

A Nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood

To form a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity is theosophy's aim, yet for that to manifest in the outer world, it must first become a reality within each of our own lives. National President of the Theosophical Society in New Zealand, **John Vorstermans** shares his views.

At a deep inner level we know we are all one in consciousness but on the level of the personality (ahamkara) we see ourselves in separation. The apparent separation was important in the early phase of our evolution as we developed our unique physical forms and materialised into these forms from the great inner, all-knowing realm we originated from, as we chose to follow this pilgrimage into the mind-born bodies of humanity.

It is hard to imagine that we were all once part of an all-knowing consciousness and why we chose to go on this human pilgrimage into the realm of the mind-born, where we have all but forgotten our true ancestry and origins. For many millions of years, if we are to believe the stories of the likes of Madame Blavatsky, we have been evolving into these limited personalities. We have evolved through great epochs of evolution of the planet we live on. The last great periods of evolution we have been through have become known as the Atlantian and Lemurian periods – these being not places on our planet but rather very long time scales of evolution where we developed the minds, senses and bodies we now live in.

All this time our evolution has been guided by great beings who know the divine plan of our pilgrimage and have ever been there to show us the way. Sometimes they lived openly amongst us and at other, darker times, they worked in the background. Of late, the last 10 or 20 thousand years, we have been in a grosser or darker phase of our pilgrimage into the material world and our own personalities, personal desires, selfishness and greed have become so strong that it seems impossible to go beyond them. Often those who have spoken out with wisdom and knowledge of our true nature have been persecuted and even put to death. We only have to look at the current recession that is driven by debt and greed leading to massive loans that can no longer be paid back, and causing banks to go into liquidation, to see that, yes, many have forgotten their true heritage.

But about 2,500 years ago (560 BC) there was a turning point in our involution when the first human being on our collective pilgrimage, Siddhartha (Buddha) reached the pinnacle of our human pilgrimage and transgressed the limitation of the mind, re-establishing himself into the universal consciousness, which is our true home. Buddha became the first of us to attain enlightenment or true realisation while still in the human form. From then on his mind became truly just a tool for the body rather than the 'slayer of the real'. This is an important point as it marked the turning point of our evolution. Up till this point we were still involving into material nature but the Buddha marked the point where the focus of our journey changed and we are now stepping back onto the road home to realise our true nature.

Since the time of the Buddha, many others have also reached the same realisation; some of these are well known in our world history. Each represents for us a pointer or beacon to what we will also eventually become and each stays with their fellow pilgrims to help them on their way, where they can. They are always there for those who will listen to their message.

Many years on, some of these wise, enlightened beings came together. They wondered if humanity was ready yet to take a major step forward in their pilgrimage and through emissaries they established such organisations as the Theosophical Society to test the water. The Theosophical Society, however, had a special job to do: *They were to form a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity.*

It was hoped that there were enough individuals on the planet who believed and knew the divine way and understood who they really were, that these people would come together and form a small but strong outer manifestation of what was already a reality in the inner worlds, embodied by those great beings that have guided our pilgrimage since the beginning. Was the world ready to again acknowledge such beings existed and that we were ready to follow our divine plan?

It appears we might not have been as ready then as it was hoped. The Theosophical Society was formed in 1875 but from the beginning it had a hard time creating outwardly the real nucleus. Certainly it brought together many of the great people of the times and the society had great success in promoting its literature while spreading throughout the world, so that today we see great libraries of the teaching of all ages amongst our branches. The society in its early days was also very successful in bringing people together to hear and study some of the mysteries of life. However, there was always a difficulty with the formation of *a nucleus of the universal brotherhood of humanity.*

In 1888 concern was expressed by the inner founders of the society that, after the deaths of Madame Blavatsky and Col. Olcott, the society would fail because the nucleus that was to hold it together had not been formed. It was thus decided to form a group of those members who truly lived in the spirit of brotherhood to come together and form this true nucleus. This was done and later became known as the Esoteric School of Theosophy. The goal was to create a strong inner nucleus and, through an inner connection, to hold together the society and imbue it with the light of true brotherhood. This group still works today to keep the society alive and strong and welcomes any members who are truly committed to the formation of the nucleus and willing to follow its rules. There is nothing new or secret to learn within this group, it is about service to the divine plan. All learning comes through your own inner connection.

This nucleus is something very powerful when you recognise it and commit yourself to it. It is a recognition that we are indeed on a divine pilgrimage; that we are all on the same journey, although our minds and souls are perhaps at different stages. Through this understanding we know that each of us is exactly where we need to be on our journey and therefore we respect others for the learning and lessons they are going through in this 'school' (current incarnation). We recognise that it is the Soul that is on the pilgrimage and not the personality, which is just the form that today's lessons are being learnt through. We recognise that there is diversity in the unity of life which we can embrace with understanding. We can work closely together to help others to also come into realisation on their journey, not by telling them what they should do, but rather by being there for them when they need someone or answering questions when asked – even if we only know little ourselves.

Being a part of the nucleus is about developing discernment and discrimination so that you can recognise the real from the unreal. It is also about learning about your body, emotions, mind and slowly bringing these under the guidelines of your own higher nature so that you are no longer their slaves, doing their bidding from moment to moment. These are not easy things for most of us and often take lifetimes to perfect, but starting now, taking the first or second step, is a real way for the Soul to grow and for the nucleus to become a reality in the world. Can we do it? We must.

It is not for me or some other person to tell you what you must do. The nucleus is about listening to your own HEART, the seat of your consciousness. We can tell if we are moving in the right direction through our motives. We might ask ourselves: why are we doing this? Or through our intentions: are they to help those around us? Are our intentions based upon respect and non-violence or are they based on our own desires and wishes? Working this out is usually harder than we think but through our own daily self-reflection it is something that we will come to see clearly if we are honest with ourselves.

While the formation of a nucleus is our number one objective in the Theosophical Society, it is also the one that is hardest to achieve. Sometimes we join such organisations expecting peace, compassion and gentleness amongst its members but we find only criticism, gossip and conflict. Yet we have come to a place to find brotherhood. When we seek something such as brotherhood then we are going to be tested along the way so that we can prove ourselves and be tested by ourselves. Can we rise above what we see about us, in our testing grounds, the conflict within our group, branch, or at our work, in our home or in our relationships? Rising above the petty and living in the love that comes from the nucleus is our objective, if we can only but live within it.

Finally, next time you see something that breaks down the nucleus, find your compassion and embrace the crisis from the nucleus, gently drawing your friend back in through your understanding and love.

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