

The Mahatmas & Their Doctrine

Notes for talk at the ULT in London 7 pm, Sunday 17th December 2017

HPB wrote the Secret Doctrine with two Mahatmas, it gives in detail their ideals & philosophy.

What is a Mahatma?

The whole sweep, meaning, and possibility of evolution are contained in the word Mahatma.

Maha is "great," Atma is "soul," and both compounded into one mean those great souls who have triumphed before us not because they are made of different stuff and are of some strange family, but just because they are of the human race.

Reincarnation, karma, the sevenfold division, retribution, reward, struggle, failure, success, illumination, power, and a vast embracing love for man, all these lie in that single word.

The soul emerges from the unknown, begins to work in and with matter, is reborn again and again, makes karma, develops the 6 vehicles for itself, meets retribution for sin and punishment for mistake, grows strong by suffering, succeeds in bursting through the gloom, is enlightened by true illumination, grasps power, retains charity, expands with love for orphaned humanity, and thenceforth helps all others who remain in darkness until all may be raised up to the place with the "Father in Heaven" who is the Higher Self." WQJ's Arts 2:39-40

One Life, one Source – an essential metaphysical idea

The divine, purely Adi-Buddhic monad manifests as the universal Buddhi (the Mahâbuddhi or Mahat ...) the spiritual omniscient and omnipotent root of divine intelligence, the highest anima mundi or the Logos. This descends "like a flame spreading from the eternal Fire, immovable...ever the same to the end" of the cycle of existence, and becomes universal life on the Mundane Plane. From this Plane (the logoi of Life); then the Dhyani-Buddhas of contemplation; the concrete forms of their formless Fathers -- the Seven Sons of Light, still themselves, ... "Thou art 'THAT' -- Brahm." It is from these Dhyani-Buddhas that emanate their chhayas (Shadows) the Bodhisattvas, and of the terrestrial Buddhas, and finally of men. SD 1:572

The Maha Chohan on Brotherhood and human Justice

... how is the combative natural instinct of man to be restrained from inflicting hitherto unheard-of cruelty and enormous tyranny, injustice, etc., if not through the soothing influence of brotherhood, and of the practical application of Buddha's esoteric doctrines?

For everyone knows that total emancipation from the authority of the one all-pervading power, or law--called God by the priests, and Buddha, Divine Wisdom and enlightenment or Theosophy, by the philosophers of all ages--means also the emancipation from that of human law. Once unfettered and delivered from their deadweight of dogmatism, interpretations, personal names, anthropomorphic conceptions, and salaried priests, the fundamental doctrines of all religions will be proved identical in their esoteric meaning. Osiris, Krishna, Buddha, Christ, will be shown as different means for one and the same royal highway to final bliss --Nirvana.

Mystical Christianity teaches Self-redemption through one's own seventh principle, the liberated Paramatma, called by the one Christ, by others Buddha; this is equivalent to regeneration, or rebirth in spirit, and it therefore expounds just the same truth as the Nirvana of Buddhism. All of us have to get rid of our own Ego, the illusory, apparent self, to recognize our true Self, in a transcendental divine life. But if we would not be selfish, we must strive to make other people see that truth, and recognize the reality of the transcendental Self, the Buddha, the Christ, or God of every preacher. This is why even esoteric Buddhism is the surest path to lead men towards the one esoteric truth. The Great Master's Letter, ULT pamphlet no. 33

The Light of Asia or The Great Renunciation

Such is the Law which moves to righteousness,
Which none at last can turn aside or stay;
The heart of it is Love, the end of it
Is peace and Consummation sweet. Obey!
The Books say well, my Brothers! each man's life
The outcome of his former living is;
The bygone wrongs bring forth sorrows and woes

The bygone right breeds bliss.
That which ye sow ye reap. See yonder fields!
The sesamum was sesamum, the corn
Was corn. The Silence and the Darkness knew!
So is a man's fate born.
Sir Edwin Arnold on the life of the Buddha

One Teaching in Two Streams

Let us examine the idea there are two parallel streams of teachings running more or less in perpetuity:

(a) one being the Theosophy of the trans-Himalayan Arhat School, pure and simple with definite teachings and doctrines, which we will call *the first stream*, the other

(b) being traditions passed down from one race to another, *the second stream*.

The **first** is the ever-pure Masters' work, maintained thus by its high standards of proof and acceptance.¹ The **second** is given to man in his religions and philosophies but which inevitably degrades – slowly or fast – “until the might art is lost.” (*Gita*, Ch. 4) This is how B.P.Wadia writes about them:

“The propagation of the instructions of this Record has gone on *along two paths*: at times *a direct translation* of some part or aspect of the Record was made [the **1st** stream]... at other times, *translations of translations, interpretations of interpretations*, have been made [the **2nd** stream]. The former method is comparatively rare [**1st**], the second very common indeed [**2nd**].”²

From the Secret Doctrine: “The offshoots [**2nd**] of the never dying tree of wisdom [**1st**] have scattered their dead leaves even on Judæo-Christianity.” (*SD* 2:483)

The Cycle of the Closing Quarter

Every century an attempt is being made to show the world that Occultism is no vain superstition. Once the door permitted to be kept a little ajar, it will be opened wider with every new century. The times are ripe for a more serious knowledge than hitherto permitted, though still very limited, so far.

H.P. Blavatsky, “The Secret Doctrine” Vol. 1, p. xxxvii (Introduction)

Among the commandments of Tsong-Kha-pa there is one that enjoins the Rahats (Arhats) to make an attempt to enlighten the world, including the “white barbarians,” every century, at a certain specified period of the cycle. Up to the present day none of these attempts has been very successful. Failure has followed failure. Have we to explain the fact by the light of a certain prophecy? It is said that up to the time when Pban-chhen-rin-po-chhe (the Great Jewel of Wisdom) [i.e. Panchen Rinpoche, the Panchen Lama of Tibet] condescends to be reborn in the land of the P'helings (Westerners), and appearing as the Spiritual Conqueror (Chom-den-da), destroys the errors and ignorance of the ages, it will be of little use to try to uproot the misconceptions of P'heling-pa (Europe); her sons will listen to no one.

H.P. Blavatsky, “Tsong-Kha-pa – Lohans in China” and “Tibetan Teachings”



¹ The Secret Doctrine gives the principle of independent evidence, in that “no vision of one adept was accepted till it was checked and confirmed by the visions... of other adepts.” This passage is often known as “The Ancient Source”, *SD* 1:273.

² *Ibid*, p. 22 (in the above PDF it is page16).