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Theosophical Influences on the 21st Century *on Religion and Science*

United Lodge of Theosophists, London

The Theosophical Movement being continuous, it is to be found in all times and in all nations. Wherever thought has struggled to be free, wherever spiritual ideas, as opposed to forms and dogmatism, have been promulgated, there the great movement is to be discerned. (W.Q. Judge Series No. 3, p. 1)

The Influence of Theosophical ideas through the Astral light

“It a Law of occult dynamics that a given amount of energy expended on the spiritual or astral plane is productive of far greater results than the same amount expended on the physical objective plane of existence” SD 1:644

- “Theosophy teaches the existence of a universal diffused and highly ethereal medium, which has been called the "Astral Light" and "Akâsa." It is the repository of all past, present, and future events, and in it are recorded the effects of spiritual causes, and of all acts and thoughts from the direction of either spirit or matter...The elementals are energetic centers in it.” W.Q.Judge *Epitome of Theosophy*
- HPB says in the entry for “Astral Light” in the *Theosophical Glossary*: “The invisible region that surrounds our globe, as it does every other, and corresponding as the second Principle of Kosmos (the third being Life, of which it is the vehicle) to the *Linga Sharira* or the Astral Double in man. A subtle Essence visible only to a clairvoyant eye, and the lowest but one (*viz.*, the earth), of the Seven Akashic or Kosmic Principles. Eliphas Levi calls it the great Serpent and the Dragon from which radiates on Humanity every evil influence. This is the same as the *Sidereal Light* of Paracelsus and other Hermetic philosophers.

The Influence Of Theosophical ideas on World Religions

There never was, nor can there be more than one universal religion; for there can be but one truth concerning God. Like an immense chain whose upper end, the alpha, remains invisibly emanating from a Deity- -in statu abscondito with every primitive theology—it encircles our globe in every direction; it leaves not even the darkest corner unvisited, before the other end, the omega, turns back on its way to be again received where it first emanated. On this divine chain was strung the exoteric symbology of every people.
Isis Unveiled, 1:560, H. P. Blavatsky

- The World's Parliament of Religions held in Chicago in 1893 was an important event in world religious history.
- The congress brought together Hindus, Buddhists, Christians, Presbyterians, Confucians, Shintoists, Muslims, as well as Theosophists.
- Theosophy anticipated the return or rediscovery of Eastern Wisdom, its religious systems, i.e. Buddhism, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Yoga philosophy, Jainism, Taoism, Zen, and helped to popularise the doctrines of Karma and Reincarnation, and the existence of living human Masters and Adepts the custodians of the perennial wisdom teachings.

The Influence of Theosophical Ideas on World Religions

- It set the stage, and the 20th and 21st century witnessed unprecedented progress towards the internationalization of religious human rights. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights adopted by the United Nations in 1948 is a landmark document, recognizing, among other things, several important religious rights.
- It anticipated the so called New Age movement which helped to open up the Mind of the Race to Eastern psychology and its ideas and influences. In particular greater environmental awareness, and the dangers of crass materialism and of the mechanical and technical civilisation.
- Helped foster the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change ones religion or belief, and freedom – either alone or in community with others and in public or private – to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.
- Ethics : Theosophy anticipated the ideal of Universal Brotherhood, or United Humanity, even if only partially exemplified and achieved – after major wars – in the form of The League of Nations, and the later The United Nations.

Influence of Theosophical ideas on Modern Science

Chemistry and physiology are the two great magicians of the future, who are destined to open the eyes of mankind to the great physical truth” SD 1:261

- *The Secret Doctrine* had been able to anticipate future scientific discoveries *and* influence modern scientific discoveries.
- Four significant discoveries — x-rays, radioactivity, radium, and the electron — convinced scientists that their task was only beginning, not ending as previously imagined only a few years before.
- Presaged the work of Albert Einstein in 1905 with his equation $E=mc^2$. Einstein’s theory “added recognition that mass or substance is equivalent to energy and that time and space are integral parts of the substance-energy continuum make-up of the universe.”
- Atoms are divisible: Sir Isaac Newton supported HBP’s ideas that “the atom is divisible, and must consist of particles, or of sub-atoms. . . . It is on the doctrine of the illusive nature of matter, and the infinite divisibility of the atom, that the whole science of Occultism is built.” SD 1:519-20