

NEWSLETTER

INDO-PACIFIC FEDERATION OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

July 2004

MAN AND HIS GOALS

Theosophy offers us some fundamental teaching concerning the One Life, the Evolution of Life and Form, the Immutable Law of Cause and Effect which is operative at all times in every department of Nature, and Reincarnation by which man gradually ascends the ladder of life to divinity. A careful study of these teachings brings an awareness of a Divine Plan, whose purpose is to lead all things and beings to greater perfection, through the endless ladder of Evolution. In *The Secret Doctrine*, H.P.B. writes : "The Secret Doctrine teaches the progressive development of everything, worlds as well as atoms; and this stupendous development has neither conceivable beginning nor imaginable end". (Vol. I, p.43.) *The Idyll of the White Lotus* says of Man : " The soul of man is immortal, and its future is the future of a thing whose growth and splendour has no limit".

Once we have comprehended the doctrine of evolution and attained to some understanding of the Divine Plan, it then becomes our task to be conscious co-workers in the great Design. One of the Adept Founders of the Theosophical Society said it was our duty "to work with the tide and assist the onward impulse", and again, in *The Secret Doctrine*, HPB speaks of the "evolutionary tidal wave that carries Humanity slowly, silently, but steadily towards the dawn of the Sixth Race mankind ". (Vol. II, p. 281.) In the term "Sixth Race Mankind" Blavatsky refers to the spiritually awakened humanity of the future, in whom the intuitive faculty or Buddhi will be fully awakened and enlightening the mind.

That man's psycho-spiritual evolution is being referred to in the foregoing citation is confirmed in her further statement that "it is the spiritual evolution of the inner, immortal Man that forms the fundamental tenet of the Occult Sciences". (Vol. 11, p. 359.)

According to occult tradition man stands now at roughly the mid-point of his cycle of evolution. It is understandable therefore, that most members of the human race are still immersed in considerations of material and physical import. But, having now achieved a firm basis in the outer, objective world, the goal ahead for mankind is to transfer its attention to the realm of the Spirit. Man must turn from his knowledge of the world without an understanding of the world within.

Mankind's immediate goal then is to take the particular step which is required of it by evolution which consists in the opening of the faculties of the Higher Mind. In theosophical parlance this means the shifting of our consciousness from Kama-Manas (mind in the grip of personal desire) to Buddhi-Manas (mind permeated by spiritual light). In other words, we must shift from passionate earthly mentality to enlightened mentality turned towards the spiritual Soul or Buddhi.

The Higher Mind is typified by the capacity for unification, synthesis and wholeness. The unifying tendency leads to identification with the other and thereby to sympathy and compassion. "I am by brother's keeper" characterizes the man of intuition. The synthesizing qualities of the Higher Mind have already been at work in science and philosophy, resulting in the perception of one common Law manifesting in many diverse phenomena and the cognizance of holistic views about the Universe and all forms manifesting in it. To reach this Goal we must discard the cumbersome mental baggage of the dying past, the useless impediments of the personal which prevents us from rising

and soaring where previously we used to crawl. A new conception of ethics, a deeper sense of life values, a sympathizing heart and a recognition of universal brotherhood are amongst our immediate goals.

Also rooted in the awakening Higher Mind are our dawning ideas of cooperation, mutual benefit and global consciousness at the individual, national and international levels. The new spirit of progress through unity implies concern for the well-being of humanity as a whole, and the appearance of such tendencies can be seen in many organizations promoting social welfare, education, etc.

Unhappily, in spite of the finer manifestations of unity and solidarity which are appearing in the world, warfare and tyranny are still rife amidst the human family. Separateness, intolerance, hate, cruelty, racial and religious prejudices are arrayed against humanitarian efforts. All these evils are the outcome of ignorance about the true nature of man and his goals. They will be corrected by the discovery in man himself of his true nature and high destiny.

Dara F. Mirza

Vice-President, Indo-Pacific Federation

Presidential-Representative, TS in Pakistan

INDO-PACIFIC THEOSOPHICAL NEWS

2004 INDO-PACIFIC CONFERENCE

Interest in the Conference is growing, albeit slowly. We are very happy to announce that Joy Mills, former International Vice-President and former National President of the TS in America and in Australia, will participate at the meeting in Singapore. She will give a short talk on 'Meditation, Study and Service' and facilitate a discussion on 'How Can Theosophy Become a Living Force in One's Life?'. We are equally happy that Terezinha Franca Kind, President of the Inter-American Federation of the TS, will also participate. The Australian Section has distributed registration forms to all its members and will forward a single payment to Singapore Lodge. The deadline for payments is 31 August 2004.

NEW ZEALAND

We have been digitising many of the old audio tapes we have in our library and now have available the Audio Books of Geoffrey Hodson on CD-ROM. As time permits we will be making more of titles available on CD-ROM and also from our web site at <http://www.theosophy.org.nz>. Over the last year the branches around New Zealand have been studying some of the theosophical study courses available through the USA. We have recently held a week's School of Theosophy with Dr Richard Brooks as our guest speaker, exploring the Religions of the World and the underlying threads of Theosophy. We also spent time in studying the basic message of the Theosophical Society and help students who attended with workshops on different aspects of preparing talks and points to keep in mind in running committee meetings.

The New Zealand Section is looking once again at how it can more effectively reach the public and the people who may be interested in the seeds we have to offer. We are also looking at how best we can communicate with a public who are adverse to joining organisations today – how we can build this "Nucleus" effectively. The National

Headquarters continues to send speakers to branches and study centres around the country to promote the Society and its ideals to as many people as possible.

JAPAN

On 15 February we had the Annual General Meeting at Ikebukuro in Tokyo. At this meeting Mr Naotsugu Takahashi was elected President of Nippon Lodge, replacing Jeff Clark who is going to leave Japan and return to the USA. We are going to have our first National Meeting on 11 and 12 September 2004 in Tokyo, on the theme "First Step in Theosophy". Preparations for this meeting have already started.

Mitsuko Yanagida
Secretary of Nippon Lodge, Tokyo

THE PHILIPPINES

The 2003 National Convention approved a set of priority goals for the Philippine Section of the TS for the next ten years. These include, among others, to raise funds of at least 10 million pesos, establish another Theosophical School, put up TV programs, radio programs and web sites for lodges, establish a Theosophical Institute, expand the Youth Program, set up Lodge Bookstores and Libraries in key cities and train 100 facilitators for the Self-Transformation Seminar.

A new Study Group was formed in northern Luzon which is composed mainly of faculty members and administrators of a college in Urdaneta City, Pangasinan province. The Golden Link School has expanded its existing building with the addition of more classrooms. The National President, Vicente Hao Chin, Jr., conducted a Self-Transformation Seminar in Kuala Lumpur last February, organised by the Selangor Lodge of the TS. Two youth camps were held in the Philippines, one in Urdaneta and the other one in Davao City. A Krishnamurti Study Group has been formed at the national headquarters and is moderated by dr Arturo Perez, professor of philosophy at the University of the Philippines.

Vicente Hao Chin, Jr.
National President, TS in the Philippines

BANGLADESH

Comilla Lodge - The nucleus of the TS at Comilla was set up by a few gentlemen in 1889. In 1913 the large hall of the Lodge was built in the Town Hall compound of Comilla town. One of the great stalwarts in the theosophical work in Comilla was Brother Chandrakumar Lyuha. He was the Secretary of the Comilla Lodge from 1889 to 1919. There are no records about the Lodge work after his death in 1919. The Lodge had a good library but during the 1971 war a number of refugee families took shelter in it and used the valuable volumes as fuel. For many years after this period, the Rev. Dharma Rakshit Mahatero was the President. He organised the Lodge Centenary celebrations, held in May 1989, conducted many study meetings and also organised the commemoration of the TS memorial days.

A new start to the work of the Lodge was made in 1998 under the leadership of some gentlemen of Comilla interested in Theosophy. B. L. Bhattacharyya, President of the Bengal Theosophical Federation, and Vicente Hao Chin, Jr., National President of the TS in the Philippines and former President of the Indo-Pacific Federation, visited

Comilla and offered guidance to the local members in the pursuit of Theosophy. The Presidential-Representative of South-East Asia, Dr C. V. Agarval, keeps in close contact with Comilla Lodge. It is due to the help of the above mentioned officers that a part of the dilapidated building has been reconstructed and the Lodge now has a rich collection of books.

At present, the Lodge has 42 members who hold discussion meetings regularly on Theosophy. The library is open for all everyday. There are signs that Theosophy is slowly but surely becoming popular in Comilla as a number of people are now interested in joining the TS. Recently the Executive Committee decided unanimously to start a TOS group in Comilla. One of the Lodge members, Obed Pandit, had an article (“Will Power”) published in *The Theosophist*, November 2003.

SINGAPORE

The Lodge celebrated its 115th anniversary last January. It was formed by Col. Olcott on 24 January 1889. The commemorations started with a talk by the Lodge President, Chong Sanne, on 17 January 2004 on “Purpose of the Theosophical Society.” This was preceded by a series of talks by the same speaker on “The Nature of Psychic Abilities”, “The Occult Hierarchy” and “The Masters and the Path.”

The Lodge also started a study class on *Talks on the Path of Occultism (Light on the Path)*. The National President of the TS in the Philippines and former President of the Indo-Pacific Federation visited the Lodge and delivered a talk on 9 February 2004 on “Stages in the Mystical Life”. February also saw the beginning of a series of talks by N. C. Raghava, the Lodge Hon. Treasurer, on “An Introduction to the Study of the Upanishads” and a video, featuring Geoffrey Hodson at the krotona Institute of Theosophy, on “The Hierarchy of Earth’s Adepts.”

In April, the Lodge programme included another video with Geoffrey Hodson (“Interpretations of the Life and Teachings of Our Lord Jesus Christ”), a study class with Chong Sanne on “The Christian Creed” and a talk by Gertrude Weerekoon on “Lent, Easter and the Doctrines of the Resurrection and Ascension.”

Other talks in the period included “The Nag Hammadi Discoveries and the Dead Sea Scrolls” by Gertrude Weerekoon, “Reincarnation – Fact or Fallacy?” by Lily Chong and “The Lost Continents of Lemuria and Atlantis” by Chong Sanne.

AUSTRALIA

The School of Theosophy was held at the Theosophical Education and Retreat Centre in Springbrook, Queensland, from 2 to 8 May 2004 on the theme “Theosophy in the World’s Religions”, with Dr Richard Brooks, from the USA, as director of studies.

As part of its educational work, the Section distributed a free copy of the book *Flower of Yoga - Introductory Notes for the Study of the Yoga Sutras of Patajali* by Ianthe Hoskins, to all its members in June. Last March, all members received Theosophical Study Paper no. 4 which included two articles by our International President, Radha Burnier: “Masters and Gurus” and “Stages on the Path”.