

Closing of ITC 2022

Friends,

The first idea that I like to share with you, especially as we have studied these subjects in this Conference we are closing now, is that the quality of our life and our society will not improve in equal measure with our intellectual knowledge of the theosophical teachings.

This idea is of course not just my personal opinion, but this idea you see everywhere in theosophical literature. You find it for instance in the ‘Letter of the Mahā-Chohan.’ You find it in the Readings of this Conference, especially in those by Helena Blavatsky.

Of course, when you first come into contact with Theosophy, and you see all the teachings, your intellect will be triggered, especially when we talk about Manvantaras, Rounds, Sub-rounds, Races, and so on. We want to calculate: ‘where are we now,’ ‘how many years will it take for a new phase to start,’ etc. And we may think that Nature is working like an exact clock, which of course is true at certain levels.

But in the practical outworking and implementation of the laws of Nature, all beings disrupt the pattern by their ‘free wills.’ This happens on all the different levels, in all kingdoms of nature. So if we want to calculate with our intellect alone, it will not work, because all the uncertainties due to free will are very hard to predict.

No, you need much more *insight* in all the processes, much more knowledge about [the](#) human psychology.

If you read the ‘Letter of the Mahā-Chohan’, you find that he is deeply concerned about what we as humans develop at the moment and what we *need* to develop: our spiritual insight.

I think that the subject we have addressed in this Conference, discovering the Eternal Sun of Truth, is not a complex technical one; rather, it is much more a spiritual one. This Conference with all its speakers and all its workshops, was meant to broaden and deepen our spiritual insight. Concentration on the Sun of Truth helps that process.

That is what I have observed the past days. All interaction was more on the spiritual level — questions, such as ‘Does truth exist?’ and ‘How can we come to know it and develop it in ourselves and share it with the world?’

The only technical teaching that clearly appeared was that of spiritual hierarchies, although of course all the theosophical teachings also played a role.

But what Helena Blavatsky and the Mahā-Chohan are saying is very clear: the more we *live* this knowledge of spiritual hierarchies, the more we realize the place we have within them, the more we see our responsibilities within them, and the more we apply this spiritual insight in our daily life, the more we improve our ethical and moral qualities and our vision on society, and the greater the harmony in society will be.

Though typically invisible to us, our individual efforts and work together has a positive and uplifting effect on the whole of humanity.

See what the Maha-Cohan is saying about the fact that a one-sided development of the intellect makes us spiritually asleep instead of awake.

“The intellectual portions of mankind seem to be fast dividing into two classes, *the one* unconsciously preparing for itself long periods of temporary annihilation or states of non-consciousness owing to the deliberate surrender of their intellect, its imprisonment in the narrow grooves of bigotry and superstition, a process which cannot fail to lead to the utter deformation of the intellectual principle; *the other* unrestrainedly indulging its animal propensities with the deliberate intention of submitting to annihilation pure and simple in cases of failure, to millenniums of degradation after physical dissolution.

Those “intellectual classes,” reacting upon the ignorant masses which they attract and which look up to them as noble and fit examples to follow, degrade and morally ruin those they ought to protect and guide.

Between degrading superstition and still more degrading brutal materialism the white dove of truth has hardly room where to rest her weary unwelcome foot. . . .”

So, from this you can conclude that for ITC, and for all theosophical organizations, the emphasis should be on spiritual development.

And spiritual development in the light of the main object of the Theosophical Society – the idea of Universal Brotherhood – goes hand in hand with the growth of compassion. When you begin to spiritually understand the unity, the interconnectedness, of all life, it is simply impossible *not* to develop compassion accordingly.

How can we describe this development of spiritual insight in theosophical terms, in terms we all know?

We all know that Manas is sevenfold, has seven aspects. And one-sided emphasis on the training of the *manas aspect* of Manas, that is, the intellect, will not help us.

It is the *buddhi aspect* of Manas that we have to awaken: vision, seeing cohesion, understanding long-term ‘causes and effects,’ recognizing the more permanent ‘soul’ of all ever-changing things and circumstances around us.

That will help us to see what we really are, spiritual beings. That helps us also to realize that we are part of a greater spiritual being. Just as a cell of our body, or a thought in our mind, is part of us.

Of course it is not the intention of theosophy or ITC to bring us to service of the gods, making ritual offerings, praying etc. It is to realize that we are part of a greater cosmic unit, a greater spiritual being. We are gods in embryo, we have to live and *act* as such.

To close this Conference, I want to ask your attention for one of the main objects of ITC: cross-pollination.

Everyone influences everyone else. Every thought we think influences the atmosphere around us. But that happens mostly unconsciously, without our realizing it.

Active cross-pollination means that we *consciously* try to awaken each other with thoughts and ideals of a high, spiritual quality. giving what we have, and being open to the ideas of others. That is what I saw happening these past days. I think this year we really have made a step forward. I also heard ideas of doing this more often than once a year. That is certainly something that is in the mind of the ITC Board. The practical ‘how’ and ‘when’ needs careful consideration.

In the meantime, we can continue deepening our understanding of the Eternal Sun of Truth. Re-view our lectures on Youtube, re-read our Readings on our website. And share your deepened spiritual insight within your own theosophical circle.

With these ideas I close the ITC-Conference 2022, and thank you *all* for your contributions.