



THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

President: Mr. Tim Boyd

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

Brothers and Sisters,

As a long time member of the Theosophical Society, I can remember the feeling of enthusiasm and the upwelling of aspiration I felt when I first joined. Inwardly I knew I had taken an important step. We all have various reasons for joining. For some it is because our parents were members. We grew up in a home where the value of the work that this organization is undertaking and its approach to Truth played upon us constantly. It was not something we had to think about or analyze. Theosophy pervaded the atmosphere of our home, and became part of the fiber of our being. There are others who came upon the Society's teachings later in life and found in it a powerful conceptual structure, rich in information about the planes of Nature, the meaning of spiritual evolution, and a history of great people who have associated themselves with this wisdom and with the movement of the Perennial Wisdom throughout time. There are others who encountered the teachings through some person who was alive with a profound connection to these truths and found that something moved them. Something inside of them responded to the life that flowed through that individual.

Once we join the actual work begins. Nobody who finds their way to the Theosophical Society is a young soul. In order to have an appreciation for this there must have been many lifetimes of effort towards unfoldment. We do not get here by accident. Many join with the idea that now they find themselves among a group of holy people who have overcome the shackles of the world and can be looked to for faultless guidance on the spiritual path. Instead they find themselves among people just like us, people who have had an experience that confirms a deeply sensed Truth, but who are far from perfect.

In joining the TS we are saying 'Yes' to something: 'Yes, there is an abiding, overarching, ever-present Truth, 'yes' I believe I can link myself to that truth and express it in my life. And, yes, the three Objects of the Theosophical Society ring true to my inner consciousness.' Even if two out of three of the Objects do not yet ring true, it suffices as long as the first one does: that this Society came into being to form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity without regard to any of the humanly created separations along lines of race, creed, gender, caste, or color. We refer only to a small number of distinctions in the first Object of the TS, but we all know that the levels of discrimination and limitation in our thinking are endless. So we say 'Yes, this Universal Brotherhood is a possibility' and that it is also possible to shape our life in such a way that it can express this great Truth, first in ourselves, then in our homes, and then in the world.

This is not an other-worldly teaching demanding that we abandon our family and friends, and go off to some secluded place. Ours is a much more difficult approach to Truth than merely walking away to a cave. What it demands from each one of us is that we find some measure of realization right where we are. In the middle of all the conflicts and strife that every normal life involves. Truth is not absent from 'normal life'. It is not a retreat from the world. The great challenge for us is that this path demands that we learn to embrace the

world with all of its imperfections. That is a much more demanding and difficult task. The beauty of it is that we say 'Yes' knowingly to all of this.

'Yes' is a powerful word. What we find is that this word is an expression of a state of consciousness that can be described as a state of openness. It means that we are willing to recognize that it is part of our condition as human beings that there are fears we encounter, and that, in the normal course of the world, fear is the predominant underlying emotion that seems to keep us apart from one another. It also means that there is a commitment to recognize, and in that recognition, to dissipate these false idols of fears, discriminations, and hatreds that seem to be the normal fare of this world.

The TS is a powerful organization and its power is not solely in its members. It came into being from a much more profound source. The Masters of the Wisdom, the Mahatmas, the Elder Brothers---these are the real founders of this movement. We, its members, are certainly imperfect. In our work within the TS it is helpful to remember that we will always find imperfections and difficulties with the various personalities encountered within this organization, but behind every person that joins something greater is standing. If we can train ourselves to look for it, we will certainly see the signs of a guiding presence – the awakening Higher Self.

When I joined the TS the step I was taking was described as forming another link in a golden chain. It is a chain that extends from the very low to the highest heights of consciousness, from a distant past to an unimaginable future. Our recognition of this inner call is necessarily heard, and the appropriate response comes to us continually. It is life itself that responds, presenting us with the necessary guidance in each moment. Our work is to listen, to remove the scales and see with newly opened eyes. We embrace the work of awakening, like from a sleep, and deepening our awareness. This work will grace us over the course of our lifetime and will be a source of blessing to us, to the people close to us, and to this world. As new members of the Theosophical Society, this is an important step that you are taking. I salute you for the step, for your courage and for your willingness. In any way this Brotherhood that you have become a part of can be of help, you should not hesitate to call upon it both outwardly and inwardly.

I close this letter with a prayer, the Universal Prayer written by Annie Besant, which as new members you may be saying often as time goes by.

*O hidden life vibrant in every atom,
O hidden light shining in every creature,
O hidden love embracing all in oneness,
May each who feels himself as one with thee,
Know he is therefore one with every other.*

Peace and Blessings

Tim Boyd

President

Postscript:

There is an Esoteric School of Theosophy (ES) which is administered separately from the Theosophical Society and which is open to TS members, after two years of active membership, who are willing to abide by some basic conditions directed towards a life of sincere altruism and harmless living. The School was originally founded by H.P. Blavatsky in 1888 and is based on the principles of Raja Yoga. The ES provides one avenue for living a Theosophical life, not only through the study of Divine Wisdom, but through its understanding, assimilation, and practice. Its members voluntarily undertake the work required in preparing for the spiritual Path. A spirit of harmony with all is emphasized within the School, as well as support for the TS and its activities.