

WELCOME

to the

UNITED LODGE OF THEOSOPHISTS

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Dear Friend,

We are pleased to welcome you to the London ULT and would like to take just a few moments to briefly explain why we are here, what we do, and how we do it.

The Theosophical Movement was founded in November 1875 by H.P. Blavatsky (HPB), William Q. Judge, and Col. Henry S. Olcott, with three main aims or objectives: (1) To form a nucleus of Universal Brotherhood, without any distinction of race, religion, caste, colour, gender, or anything else; (2) To promote the study of the world's religions, philosophies, and sciences, particularly those of ancient India and the East, and to demonstrate the importance of such study; (3) To investigate the unexplained laws of Nature and the psychic faculties latent in man.

Theosophy - from the Greek word "Theosophia" meaning "Divine Wisdom" - is the Esoteric Teaching which underlies all the world's religions. It is the primeval, archaic source and fountainhead of all the Truth that can be found in the various religions, philosophies, and sciences of the world. The motto of the Theosophical Movement is "There is no Religion higher than Truth."

Theosophy was given to the world in the vast writings of HPB and her closest colleague and friend Mr Judge. It is a very definite Body of Knowledge and a specific System of Teaching. Nevertheless, no-one is ever asked or expected to believe or accept these teachings and principles. Spiritual and mental independence are of the utmost importance, as are freedom of thought and belief. Theosophy is not actually about believing anything but about gaining real knowledge through study, practice, and application of the timeless truths of "the anciently universal Wisdom-Religion."

The ULT is not the same as The Theosophical Society, nor is it a branch of that Society or connected with any organisation of that name. It is an entirely independent, unaffiliated, and voluntary association of students of Theosophy who wish to study its teachings without the unnecessary elements of organisations, leaders, political conflicts, and attention seeking personalities.

These are some of the things which altered the focus and affected the work of the original Theosophical Society after HPB passed away and which eventually led to the founding of the ULT in Los Angeles, California in 1909 by Robert Crosbie, who had been a co-worker in the USA with Mr Judge and a pupil of both he and HPB. Today the ULT has lodges and study groups in sixteen nations around the world. Its expressed mission statement has always been very clear and specific: "To spread broadcast the original teachings of Theosophy as recorded in the writings of H.P. Blavatsky and William Q. Judge."

It is in essence a practical philosophical school, a School of Theosophy, with the only Teachers being HPB and WQJ. Everyone in the ULT is a student; none are "teachers."

The Lodge functions on a voluntary and impersonal basis. Numerous students volunteer to give talks, chair meetings, moderate discussions, and prepare reading assignments, as well as assisting with our other activities such as the quarterly seminars and the introductory correspondence course. Our weekly meetings are on Sundays and Wednesdays and details of these can be found in the quarterly programme which is also available on our website.

In its public work, the approach of the ULT is largely impersonal. In the meetings we endeavour to avoid making personal references to ourselves and others and make efforts to keep our own personality in the background so that Theosophy itself can stay in the foreground, for the benefit of all attending. This also serves as a valuable spiritual exercise in self-discipline and self-mastery for those who choose to follow it. When we cease identifying ourselves with our external personal self, we may come to realise something of our True Self, our higher, divine, and universal nature, the One Spirit which shines within every living being.

No money is asked for and all the activities of the Lodge are free of charge. There is also no "membership" in the ordinary sense of the word, although those who wish to associate themselves more closely with the Theosophical Movement can become an "Associate" of the ULT. There are no obligations or expectations connected with this, although some who become Associates begin to contribute their time and efforts more actively than before to the Lodge work and activities.

To assist understanding the philosophy and so help those attending and presenting it, it is asked that there is a period of relative quiet 10 minutes before the meetings.

HPB once wrote to American Theosophists that "although Theosophical ideas have entered into every development or form which awakening spirituality has assumed, yet Theosophy pure and simple has still a severe battle to fight for recognition."

We believe that everyone deserves to be able to know what Theosophy actually is and what it actually teaches. Thus the ULT is not a general spiritual discussion group for sharing and debating all sorts of different ideas, theories, and opinions, nor even for the various different and contradictory forms of "Theosophy" that sprung up since the Founders left the scene. It has a distinct focus and its aim is to preserve, present, and promote Theosophy the way it was given to the world by the Masters of the Wisdom, through the only one They ever called Their "Direct Agent" H.P. Blavatsky and the one she called her "only friend" William Q. Judge.

To this end we stock an extensive range of original Theosophical books and literature, to help facilitate the study and understanding of these timeless truths, which have been called the Science of Life and the Art of Living.

We hope the activities here will lead you to an appreciation of the Esoteric Teachings and through their application be of benefit to the well-being of humanity at large, for which purpose the Movement was founded.

Welcome to Queen's Gardens, please have a look around the book table which is open after the meetings and do ask if there are any questions,

The United Lodge of Theosophists, London