

The Theosophical Society is an international organisation dedicated to the promotion of brotherhood and to the encouragement of the study of religion, philosophy and science, so we may better understand ourselves and our place in the universe.

The Theosophical Society has no dogma and stands for complete freedom of individual search and belief. Therefore, the ideas expressed in its publications are not in the nature of official statements. They are offered to stimulate thought and encourage study and enquiry.

### **The Theosophical Society**

The Theosophical Society is composed of students, belonging to any religion in the world or to none, who are united by their approval of the Society's Objects, by their wish to remove religious antagonisms and to draw together people of goodwill whatsoever their religious opinions, and by their desire to study religious truths and to share the results of their studies with others. Their bond of union is not the profession of a common belief, but a common search and aspiration for Truth. They hold that Truth should be sought by study, by reflection, by purity of life, by devotion to high ideals, and they regard Truth as a prize to be striven for, not as a dogma to be imposed by authority. They consider that belief should be the result of individual study or intuition, and not its antecedent, and should rest on knowledge, not assertion. They extend tolerance to all, even to the intolerant, not as a privilege they bestow but as a duty they perform, and they seek to remove ignorance, not punish it. They see every religion as an expression of the Divine Wisdom and prefer its study to its condemnation, and its practice to proselytism. Peace is their watchword, as Truth is their aim.

### **Theosophy**

Theosophy is the body of truths which forms the basis of all religions, and which cannot be claimed as the exclusive possession of any. It offers a philosophy which renders life intelligible, and which demonstrates the justice and the love which guide its evolution. It puts death in its rightful place, as a recurring incident in an endless life, opening the gateway to a fuller and more radiant existence. It restores to the world the Science of the Spirit, teaching us to know the Spirit as ourselves and the mind and body as our servants. It illuminates the scriptures and doctrines of religions by unveiling their hidden meanings and thus justifying them at the bar of intelligence, as they are ever justified in the eyes of intuition.

Members of the Theosophical Society study these truths, and theosophists endeavour to live them. Everyone willing to study, to be tolerant, to aim high, and to work perseveringly, is

welcomed as a member, and it rests with the member to become a true theosophist.

For further information visit our website:

<http://www.theosophical.ca>

or write to:

Canadian Theosophical Association  
902-10 Laurelcrest Street,  
Brampton, On. Canada L6S 5Y3  
email: [info@theosophical.ca](mailto:info@theosophical.ca)  
Tel.: 905-455-7325 Fax.: 905-455-7652  
Canada Toll-free 1-866-277-0074

## **WHAT IS THEOSOPHY?**

If you ask theosophists, 'What is Theosophy?', a variety of answers will be given. Some will say that it is a world view which gives meaning and purpose to life. Others will say it is the Ageless or Ancient Wisdom, a spiritual philosophy which has been with us since time immemorial. Still others will stress that it is a way of life, a path that leads to peace and understanding through selfless service. Theosophy is all these and more.

Theosophy presents a world view that emphasises the unity and interconnectedness of all life, the basic oneness of all peoples and all species on earth. It is a philosophy to be understood, not blindly accepted. It is not a religion, although many of its concepts and ideas are found in all the major world religions. In one sense, Theosophy is religion itself, the essence of true religion. Its principles have been stated by seers and sages throughout human history. Hence Theosophy has been called the Ancient or the Ageless Wisdom, the Wisdom Religion, the Wisdom Tradition and the Perennial Philosophy.

### The Secret Doctrine

A brilliant overview of Theosophy was brought to the world with the publication in 1888 of **The Secret Doctrine** by H.P. BLAVATSKY (HPB), a co-founder of The Theosophical Society. The volumes in this major work are source books of inner wisdom, in which the author quoted from such ancient sages as Plato, Confucius, Gautama Buddha and Jesus, as well as from philosophers, scientists and other contemporary thinkers of her day. She drew together strands from these and other sources to weave a tapestry depicting the Cosmos as permeated with Spirit and Intelligence and divinely guided from within. She portrayed human beings as both earthly and divine, with vast potential still to be unfolded throughout future cycles of evolution.

She described the sevenfold nature of the human being with its capacity to develop increasingly higher expressions of emotion, concrete and abstract thought, intuitive insight, compassion, realisation of unity and Spiritual Will. HPB described superphysical worlds around us from which intelligences and energies play upon us and all of Nature. She stated that they permeate our visible, physical planet. There have been many expressions of Theosophy since Blavatsky wrote **The Secret Doctrine**, but perhaps none has been so complete or so profound an exposition of the fundamental principles of evolution as The Theosophical World View which appears in this leaflet.

### A Vision of Order

The universe progressively unfolds latent powers through the

gradual awakening of consciousness. Theosophy emphasises the important role of the human being in this process. It satisfies our need to belong to something greater than ourselves as it points to the Spark in each of us that is always part of the Divine Life, the Source from which all arises. It explains life's seeming inequalities as consequences of Karma, the Law of Balance and Harmony. This law gives us feedback on our actions and provides learning experiences. It expands our perspective to include a continuum of many lifetimes through which we grow toward spiritual maturity.

### A Way of Life

Implicit in Theosophy is a way of life in which we act from a realisation of our oneness with all others and strive to awaken our higher potential of intuition, understanding, insight, love, compassion and creativity. Theosophy encourages us to stretch our minds by study, to expand our hearts by understanding others and reaching out to them. It helps us to develop our practical skills through altruistic actions which serve humanity. It encourages self-examination and self-awareness, assisting us to grow and improve our character by overcoming obstacles which may impede the expression of the Spiritual Will through us. A study of Theosophy inspires us to meditate, so that we can still the mind and emotions in order to sense the deeper core of consciousness that is our Essence and which is at the heart of all beings.

The basics of Theosophy are reasonable and easy to grasp, but there are also depths that challenge us and can provide a lifetime of study for those inclined to intuitively pursue these teachings. **Anyone can begin to live a theosophical life at any time by seeking to live in harmony with all life.**

The Spiritual path, towards which Theosophy points the way, can help us reach heights beyond ordinary human conception as it leads to the unfolding of our higher Spiritual potential. Theosophy offers a philosophy which allows us to grow without limits while living effectively in our day to day circumstances.

### Books Recommended for Further Reading

#### The Key to Theosophy

H.P. BLAVATSKY

#### Theosophy - A Modern Expression of the Wisdom of the Ages

Robert Ellwood

#### Ancient Wisdom: Modern Thought

Shirley Nicholson

#### The Basic Ideas of Occult Wisdom

Anna Kennedy Winner

#### Life: Your Great Adventure

Eunice and Felix Layton

### THE THEOSOPHICAL WORLD VIEW

The Theosophical Society, while reserving for each member full freedom to interpret those teachings known as Theosophy, is dedicated to preserving and realising the ageless wisdom, which embodies both a world view and a vision of human self-transformation.

This tradition is founded upon certain fundamental propositions:

The universe and all that exists within it are one interrelated and interdependent whole.

Every existent being, from atom to galaxy, is rooted in the same universal, life-creating Reality. This Reality is all pervasive, but it can never be summed up in its parts, since it transcends all its expressions. It reveals itself in the purposeful, ordered, and meaningful processes of nature as well as in the deepest recesses of the mind and spirit.

Recognition of the unique value of every living being expresses itself in reverence for life, compassion for all, sympathy with the need of all individuals to find truth for themselves, and respect for all religious traditions. The ways in which these ideals become realities in individual life are both the privileged choice and the responsible act of every human being.

Central to the concerns of Theosophy is the desire to promote understanding and unity among people of all races, nationalities, philosophies and religions. Therefore, all people, whatever their race, creed, sex, caste or colour, are invited to participate equally in the life and work of the Society. The Theosophical Society imposes no dogmas, but points toward the source of unity behind all differences. Devotion to truth, love for all living beings, and commitment to a life of active altruism are the marks of a true Theosophist.