 10 December 2024. After this date, no amount will be refunded. If the cancellation request is received by 10 December 2024, then the package amount minus the registration fee (Rs.500 or US\$ 70) will be refunded at least 15 days after the Convention.

Convention Officer (CO):

Mr Shikhar Agnihotri: **Email:** convention@ts-adyar.org

Post: The Convention Officer, The Theosophical Society, Adyar,
Chennai 600020, Tamil Nadu, India.

Convention website: <https://convention.ts-adyar.org/>