



The Spiral Path...

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After all, every wish and thought I can utter
are summed up in this one sentence,
the never dormant wish of my heart,

**“Be Theosophists, Work for Theosophy!”
Theosophy first, and Theosophy last;**

for its *practical* realization alone
can save the Western World from that
selfish and unbrotherly feeling
that now divides race from race,
one nation from the other,
and from that hatred of class and social strifes,
that are the curse and disgrace
of so-called [righteous] peoples.

H. P. Blavatsky, Letter IV, 1891

Calmness

No matter who we are, where we are, or what our place,
we can always live to benefit humanity. No physicality need
be involved. No outward displays. Although these may help
humankind in one way, the real work is within. Everything
comes from within. And it is from within our Selves that we
can effect change the most. By having right thoughts,
compassion for All, and an impersonal love for *all* sentient
beings, we help to raise the heart-life of Humanity.

We need not be in any specific locale, we need not be
monetarily rich, nor do we need to be anything we are not.
We just need to be kind, truthful, and compassionate, to *All*.
Our mindset and attitude give us the capacity to project
loving thoughts of inclusion, compassion, and benevolence
wherever we are, whatever we're doing.

The choice is always ours. Every choice is ours. Perhaps
not visibly physically, or materialistically, but definitely
mindfully. We can hate the action but love the person. We
can persist, and embrace the opportunity to work through
tough situations with calm and patience.

Think of Theosophy not so much as
a body of philosophic or other teaching,
but as the highest law of conduct,
which is the enacted expression
of Divine Love and Compassion.

Katherine Tingley



I think the American nation is so fond of luxury, so
fond of fine clothes, so fond of having a heap of money,
that it has gone too far and there was bound to come a
reaction, because it is all united together with the whole
world, and when it spread itself out too far the slightest
touch broke the fabric. That is the reason, and that is
another proof of Universal Brotherhood [unity without
distinction of race, creed, sex, cast, color, persuasion,
etc.]. *We are all united, not only with each other here,
but with the entire world.*

W. Q. Judge.

From a talk given at the World's Parliament of Religions,
September, 1893.

No one is born hating another person
because of the color of his skin,
or his background, or his religion.
People must learn to hate,
and if they can learn to hate,
they can be taught love,
for love comes more naturally
to the human heart than its opposite.

Nelson Mandela

Creative Opportunities

James A. Long

We have all seen people get emotionally heated over the fact that nothing is being done about this, that, or the other thing. They would revolutionize the world from the outside in, which is like healing a boil from the outside only to have it come out later with interest compounded. But we must deal with causes, not with effects. We are experiencing the ills of the body of humanity, and these ills must be cured from within.

Mankind is progressing beyond the idea of national borders, and it is our task to recognize not only our individual responsibility but our opportunity to exemplify that we are brothers, regardless of race or nation or color. We cannot change outer conditions overnight, nor in a decade, a quarter of a century, a century, nor even in a millennium, but we can head in that direction. And to the degree that we as individuals recognize, work with, and cling to that inner unity, to that degree will we influence the hearts and minds of those with whom we come in contact, without our having to say a word.

We need to think of the world situation today in its true perspective, where each nation or circumstance is but one small aspect of the whole. We must think of all our brothers, everywhere, and observe the three fundamental forces operative in the universe: that which creates, that which preserves the status quo, and that which destroys. We must view the situation, not by the words of politicians, not by the words of religionists or scientists or anybody else, but by the unfoldment of their actions and their effect upon the world. Then we can see what is creative and for the benefit of all, and what is destructive and for the benefit of the few; what is heading humanity toward real progress, and what toward stagnation or destruction.

My concept of the law of retributive justice is that there is no such thing as good or bad karma. This law of justice brings a reaction to every action and thought that we have, and the effects are nothing more nor less than opportunity. The result of an action, once it becomes an effect, is dead. The only thing that can give it further life is our wrong reactions to that effect. Karma as opportunity gives everybody the same possibility of growth: we may not be able to tell the world the thoughts we have, but we can exemplify our reactions to the circumstances in which we find ourselves.

Why are we here, as individuals or as mankind? We as individuals and as a whole humanity are here in this school of life to learn its lessons. The only teacher that any of us has is life: humanity must evolve through that which it has before it. The only way we can learn, and help the divinity within the heart of each one of us to unfold, is by allowing the qualities of our whole constitution to become more like that divine spark at the core of us. We do this by meeting with understanding the effects of former acts and thoughts. What will help us to understand these effects is to experience them, and when we experience them, if we are foolish enough to do nothing constructive about them, then by our reactions and our revulsion from so-called unpleasant circumstances, we extend these experiences further and further until finally we wake up and realize that we are objecting to nothing but ourselves. All we need do is recognize this fact and temper our reactions to the circumstances we find ourselves in, if we are to meet those circumstances with the right attitude.

We are not going to affect the hearts and minds of our fellows with billboards, headlines, or any words at all, but by the very manner in which we react to the circumstances life finds us in. If we are self-consciously working on this job, we have a marvelous opportunity. Reacting creatively and with a will to correct past errors we will automatically impress upon the consciousness of those with whom we come in contact the quality of our reaction, and give them some inspiration, however little, to try to do likewise.

Someone asked me, "Aren't you worried about the state of the world?"

...I said, "What is most important is not to allow your anxiety about what happens in the world to fill your heart. If your heart is filled with anxiety, you will get sick, and you will not be able to help."

There are wars — big and small — in many places, and that can cause us to lose our peace. Anxiety is the illness of our age. We worry about ourselves, our family, our friends, our work, and the state of the world. If we allow worry to fill our hearts, sooner or later we will get sick.

Thich Nhat Hanh

From the Editor

It's really rather simple. That is not to say it is easy in the least. To be calm in every situation. To invoke that calmness of our higher self, which is always with us. A calm steadiness that is patience with even the toughest situation, or person, or group.

To stand relaxed and receptive to all that comes our way, no matter how onerous it seems to our lower self, no matter what hardship comes with it. That is our dharma, our duty.

Fraternally,
Scott J. Osterhage

Pity and forbearance, charity and long-suffering, ought to be always there to prompt us to excuse our sinning brethren, and to pass the gentlest sentence possible upon those who err. A Theosophist ought never to forget what is due to the shortcomings and infirmities of human nature.

H. P. Blavatsky
The Key to Theosophy, p. 248

...**Patriotism**
Count Leo N. Tolstoy, 1894.

Men need ... above all, believe in themselves, in this, that what is cognized by them in the depth of their hearts, what begs for recognition and finds no expression only because it contradicts public opinion, is that force which changes the world, and the manifestation of which forms man's destiny;

... If men only said what they believe, and did not say what they do not believe, there would immediately disappear the

superstitions that result from patriotism, and all the evil feelings and all the violence, which are based off them ... Let the governments have possession of the school, the church, the press, billions of rubles, and millions of disciplined men turned into machines, — all that apparently terrible organization of rude force is nothing in comparison with the recognition of the truth, which arises in the heart of one man who knows the force of the truth, and is communicated by this man to another, a third man, just as an endless number of candles are lighted from one. This light need only burn, and, like the wax before the face of the fire, all this seemingly so powerful organization will waste away.

If men only understood that terrible power which is given them in the word which expresses the truth. If men only did not sell their birthright for a mess of pottage. If men only made use of this power of theirs, — the rulers would not only not dare, as they dare now, to threaten men with universal slaughter, to which they will drive men or not, as they may see fit, but would not even dare in tire sight of peaceable citizens to bring the disciplined murderers out on parade or in maneuvers ...

If men only knew in what their mighty, all-conquering force consists, the peace for which men have always wished, not the one which is obtained by means of diplomatic treaties ... dinners, speeches, fortresses, cannon, dynamite, and melenite, but the one which is obtained not by the exhaustion of the masses by taxes, not by tearing the flower of the population away from work and debauching them, but by the free profession of the truth by every separate individual, would long ago have come to us.

In every act which partakes of a divine and infinite compassion lies concealed the potency of all spheres. All nature obeys the command of one whose heart beats constantly for others.

Katherine Tingley

If we are anxious, we raise a barrier against progress by perturbation and straining harshly.

W.Q.J.

Cooperation

Henry Travers Edge

In cooperative work, as in every other problem before students of occultism, there are two extremes to be avoided and one right course to be maintained; two evils opposed to one good; a pair of opposites reconciled by a unity; and in cooperative work, as in other problems, many make the mistake of avoiding the more obviously extreme merely to fall into the other extreme which is less obviously wrong. A body of workers should neither repel one another nor lean on

one another. The former maxim is so obvious that no one fails to recognize its truth and to strive to act in accordance with it; but there are many who, in doing so, rush to the opposite pole of weak reliance on others. Workers should cling to the cause, not to each other; for if they cling to each other, the failure of an individual will be disastrous for the whole; while, if each one clings to the cause, each one must be torn away separately ere the whole fabric can be destroyed. The pillars of a temple do not lean up against one another, neither do they counteract each other; each stands firmly on its own base and is independent of the support of the others, yet all unite in the common object of supporting the dome. We must be as the pillars of a temple, helping one another, yet independent and each on his own base. The destruction of one or two does not seriously impair the building, for the others still stand firm ...

Many are the paradoxes that present themselves to the student of occultism, and among them this is not the least important — to work in perfect harmony with our colleagues, and at the same time to work as if upon our own individual effort depended the whole enterprise. To realize this we must be united yet independent.

The Path, Vol. ix, May, 1894.

We think that when we are driven out of the usual path everything is over for us; but it is just here that the new and the good begins.

Leo Tolstoy

One could be confined in a prison and yet be a worker for the Cause.

W. Q. Judge

Action and Re-Action

Emily R. Plummer

Order is a Universal Law. Therefore from the highest spiritual plane to the lowest physical all the manifestations, formations, and operations have an unbroken “Cosmic vitality plus intelligence.” As we are parts of the Cosmic Whole (this universal Being), and therefore are governed by this same law of order, we should constantly realize this in our every thought and deed, and also know when Nature’s laws are broken by us in any way whatever we bring but trouble, pain and sorrow to ourselves, until we have learned to adjust our thoughts and actions harmoniously with this universal law of order. We then progress on that path which alone leads us ever forward and onward toward our destiny of Godhood. If law and order were not operating from the

highest to the lowest realms of life, then would there not be eventually complete destruction of all things?

Think of our Mother Earth and all her sister planets in the Solar System, each one on its own orbit, and each one rotating on its axis for millions of years guided by Father Sun, thus giving to all their inhabitants, winters and summers, springs and falls, and day and night, times for action and rest during their evolutionary climb.

Is it possible that there could be planets and suns without laws governing and controlling their motions? Can we think that in all of Nature's realms, below the mineral and on up to man, and into the spiritual kingdoms, there is neither law nor order? If no laws governed life in the universe, what would prevent the stars and planets from colliding and demolishing one another and all their inhabitants? Also the sun might explode or glide away from its own appointed path instead of giving needed light, heat, and life energies to the Solar System. Then again, such monstrosities as carrots growing on rose bushes, and roses on apple trees, and animals becoming plants or stones animal! Can we possibly believe that a Deity, supreme Source and Head of all things, would not be working out and Bringing forth and guiding all things through law and order?

Expressing it more concisely, the universe is operated in a perfectly mathematical order through different rates of vibrations and in cosmic actions from the highest to the lowest realms of Nature. However, the lower classes of life, including the human kingdom, are but dimly aware of these laws of life: especially humanity because of selfishness and misguided will-power. Hundreds of different diseases rage among us because of chemical changes produced in our bodies, often resulting in insanity through temper, deceit, cruelty, unbrotherly habits from childhood through adulthood. Also our liking of food and drink goes far beyond what is necessary for our sustenance and health. Animals in their natural state, living so simply in food and in all other ways, and constantly breathing fresh air, are almost free from diseases of any kind. Thus disaster in many forms comes upon us until those laws of nature are learned and practiced through understanding and reverence.

Coming down to our daily living, if we constantly realized that from atom to cosmos and beyond everything is regulated by law and order, or in other words, Universal Harmony, and that when the smallest law is broken by us it brings in course of time its just retribution, we would not then be living in such a chaotic world. Therefore let us study the duality of man: our highest, un-selfish, uplifting Self, and the lower selfish, downward-tending self. We all certainly know that actions bring forth reactions, some which are harmful in results and others beneficial. That is what brings about so-called good and evil in our daily living, not only upon ourselves, but upon others, for actions either help or harm the actor, as well as others affected by him. They either advance or retard the evolution of the one responsible, and their influence is extended to form karmic links that bind us to others, and which will have to be worked out in future births. A habit is a course of action or conduct; in other words, the

repetitive act brings about in course of time a condition in which the act becomes spontaneous. Therefore habits lead us upwards or downwards. Good ones, impersonal habits of thought, formed by unselfish, lofty ideals lived up to, not only for ourselves, but for all mankind, lead us on in evolution towards spiritual destiny. Evil ones, unless broken and conquered completely, gain strength also in course of time, and not only weaken the victim but become a spontaneous series of actions throughout life and persist in future lives until overcome.

“Sow a thought and you reap an action; sow an action and you reap a habit; sow a habit and you reap a character; sow a character and you reap a destiny.”

Our web of destiny is woven by ourselves; first by thought, then by action. This truth is beautifully expressed by our late leader, G. de Purucker, in “Golden Precepts of Esotericism.”

“The higher you go along the evolutionary pathway, the more careful you must be; therefore you should be most careful of what you think and feel and of the acts that you do. You have learned at least in some degree, how to use your Will, and what will be the result of it, and Nature will hold you responsible. As the law of the universe stands, you either rise or fall by every thought that you have and by every act that you do. At every instant of human existence you stand at the parting of the ways — the right hand or the left.”

We must ever hold in mind that PERSONAL Self-conquest is a path of growth, and since two pathways lie ever before us from birth to death, life after life, if we adjust all thoughts and actions harmoniously with this law of order, we progress until we become Masters of our fate, marching towards ultimate Divinity.

For small creatures such as we, the
vastness is bearable only through love.

Carl Sagan, *Contact*

There should be calmness.
Hold fast.
Go slow.

William Q. Judge's last words.

Let the Silence within Speak...

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