



Theosophical Society Point Loma - Blavatskyhouse

Literature, supporting the study (on Sunday, October **23**, 2022)
of the lecture of Herman C. Vermeulen (on Sunday, October **16**, 2022)

Series: **The spiritual impulse of Helena P. Blavatsky**
Lecture: **Universal Brotherhood: the Way of Peace**

Editors of *Lucifer, the Light-bringer* – ‘No peace without vision’

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These three ideas are the basic thoughts of the Theo-sophia, the common source of all great religions and philosophies.

The first idea is the most essential:

ALL IS ALIVE

ALL LIFE IS ONE

The great Stoic Marcus Aurelius already said it: “The universe is one great living organism.” The Buddhists describe it as one infinite Ocean of Life.

The second idea looks not at Life in its totality, but at all living beings.

ALL BEINGS ARE INTERCONNECTED

They are focal points on one great web of life, through which life pulsates. They are permanently connected, “pulsating” cyclically from active to passive and again to active, from awake to asleep and again to awake, from “alive” to “dead”, etc.

In this way all the cells of a tissue are connected by blood vessels. In this way all the stars in the galaxy are connected through pathways of light. The Buddhists give the picture of drops in that infinite Ocean of Life.

ALL BEINGS ARE BROTHERS: UNIVERSAL BROTHERHOOD

Importantly, in this respect, is that all those drops carry all possibilities of the Ocean within them. Seen in this light, each drop is the Ocean. From this we can draw an important conclusion:

“If I carry all the cosmic possibilities of the Ocean within me, and am therefore the Ocean, then the same is true for all other living beings: for my fellow humans, my fellow animals, my fellow atoms and solar systems — all drops *being* the Ocean. Conclusion: I do not *have* my fellow-brothers, I *am* my fellow-brothers.”

ALL BEINGS ARE ONE

A thought to ponder deeply, above all not to accept blindly. Look within yourself, see if it resonates with your own inner Wisdom.

Yes, it is often said, all beings are one, but only *essentially* one. On the external level, they are not. For we all see different beings, with different bodies and different personalities.

This reasoning is only partially true. *Seen from our senses*, it seems to be true. But if we look *from the idea of Life*, what do we see when we look at someone’s body? We see a cloud -, an army -, a collection - of living things: cells, molecules, atoms, held together magnetically by us in a certain form. And that form we call body.

This *form* is impermanent, never the same. Our bathroom mirror shows that every day. But the living cells and atoms with whom we cooperate are permanent, are our younger fellow-brothers. They are equally drops in that Ocean, and are thus one with us.

Conclusion: in every area, including the outer world, all beings are one. No matter how much our senses suggest to us that “I am different from the rest”. We are connected, we are brothers, we are one. We just have to learn to see through the illusion of forms to realize this.

From this second idea, the world is going to look very different. What possibilities this vision offers for understanding and changing the world will be explored in detail by my fellow writers in the following articles of this Peace issue.

Finally, a third idea:

BETWEEN ALL BEINGS THERE IS A CONSTANT INTERACTION

Each focal point in the cosmic Web of Life influences every other focal point: some more directly, others more indirectly. But ultimately, the way one of those focal points functions affects the lives of all other focal points. If I perform below my ability, below the level at which I *could* perform, if I lead my life from one mental armchair to another, it hinders all other beings in their inner development.

Not just my closest family members and colleagues, but all of humanity. And humanity is not a collection of travellers temporarily residing on this planet, but an essential part of the living fabric of this planet. Humanity is an organ of planet Earth: the organ through which Wisdom reaches this world. Therefore, if cells in that organ – i.e. us as individual human beings – do not bring out and use the Wisdom within ourselves, it has the same consequences as if, for example, a small number of electrical cells in our heart stop doing their job, causing the patient to need a pacemaker.

Do you see the individual responsibility? Do you also see the disastrous consequences of wars? Because in wars (often young) people are killed who actually should have functioned for many more decades in humanity, in that organ of planet Earth. And moreover, the soldiers who killed them have sunk so far below their moral level that they too are often no longer able to hold on to their inner Wisdom. PTSD we call that state of inner turmoil. A turmoil that also affects entire families.

This third idea has another important aspect:

ALL BEINGS GROW ONLY THROUGH INTERACTION WITH EACH OTHER

Try this third idea within your own life: all of life's great lessons are learned through contact with other fellow beings, and especially through contact with fellow humans. We are each other's mirror, each other's school-book. We are each other's "channels" through which our own karma reaches us. There are inspiring examples in the theosophical literature of how you can learn to see an (apparent) enemy as a growth opportunity, a chance to ennoble your character. The failing behaviour of that "enemy" is exactly the weakness that you can overcome in your own character. William Q. Judge's text excerpt at the end of this article is an example.

And do you want to be a mirror for someone else? Then know that honest criticism, substantiated with wisdom, shared in good harmony, gives someone the opportunity to change themselves. You don't have to lapse into aggressive correction, you don't have to become someone's "enemy". Because from the vision we built in this article, you see that you are dealing with a fellow brother, an *inner*, reincarnating human being, who is not able to control his *outer* personality. As a result, this personality makes the most anti-social mistakes as an unguided missile.

Help and support the inner human being to regain control of his outer personality, instead of punishing, damaging this outer personality of the other. And in case of interaction between countries: help and support the inner soul of that country instead of invading and destroying its outer part—its cities, structures, culture. Be a mirror that can be talked to, that inspires others.

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