

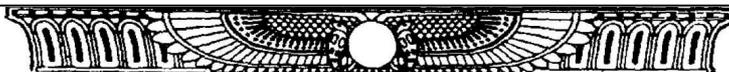
The Aquarian Theosophist

Volume VIII #9 July 17, 2008

p. 1

Email: ultinla@juno.com

ARCHIVE: <http://www.teosofia.com/AT.html>



THE MAGNETISM OF PLANETS, TIDES, ANIMALS & MEN...

(As we enter the second half of the year this edition looks at the connections between man and nature, using every day examples such as agriculture & food and our relationship to it's production. Ed.)

Isis Unveiled outlines a role of magnetism:

"Kircher accounts for every feeling in human nature as results of changes in our magnetic condition. Anger, jealousy, friendship, love, and hatred, are all modifications of the magnetic atmosphere which is developed in us and constantly emanates from us.

"Love is one of the most variable, and therefore the aspects of it are numberless. Spiritual love, that of a mother for her child, of an artist for some particular art, love as pure friendship, are purely magnetic manifestations of sympathy in congenial natures.

"The magnetism of pure love is the originator of every created thing. In its ordinary sense love between the sexes is electricity, and he calls it amor febris species, the fever of species. There are two kinds of magnetic attraction: sympathy and fascination; the one holy and natural, the other evil and unnatural.

"To the latter, fascination, we must attribute the power of the poisonous toad, which upon merely opening its mouth, forces the passing reptile or insect to run into it to its destruction.

"The deer, as well as smaller animals, are attracted by the breath of the boa, and are made irresistibly to come within its reach...

To exercise such a power for *beneficent purposes*, man requires three conditions:

"1, nobility of soul; 2, strong will and imaginative faculty; 3, a subject weaker than the magnetizer; otherwise he will resist.

"A man free from worldly incentives and

sensuality, may cure in such a way the most "incurable" diseases, and his vision may become clear and prophetic." (Isis i 209)

There is a universal attraction between the planets and everything else, organic and inorganic: H.P.Blavatsky writes on the tides:

"At Siam there are two species of fresh-water fish, which... once salted and placed uncut (whole) in the pot, they are found to exactly follow the flux and reflux of the sea, growing higher and lower in the pot as the sea ebbs or flows." (Isis i 210)

Experiments with these *fresh-water fish* were done over a long period and so powerful was this mysterious attraction that it affected them long after they were caught.

But only in 'uncivilized' countries can we **seek for an explanation of the nature, and observe the effects of that subtile power, which ancient philosophers called the 'WORLD'S SOUL.'**

(ibid)

end

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MAGNETISM OF PLANETS, TIDES & MEN	1
ALCHEMY IN THE FOOD CHAIN	2
WIZARD OF OZ INSPIRES CANBERRA	5
HONOURING OUR ANCESTORS	5
WATER ON MARS	6
RELIGION: THE MIDDLE WAY	7
CORRESPONDENCE	9
DIAMONDS MAY DATE LIFE TO 4.3 BN YRS	12
PUBLICATION REVIEWS	13
WISDOM IN ACTION	14

ALCHEMY IN THE FOOD CHAIN

our relationship with agriculture and food

There's a deep relationship between the production of food and it's grateful consumption that is at the heart of the connection between nature and mankind, and it defines many of our relationships with the natural world.

In modern times, with fewer workers now on the land, this relationship needs new ways to enliven and preserve it... for at stake is our ability to sustain and form physical life.

To the increasing numbers of working men and women who never experience living on the land, who may live in town and cities and work in offices, ideas that **revive a sense of the wonder and the sacred in our agriculture** may help in the way we relate to food.

The idea has an appeal to many students of theosophy, because as the articles in this edition suggest, its the deep interconnections that, when in balance, nourish the whole of humanity. Expressions of these are given in the correspondence on page 9.

How admirable is the generosity and deftness of nature's ways!

How wonderful the **apparent simplicity** of the plants that produce our crops.

The wheat stalk doesn't pretend to be anything very much, but it has **an intentness and energy - a form of wisdom on its own plane** - that means it can easily produce the grain that we need to sustain us. The only proviso being that we look after it and husband it with sound knowledge and care.

In the Secret Doctrine wheat is called "the great boon of agriculture" which Isis-Osiris "the once living Kabiria" (the Titans and early teachers of man) gave to Egypt.

The same is said of the Roman Goddess of plants and the harvest **Ceres** on the island of Sicily, from whom we get our word **cereal**.

Ceres was one of the teachers of man:

"It is the Kabiri who are credited with having revealed, by producing corn or wheat, the great boon of agriculture." (SD ii 364)

And it's no surprise that Ceres is also the **Goddess of motherly love** - the ancients well recognised the love and generosity in the agricultural scheme of nature.

But to inculcate a reverence for it without sounding cranky is something that H.P.Blavatsky, W.Q.Judge and Robert Crosbie did well, and we can avoid that pitfall most easily from having first hand experience of how nature's laws work.

That gives us a balance when discussing diet or speaking about our ideas on food, which is most important, as many hold their ideas on diet very dear to their hearts.

In this W.Q. Judge advises us to be a true cosmopolitan and tolerant of others in the non-essentials, leaving it up to each one to decide for themselves:

"Essentials are the only things on which true occultism and Theosophy **require an agreement**, and such temporary matters as food and other habitual daily things are not essentials.

One may make a mistake, too, of parading too much his or her particular line of life or act. When this is done the whole world is bored, and nothing effective or lasting is gained except a cranky impression."

W.Q.Judge, 'Letters That Have Helped' Me, p 69.

Make reverence for Nature the essential!

The Will and plant growth

It is now common knowledge that UV light affects plant growth in extraordinary ways: but do we really understand why? Ideas on this - new at the time in 19th c. - were investigated through the well-known experiments of General Pleasanton of Philadelphia.

His vines were **"stimulated to an incredible activity by the artificial violet light."** This is now well accepted: however it was reported in Isis that another greater effect was produced by **the concentrated will of a Fakir¹** whose effects were even more remarkable on the growing seed:

¹ The fakirs are ascetics and students of the secret sciences.

This one was said to be an unusually holy man who "has attained to that state of purification at which the spirit becomes nearly freed from its prison, and can produce wonders. His will... has become (a) creative force, and he can command the elements and powers of nature." (ibid)

“... the magnetic fluid emanating from the hands of the fakir effected still more intense and rapid changes in the vital function of **the Indian plants. It attracted and concentrated the akasa, or life-principle, on the germ.** (emphasis added) His magnetism, obeying his will, drew up the akasa in a concentrated current through the plant towards his hands, and by keeping up an unintermitted flow for the requisite space of time, the life-principle of the plant built up cell after cell, layer after layer, with preternatural activity, until the work was done.”

Normal growth is dependent on the atmospheric conditions, in proportion to the amount of light, heat, and moisture, but...

“the fakir, coming to the help of nature with his powerful will and spirit purified from the contact with matter, **condenses the essence of plant-life into its germ, and forces it to maturity ahead of its time.**” (Isis i 139)

Currently there are similar investigations along these lines being conducted by Lynn McTaggart and others in the ‘Intention Experiment’ series (reported previously).

“The music of the spheres”

“Recent discoveries have proved the wonderful properties of the **blue-violet** light... the most powerfully chemical of all, which corresponds with the highest note in the musical scale.

The Rosicrucian theory, that the whole universe is a musical instrument, is the Pythagorean doctrine of the music of the spheres. Sounds and colors are all spiritual numerals; as the seven prismatic rays proceed from one spot in heaven, so **the seven powers of nature, each of them a number, are the seven radiations of the Unity, the central, spiritual SUN.**

“Happy is he who comprehends the spiritual numerals, and perceives their mighty influence!” exclaims Plato. And happy is he who, treading the maze of force-correlations, does not neglect to trace them to this invisible Sun! (Isis i 514)

“The Kabiri were the instructors of mankind in agriculture, because they were the regents over the seasons and Cosmic cycles.

Hence it was they who regulated, as planetary Spirits or “Angels” (messengers), *the mysteries of the art of agriculture.*”

Wisdom in Imperfection

Two Rough, Unfinished and Unique Masterworks

There may be something symbolical in the fact that two masterpieces of esoteric philosophy have blunt proof-reading mistakes in their very opening lines.

Monteiro Lobato, a Brazilian author of 20th century, wrote that as long as a book does not go to press, proof-reading mistakes astutely hide themselves from the sight of the editor and proof-reader. As soon as the book is printed, though, they come out to call one’s attention, and make their best in making jokes and laughing at one’s expense.

If that is true, such elementals are really helpful, in that they test one’s attention. It is also a positive factor that they win some victories here and there. It not only stimulates us into proper attention ; it also reminds us of the unavoidable imperfection of all things external.

Even the greatest masterpieces of Occultism have a rough appearance here and there. Or perhaps they seem to many to be “outdated” – which fortunately makes superficial minds leave them alone. Unless, of course, these minds develop viveka, discernment: for only those who can see through outer mistakes and “outdated” appearances are able to perceive the real, sacred, eternal content of such works.

A couple of examples – one from “Isis Unveiled”, one from “The Secret Doctrine” – will be enough to show the contrast between inner perfection and outer Tests to one’s attention.

On paragraph 1, page 1, volume I of “Isis Unveiled”, on the very opening of that immortal work, the reader learns that, in a certain book of greatest antiquity –

“One of its illustrations represents the Divine Essence emanating from ADAM like a luminous arc proceeding to form a circle; and then, having attained the highest point of its circumference, the ineffable Glory bends back

again, and returns to Earth, bringing a higher type of humanity in its vortex."

Which is wrong, in fact. In the "Mahatma Letters" we have this commentary from one of the Masters, referring to "Isis Unveiled":

"Proof reader helping, a few real mistakes have crept in as on page 1, chapter 1, volume I, where Divine Essence is made emanating from Adam instead of the reverse." (1)

The sentence should really say this:

"One of its illustrations represents ADAM emanating from the Divine Essence like a luminous arc proceeding to form a circle; and then, having attained the highest point of its circumference, the ineffable Glory bends back again, and returns to Earth, bringing a higher type of humanity in its vortex."

We can see something equivalent to this mistake in "The Secret Doctrine" (1888 edition, Theosophy Co., facsimile reprint).

That work does not really start on page 1, though. It is the "Proem" which starts at page 1, volume I. The real starting point is on page 27, where one sees the first Stanza on the Cosmic Evolution. And there we see the obvious mistake, the challenge, the price to pay for our Initiation into the reading: a wrong number in the third verse of the Stanza. After verses number 1 and 2, we see a number "5" instead of "3". After that, verses number 4 and number 5 proceed normally.

What's the lesson in these outer errors? It is as if Life itself wrote in invisible ink to the reader:

"These two works are calculated not only to expand your consciousness towards the infinite, but at the same time they check and verify your ability to open your own eyes and to pay attention each moment to the tests that worldly things provide you all the time. They stimulate you not to worship any outer forms."

One of the great paradoxes in Occultism is the need to develop a truly universal awareness

and at the same time an attention to every small event.

Such bibliographical episodes illustrate the fact that it is a privilege for every student to be able to study once and again – with the much needed support of dictionaries, glossaries and encyclopaedias – every page of such unfinished, rough, unique, priceless masterpieces like "Isis Unveiled" and "The Secret Doctrine".

(1) "The Mahatma Letters to A.P. Sinnett", T.U.P., Pasadena, USA, see Letter IX, p. 45.

Hypnotist goes under the knife

Bernadine Coady, a lady aged 67, used self-hypnosis as pain relief during a one-hour knee operation.

She said she could feel tugging and pulling but no pain when she was operated on without anaesthetic.

"It's all in the mind, it's the mind" she says.

See the short video on the BBC News website at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/health/7496030.stm>

(What is called 'hypnotism' in 21st c. appears to be of various types, from the benign (by qualified and well trained practitioners following strict ethical guidelines who know how to avoid subjugating the will of the patient) to the dangerous and unprincipled "stage hypnosis". The self-hypnotism described here is perhaps a form of mental discipline in which the will controls the consciousness and directs it away from the physical senses, holding it in other fields. Ed.)



The Sphere of Joy

Wizard of Oz inspires Canberra

Architects Walter Griffin and his wife Marion Mahony – designers of Canberra – were inspired by theosophical ideas in L Frank Baum's 'The Wizard of Oz'

Like many progressives in the late Victorian and early Edwardian periods, both in Europe and the US, Maud Gage Baum rejected organised religion and was attracted instead by new thinking about the supernatural - spiritualism, psychic research and theosophy.

The Baums became theosophists in the 1890s, and their four boys, at their grandmother's insistence, were not baptised. They were sent to Chicago's ethical school instead, where religion was not taught.

Traces of the movement's beliefs show in Oz's structure - its matriarchal tendencies, and its freedom from established churches of all kinds.

The Baums were not alone in combining thoroughly modern tendencies with what now seems crankery: **there were two other enthusiastic visitors to the 1893 Chicago fair who were profoundly influenced by its universalist vision.**

The architects Walter Burley Griffin and his future wife Marion Mahony were both working in the office of Frank Lloyd Wright at the time; like the Baums, they were idealistic American democrats, disciples of Whitman and transcendentalism, and eventually theosophists and pioneering eco-planners.

In 1912, they won the international competition to build the new city that would be the capital of Australia. Marion's beautiful, visionary drawings for Canberra look just like a dream of the Emerald City.

It's an odd thought that the nearest realisation of the modern fairy-tale dreams that inspired Baum's Oz - and that aren't the result of stagecraft or film or other illusion - can now be found in the southern desert of Australia.

<http://books.guardian.co.uk/review/story/0,,2291662,00.html>

HONOURING OUR ANCESTORS

A basic tenet of **Confucianism** is the veneration of one's elders.



Even upon death, Chinese ancestors are still considered to be an important part of the family requiring as much attention as they did when they were alive. Family members continue to pray to them for guidance and protection -- making offerings of their favorite food, wine and even paper money to spend in the spirit world. Another important Chinese tradition of venerating deceased ancestors involves visiting the gravesite to sweep it, plant flowers and bring offerings of food.

Jan Lee, a third-generation Chinatown, New York resident describes this tradition. "The connection to the ancestors is something that I think we all feel important to us," Lee explains. "So it's never been an idea of obligation. It's our choice."

"When my grandfather was planning for the future of the Lee family, he had the foresight to purchase a large family plot in Evergreen Cemetery. It had all the benefits of being not only a beautiful site, but a great place for cosmic energy -- feng shui."

From "Sweeping the Graves" at :

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/religionandethics/week1146/belief.html>

(Theosophy teaches that in the after death state the real man, the Ego, is quite unconnected with the physical and astral planes.

One may detect some inconsistency between this and what is now accepted Confucian practice of giving paper money to the departed!

Clues to the esoteric and original meaning of Confucius' ideas are hinted at in the quotes below. Ed.)

"I only hand on: I cannot create new things. I believe in the ancients and therefore I love them."

from the "Life of Confucius," p. 96.

Confucius "was "a very ancient legislator in historical chronology, though a very modern Sage in the World's History... **"emphatically a transmitter, not a maker"**".

SD Introductory, xxxvii

Forget words : catch ideas

"A fish-trap is for catching fish; once you've caught the fish, you can forget about the trap.

A rabbit-snare is for catching rabbits; once you've caught the rabbit, you can forget about the snare.

Words are for catching ideas; once you've caught the idea, you can forget about the words.

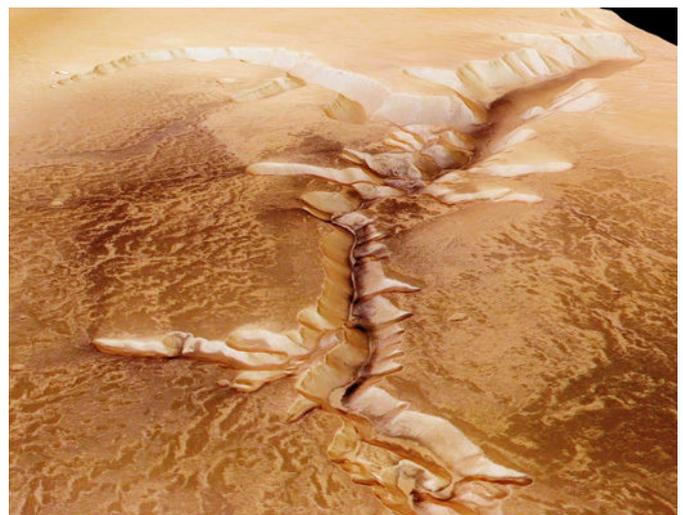
Where can I find a person who knows how to forget about words so I can have a few words with him?"

- Chuang Tzu

Water on Mars



The extraordinary view of Echus Chasma, one of the largest **water sources** on the Red Planet.



Mars' "Echus Chasma" looking 3000 km north



Fine detail from a High Resolution Stereo Camera

Religion: the Middle Way

(This was written to address valid criticisms in correspondence regarding the article on Tony Blair's Faith Foundation in the June 08 AT. Ed.)

**Between churches and materialism
Theosophy points to an enlightened
balance that places man in harmony
with his brothers and with Nature.**

Introduction

As the correspondent suggests, the changes of the last few centuries have meant that the dogmatic hold of established religions over people's minds has lessened. This is in general an unquestionable universal good, as people take responsibility for their lives and work out their own relationship with the god within. All this means that it would be doubly beneficial were there no other consequences of the fall of 'religion'.

However - and this is important - the natural religious instinct in man, the reverence for Nature and her ways, the brotherly feeling, the idea of something higher inside one, has also declined with the rise in gross materialism.

The extraordinary successes of the sciences of the material world have, in the West, given many benefits, but they have also given rise to a frightening array of temptations that were unknown for the many, but who now have far greater wealth than ever before coupled with fewer moderating and restraining influences.

Theosophical study helps us present the optimism that there is a better way for the world, and in spite of all the difficulties, there has always been those who are ready to struggle with ideas, to debate with others and to try to find that better, innovative path.

The Greeks of ancient times held that there was a golden mean, a middle way, between

the two extremes of live choices, and it must be sought and understood.

In our case H.P.Blavatsky correctly predicted that sacerdotalism and materialism would be the extremes that would afflict our society.

The answer seems to lie in the golden mean, the one that is the most reasonable and beneficial to man's development. It is part of the theosophist's work to show that path.

But the question has been raised on what can be done until the genuine path is more widely known and disseminated?

Until theosophical ideas have started to form a newly revived and purified religious feeling which H.P.Blavatsky wrote about (not a religion per se)... the problem is that until then people will have limited knowledge and hence little choice. Thus many may be left in an even worse state than before when they had some religion, albeit a defective one.

HPB writes in the Key that:

"Theosophy is like the white ray of the spectrum, and every religion only one of the seven prismatic colours... Yet, as the sun of truth rises higher and higher on the horizon of man's perception, and each coloured ray gradually fades out until it is finally re-absorbed in its turn."¹

She says "**gradually fades out**" - and in true esoteric study even small words have meaning, where very few are misplaced. As an example, see also the article "**Wisdom in Imperfection**" on page 3.

The question of how people maintain their balance if their religion quickly disappears and disintegrates entirely without any intermediate stages of reform is a difficult one. If this happens many would then be left in a spiritual vacuum with little informed choice until the new beneficent ideas of philanthropy and brotherhood have expanded to fill its place.

As possession is nine tenths of the law, the aim is perhaps to avoid creating a blankness into which popular materialism will seem to be the only proposition.

¹ from The Key to Theosophy, p 58-9 hardback ed.

In the Key the next question hypothesises that:

"all the great religions are derived from Theosophy, and that it is by assimilating it that the world will be finally saved from the curse of its great illusions and errors?"

HPB replies "Precisely so."

So the idea given is for the assimilation of theosophical ideas into old religions that will produce the new 'religions' that she speaks of. These are nothing like the old and will not be religions as we know them.

Assimilation must come with reform and it is partly from the study of the great religions and philosophies that we begin to revolt against dogmatism and intolerance.

So it is legitimate to argue that the decline of the old religions must be accompanied by the rise in the reformed, new forms of real spirituality. Unless this balance is maintained there will be a rise in popular barbarism caused by a too strongly prevailing materialism.

We now see that the decline in the religious instinct is stretching the fabric of society in the West (felt mostly by those who are poorly educated and equipped to adapt to this change) and likewise in the less well developed countries.

It's the loss of ethics and restraint that has led to the West's huge material appetites, both for food (see front page article) and material goods. This is causing much unnecessary suffering, and it is something that, for all his apparent hypocrisy, faults and seeming contradictions, Tony Blair - and perhaps even more so the new UK Prime Minister Gordon Brown - feel very keenly.

As a footnote to this, it is noted that this year to date there have been two priests (with possibly more who have not revealed their affiliations) who have joined the Theosophical Correspondence Courses. This is a small indication of the process of assimilation and reform that is going on all around us.

Encouraging dialogue is not to support dogma, especially if the voices of moderation are theosophically-inspired.

Sincere debate and freedom of expression will lead to better understanding between religions, and that brings a beneficial tolerance.

The churches and religions should know that without change they will not survive into the next century. It is their Karma that will catch up with their past and either help or hinder their ability to adapt and **help their adherents** or to fail and so fade out as an irrelevance.

Each one in their own way can help in the work of encouraging freethinking and sincere search, that work is there to do.

The truth sets us free, and using that mental freedom to promulgate it further on as best we can, the rest can be left to the law.

Warmth and Ashes, Light and Ashes

The WALA company is based on a school of early 20th-century European philosophy known as anthroposophy. Developed by the Austrian theorist Rudolf Steiner, the philosophy is predicated on the existence of a spiritual world that can be accessed by the human intellect.

WALA uses plants and flowers to make their increasingly popular but expensive line of German natural cosmetics, Dr. Hauschka.

"It demands a higher level of consciousness and a force of will to garden at this level... there's a point where gardening becomes an art."



Biodynamic hand cultivation of plants and flowers

CORRESPONDENCE

Friday, July 25, 2008

Dear AT

"Blair launches faith foundation"

'Idealism becomes the new realism'... Blair went on to cite a poll which showed the percentage of people in most Muslim countries who said religion was an important part of their lives is in the high 80s and 90s, while in the United States it is about 70% and in Europe under 40%.

In Europe the importance of religion has dropped below 40%.

Well, perhaps this is exactly the reason why Europe has - apart from the Serbian/Kosovan debacle which was also religiously inspired - remained relatively spared from war mongering in its recent history.

As the Mahatma's point out in "The Mahatma Letters", it is religion which for the most part has been the cause of war.

Foundations like Mr. Blair's are 50 in a dozen and looking at the present state of the world there seems to have been little progress made from the side of these efforts.

Perhaps more foundations ought to be launched making efforts to erase the cause ("faith") of so many wars in human history and restore "religion" to its rightful place, i.e. "to bind together".

Unless our memory fails us rapidly, we ought to remind ourselves that it is Mr. Blair and his government playing "puppet on a string" for Big Brother Bush, that has led us into another religious debacle lasting for over 5 years now and of which the end is not in sight! I'm afraid Mr. Blair's efforts may be nothing more than shoe polish on his tarnished image having been associated with the "War effort" in the Middle East and has all this wrapped up in a nice box which he calls the "Tony Blair Faith Foundation"!

The above is not a criticism of Mr. Blair as a person, as he has been a very good prime minister for England, but the criticism is geared towards his own and his late government's misguided ideas for which he now privately seems to repent through his foundation and portray himself as the new peacekeeper of "the faith".

Very interesting Aquarian, thanks,

Pierre Wouters

Belgium

(A reply from one of the Editors is given on p 7.)

On reverence for food: a dialogue on "Grace"

between two Canadian students

1. Dear L

Here is the Grace often delivered by my uncle who first heard it at a T.S. retreat in Oregon, "Twin Oaks":

"We lift our hearts in gratitude to Thee, Lord of Heaven and Earth,

Bless this food and let it be a channel for your life and love,

And as these lives are here sacrificed for us,

We offer our own in sacrifice to Thee."

It's a beautiful statement and meditation before a meal. Personally I use it as a reminder to offer thanks to the forces behind the growth and nourishment of and in the food.

I think the part that most stirs me to sensitivity is the acknowledgement of these processes and how grateful I am for their sacrifice for me. That alone is often a launch into thoughts of continuing the trust and the use of this energy toward positive outcomes. It was grown by love and it is only logical that it should be used in love.

In gratitude, B

2. Dear B:

I agree with your intention in prayer. When ever I have been in a situation to say the lord's prayer, I think the same thoughts as you. It is amazing how esoteric the scriptures and prayers are. There are many Christians and others in orthodox religious expressions, who understand this and remain in the church, they keep a silent reverence and offer their thoughts only to those who seek them out.

The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father (Higher Self)

Who art in Heaven (Eternally Present)

Hallowed be thy name (say it rarely and only in service to All)

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done

In Service (I will always act for and as the Self of All)

Give us this day our daily bread (we are instructed every night with the bread of wisdom and knowledge and all that belongs to the God plane)

And forgive us our trespasses (every meditation we go over our actions and let them go only keeping the lesson learned)

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

Lead us not in to temptation (may I recognize it and stay out of its loop).....

Here is another mantra to contemplate.

"And this the Christ in All and All men (thinkers) **brothers be**

One source of Light and Life and Love
the Soul's own Radiancy
the Soul's own Radiancy.

Goodwill to all that lives a waking time of Heart
In service that the Masters teach
Rejoice what ere your part
Rejoice what ere your part.

Just a few words I grew up with and know with heart,

... Sincerely L

3. Hello L:

In the Lord's Prayer, I receive gratification of the assurity of a plan at work in "Thy kingdom come" (certainty of the Plan to work, connected directly to -) Thy Will be done..." It WILL happen.

...

Continuing into the part of forgiveness as we forgive others is pure Karma. We can adjust our karmic outcome/load by actively forgiving others for the hurts they inflict that affect us directly or even indirectly.

Just today I was surfing the famous sayings of Confucius and came often to the rewards in growth when we get beyond the words in order to grasp understanding. Now to find a way to share once again these sayings with all students!

... I must close. I have questions – so many questions. One is my inability to rationalize the cruelty in the animal kingdom of the mortal pain and suffering inflicted by carnivores on herbivores.

Empirically, I have to accept the reality, but I don't understand the necessity of this existence.

Sincere thanks for your guidance and example, B

(This dialogue shows how the connection with Nature's provision and abundance was taught in earlier traditions. The articles on pages 1 and 2 explore man's connection to our food in terms of his magnetism. Ed)

Support W.Q.Judge's case

Extracts from letters concerning the Judge Case which have been written to the President of the Adyar TS every year in April:

1. To the Editors

I'm sending to you this letter to Adyar TS...

The letter is self-explanatory. ...

Laura Leshchiner

Mrs Radha Burnier
International President
The Theosophical Society
Adyar, Chennai 600 020
India

Dear Mrs Burnier

My letter is strictly personal¹, but it may give you an idea of how important it is to make the truth about William Judge available as soon as possible.

I don't know much about the sequence of events which led up the distortion of his image and the belittling of his name in the theosophical circles of the time.

I don't understand the reason why you don't currently open all the documents you possess to the world to see the truth. I am a translator of Judge's writings from English into Russian.

For 12 years, from the first time I became familiar with theosophy, when for the first time I took in my hands his little book of The Ocean Theosophy, and up until now, every day of my life, I have always been under the influence of his teaching, his great heroic personality, his kind guidance and his inspirations. I have studied English in order to understand better the ideas he offered in his books (Emphasis added.)

Because of Judge, I became a better person, mother, grandmother, friend and theosophist. I translated into Russian; The Ocean of Theosophy, Letters That Have Helped Me, The Epitome of Theosophy, and 52 of Judge's articles published in many magazines, mostly "The Path".

This is the first time that these books were translated into Russian. They (the 52 articles will be published soon), were very well received by the Russian readers.

If this kind of affection and this kind of influence, if my testimony and my work mean nothing to you and to members of Adyar TS, then you are taking on yourself a big burden of knowing truth and hiding it from students of theosophy from all over the world.

It is very important, particularly now, when the whole world is in ecological, social, and economical trouble to clear the name of one of the best and most devoted students of H.P.B.

¹ In the sense of being one's personal feeling and testimony: see reply number 3 below.

He deserves it for he spent every day of his very short life helping people to recognize why they are causing these troubles and why they should make every effort to change themselves.

It is important that his work for the Theosophical Society of 120 years ago stay as alive and vibrant today as it was when he was here working hand in hand with H.P.B.

Yours sincerely

Laura Leshchiner

2. Dear Laura

Thank you for your letter which is well received...

Can we send a copy to others and if so, will it be OK to publish it in July's Aquarian Theosophist?

With best wishes, The Editors

3. Dear Editors

Thank you for your kind words. You can use this letter for any related purpose and in as many way as you find it helpful. I say "personal" for it is about one person's feelings and testimony.

This letter is just a little "Thank you" to Judge and to all of you who raised your voices to defend the noblest purpose.

Thank you very much for AT.

Best wishes to you. Laura

Every cloud has a silver lining!

From a correspondent

"Solar dyes give a guiding light"

This is interesting. If people put their minds to it we could become free of oil barons quicker so the black mailing oil producer would loose.

May be they already sense that and try to make the best of it; also each cloud has a silver lining, as it may force bright minds to devise other ways, less polluting to keep us warm!

O.

"A new way of capturing the energy from the Sun could increase the power generated by solar panels tenfold, a team of American scientists has shown."

"It makes sense to coat the side of very tall buildings with these new panes," Professor Marc Baldo, one of the researchers on the team, told BBC News.

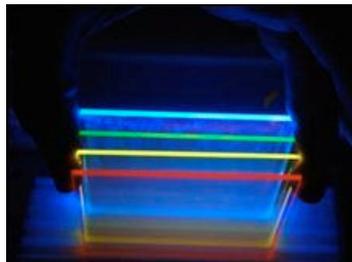


Current solar plants need large mobile mirrors to produce energy

"It's not far fetched at all."

"What we have is a piece of glass, with a very thin layer of paint or dye on top," explained Professor Baldo.

"The light comes in and hits the dye and which absorbs it and re-emits the light, but now it's inside the glass so it bounces along there until it gets to the edge. So you only need to



mount the solar cells around the edge."

The technology collects and focuses different colours of sunlight

The idea was first developed in the 1970s but was abandoned because much of the light energy was lost en route to the cell.

But using its expertise in optical techniques and a specific mixture of dyes, the MIT team has found a way to make the light travel much farther without losing as much energy along the way.

Full story at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/technology/7501476.stm>

PHILLY - LIFT SHARE?

July 1st 2008

Will and Jerome,

Another great issue. Thanks !

Are either of you going to the ITC conference near Philadelphia?

I'm planning to go a day early and stay a day late and would be happy **to share a hotel room and maybe a car with 1 or 2 others...**

From a regular reader and correspondent

(If you have any ideas on ways to keep the cost of the summer meetings and gatherings down please contact the organisers or the AT. Ed.)

2nd July 2008

Odin, did you see this article on BBC online? It's quite interesting from a theosophical point of view.

Regards, Rudy

DIAMONDS MAY DATE 'EARLIEST LIFE' TO 4.3 BN YRS

Tiny slivers of diamond forged on an infant Earth may contain the earliest traces of life, a study has shown.

Analysis of the crystals showed they contain a form of carbon often associated with plants and bacteria.

The rare gems were found inside zircon crystals, formed a few hundred million years after the Earth came into being.



If the carbon was derived from primitive organisms, it would push back the date for life appearing on Earth by around 500 million years, to beyond 4.25 billion years ago. The Earth itself is just 4.6 billion years old.

More at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/science/nature/7483451.stm>

PUBLICATION REVIEWS

"My Stroke of Insight"

by Jill Bolte-Taylor

with review by Judy Tart

Friends,

Back in April I recommended a YouTube video of neuroanatomist Jill Bolte Taylor discussing her stroke and the incredible experience she had at a stroke. That video is still there at

<http://well.blogs.nytimes.com/2008/03/13/when-a-brain-scientist-suffers-a-stroke/?emc=eta1>

My wife has now finished reading Taylor's book, My Stroke of Insight: A Brain Scientist's Personal Journey and is so impressed she wrote a review for friends of ours. I'm going to share it below. I've only had time to read part of the book, but it is indeed impressive!

--Charles Tart

Maybe you've seen Jill Bolte Taylor's video on TED or YouTube. She's a neuroanatomist who had a stroke, from which it took 8 years for her to fully recover. Both the video and her book, My Stroke of Insight, describe what happened, but the book is far more detailed. She was able to observe in great detail what was happening to her, moment by moment.

As she lost her verbal, cognitive, left-brain functions, she found herself in a completely altered state of consciousness - vast, peaceful, and all-knowing - which she believes to be the right brain, though it sounds very much like a description of a mystical state, and also very like what are called "near-death" experiences.

"As the language centers in my left hemisphere grew increasingly silent and I became detached from the memories of my life, I was comforted by an expanding sense of grace... my consciousness soared into an all-knowingness, a "being at one" with the universe..."

Her account of how she overcame the temptation to just slip into euphoria and peace and was able to summon help and save her life is fascinating, but just as interesting, to me, is how she consciously restructured her brain during her long recovery from her stroke. As she regained her verbal skills, she found that she began running negative circuits that had been active in her previous life.

She found she no longer wanted to live this way, and determined to give energy to positive circuits, joy and compassion and not reinforce her old negativities. She suggests that all of us can do the same, since our brains are not fixed entities as was previously thought, but are capable of great changes throughout life.

Finally, for anyone who has a family member suffering from a stroke, she has a wonderful set of suggestions for how to work with them and understand what they may be experiencing in a very deep and compassionate way - pretty far from what we currently do in our treatment and rehabilitation of stroke victims (or any form of brain damage).

I can't recommend this little book highly enough.

Judy Tart

BBC DOCUMENTARY REVIEW

NDEs & a new psychology

"...we intend to prove that modern science, owing to physiology, is itself on the eve of discovering that **consciousness is universal** — thus justifying Edison's "dreams."

"Unfortunately for us, this age of ours is not conducive to the development of moral courage. And yet there are exceptions... and physiology — whose destiny it is to become the hand-maiden of Occult truths — **has not let the latter remain without their witnesses.**"

- H. P. Blavatsky ("Kosmic Mind")

"The Day I Died. NDE + Consciousness Documentary Part 4 of 6 : see link

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WA37uNa3VGU>

WISDOM IN ACTION

Writing to the press

I am very sorry that so many efforts on your part to influence the public press have been unsuccessful, but I feel sure that you will ultimately be successful. I am inclined to think that you will almost certainly find that articles written by Theosophists on the spot will obtain more ready admission than if you send them articles which have already been printed.

They have a more local colouring, and therefore a greater local interest. . . . I feel sure that by persistent and steady work, such as you are doing, you will win your way, and that even the most conservative papers will find it to their interest to insert articles.

Both _____ and _____ are two weak, half-corroded spots. It is due to

- (a) gossip about others, including me and others in the three lands;
- (b) to the personal element;
- (c) most of all to the absence of real faith in the Masters, for wherever that is not strong the work goes down; (d) to a sort of fear of public opinion; (e) to incomplete grasp of the elementary truths; and so on.

Stick to it that the way is to do all you can and let the results go.

You have nothing to do with results; the other side will look out for that.

This is really the culmination of the work of ages, and it would be a poor thing, indeed, if the Lodge had to depend alone on our puny efforts. Hence, go on and keep the spirit that you have only to proceed, and leave the rest to time and the Lodge. If all the other members had the same idea, it would be better for the old

T.S. But let us hope on, for we have some any way, and that is more than none.

You are right, too, about The Secret Doctrine: it is a mine, and is the magazine for the warrior Theosophists, which is the description of you and me and some others.

Let us all be as silent as we may be, and work, work: for as the enemy rages, they waste time, while work shines forth after all is over, and we will see that as they fought we were building. Let that be our watchword. . . . I hope no weak souls will be shaken off their base. If they get on their own base they will not be shaken off.

from p 122 Letters That Have Helped Me,
by W.Q.Judge



Buddha in the moonlight

Next month : Robert Crosbie's writings

"The Friendly Philosopher"