



The Theosophical Society
Point Loma - Blavatskyhouse The Hague

International
Study-centre for
Independent
Search for truth
Foundation

www.blavatskyhouse.org

Cyclic
motion

Boundlessness

As above,
so below

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Karma

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Knowledge of the Self

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paths

Hierarchies

Self-becoming

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evolution

Theosophy: principles and practice

What is Theosophy?

The name Theosophy stems from the Greek 'Theos' and 'Sophia' meaning Divine Wisdom. It is no religion but a philosophy of life, which offers to every human being the possibility to find a solution to the many problems of life.

Theosophy contains firstly the principles of morality. This morality can be extrapolated from a monumental number of teachings about the laws in the Universe and the structure of Man and the Universe. The teachings are not based upon belief, but upon knowledge, that has been tested by all great Sages of past and present.

Theosophy stimulates independent thinking and the search for truth. Theosophy gives explanations as to the how (science), the why (philosophy) and the what (religion) of life.

The three propositions

H.P. Blavatsky mentions in her book *The Secret Doctrine* three theosophical propositions. The propositions are no dogmas but *hypotheses*. They enable you to examine the value of Theosophy, by working them out and testing them in daily life.

Propositions: quotations from <i>The Secret Doctrine</i>	Explanation	A few conclusions
<p>1st: Boundlessness</p> <p>An Omnipresent, Eternal, Boundless and Immutable PRINCIPLE on which all speculation is impossible, since it transcends the power of human conception and could only be dwarfed by any human expression or similitude.</p>	<p>There is a causeless cause of all beings. This is not an entity.</p> <p>Not only did we spring from IT -- we <i>are</i> IT in our deepest core.</p>	<p>All beings are inseparably connected. Universal brotherhood is a <i>fact</i> in Nature.</p> <p>All beings are of <i>equal</i> value. The numberless differences between them do not alter this fundamental fact.</p>
<p>2nd: Cyclic appearance and disappearance</p> <p>The Eternity of the Universe <i>in toto</i> as a boundless plane; periodically "the playground of numberless Universes incessantly manifesting and disappearing". (...) "The appearance and disappearance of Worlds is like a regular tidal ebb, flux and reflux."</p>	<p>LIFE manifests periodically. After each period of manifestation it withdraws again.</p>	<p>All things are ensouled. Each form is the result of the consciousness that is working through it.</p> <p>Attempts to reform yourself and the society will never yield permanent results unless mainly directed to the reform of your consciousness.</p>
<p>3rd: As above, so below</p> <p>The fundamental identity of all Souls with the Universal Over-Soul, the latter being an aspect of the Unknown Root; and the obligatory pilgrimage for every Soul – a spark of the former – through the Cycle of Incarnation (...) in accordance with Cyclic and Karmic law, during the whole term. (...)</p>	<p>Being a child of the Boundless, you carry boundless capacities in yourself.</p> <p>Each being is developing its latent capacities. Thus it gradually grows from 'atom to god' – and even further, without end.</p>	<p>The Cosmos is a great coherent organism, and each entity is a living, growing part of it.</p> <p>There is always a greater truth hidden behind the knowledge you now have: Theosophy gives a deathblow to each kind of dogmatism.</p>

The seven Jewels of Wisdom

A study of Theosophy will make you familiar with a number of core ideas like reincarnation, karma and evolution. These core ideas can also be found in eastern scriptures, where they are called the Seven Jewels of Wisdom: *Sapta Ratnâni*. They all follow from the three propositions of Theosophy.

Jewels of Wisdom	Explanation	A few conclusions
1st Jewel: Punarjanman Reinbodyment Reincarnation, the cyclic process of life and death	Every being passes through the phases of life (activity) and death (rest).	Our fellow-humans are <i>reincarnating egos</i> with whom we work and live life after life. So, a new born child is an old colleague whom we help to settle, and someone's death is a 'see you later'.
2nd Jewel: Karma, the doctrine of cause and consequence.	Every action in the Cosmos leads to a reaction, a consequence. Thus, the consequences in your life are caused by your former thoughts and actions.	Karma is the doctrine of <i>free will</i> . You are the creator of your own destiny. Karma is a result of the <i>Unity</i> behind the Cosmos. Our destiny is interwoven with that of all beings.
3rd Jewel: Lokas - Talas Hierarchies	Every being is part of something greater and is itself composed of smaller beings.	More developed and less developed beings are mutually dependent. Development is relative. We are both teacher and student. So, we should try to be an example for our fellow-men.
4th Jewel: Swabhâva Self-becoming	Every being has a unique character. You always become what you yourself have built up in your consciousness.	You cannot blame your parents, your education, your circumstances or your DNA for what you are. You are responsible for your character.
5th Jewel: Pravritti and nirvritti Progressive evolution	Every being develops the latent capacities in its consciousness. This is not Darwinism. You don't change by chance but on your own strength.	There is never any need to think that you are "just what you are". You are much more than what you manifest now. Our unselfish ideals and aspirations are attainable.
6th Jewel: Amita Yâna en Pratyeka Yâna The two Paths, the Path of "Everyone for Himself" and the Path of Compassion	There are two motives to tread the Path: 1) for yourself, for individual deliverance; 2) for the benefit of all that lives. In this latter case your spiritual growth is incidental on helping others.	"Compassion is no attribute. It is the LAW of Laws." (H.P. Blavatsky) Practicing compassion is not just trying 'to do good deeds'; it is a continuous realizing of brotherhood as a fact in Nature.
7th Jewel: Âtma-vidyâ Knowledge of the SELF, the core of all beings	You are able to know the One Life that flows through every being, because in the deepest core of your being you <i>are</i> THAT yourself.	Realizing the Unity of all that lives has bearing on all our habits: <i>on which bank do I put my money? How to deal with that annoying neighbor? How can I – or my country – contribute to peace in the world?</i>

Making Theosophy a Living Power in your Life means that your view of life will...

...broaden by living for the benefit of every being	...lengthen by looking beyond one incarnation	...deepen by contributing to material, mental and spiritual welfare	...become enriched by attuning yourself to the spiritual Heart of the Cosmos
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