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### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

It is a great pleasure for all of us to meet together every year. We have an opportunity to consider the work of the Society in bringing humanity forward to its destined role. Some eminent scientists now seem to think that evolution has proceeded consistently to expand intelligence and the power of understanding. There is the possibility for human beings to shake off all lesser traits and grow into qualities which will move us towards a divine life and powers. This is in accordance with Theosophical understanding and helps us human beings to wake up to the future.

### **PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

To the 134th Annual Convention of the Theosophical Society  
Adyar, 26 December 2009

It gives me much joy to welcome all of you, and I am sure that many in the Theosophical compound here join me in doing so. It is a fine opportunity for members to come to Adyar and bathe in the atmosphere created by the great Theosophists who have lived in the beauty and peace which reign here. The Convention attracts many people, and while we cannot manage to give all the conveniences that some may enjoy at home, still this place has a special beauty which is of value to all who come. I greet you with the wish that we shall work together in a way which is not contrary to what the Elder Brethren desire. Will you please rise.

**May those who are the embodiments of Love Immortal bless with their help and guidance this Society, founded to be a channel for their work. May They inspire it with their Wisdom, strengthen it with their Power, and energize it with their Activity.** (Please be seated.)

We all have and continue to have a valuable role to play in the advancement of humanity. We are meant to reach a stage where all the desires and pulls

which have predominated up to this stage are no more at work. This can be the new age. There are quite a few people nowadays who speak of the New Age, but most of those who do so are full of turmoil, not of the deep transformation that humanity will undergo when a sufficient number of the people who compose it have left behind the past. A new life must be started as real human beings — not as part human and part brutal people such as we are.

As we must be ready to move into the future, let us consider what characteristics we must acquire. As H. P. Blavatsky wrote, people who aspire to the higher life must not be characterized by incompetency and irresponsible chatter. Unfortunately most human beings are still at this stage of chatter, if not incompetency. Our concept of what a human being should be is perhaps low and provides an incorrect picture of what might be. Those who do not understand indulge in 'ignorance, appeals to passion, the exaltation of fanaticism as devotion, and of credulity as faith'.

To use Dr Besant's own words: 'There is a danger in every society which has existed long enough to become what it was not intended to be and follow the world in its follies and useless thought.' We have to be different and not be carried away by what happens in the world because our task is different; our way of life must be pure and an unselfish, disinterested one. In other words, we need to be real Theosophists, and not merely members

of the Theosophical Society.

There are many who know how to be only members of the Society. It is somewhat like being a member of many other good societies. Such people feel satisfied when they have given their time or part of their time to the service of others. This is of course laudable, and it is right for those who do not know what else they can do, but those who need to carry on the work of the Society by taking on the responsibility are the ones who are really moving on — towards a new era. So what must be done in the case of people who have a higher potential?

All of us share the same nature, but only in some has it flowered. So these people have a special duty; they have, as Annie Besant said, the distinguishing role of expelling ignorance rather than trying to destroy its forms one by one. There are innumerable evils which are apparent in modern society: 'instead of chopping off the heads of weeds, leaving the roots to send up perpetually new off-shoots', Theosophy must help us to destroy the very roots which create the next harvest. We must belong to the people who set themselves to free the world of its problems. Evil actions take their roots from evil thinking and Theosophy deals with this problem by strengthening our wisdom and understanding the subject. Therefore we have the duty to know the essentials of Theosophy.

Dr Annie Besant said:

Theosophy, as it enlightens the minds of the thoughtful by unveiling to them the hidden causes of sorrow, as it

preaches to all the simple and sublime doctrines of brotherhood, rebirth and causation, is doing the harder and more thankless work of removing the causes of hunger and distress, thus stopping the spring whence rushes the stream of evils that afflict society.

The work of the Society is not so much the feeding of the hungry or relieving distress little by little, but of shedding the light of truth and knowledge of all this. It shows the scientific basis — which means the logical basis — of moral precepts and answers many questions. For instance, if we know, not merely discuss and talk about, the knowledge which purifies and illuminates the gap which exists between the lower and higher natures of man, a great deal is accomplished.

This rationale for illuminating the

lower impulses and supporting the higher aspirations within us goes on until the lower is completely eliminated. Enlightenment is difficult to achieve, but even at this level, we can begin by helping others to come to greater understanding. This is the work we have to do; while we are helping people out of their difficulties when we can, we must make our own consciousness clearer and more capable of seeing the truth.

HPB gave away the little money she had to help a poor woman in distress, who thought that she could not travel to the new continent as she was planning to do. This action was wonderful, but this was by no means all of the real gift that HPB gave to the world. That gift was wisdom, the understanding of what we have to leave behind and what we have to work towards.



**The Past and Present of India in its relation to the Theosophical movement, has now been sketched. What is there in the future? The Theosophical Society had offered the public no easy road to knowledge or happiness, but only the opportunity to strive painfully against appetite and passion, to bear patiently grievous wrong and heavy tribulation, to sacrifice, to persevere for the attainment of wisdom. Many had thought otherwise — some think so even now — but time and experience dispel all illusions. The Society had found a large number of high-minded, earnest, unselfish persons, ready to forget differences of race, creed and colour, and work together fraternally and kindly for the lofty ideals, presented in the declared objects of the Society. Practical results acquitted the founders of the charge of utopianism, and in the spread of the organization to almost every quarter of the globe was the promise of a great future.**

H. S. Olcott, *The Theosophist*, August 1885

## SUPPORT OUR PRESTIGIOUS JOURNALS

### **The Theosophist**

*A monthly journal for all serious students of Theosophy*

Started in 1879, with HPB as Editor, *The Theosophist* has continued without break as a link between each succeeding President and readers throughout the world. Articles in the journal represent the views and insights of leading Theosophists worldwide. The President's column 'On the Watch-Tower' draws attention to recent and important trends in the world scene from a Theosophical point of view.

### **Adyar Newsletter (Published Quarterly)**

*Adyar Newsletter* brings up-to-date news to members about the International Headquarters. You can keep in touch, wherever you are, with events, publications, programmes of the School of the Wisdom, the work of the departments, information about Adyar's wonderful trees and other aspects of Nature, personalities who visit or stay, educational activities and brotherhood in action through welfare work.

### **Wake Up India (Published Quarterly)**

The journal of the New Life for India Movement, a movement for Right Citizenship, Right Values and Right Means, focuses attention on current issues of social, environmental and ethical relevance and sensitizes the public on these matters.

### **Theosophical Digest (Published Quarterly)**

This magazine, published by the Theosophical Society in the Philippines, contains very interesting and illuminating articles with insights on the higher life, practical wisdom, and Eastern and Western philosophies. It is of interest to students of Theosophy as well as the general public.

*Your support in the form of subscriptions to the journals — for yourself and as gift subscriptions to your friends and relatives — will be appreciated. Subscriptions for the above journals will be accepted at the TPH and at the Adyar Bookshop.*



**Seek communion and intercourse only with the God within your own soul; heed only the praise or blame of that deity which can never be separated from your true self, as it is verily that God itself: called the HIGHER CONSCIOUSNESS.**

H. P. Blavatsky

## THE THEOSOPHICAL PUBLISHING HOUSE

### Books printed during the year

New release: **The World Around Us** by Radha Burnier, which is a compilation of 'On the Watch-Tower' notes from *The Theosophist* between 1980 and 2007.

### Reprints:

**Gayatri** by I. K. Taimni

**Viveka-chudamani** by Mohini M. Chatterji

**The Astral Body** by A. E. Powell

**Thought Power — Its Control and Culture** by Annie Besant

Soon to be released: **N. Sri Ram: A Life of Beneficence and Wisdom** by Pedro Oliveira

*Special offer.* A **Theosophical Calendar**, with selected pictures from the International Headquarters and information about important dates in the Theosophical Society's existence.

### Book Exhibition and Discount Sales

The Theosophical Publishing house is holding a book exhibition from 26 December to 31 December at its premises in Besant Gardens and at its Bookshop at the main gate of the International Headquarters. Publications of the Adyar Library and Research Centre, Quest Books (USA) and the Theosophical Publishing House will be on display and sold at discounts (33% on TPH and Adyar Library books and 20% on Quest Books).

Greeting Cards and Wall Calendars, with attractive iconic pictures of the International Headquarters of the TS and its flora and fauna; CDs and special Incense Sticks for use during meditation practices, photos of eminent leaders of the Society and books of other publishers will also be on sale.

Subjects of the publications include Spirituality, Religions, Mysticism, Occultism, Yoga, Meditation, Theosophy, Philosophy, the Veda-s, Vedanta, the Upanishad-s, etc.

### ATTRACTIVE DISCOUNTS

(26 to 31 December 2009)

**33% on TPH and Adyar Library Books  
20% on Quest Books**

### OPENING HOURS

#### For the convenience of the delegates to the 133rd International Convention:

The Theosophical Publishing House (Besant Gardens): 9 am – 1 pm  
2 pm – 5 pm

Adyar Bookshop (Main Gate): 9 am – 1 pm  
2.30 pm – 6.30 pm

## **OLCOTT MEMORIAL HIGH SCHOOL**

The children and teachers of the Olcott Memorial High School will be very happy to have the delegates to the International Convention and the residents of the Theosophical Society visit the school on 27 December, from 1.30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m. The School will welcome its visitors with singing, folk dancing and a play in English by the children of Class 5, adapted from their text book. The visitors will see an exhibition of work showcasing some of the changes and improvements since the last Convention. The exhibition includes science projects presented by the students of Class 9 at the Children's Science Congress, Maths and English games through which they learn their subjects, computer lab lessons,

creations by students and photographs. As a parting gift and memento to our visitors, the students and teachers will decorate the palms of the visitors with mehndi designs.

This year the pass rate of Class 10 students at the School has reached an all-time high of 87% compared to the state average of 84%. One of the reasons for this year's success is the dedication of teachers in supporting students in their studies through supplemental after-school classes. Through the Tamil Nadu Science Projects scheme, the students also learn about organic farming, termites, medicinal plants and the ecological effects of introduced tree and plant species.

## **BEAUTY WITHOUT CRUELTY**

The Chennai Centre of Beauty Without Cruelty (BWC) and the Animal Welfare Centre of the Theosophical Society are again organizing a stall during the Convention this year. On display are easy-to-read posters that give extensive details about the suffering and death inflicted upon innocent animals at factory farms, in the cosmetic industry, and so on. BWC is an international educational trust dedicated to the total abolition of abuse to animals. It is a way of life which causes no creature of land, sea or air, terror, torture or death. It

opposes the commercial exploitation of all animals, believing that they too have the right to live and enjoy the same care and consideration as humans.

Anyone may become a member. Life membership costs Rs 300/- (Rs 600/- outside India). All are welcome to visit our stall from 26 to 30 December. Visiting hours are from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. T-shirts, calendars and information pamphlets will be on sale. The International President of the Theosophical Society, Mrs Radha Burnier, inaugurated the stall on 26 December 2009.

## THE SCHOOL OF THE WISDOM

5 January to 4 February 2010

THEME: **Theosophy and its Practical Implications**

DIRECTOR: **Mr Colin Price**

There are aspects of Theosophical doctrine which are highly technical and only of interest to the serious student of philosophy and metaphysics. However a major portion of the teachings have direct relevance to human life in the twenty-first century. Their deeper meaning only becomes evident to the student after many steps have been taken into the hall of learning. This session will seek to explore the vastness of Theosophy and its great significance for understanding the meaning of life and the mystery of human consciousness.

Recommended reading: *The Mahatma Letters, The Key to Theosophy, H. P. Blavatsky Collected Writings* (Vol. XII), *Fundamentals of Esoteric Philosophy* by G. De Purucker, *Deity, Cosmos and Man* by G. A. Farthing

**Mr Colin Price** is a former General Secretary of the English Section of the TS, a featured speaker at the European School of Theosophy and a member of the Blavatsky Trust in England.

Applications, providing membership details and a recommendation from the Section/Federation Secretary, to be sent to: The International Secretary, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India, tel: 2491 2474 and 2491 7198, or by email: [study.hq@ts-adyar.org](mailto:study.hq@ts-adyar.org).

## THE INTERNATIONAL ORDER OF THE ROUND TABLE

The International Order of the Round Table, which was founded in 1908 by Herbert Whyte, stands for equality. It has spread to over 20 countries and has regular activities at the international, national and local levels. At its ceremonial meetings, an empty chair is always kept for The King, who is the Inner Man. The Round Table ceremonies incorporate the life stories and teachings of the great World Teachers. There are also ceremonies on Nature. The Order is for both young and old, and helps instil universal values

in its members. The youngest members are called Pages and are taught the quality of kindness. They progress to Companions and learn the virtue of helpfulness. The Companions become Squires who learn Courageousness. Finally, one becomes a Knight and espouses the quality of Righteousness. Each year on Christmas Day at 3 p.m., the Round Table holds a ceremony that is open to the public in the Headquarters Hall of the TS. Many members give greetings from different countries and various parts of India.

## THE ADYAR LIBRARY AND RESEARCH CENTRE

The Adyar Library and Research Centre was founded in 1886 by Henry Steel Olcott, first President of the Theosophical Society, for research in Eastern Civilization, Philosophy and Religion. Its aim is to promote understanding among men and nations through knowledge of the higher aspects of their respective cultures.

The collections of the Library consist of about 18,000 manuscripts, containing about 45,000 works, both palm-leaf and paper, and some 2,30,000 printed volumes. The manuscripts are mostly from India and are in Sanskrit. The printed books include old and rare Indological works and also a fine collection of books on the different religions and philosophies, in Sanskrit and English, and various other languages, eastern and western; and volumes of important Indological journals.

The Adyar Library Bulletin has been published since 1937, presenting studies on religion, philosophy and various aspects of Sanskrit and other oriental literature as well as editions of ancient texts and translations.

### THE ADYAR LIBRARY BULLETIN *BRAHMAVIDYĀ*

#### Subscription (subject to change)

Country	Subscription per year	Postage and Registration	Single back vol.
India	Rs 200.00	Rs 50.00	Rs 200.00 Postage extra
		Life Subscription	Rs 3000.00
Other Countries	US \$ 25.00	US \$ 5.00	US \$ 30.00
		Life Subscription	US \$ 300.00

#### I. Recent Publications:

1. *Brahmavidyā* Adyar Library Bulletin, Volume 71 (2007)
2. *The Dialogue of Plato and the Upaniṣad-s* by N. Kazanas
3. *Bādarāyaṇa and Vyāsa as Authors of the Brahmasūtra: A Historical Analysis* by S. Sankaranarayanan
4. *Anyāpadeśapañcāśat of Paiṅgānāḍu Gaṇapati Śāstri* edited by T. M. Ramani
5. *Taraptapaughasūtra-Kroḍārthavāda* edited by N. Sowri Rajan
6. *Vedic and Mesopotamian Interactions* by N. Kazanas
7. *Spiritualscape of Upaniṣad-s* by R. Balasubramanian
8. *Tapas in the Bhagavadgītā* by Minoru Hora
9. *Vedic Vāc and Greek Logos as Creative Power* by N. Kazanas
10. *Disciples of Śri Śaṅkara* by S. Sankaranarayanan

#### II. Recent Reprints:

1. *Studies on Some Concepts of Alaṅkāra Śāstra* by V. Raghavan
2. *Pratyabhijāñāhṛdayam* translated by Kurt. F. Leidecker

Printed at the Vasanta Press, The Theosophical Society, Adyar, Chennai 600 020, India