

**JAN KIND on HUMANITY**

**‘A MIND THAT LEARNS’** (*Theosophy Forward*, December 2017)

A mind that learns, a mind freed from all disbeliefs and prejudices, a mind that is not occupied, makes many discoveries when it deeply ponders on ethics or morals. It will ascertain that these universal rules are literally universal. Thus, they also apply to each one of us, wherever we might be on this planet. Consequently, the ethics in Lapland in northern Finland or Keflavik, Iceland are identical to those in Varanasi-India, Hobart-Tasmania, Amsterdam, the Netherlands or Brasilia, the capital of Brazil. When the mind discovers that man is embodied consciousness, one with all, from what the eye perceives to the intuitive awareness of the fusion of all atoms in his body, composing an everlasting spiritual totality, then it starts to grasp that Truth *is* all that *is*.

However, when the mind functions with logic and mathematics only, when it measures, calculates, when it is constantly on the alert and pragmatic, then it is what some people call a sharp mind. It will measure with great eagerness even those things that are immeasurable. In this instance, the mind as an instrument is taken to an area where measurement is impossible, and it might have to accept that logical propositions cannot explain everything. Therefore, it must learn to use logic only where logic can be applied. The eager-mind undoubtedly is very much able to absorb the Esoteric Doctrine, primarily in schemes, technicalities and purely intellectual aspects. It will remember texts, theses and authors, it will know of wise people and their quotations, and it may even convey their message, but inwardly it cannot distinguish, it is highly incompetent and caught in an illusion.

Theosophical literature often refers to human beings as one class of young gods incarnated in bodies of flesh at the present stage of their particular evolutionary journey. Therefore, the breaking down of the walls of the old house is a part of that process. Mind, in this undertaking, is the key to regeneration, which results in the birth of a New Man. To get out of the impasse and in order to allow the mind to be a mechanism whereby the inexhaustible learning process is practically implied in order to come to a state whereby self-centeredness is eliminated and substituted by altruism, many steps have to be taken.

A mind that learns will find that dealing with *symptoms* often ends in a pointless struggle, so it patiently, thoroughly and freely commences a discriminative search for causes. Once a cause is found, it will deal with it, if necessary do away with it, not in condemnation or in rigidity, but in a frank openness, because it does not allow itself to compromise when Truth is involved. The higher Self will act as a counsellor, since the personality is unable to unravel the entire knot that obstructs growth, and as a result forms a formidable opponent. Commitment, devotion, broad-mindedness, a willingness to stand up and speak out against falsehood, oppression or corruption, and the sincere desire to learn from past mistakes, it all will unfold.

A mind that learns has but one aim: to model the Divine in daily life.

**‘THE CRAFT OF BEING OPEN-MINDED’** (*Theosophy Forward*, November 2019)

The craft of being open-minded calls for acceptance and, most importantly, tolerance. Acceptance is obviously something that is connected with knowing how certain developments took place and led to existing realities, which, by the way, doesn't mean one has to stop being discriminative. Tolerance is possibly the most difficult one of the two, especially when there is a strong difference in points of view. Hearing an opinion, which directly opposes our own and learning to deal with that in a mature manner is a painful exercise, demanding perseverance and psychological discipline.

In Katherine Beechey's gem *Daily Meditations*, on September 4, there is this delightful quotation from an Elder Brother:

TOLERANCE: "Take care not to seek to impose your standard of life, your convictions, upon others. Help them to gain their own standards, to reach their own convictions, be these what they may, provided they stimulate to nobler living."

Our opinions, and we all have them, are stored in a rather superficial compartment of our thinking. The *things* we *think* are based on what we are fond of or detest, our preferences, tastes, quick judgements and even prejudices. If we are really eager to learn it would be necessary to go deeper, making a beginning in questioning our own beliefs which we all too often simply take for granted. Convictions are time bound. They need to be ***double-checked regularly*** and if needed, overhauled. In our search for Truth, which we can only undertake with an open mind, ***all convictions are transitory.***