

THE THEOSOPHICAL WORKER

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ADYAR

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The Greatness Campaign By the Editor

IN connection with the Greatness Movement I have been thinking that it might be regarded as a definite subsidiary activity to The Theosophical Society, and I have therefore thought of three Objects for it corresponding to the three great Objects of The Theosophical Society:

1. To form a common meeting-ground for the discovery and active reverence of Universal Greatness as the Heart of the Universal Brotherhood of all Life.

2. To encourage the study and understanding of Greatness as manifest in every kingdom of nature.

3. To investigate the Science of Greatness in its deeper and less recognized expressions.

We must pool the Greatnesses of the world so that they may become a common background for every faith and for every nation.

We must learn that Greatness is by no means confined to the human or superhuman kingdoms but is no less splendid in every other kingdom of nature—in the animal kingdom, in the vegetable kingdom, in the mineral kingdom, and in all other kingdoms yet to be known by man. We must seek the Greatness of those whose Greatness has not yet been discovered by the world, whose Greatness shines outside the world and beckons it onwards into the future. There are so many great ones to whom Greatness would be denied by the ordinary standards of Greatness.

We must realize that the recognition of Greatness stirs to greater unfoldment not only the budding Greatness in ourselves but also the Greatness which is the subject of our recognition.

To reverence the splendour of a flower, of an animal, of a tree, of a river, of a sea, of a

hill, of a mountain, of an angel, of a mineral, is to make it more splendid still, as well as to advance us nearer towards our own splendours. The Way of Growth is indeed the Way of Reverence.

And do we not know that every stage on the Path of Holiness is marked by an expanding sense of and reverence for Greatness, a delight in Greatness, an ecstasy in Greatness, until on the summits of the Path the sense of reverence is so exalted and magical that the whole world and every living creature in it move a step onwards to their own respective Greatnesses.

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MIRACLES OF DELIGHT

There's not a man

That lives who hath not known his god-like hours.—WORDSWORTH

Let there be miracles in your lives—miracles of delight, miracles of happiness, miracles of the Love of God, miracles of joy in your fellow-creatures, miracles of daily thankfulness that—shining beacons of light—are sent into an outer world of darkness to show to men the Way of Light, that there may come again in their lives the miracles they have lost awhile.

If you know Us and love Us you will know that in Our lives these miracles ever abide, for they are the messengers of God to remind all creatures of His Omnipresence, and We cherish them as the sparkling jewels of His nature in us.

Let these miracles shed blessings upon yourselves and upon all life around you.

Let them show you the way to the Light which is yourself, so that you may shine more and more to your own delight and to the delight of all around you.

Let them show you the way to the Light which is your faith and to the Light which is your nation.

Let them show you the way to the Light which is in all men, so that you perceive a great Brotherhood of Light which is the world.

These glorious miracles never desert you, though sometimes you may turn your backs upon them and even declare they are not there.

Yet in some abode of your being you are ever rejoicing in the blessings they bestow upon you.

And in all abodes of your being they are ceaselessly shining, only waiting for you to quit any darkness you have entered and to become transfigured in their Light.

Joy, delight, happiness, love, thankfulness, devotion, aspiration, peace—these are among the miracles with which the God of miracles bestrews the path of suffering and darkness.

Many there are to whom miracles are few and far between, for they are still slaves of the path and tread their way heavily, wearily and often without hope.

But some there are who tread the selfsame way as if their feet hardly touched the ground, for they live among miracles which to them are real, for they no longer allow their feet to sink deeply in the mire in helpless enslavement to the unreal.

Theosophy in India: The Coming Convention

REPORTS of Lodge work, lecturing tours and Federation Conferences in India strike a note of optimism and encouragement. It seems as if there is a real revival of interest in Theosophy, and a realization that here is to be found the light which the world so sorely needs in its present troubles, and that specifically India needs pre-eminently for the solving of communal discords and the achievement of national unity. Let down on all sides by her present political leaders, thoughtful Indians fall back on the great principles which they have been neglecting of late, but which alone can guide the peoples in their post-war reconstruction towards world-brotherhood.

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To begin with the southern activities, within the last six months Brō. S. A. Ranganatham and Parthasarathy Iyengar have done much touring, attending the Mysore Conference and others in the Nellore and Bellary

Districts, and visiting Chittoor, Kurnool, Guntakul and many other places, reviving dormant memberships and enlisting new. The Kallepalli Lodge celebrated its Seventh Anniversary with great enthusiasm, under the inspiring guidance of Bro. G. V. Subba Rao, and the Karnataka Federation held a public meeting in honour of its President, Rajadharma Pravina Dewan Bahadur K. S. Chandrasekhara Aiyar, on his attaining 75 years. His poetically-worded reply to the address is well worth lengthy quotation, but I must content myself with a short extract. "I have, in any case, the consolation which the wayside rivulet has, that the flowing waters may wear away its banks and scoop out its bed, but cannot destroy its identity of being; they may even leave it a slightly broader and deeper stream."

Further north Sitapur has opened a Theosophical Girls' College now in addition to its Montessori School, and reports besides a

number of healthy and useful activities. Bro. Beni Prasad Bhatnagar is a tower of strength there, and the General Secretary has spared time to visit them. Patna as usual is active, a useful innovation there being a Theosophical Library, with a membership of 140 enrolled from the outside public, organized by a young brother; Raja Ram Rastogi.

On the western side, Bro. Bhagvat of Thanā has toured extensively, giving lectures which have provoked much interest and enthusiasm. Poona has the advantage of the accession to them on his retirement of Bro. W. L. Chiplunkar, whose immediate resumption of activities shows that he is by no means past energetic work. The Bombay Federation held a highly successful conference under the presidency of Bro. Sri Ram of Adyar, and the Gujarat and Kathiawar representatives assembled at Bhavnagar, presided over ably by Miss Indumati Mehta.

Still farther west and north, our indefatigable Bro. Prof. Kanga has toured Sind, Kashmir and the Punjab, as well as Delhi. He reports finding much eagerness in his audiences for the message he brings. Quetta, in farthest west, is building a new Hall in place of one destroyed by the earthquake, and reports itself as consciously "on the verge of a new life." It seems to be courageously and successfully tackling the stiff task of reconciling religious differences.

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Now, as we write, our northern brothers are receiving in many places the inestimable stimulus of a visit from the President and Rukmini Devi, and the enthusiasm which we have noted already in the kindling will flame high, to culminate in the Convention at Benares which will end their tour.

A great opportunity lies open to the members of The Theosophical Society now to serve India, if they are big enough to take it. So far we have to acknowledge many failures! We have ever left too much to our leaders, and not

even always given them complete loyalty in co-operation. But today we realize in sorrow our mistakes and their fruit, and again have a chance to partially redeem them. The Indian public are turning to our Society for help in a desperate urgency, and it does not want us to be mere echoes of popular shibboleths, but bold exponents of the Ancient Wisdom that is ever new, and opponents of shams and false remedies for the world's ills, not based on sound principles of life and thought. We must not be too accommodating, but must courteously decline to waste time in conciliating hostile forces that impede the Masters' work.

Weekly and monthly we are being reminded from Adyar of the cross-roads at which India stands in her destiny, and the help all of us can give, small or great, to speed her aright, or at least to guard her from disaster. Not much longer will the present opportunity be open, for the World War is drawing to a close, and wrongs still unsolved at its close will harden themselves again, for further perpetuation. Forget personal and national grudges of the past in the blinding light of a Dawn of which the splendour has been unveiled to us in order that we may pass on its light. Let all, who can, come to Convention at Benares to renew our dedication to the service of India and humanity, and to receive our marching-orders, so that our service may not be ill-directed through ignorance or prejudice. Our President will sound the Masters' note at the Convention in no uncertain tone, and Rukmini Devi and Bro. Raja will be there to reinforce him. Those of us who may be prevented from coming in person must be present in mind and heart, and may do as much as any to prepare beforehand for it, and thus ensure its full effectiveness. Probably this will be the last war-convention, and our Kurukshetra must now be either won or lost!

—HELEN VEALE

The First of December 1944

ON the birthday of any person, great or small, it is customary to invoke the Blessings for him of happiness, prosperity and strength.

What is the need of the smallest of us to invoke Blessings upon the greatest? The greater the person, the greater his responsibility, and the more is the need for invoking that Blessing. Every day, in every Temple, in every ceremony, the greatest Blessings are invoked upon all office-bearers, for the moment an office is assumed, that moment notice is given to the opposition forces that here is a person worthy of being attacked. The moment a person becomes an Ishvara, a King, a President of The Theosophical Society, he holds not merely an office of honour but an office of responsibility, and that moment these forces say: "Here is a person of whom we should take special notice." That is the reason why we invoke Blessings upon the Ishvara, because there is the greatest danger to Him that His work may be frustrated. For every Rama there will be a mighty Ravana and for the smaller Ramas there will also be their Ravanas. To help, the smallest of us need to do our bit.

The office of the President of The Theosophical Society is no bed of roses. Very few realize what a responsible, what a difficult job it is. Apart from the person, the President's office deserves our highest devotion and loyalty and our invocation of Blessing from the Highest upon it. Since the attention of the opposition side is upon it, we must try to do our part on this side, and that is the object of our invoking all the Devas and Guardian Angels. Therefore I say: "Great Angels and Devas! Come and bless our President, who this day has attained one more milestone, who, because of his office, bears a much greater responsibility than ours,

and, because of that, deserves Your Benediction and Blessing."

—G. SRINIVASA MURTI

[The office of the President of The Theosophical Society is not a bed of roses, except on December the 1st when all the thorns are out of sight and the roses are strewn over them, and I can get a day of rest on the roses without being constantly pricked by the thorns. The office of the President of The Theosophical Society is not a bed of roses but it is a tremendous opportunity, and I can only hope that when my time comes for translation elsewhere my Elders who have placed me here will deem me as having been worthy of the trust They reposed in me.

—G. S. A.]

A ROYAL HEART

To the President:

his 66th birthday: 1st December 1944.

Behold a precious gem,
A king of minerals;
It shines and shines with fire
and wins the way of Beauty,
Wherein I saw a portrait:
It was of you.

Behold a handsome tree,
A monarch of the plants;
It grows and grows in strength
and treads the way of Greatness,
Wherein I glimpsed a likeness:
It was of you.

Behold a mighty theme,
A masterpiece of man;
It speaks and sings of love
and of the way of Service,
Wherein I read a story:
It was of you.

—D. R. DINSHAW

Adyar News and Notes

THE TOUR

THE President and Rukmini Devi, with an entourage of secretaries, young Kalākshetra artists, musicians, etc., are making a highly successful tour. First, Oct. 20—31, was visited Hyderabad, Deccan, capital of the largest Indian State. This was Rukmini's first visit here. She gave a dance recital to a crowded house which included the Prime Minister and other dignitaries. Speeches were made by the President and others. She gave a second public recital, by invitation, again to a packed house, and gave talks to the Keys High School and the Y.M.C.A. Dr. Arundale presided over the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of Hyderabad Lodge and addressed members' meetings. He was royally welcomed at a Scout function, gave an informal talk to a large Boys' School, addressed the Oosmania University, and delivered a public lecture on "Peace or War?" The Hyderabad club gave them a reception and there were several other social gatherings to meet and welcome them.

Then Bombay, which gave them a great welcome. The President repeated his address on "Peace or War?" Rukmini gave her dance recital, and produced the dance drama by Kalākshetra artists—both went off excellently. Rukmini gave a talk about these to the Progressive Group at the Taj Mahal, the hall was packed and the talk well reported by *The Times of India*. The Bombay visit was brief, Nov. 1st to 4th.

On the 15th they were welcomed at Indore Station by a Scout Guard of Honour; followed a very busy 10 days' week. At a members' meeting the President admitted seven new members. He gave addresses on Education at the Holkar College and the Christian College; a public lecture on "Swaraj in Education," a talk in the Town Hall to teachers specially, and another to the Students'

Federation. Dr. Arundale also gave his lecture on "Peace or War?" addressed a Press Conference, and visited the Holkar State Scout Headquarters. Rukmini Devi's dance recital was given under the patronage and in the presence of His Highness the Maharaja Holkar. She gave a resume of her ideals to a gathering of Pressmen; delivered a public lecture in King Edward Memorial Hall, which was well reported; spoke to a roomful of representatives of Women's Associations; and produced the dance drama. Of course there were members' meetings, and social functions included an At Home of welcome and an At Home of farewell attended by distinguished people.

On the 15th they were to be in Hyderabad, Sind, and it is said they will be in Karachi till Dec. 8th.

FOUNDATION DAY

Friday, 17th Nov. 1944, The Society's 69th birthday was celebrated at Adyar under the chairmanship of Mr. N. Sri Ram. A happy gathering in the Hall at 9 a.m. with prayers of the religions, a speech, and offering of flowers. The talk—by Mr. Sri Ram—was acclaimed as excellent and will be printed elsewhere. One message of greeting was announced—from the New Zealand Section represented by Miss Emma Hunt.

In the afternoon all Adyar was invited to the Mani Aiyar Hall, Triplicane, by the Madras City Lodges, which made a representative but intimate gathering. The programme was Prayers of the Religions; and talks by Brothers M. Subramania Iyer, Rohit Mehta, N. Sri Ram on "The Historical Survey of The Society during H. P. B. and H. S. O., A. B. and C. W. L., and Dr. G. S. Arundale, Shrimati Rukmini Devi and Mr. C. Jinarāja-dāsa periods. Vision of the Immediate future." Fascinating, original and interesting were the speeches.

In the evening the Vasanta Round Table presented a very enjoyable entertainment at the Pavlova Theatre.

A message of loyal and fraternal greetings from Adyar residents was sent to the President and Rukmini Devi. And Dr. Arundale wired from Hyderabad, Sind, the following :

“Throughout the world Theosophists pay reverent grateful homage this splendid birthday. May this 69th anniversary presage nearer advent of Universal Brotherhood.

—President.”

MR. JINARAJADASA

Bro. Rāja arrived at his Adyar home on Nov. 23rd. This is great news to us all, and Adyar gives him a warm welcome. Adyar also wishes him, with all its heart, Many Happy Returns of Dec. 16th which happens to be his earthly birthday.

THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERSHIP

From time to time in THE THEOSOPHICAL WORKER a Section will claim to have the largest proportion of membership to population, and in the Annual Report for 1942 (p. 118) it is stated that one of the South American Sections has the largest proportion of Lodges and of membership among the Sections.

Iceland Section since its formation in 1921 has always led all other Sections in its membership in proportion to population and our New Zealand Section has been second. We have worked out the proportions that may be of interest to readers of THE WORKER :

RATIO OF MEMBERSHIP TO POPULATION

Country	Population	Member- ship	Percent- age
	1938		
Iceland ...	120,000	179	'14917
New Zealand	1,600,000	863	'05394
Cuba ...	4,228,000	694	'01641
Australia ...	7,137,000	981	'01374
Eng. & Wales	41,031,000	3292	'00802
Scotland ...	4,842,554	382	'00790
Switzerland ...	4,250,000	305	'00717

North Ireland	1,279,753	81	'00633
Puerto Rico...	1,871,000	93	'00497
Sweden ...	6,500,000	311	'00478
Uruguay ...	2,000,000	73	'00365
South Africa	9,600,000	347	'00361
Chile ...	4,300,000	139	'00323
Canada ...	10,400,000	307	'00295
Ceylon ...	5,306,863	146	'00275
U.S.A. ...	135,604,000	3169	'00234
Argentina ...	13,520,000	307	'00227
Portugal ...	7,166,000	153	'00214
Mexico ...	19,500,000	270	'00138
India ...	389,000,000	4440	'00114
Brazil ...	43,250,000	338	'00078
Burma ...	15,000,000	112	'00075
Russia ...	170,467,000	160	'00009

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas spirit is expressed in ancient customs as for instance in the loving-kindness of giving and receiving presents. The Wise Men of the East are said to have travelled far to pay homage to the new-born King, the infant Jesus, too young to be aware even of their presence. What need had He, the King of Kings, of such presents as gold and frankincense and myrrh? But, know that those presents are symbols—the gold represents reverent love, the frankincense pure thought, and myrrh is an expression of affection and self-sacrifice—and then the significance of those gifts is raised from a material to a spiritual level. So today the material value of Christmas gifts may be negligible, but the intrinsic worth is the loving-kindness that prompts the giving.

In the new age that Christmas spirit must abide throughout the year and not be reserved for one short season only. May each do his part to usher in that new age by living always and completely in the spirit of loving-kindness. Then shall the directing power of the Lord of Love and Compassion set the feet of mankind upon the royal road leading to heaven upon earth.

—LAWRENCE W. BURT

All remittances and correspondence should be addressed to The Manager, Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Madras, India.