

The Living Power of ETHICS

Seminar ~ 27th June 2015 ~ at the ULT



The world is in all our hands

"The Ethics of Theosophy are more important than any divulgement of psychic laws and facts. The latter relate wholly to the material and evanescent part of the septenary man, but the Ethics sink into and take hold of the real man - the reincarnating Ego. We are outwardly creatures of but a day; within we are eternal. Learn, then, well the doctrines of Karma and Reincarnation, and teach, practise, promulgate that system of life and thought which alone can save the coming races."

H.P. Blavatsky, *Five Messages to the American Theosophists*, p. 26



The Universal Basis of Ethics, in all places and times

Universal brotherhood is that which will result in doing unto others as you would have them do unto you, and in loving your neighbour as yourself - declared as right by all teachers in the great religions of the world.

William Q. Judge, *Theosophy Generally Stated*

To live to benefit mankind is the first step. To practise the six glorious virtues is the second.

The Voice of the Silence, p. 36, translated by H.P. Blavatsky

Never will I seek nor receive private individual salvation; never will I enter into final peace alone; but forever, and everywhere, will I live and strive for the redemption of every creature throughout the world.

The Kwan Yin Pledge

The Bodhisattva Ideal

Thou hast the knowledge now concerning the two Ways. Thy time will come for choice, O thou of eager Soul, when thou hast reached the end and passed the seven Portals. Thy mind is clear. No more art thou entangled in delusive thoughts, for thou hast learned all. Unveiled stands Truth and looks thee sternly in the face. She says:

"Sweet are the fruits of Rest and Liberation for the sake of *Self*; but sweeter still the fruits of long and bitter duty. Aye, Renunciation for the sake of others, of suffering fellow men".

He, who becomes Pratyeka-Buddha makes his obeisance but to his *Self*. The Bodhisattva who has won the battle, who holds the prize within his palm, yet says in his divine compassion:

"For others' sake this great reward I yield" - accomplishes the greater Renunciation.

A SAVIOUR OF THE WORLD is he.

The Voice of the Silence, p. 46-47, translated by H.P. Blavatsky

Nirvana comes to those who have risen up over all delusions and have realized the supreme unity of all; then it may be taken; but if it is then taken for oneself, leaving others in the mire of life unhelped, it becomes an enormous selfishness which later on must result in the being having to do penance in some other manvantara.

William Q. Judge, *Forum Answers*, p. 97

Karma, Ethics, and Self-Responsibility

It is not, therefore, Karma that rewards or punishes, but it is we, who reward or punish ourselves according to whether we work with, through and along with nature, abiding by the laws on which that Harmony depends, or - break them.

Nor would the ways of Karma be inscrutable were men to work in union and harmony, instead of disunion and strife. ... With right knowledge, or at any rate with a confident conviction that our neighbours will no more work to hurt us than we would think of harming them, the two-thirds of the World's evil would vanish into thin air. Were no man to hurt his brother, Karma-Nemesis would have neither cause to work for, nor weapons to act through.

H.P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. 1, p. 643

SHILA, the key of Harmony in word and act, the key that counterbalances the cause and the effect, and leaves no further room for Karmic action.

The Voice of the Silence, p. 52, translated by H.P. Blavatsky

The Ethics of the Dispassionate Sage from the Bhagavad Gita

The *Bhagavad-Gita* tends to impress upon the individual two things: first, selflessness, and second, action; the studying of and living by it will arouse the belief that there is but one Spirit and not several; that we cannot live for ourselves alone, but must come to realize that there is no such thing as separateness, and no possibility of escaping from the collective Karma of the race to which one belongs, and then, that we must think and act in accordance with such belief.

William Q. Judge, Antecedent Words to *The Bhagavad Gita*, p. xvii

Seek this wisdom by doing service, by strong search, by questions, and by humility; the wise who see the truth will communicate it unto thee, and knowing which thou shalt never again fall into error.

He who is thus devoted and free from sin obtaineth without hindrance the highest bliss - union with the Supreme Spirit. The man who is endued with this devotion and who seeth the unity of all things perceiveth the Supreme Soul in all things and all things in the Supreme Soul.

Krishna in the *Bhagavad Gita*, Ch. 4, p. 35-36; 6, p. 48

But what I do believe in is (1), the unbroken oral teachings revealed by living *divine* men during the infancy of mankind to the elect among men; (2), that it has reached us *unaltered*; and (3) that the MASTERS are thoroughly versed in the science based on such uninterrupted teaching.

H.P. Blavatsky, *What Shall We Do for Our Fellow-Men?*

Why is Purity linked to the Ethical Life and How is it Approached?

The world needs no sectarian church, whether of Buddha, Jesus, Mahomet, Swedenborg, Calvin, or any other. There being but ONE Truth, man requires but one church - the Temple of God within us, walled in by matter but penetrable by any one who can find the way; *the pure in heart see God*.

H.P. Blavatsky, *Isis Unveiled*, Vol. 2, p. 635

Meditation, abstinence in all, the observation of moral duties, gentle thoughts, good deeds and kind words, as good will to all and entire oblivion of Self, are the most efficacious means of obtaining knowledge and preparing for the reception of higher wisdom.

H.P. Blavatsky, *Practical Occultism*

When Ethics becomes Metaphysical, Moral Relativism loosens its Hold

the conundrum

... no way exists to alter the attitude of materialistic modern science except by a complete reform in its methods and theories... not agreeable to modern men.

William Q Judge, *The Adepts And Modern Science* [WQJ ii p 64]

answers to hard Qs

A new type of thinking is essential if mankind is to survive and move toward higher levels.

Albert Einstein "*Atomic Education Urged by Einstein*", *New York Times*, 25 May 1946

It is an absolute fact that without good works the spirit of brotherhood would die in the world; and this can never be. Therefore is the double activity of learning and doing most necessary; we have to do good, and we have to do it rightly, *with knowledge*.

H.P. Blavatsky, "*Let Every Man Prove His Own Work*"

The radical difference between occult and materialistic science is that the former has philanthropy as its basis, whereas the latter has no such basis.

William Q Judge, *The Adepts And Modern Science* [WQJ ii p 64]

the factor of karma

If I tried to enrich you or myself by such means (occult precipitation of gold and gems) then I would ruin us both, not necessarily in the present life but in centuries to come.

H.P. Blavatsky, quoted in *The Extraordinary Life and Influence of Helena Blavatsky*, p 253