



The Theosophical Link

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In *The Secret Doctrine*, H.P. Blavatsky explains that the lotus (padme) is a very ancient simile for the *Kosmos* itself, and also for man.

The seeds of the Lotus contain -- even before they germinate -- perfectly formed leaves, the miniature shape of what one day, as perfect plants, they will become. Nature thus giving us a specimen of the preformation of its production.

The Lotus plant grows up through the water, having its root in the Illus, or mud, and spreads its flower in the air above. The lotus thus typifies the life of man and also that of the *Kosmos*; for the Secret Doctrine teaches that the elements of both are the same, and that both are developing in the same direction. The root of the lotus sunk in the mud represents material life, the stalk passing up through the water typifies existence in the astral world, and the flower floating on the water and opening to the sky is emblematical of spiritual being. (The Secret Doctrine I, 57-58.)

WHITE LOTUS DAY is celebrated on the 8th of May and commemorates the passing of H.P. Blavatsky. In her will, HPB suggested that her friends might gather together on this anniversary and read from Sir Edwin Arnold's *The Light of Asia* or the Bhagavad Gita.



The Three Objects of the Theosophical Society

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| <p>1.</p> <p>To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.</p> | <p>2.</p> <p>To encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science.</p> | <p>3.</p> <p>To investigate unexplained laws of nature and the powers latent in the human being.</p> |
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Bookshop and Library hours

Tuesday
1:00 pm to 7:25 pm

Wednesday to Friday
12:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Saturday
10:00 am to 2:00 pm

Sunday to Monday (and public holidays)
Closed

Visit us on the web



www.tsperth.iinet.net.au

Email



tsperth@iinet.net.au

Freedom of Thought – Official statement

As the Theosophical Society has spread far and wide over the world, and as members of all religions have become members of it without surrendering the special dogmas, teachings and beliefs of their respective faiths, it is thought desirable to emphasise the fact that there is no doctrine, no opinion, by whomsoever taught or held, that is in any way binding on any member of the Society, none which any member is not free to accept or reject. Approval of its Three Objects is the sole condition of membership.

No teacher, no writer, from H.P. Blavatsky downwards, has any authority to impose his or her teachings or opinions on members. Every member has an equal right to be attached to any school of thought which they may choose, but have no right to force that choice on any other.

Neither a candidate for any office nor any voter can be rendered ineligible to stand or to vote, because of any opinion held or because of membership in any school of thought to which they may belong. Opinions or beliefs neither bestow privileges nor inflict penalties.

The Members of the General Council earnestly request every member of the Theosophical Society to maintain, defend and act upon these fundamental principles of the Society, and also fearlessly exercise their own right of liberty of thought and of expression thereof, within the limits of courtesy and consideration of others.

Disclaimer

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the authors and not necessarily those of the Theosophical Society unless specifically marked as official.

All stock images are used in accordance with Stock Xchange's terms of use.

Open policy

The Minutes of all Executive Committee (EC) meetings are always available to members on request at the office. Rule Books are also available at the office for members.

Submissions

The closing date for all items for inclusion in the next edition of the Theosophical Link is: **1 July 2013**.

Email your submissions to tsperth@iinet.net.au, or leave your typed articles in the Editor's drawer in the office. **Emailed submissions preferred.**

Contact information

The Theosophical Society, Perth
21 Glendower Street
PERTH WA 6000

Phone: (08) 9328 8104
VoIP: (08) 6262 8334
Fax: (08) 9328 8104
Email: tsperth@iinet.net.au
Web: www.tsperth.iinet.net.au

Mount Helena Retreat Centre
1540 Bunning Road
MOUNT HELENA WA 6082



Mount Helena Retreat Centre has been temporarily closed. Telephone and email enquiries should be addressed to Perth office.

Privacy policy

The Perth Branch of the Theosophical Society respects the privacy of its members. Accordingly, no photos, videos or audio recordings are to be recorded in hard copy or on the internet at any Branch event without the prior permission of each easily identifiable person.

President's Report

Repair of storm damage - Mount Helena

Good News! Our insurers have selected a contractor to complete the work of fully restoring the electricity and water supply to the property. We have signed the agreement to commence the work.

The contractors will be installing six new steel power poles mounted on new concrete bases. This is a great improvement on the very old and degraded wooden power poles that previously existed, which also increased our fire risk.

The work is expected to start in the next few weeks and be completed over the following three months.

Hopefully we will be back in operation shortly after that.

New Privacy Policy

Many of our members enjoy their privacy especially when it comes to having their photographs taken. Not that we are suggesting that some members are imitating the worst aspects of the paparazzi.

So we have developed a policy and sincerely hope that you respect it. The policy states;

“The Branch respects the privacy of its members. Accordingly, no photographs, videos or audio recordings are to be recorded in hard copy or posted on the internet at any Branch event without the prior permission of the individual involved.”

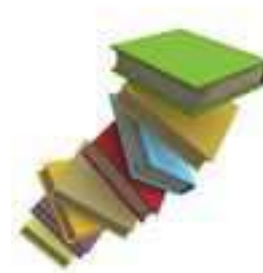
If you have any concerns regarding this new policy, please contact me.

Kind Regards

Harry Bayens

On the Library and Bookshop shelves

Thank You Volunteers. After our end of year break we unfortunately had numerous staff absent (for a number of reasons) during the first few months this year. I wish to thank our dedicated volunteers for stepping in on these occasions, sometimes at short notice, thereby allowing the doors to remain open.



Audit of Library Books. Further to our report in the previous Link I am pleased to inform that the audit and updating the database of the library books is almost complete - with a little over one Bin remaining to be done at the time of writing. The only other outstanding area is the Reference Section.

So soon we shall be able to install the additional shelving and reorganize more efficiently the book categories. Many thanks to all who assisted in this project.

New Book Order. We are in the process of organizing another order of our core Theosophical books. They should be on the shelves in a couple of months (depending on shipping) so keep a lookout for them.

THE THEOSOPHICAL LIBRARY is unique in that it has one of the largest ranges of Theosophical, philosophical, spiritual and esoteric books, CDs and DVDs in Western Australia.

Library membership is open to the public.

Refer to Page 2 for opening hours.

Light from the East Speeches – Part 4



Annie Besant (1847 – 1933)

The following article has been selected from just one of the talks delivered at the event titled *Light from the East Speeches*. This public forum was delivered in London at the first annual convention of the Theosophical Society in Europe on July 10th, 1891, and included talks by prominent Theosophists: H.S. Olcott (on the origin of the TS), Bertram Keightley (on reincarnation), William Q. Judge (on karma and justice), and Herbert Burrows (on real science), which featured in the last edition of the Link. The following talk is by Annie Besant and centres on the concepts of dharma and cooperation.

Annie Besant on Human Duty

Evolution as experience

The very spirit of evolution is a guiding and evolving intelligence, learning as it evolves, and garnering the lessons it has learnt. Rich and poor but stages in our progress — and let me say for fear you should mistake the meaning, led astray by the glance at the outer surface, that neither wealth nor poverty is in itself of the nature of reward or of penalty; each is experience, each is teaching, and many a one is not yet strong enough for the lesson of suffering that comes late, and not early, in the evolving growth of the spirit of man.

Take, as you may well take, this doctrine as the basis of your ethics, and at once it throws a flood of light on human life and human destiny. Mr. Sinnett spoke of entry into the path that leads

to the heights of spiritual perfection. That path will in time be trodden by every child of man, but the lower lessons must first be learnt, the alphabet of human duty must be fully and rightly known. The heights of attainment are preceded by the valleys of useful human discharge of every tie and duty that comes in our path in life.

Life's lessons must be learnt, and back you come over and over again until the learning is complete. If the scholar says, "I will not learn", if the scholar be idle, lazy, or indifferent, if he rebels against the tuition and prefer pleasure to instruction, then back on the wheel of life, over and over again he must ever return, until the lesson is learnt in other lives. And so every step of the long ladder

is trodden by the ascending spirit.

You may say, "how shall I know that, that fact is true?" It is of vital importance to you to find out its truth or its error; for, if it be true, you in your daily life are building the man you shall be in the days to come.

"Life's lessons must be learnt, and back you come over and over again until the learning is complete."

Man's future

Every word, and still more, every thought — for thought is more potent than word, thought is more vital than action — every thought of yours is moulding that which you shall be in days to come. The selfish and the idle, the indolent and the careless, are

making barriers that hereafter they must overcome by added effort, and if this be true, your knowledge or your ignorance alters not the facts. Facts in Nature remain, no matter whether you know or are unknowing of their truth.



Education from past lives

Do you want proofs of Re-incarnation? Look around you on every side. You may see within the limits of one life a man who is highly educated, another who is grossly ignorant. How does a man prove the fact of his education? He cannot tell you every book from which he has gleaned every fact that furnishes his mental equipment. He cannot refer you to every page from which he has gained some truth, some thought, some new idea; the fact of the education is not in his memory of every page that he has ever read, it is in the knowledge and the cultured intellect that prove themselves to everyone with whom he comes in contact.

And so your education by your past lives does not

depend for its proof on your memory of every page over which you have plodded in bygone times; the memory of the individual is in the faculties that you find him utilising in his present life; not in the memory of the past life-books he has studied, but in the faculties and the knowledge that they have evolved in him.

“Your differing capacities, your power of understanding, your strength of intuition, your grip of the realities of life – all these are what you have learnt in your past livings...”

Your differing capacities, your power of understanding, your strength of intuition, your grip of the realities of life — all these are what you have learnt in your past livings, and the qualities of mind and spirit are the memory of the true self, signs of the battles in which these spoils were won.

And if this be true, if this be the fact, then you have an explanation of the strength of the movement known by the name of Theosophy today, the explanation of its rapid progress throughout all the countries of the world. For if you to whom I speak are

yourselves reincarnated spirits, if the doctrine be true that in past lives you thought and suffered, learnt and experienced, then from within yourselves will come the echo of the doctrines to which you listen, and gradually they will approve themselves to your reason and your spirit without very much outer argument from other lips.

The Theosophical Society today

(People) come (to the TS) by virtue of their past learning, recognising echoes of the truths that formerly they knew. They come because before them it opens up fresh avenues of moral and spiritual growth. It gives a rational basis for religion, it sheds new light on science, and those who are seeking the light need not the light should prove itself when it comes. The sun when you see it proves its own existence, and the truth of man's destiny shines out before the consciences of men, needing no demonstration save its own brightness, no proof save that fact which it places before the eyes of man.

Our movement has its beginning not in this century but far back in the past antiquity of man; passing on from century to century,

gathering force millennium after millennium, it comes into the outer world today, as Mr. Sinnett told you, just because man is evolved far enough to receive it, and the race has reached the point from which the light can be seen.

Working together on one common platform

And now, in speaking these last words, what shall I say to you who listen? Many of you students of the philosophy for which this meeting has been held; many of you pupils of that great teacher whose name will be joined to this century as long as memory endures; some of you to whom the whole philosophy is a dream, who know nothing of its evidence, nothing of its strength, nothing of its inspiration; the last word to you shall be, that if you do not recognise our basis in philosophy, if you know nothing of the experiments of our science, if you do not accept our doctrines nor take them as bases for conduct, then at least you will accept with us the doctrine of human brotherhood and of the great progress of the race of which we all are part.

Some of you may be Christian in your thought, some of you materialist in your belief,

some looking forward to joy in heaven, others content to work to make paradise on earth alone; it matters not what you are, your humanity is greater than your dissensions.

“Let us then work together as brothers, not as foes; let us cast aside our hatreds and bind ourselves together in love. Let us put aside contempt, controversy, bitterness and suspicion, and work together to find the common truth.”

It matters not what you may be, the brotherhood is stronger than the controversies that divide; one in your humanity, you are one in your objects, one in your sufferings, and one in your hopes for the future.

Let us then work as brothers, not as foes; let us cast aside our hatreds and bind ourselves together in love. Let us put aside contempt, controversy, bitterness and suspicion, and work together to find the common truth and bind mankind in one.

Our President told you how Buddhist priest and Christian prelate met on one platform to search for the common truth. Did not our great poet,

Milton, tell us, that truth had been scattered all the world over, fragments of her body thrown to every clime. No one religion can find them all; no one human mind can grasp them; truth belongs to all, not to one religion nor to one belief.

We are gathering up the fragments of that sacred body. The Hindu brings one portion, the Buddhist another portion, the Christian another, the Jew another, the Materialist and the Agnostic bring each their fragments. Let us bring them together on one common platform, build the scattered fragments into one perfect image, which once seen complete shall convert all humanity by the magic of her beauty, by that voice of truth to which we must answer, because at the core of things we are truth and not a lie; because we hold that perfect belief in a perfect future which moves alike the religionist and the unbeliever, that devotion to truth, that alone is at once human and divine, the only Saviour of men's lives and the only basis of a society that can endure.



News and updates

Social networking

Facebook is proving to be a great way to attract new people to Theosophy. Regular broadcasts on Facebook include the program of lectures, activities and events, and other useful or interesting information about the Perth Branch. Take a look for yourself!



Member's news



As Theosophists, we generally look at the passing of our loved ones with different eyes. Geoffrey Hodson says,

"Death is never the end of anything but one's physical body, and is not in the slightest degree the end of one's true self which lives on and unfolds throughout eternity."

Carla Hooker, as noted by George Wester

Notwithstanding the truth contained in the words above, it is still with sadness that we announce the passing of Carla Hooker, who passed from complications associated with cancer in October 2012. Carla had a very private spiritual life with a deep ethical / moral Spiritual compass. She was deeply devoted to a life of Service, to the highest spiritual ideals, and the spiritual evolution of humanity and our brothers in the animal kingdom. She will be especially missed by her friends and family at Perth Branch and Blavatsky Lodge in Sydney.

Diewke Vonk, as noted by Gailene Wester.

Diewke was a life member of the Branch, joining in October 1964. I met up with her when I participated in the Yoga classes she was running when the TS was in Museum Street, Perth. Her Guru was Selvarajan Yesudian from whom she learnt in Switzerland, if my memory serves me. Her style was gentle and she was welcoming to all who wished to participate. Diewke passed on January 15th. There was not a public funeral as such, but a commemoration was held in Hyde Park – a place she loved and went to often.

Peace, my heart

*Peace, my heart, let the time for the parting be sweet.
Let it not be a death, but completeness.
Let love melt into memory and pain into songs.
Let the flight through the sky end in the folding of the wings over the nest.
Let the last touch of your hands be gentle like the flower of the night.
Stand still, O Beautiful End, for a moment, and say your last words in silence.
I bow to you and hold up my lamp to light you on your way.*

- Rabindranath Tagore

News and updates

Theosophical Encyclopedia (Theosopedia)



The Theosophical Encyclopedia (Theosopedia) is now online!

<http://theosophy.ph/encyclo>

The groundbreaking Theosophical Encyclopedia published in 2006 has been entirely uploaded and is now accessible in the internet.

- The online version has new articles that are not in the print edition
- Many articles have been updated
- New articles are continually being added

Volunteers who wish to contribute articles to the Encyclopedia are welcome. They can email their article or proposal to the General Editor (editor.theosopedia@gmail.com), together with a brief background of the author of the article. The article will be reviewed by the editors and will be uploaded as soon as approved.

A brief history of the Perth Lodge of the Theosophical Society 1897 to 1976 – Part 5 (Finale)

Since our inception in 1897 when we received our Charter, the Lodge (as it was called till the recent name change) has acquired a rich history both within the public domain and the Society due to the wonderful hard working efforts of some of our past members.

This instalment marks the end of our historical article, a compiled and printed history of our Branch ('Lodge') undertaken by long-time members Clare and Keith Thompson during the 1970s.

The Lodge celebrates its 75th anniversary: 1955 – 1976

Post-war events

After the Government requisitioned our Lodge buildings for the duration of the war and after (1941-1954), we were virtually in exile in St. Georges Terrace. During this long period, the pressing demands of war and its aftermath prevented us from making any great initiatives. But life went steadily on in the Lodge and even during the worst of the

war years there were good attendances at our meetings; perhaps because we were able to give credible and helpful answers to the ever present problems of suffering and death.

Over this period we had visits from Mr. Sri Ram, Mrs. Marion Lavender, the Hodsons, Mr. Jinarajadasa, and many other world leaders in the Theosophical work. A point of interest in

1944 was the purchase by the Lodge of a gift for Mr. W.G. Hill and Miss Enid Hill on the occasion of their marriage. Mr. Hill is now the much liked and respected Bishop William of the Liberal Catholic Church. Both are still members of the Theosophical Society. Bishop William is a third generation member of the T.S. His grandparents were our Lodge founders Mr. & Mrs. Patterson. His mother

and father were also active members.

Conventions, conferences and concentrated efforts

In 1956 the Annual Interstate Convention was held in Perth for the first time. We had 104 members and delegates from the eastern states. All sessions were held in Arundale Hall and the theme for the Convention was "Shaping the Future of Australia". In October a special jubilee celebration of the Perth Lodge was held. Over 100 members and their families were present. Those specially honoured were Miss C. Priest (founder of the Claremont Lodge), Mr. Legg (a very old Fremantle Lodge member), Mr. Buckie, Miss Kenworthy and Mr. D. Ewart. All of these members had given sterling service to the cause of Theosophy in Western Australia over many years.

In 1957 a grant of land in Kalamunda was made by Mrs. McMillan. This was accepted, but after paying rates for some years it was returned to her in 1960. One of the conditions of the gift was that we could not sell it and at the time we had no finance to build on it. One feels that the return of the land was a great mistake but at that time all our finances and energy were

concentrated on the Perth Lodge.

In 1960 the first Indo-Pacific Conference was held at Wallacia in New South Wales, and en route, Mr. Soemarjo, General Secretary for Indonesia and Chief Scout,

"Even during the worst of the war years there were good attendances at our meetings; perhaps because we were able to give credible and helpful answers to the ever present problems of suffering and death."

passed through Perth. I will always remember one little incident: at the end of the meeting he went around and shook hands with every member. Mrs. Gool Minwalla also visited the Lodge and gave some wonderful talks.

In 1961 W.A's second interstate Conference was held at the Alfred Hines Homes near Rockingham. In 1963 the Annual General Meeting was changed from February to October in order to keep in step with the headquarters in Sydney. In the same year owing to the dearth of lecturers and a poor response from the public, the regular Sunday night meetings were

discontinued and the first Wednesday of each month was thrown open to the public. The other Wednesdays continued as members' only meetings. In 1964 the regular Sunday night meetings recommenced. In 1966 we had our third Interstate Convention and this also was noteworthy.

In 1967 we celebrated the 70th anniversary of the founding of Perth Lodge. Meetings were now held in the large hall which was enhanced by a decorated ceiling and by the installation of electric heaters which in winter added much appreciated warmth.

Lodge changes

During his period in office, Keith Thompson (President 1966-1968) inaugurated considerable changes in the set-up of the Lodge. The bookshop and library, on a much smaller scale, were formerly located in what is now the reading room and Lodge meetings were held in what is now the bookshop. As this became too small, on Keith's initiative, the large Arundale Hall became the Lodge room. During this period it was the custom to have a friendly cup of tea and informal talks at the close of the meeting. But how to

continue doing this became a problem because of the rather awkward route from the kitchen to the hall. Much thought was given to the solving of this problem and it was even proposed at one stage that we demolish the men's toilet room and replace it with the kitchen. However, Keith had another masterly brain wave and at his suggestion a servery hatch was cut in the wall separating the kitchen from the main hall. This combined operation was a notable success.

Phil Harris (President 1972-1973) with considerable vigour extended this initiative. At his suggestion worn out, obsolete and unsuitable books were culled out of the library and an annual grant was given to ensure that gaps on the shelves were refilled with new copies of theosophical and allied books and by newly written books which kept us well informed of new thinking in our field. Under the capable guidance of Mrs. Lal White as bookshop manager and Mrs. Hanni Stocker as librarian both departments expanded rapidly. To cope with this expansion Phil Harris made the suggestion, which was accepted, that the office and passage opposite the kitchen be reconstructed and the

library re-sited on this expanded area. For about 8 or more years, under the dedicated care of Lal and Hanni, with the willing help of many assistants, both departments were run on a voluntary basis, but about 1972 Lal White and Margaret

“ Thanks to the zeal and skill of dedicated members, the hall was beautifully renovated and the stage richly carpeted and curtained, so making Arundale Hall a worthy place for Lodge and public meetings. “

Brown became our first salaried part time officers.

In 1973 at Phil Harris's suggestion we ceased to let the large hall in daytime as a part time ballet school and it was resolved not to accept any further tenants for the hall. Then, thanks to the zeal and skill of dedicated members, the hall was beautifully renovated and the stage richly carpeted and curtained, so making the Arundale Hall a worthy place for Lodge and public meetings. A further addition was the installation of a modern hi-fi electronic system complete with amplifier, speakers, turn table and disc, reel, and

cassette facilities. This was bought out of the Bessie Rischbieth bequest and we plan to use it more fully in the future.

Glendower Street

Early in 1972, the Lodge was advised that at a future date the Government intended to resume the Lodge properties in James and Museum Streets as part of a projected Cultural Centre. We immediately initiated an intensive search to locate a site for a new home and eventually located property on two blocks of land facing the beautiful Hyde Park in Glendower St. The government made an advance payment of \$50,000 to enable us to secure it. Plans for the creation of a new Lodge building were drawn up and building estimates secured. However, due to the very unfavourable situation affecting the whole nation, this plan is temporarily in abeyance.

Gidgegannup

During the same year the Lodge purchased a very pleasant 13 acre property at Gidgegannup about 28 miles from Perth with the intention of creating a tranquil spiritual centre at a later date. However, most unexpectedly, the government also resumed this property as a

water catchment area at no financial loss to the Lodge.

Conclusion

This ends a very brief summary of the life and work of Perth Lodge over 75 years. It represents 75 years of self sacrifice and dedication from many hundreds of members. Some, like comets, flashed across the Theosophical sky.

“ It would appear the the Lodge has an identity of its own apart from its workers. Although it has its ups and downs, as we do personally, that life still goes on as long as it is rejuvenated by the life blood of dedicated workers. “

Others, like the everlasting stars twinkled less brightly but in their long service and faithful application to the work, gave a quiet and steadfast beauty to the Theosophic Heavens. They have built the foundations, to use another simile, on which our present structure rests. It is for us and those who come into our ranks in the future to create a building of beauty and radiance which will inspire the world and give it

light into the future.

To those of our present workers who may be a little discouraged over the apparent failure of some of our present enterprises, I would suggest that over the years many hundreds of schemes have been tried and often abandoned when their usefulness faded but there is always new life coming into the work as long as we keep our doors open.

It would appear that the Lodge has an identity of its own apart from its workers. Although it has its ups and downs, as we do personally, that life still goes on as long as it is rejuvenated by the life blood of dedicated workers. May we ever be aware of our great privileges and opportunities and of the trust that has been given to us.



If you would like a copy of the full article, please express your interest at the Office or the Library and a copy will be made available. If you prefer an electronic copy, email the Office at tsperth@iinet.net.au

Three Truths




The Soul of man is immortal, and its future is the future of a thing whose growth and splendor has no limit.

The principle which gives life dwells in us, and without us, is undying and eternally beneficent, is not heard, or seen, or smelt, but is perceived by the man who desires perception.

Each man is his own absolute law-giver, the dispenser of glory or gloom to himself; the decreer of his life, his reward, his punishment.

From: The Idyll of the White Lotus and Light on the Path (Mabel Collins)

Activities and Events

| | Activity or Event | Date and Time |
|---|--|---|
|  | <p style="text-align: center;">Hatha Yoga classes</p> <p>Hatha Yoga classes for the not so young and not so flexible. In this class we work on increasing body awareness, discovering and lengthening tight muscles, learning breathing techniques, relaxation and some of the simpler yoga postures. The last half-hour is for practicing meditation for those who wish to participate. No experience necessary and all are welcome.</p> | <p>10 am to 12 pm each Friday</p> <p>Facilitated by Gailene Wester</p> |
|  | <p>Theosophy Science Discussion Group (Perth)</p> <p>The Theosophy-Science Discussion Group meets to discuss topics of current scientific interest, in the light of Theosophy. Members of the Group are not required to have a scientific background, merely an interest in how science is shaping our lives. Upcoming topics include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May – The human genome journey. The Genographic Project, run by the National Geographic Society and IBM, is a multi-year genetic anthropology study that aims to map historical human migration patterns by collecting and analysing DNA samples from hundreds of thousands of people from around the world. • June – Emerging technologies. Emerging technologies are those technical innovations which represent progressive developments for the benefit of society. • July – Occult chemistry. The book <i>Occult Chemistry: Investigations by Clairvoyant Magnification into the Structure of the Atoms of the Periodic Table and Some Compounds</i> by Besant, Leadbeater and Jinarajadasa proposes that the structure of chemical elements can be assessed through clairvoyant observation with the microscopic vision of the third eye. | <p>Meets on the first Saturday of each month</p> <p>May 4th June 1st July 6th</p> <p>Facilitated by Hana O’Rourke</p> |
|  | <p>Theosophical Order of Service – Presentation night: An exploration of alternatives to violence</p> <p>Each of us has the potential for violence. “I’m not violent” I hear you say. This presentation shares with you the work of Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP) which seeks to provide people with opportunities to work towards Peace in an increasingly violent world. The impact of aggressive and violent behaviour is a major contributing factor to social dysfunction and offending within our communities.</p> <p>The TOS will provide their usual delicious supper for \$5 starting at 6.30PM. ALL WELCOME.</p> | <p>14 May</p> <p>6:30 pm (\$5 for supper)</p> <p>7:30 pm start</p> <p>Presented by Bheena Sewnarain</p> |



Helena Petrovna Blavatsky – An excerpt from Collected Writings Volume VIII

This is a small excerpt from an account written by Charles Johnston concerning his conversation with H. P. B. when he met her for the first time in London, in the Spring of 1887. The full article was first published in *The Theosophical Forum*, New York, Vol. V, No. 12, April, 1900 and Vol. VI, Nos. 1, 2, 3, May, June, July, 1900.

Q. How do the adepts guide the souls of men?

HPB – “In many ways, but chiefly by teaching their souls direct, in the spiritual world. But that is difficult for you to understand. This is quite intelligible, though. At certain regular periods, they try to give the world at large a right understanding of spiritual things. One of their number comes forth to teach the masses, and is handed down to tradition as the Founder of a religion. Krishna was such a Master; so was Zoroaster; so were Buddha and Shankara Acharya, the great sage of Southern India. So also was the Nazarene. He went forth against the counsel of the rest, to give to the masses before the time, moved by a great pity, and enthusiasm for humanity; he was warned that the time was unfavourable, but nevertheless he elected to go, and so was put to death at the instigation of the priests.”

Q. Have the adepts any secret records of his life?

HPB – “They must have,” she answered; “for they have records of the lives of all Initiates. Once I was in a great cave-temple in the Himalaya mountains, with my Master,” and she looked at the picture of the splendid Rajput; “there were many statues of adepts there; pointing to one of them, he said: ‘This is he whom you call Jesus. We count him to be one of the greatest among us.’”

“But that is not the only work of the adepts. At much shorter periods, they send forth a messenger to try to teach the world. Such a

period comes in the last quarter of each century, and the Theosophical Society represents their work for this epoch.”

Q. How does it benefit mankind?

HPB – “How does it benefit you to know the laws of life? Does it not help you to escape sickness and death? Well, there is a soul-sickness, and a soul-death. Only the true teaching of Life can cure them. The dogmatic churches, with their hell and damnation, their metal heaven and their fire and brimstone, have made it almost impossible for thinking people to believe in the immortality of the soul. And if they do not believe in a life after death, then they have no life after death. That is the law.”

Q. How can what people believe possibly affect them? Either it is or it isn't, whatever they may believe.

HPB – “Their belief affects them in this way. Their life after death is made by their aspirations and spiritual development unfolding in the spiritual world. According to the growth of each, so is his life after death. It is the complement of his life here. All unsatisfied spiritual longings, all desires for higher life, all aspirations and dreams of noble things, come to flower in the spiritual life, and the soul has its day, for life on earth is its night. But if you have no aspirations, no higher longings, no beliefs in any life after death, then there is nothing for your spiritual life to be made up of; your soul is a blank.”

Q. What becomes of you then?

HPB – “You reincarnate immediately, almost without an interval, and without regaining consciousness in the other world.”

Q. Suppose, on the other hand, you do believe in heaven, say the orthodox *El Dorado*?

HPB – “Your fate after death is this. You have first to pass through what we call Kama Loka, the world of desire, the borderland, in which the soul is purged of the dross of animal life; of all its passions and evil desires. These gradually work themselves out, and having no fresh fuel to keep them burning, they slowly exhaust themselves. Then the soul rises to what we call Devachan, the state which is distorted in the orthodox teaching of heaven. Each soul makes its own Devachan, and sees around it those whom it most loved on earth, enjoying happiness in their company. If you believed in the orthodox heaven, you see the golden city and the gates of pearl; if you believed in Shiva’s paradise, you find yourself in the midst of many-armed gods; the Red-man sees the happy hunting grounds, and the philosopher enters into the free life of the soul. In all cases, your spirit gathers new strength for a fresh incarnation.”

Q. Must you come back? Is there no escape?

HPB – “If your material desires are unexhausted at death, you must. Desires are forces, and we believe in the conservation of force. You must reap the seed of your own sowing, and reap it where it was sown. Your new life will be the exact result of your deeds in your preceding life. No one can escape the punishment of his sins, any more than he can escape the reward of his virtues. That is the law of Karma. You must go on being reborn till you reach Nirvana.”

Q. Well, it seems to me that all that is more or

less contained in the orthodox beliefs, only a good deal distorted.

HPB – “Yes,” she answered; “that is just it. The orthodoxies do contain the truth, but their followers do not understand it; they put forth teachings which no intelligent man can accept, and so we are all drifting into atheism and materialism. But when we Theosophists show them how to interpret their teachings, it will be quite different. Then they will see how much truth they had, without knowing it. The stories in Genesis, for instance, are all symbols of real truths; and the account of the Creation there, and of Adam and Eve, has far more real truth than Darwinism, once you understand it. But that can only be done by Theosophy.

Take that very teaching of heaven and hell and purgatory. The sacred books of India light up the whole of it, and make it a thoroughly philosophic and credible teaching. But you must study the Oriental religions before you can fully understand what I say. Remember that in the Old Testament there is absolutely no teaching of the immortality of the soul, while in the New Testament it is inextricably confused with the resurrection of the body. But the Upanishads have the real occult and spiritual doctrine.”

Q. What else do you teach as Theosophists?

HPB – “We teach something very old, and yet which needs to be taught. We teach universal brotherhood.”

**“Theosophy is who Theosophy
does, not thinks, not
studies, not feels,
but does.”**

Helena Petrovna Blavatsky


Program of Lectures

Definition of meeting types and relevant guidelines

- **Public meetings** - All members and public are welcome to attend.
- **General meetings** - For members, with interested persons of the public welcome to attend up to 4 meetings, with the objective to explore and confirm an interest in becoming a member of the TS.
- **Members only meetings** - Generally for TS members only. However, members attending may invite a guest to whom the presentation would be of interest and benefit, is known to have a basic understanding of theosophy, and is in harmony with the membership requirements and the general principles of the TS. It is recommended that the member contacts the President (or the meeting convenor) prior to the meeting so that any issues may be addressed beforehand and that the guest may be received appropriately on the night.
- **Strictly members only** - are strictly for current members only. Non-members will not be admitted to the meeting.

All sessions, unless otherwise stated, run from 7:30 pm - 8:30 pm

The opinions expressed in the lectures are those of the speakers and not necessarily those of the TS in Perth.

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|  | <p>Classical Musical Meditation every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month A classical music meditation will be held in the meditation room commencing at 6:15 pm for about thirty minutes. All welcome.</p> |
| MAY | |
| <p>Tues 7 May Members Only</p> | <p>White Lotus Day - Commemoration of H.P.B.'s passing on May 8, 1891 with a short reading from the Bhagavad-Gita and The Light of Asia as requested by her to mark the occasion. Followed by: Light on the Path - An ongoing study group - George Westar. This book is one of a trilogy, considered to be the mystical gems of theosophical literature. This series of powerpoint workshops will explore the deep significance and far reaching implications of the perennial teachings embodied in this classic text, whose subject matter is the path of inner transformation and spiritual realization.</p> |
| <p>Tues 14 May General meeting A TOS fund raising night</p> | <p>An Exploration of the Alternatives to Violence - Bheena Sewnarain For the TOS meal please arrive at 6:30pm to partake of our delicious snacks and light supper for only \$5 and to check out the raffle basket and other items for sale for fund raising purposes. Each of us has the potential for violence. "I'm not violent", I hear you say. This presentation shares with you the work of Alternatives to Violence Project [AVP] which seeks to provide people with opportunities to work towards Peace in an increasingly violent world. The impact of aggressive and violent behaviour is a major contributing factor to social dysfunction and offending within our communities.</p> |
| <p>Tues 21 May General meeting</p> | <p>Buddhism For Bears - Skip Pry In this powerpoint presentation various Zen Buddhist aphorisms will be presented on four different topics with accompanying humorous illustrations for an interactive audience discussion and participation to explore what they may mean to you in your own spiritual path journey.</p> |
| <p>Tues 28 May General meeting</p> | <p>Hidden Meaning in Abstract Art - Harry Bayens Many early abstract artists focused on pure abstract vision which was linked to spiritual ideas and mystical concepts. In tonight's powerpoint presentation we will explore some of these artists and examples of their work.</p> |

JUNE

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| <p>Tues 4 June Members Only</p> | <p>Light on the Path - An ongoing study group - George Wester This book is one of a trilogy, considered to be the mystical gems of theosophical literature. This series of powerpoint workshops will explore the deep significance and far reaching implications of the perennial teachings embodied in this classic text, whose subject matter is the path of inner transformation and spiritual realization.</p> |
| <p>Tues 11 June General meeting</p> | <p>The Platform of Reality - Tina Hentisz A deeper inquiry into consciousness. Theosophy, as much as any other spiritual truth is, at its core a highly personal matter. Personal matters cannot be proven in a physical realm, as in the power of thought or the love for a child, a love of learning or an instant attraction. How can we present the invisible picture that cannot be transmitted? In this powerpoint presentation we will look at the possibilities.</p> |
| <p>Tues 18 June General meeting</p> | <p>Cracking the Gnostic Code - DVD facilitated by Brian Wood Gnosticism was an ancient, pre-Christian form of esoteric wisdom. In this 65 min. DVD lecture Prof. John Algeo refers to Gnostic texts collected and translated by the 19TH century Theosophist and scholar G.R.S. Mead, and shows how the Gnostics coded their wisdom into poetical, symbolic works that need to be “cracked”.</p> |
| <p>Tues 25 June General meeting</p> | <p>Happiness, is it so Elusive? - John Davey Perhaps the Dalai Lama is right when he claims that we are born to be happy, the presenter certainly believes this. In this presentation, we’ll look at what some famous people have suggested about happiness and you will also be encouraged to have your say as well.</p> |

JULY

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| <p>Tues 2 July Members Only</p> | <p>Light on the Path - An ongoing study group - George Wester This book is one of a trilogy, considered to be the mystical gems of theosophical literature. This series of powerpoint workshops will explore the deep significance and far reaching implications of the perennial teachings embodied in this classic text, whose subject matter is the path of inner transformation and spiritual realization.</p> |
| <p>Tues 9 July General meeting</p> | <p>I Want To Believe: Striking a Balance Between Passionate Belief and Constructive Research in Paranormal Investigation - Cynthia Verspaget (from PROWA - Paranormal Research Organisation of WA) In this powerpoint presentation through a frank and informative discussion about passion and interest in the field, along with investigation techniques and equipment, we consider the need for a balance between research and interest. We discuss how this balance might positively impact on the progressive development of ‘Paranormal’ as a potential subject of research beyond the popular culture aspect of the fieldwork activities of interest groups.</p> |
| <p>Tues 16 July General meeting</p> | <p>Islam, Muslims and Misconceptions - Kashif Saleem Islam, Muslims and The Quran have become a subject of major concern to the world media, religious groups and people. Many articles and books have been written about a religion followed by over one billion people worldwide. For those interested in sincerely seeking the truth, we would like to invite you for a talk about Islam, Muslims and Misconceptions.</p> |
| <p>Tues 23 July Members Only</p> | <p>The World Mother Says.... - Bill Wood This will be a presentation of what Mary, the Mother of Jesus, has been reported to have said at her various recent appearances. Bill has visited several apparition sites and so speaks with the benefit of first hand experience.</p> |
| <p>Tues 30 July General meeting</p> | <p>Mind Unto Hermes - Hana O’Rourke In this powerpoint presentation we will explore what Hermes, God of Wisdom has to say about Life, the Universe and Everything!</p> |