

# THEOSOPHY

*in the modern world*

key concepts

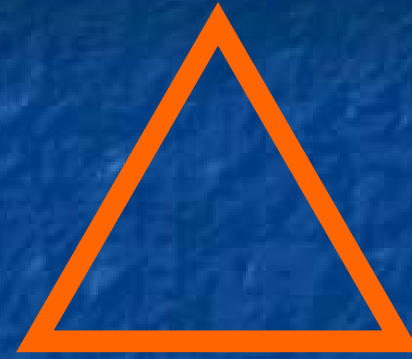
# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Origins

- .....Everything in the universe originates from one boundless, eternal, unknowable source. After a period of manifested existence the universe returns to that source.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## An harmonious whole



- ...The Kosmos itself is a self-sustaining entity, made up of numberless Universes
  - all alive, intelligent, conscious and divine.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Laws

- .....The laws of nature are the result of intelligent forces.

Nature is fundamentally one, the same structural, geometric and evolutionary principles apply throughout.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Karma

- .....The law of karma holds throughout the universe. It operates at all levels, ensuring justice, harmony and balance.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Reincarnation

.....We reincarnate into successive lives.  
Once we have reached the human level we do not regress back into animal forms.

Reincarnation is an ancient belief, common to many traditions such as Buddhism, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Taoism... It was in Christianity (until 5th c. AD) & is still part of mystic Gnosticism.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Karma & justice

- .....The law of karma acts over our successive lives to ensure justice. (We don't get away with it.) We are the cause of every joy and pain.
  - the same just law applies to all
  - a knowledge of Karma helps to moderate our acts

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Cycles

- .....A law of cycles provides a fundamental structure.
  - night & day, winter & summer, birth & death
  - Shakespeare's seven ages of man, youth to old age
  - the pattern of reincarnation is analogous to the 'lives' of the universe as it appears, is and returns to its source.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## The Evolutionary Pilgrimage

- .....Soul gets involved in this world of matter. It experiences and learns, then works its way back in a long pilgrimage to its source, following a cyclic pattern.
  - Involution ↓ is followed by evolution ↑
  - Thought (universal mind) runs into matter, then works its way back to return to meta-spirit.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Increasing perfection

- .....This evolution achieves experience, self-awareness - and ever increasing perfection. Evolution occurs on three planes - physical, mental and spiritual.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Conscious evolution

- ....."Survival of the fittest" and gradual accumulation of small beneficial changes does not explain the "origin of the species".
- To originate a new species requires intelligence and shows design
  - Darwinism is the mechanism for secondary changes, by 'local adaptation to conditions'
  - primary changes (the formulation of root types) requires intelligence, not the same idea as a personal God

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Sevenfold Man

- .....Man has a seven fold constitution, ranging from the physical plane to the purely spiritual (meta-spiritual) plane.

The more developed the vehicles of the entity, the greater their ability to express the powers locked up in the higher levels of its constitution.

The three lines of evolution (physical, mental & spiritual) should all be developed *pari-pasu*, equally & uniformly

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Thoughts

- .....Thoughts are tangible objects on higher planes. Every thought & action has its effect on us, on our surroundings and has a karmic consequence.
  - “*thoughts are things*” (Buddhist axiom)
  - the higher planes are subjective to many, but become *objective* to those who have surpassed that plane.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Duality

- A. Three higher planes : "higher Self"  
(that which reincarnates, accumulating experience, lessons and virtue).
- B. Four lower planes : the vehicle  
used by the higher Self while it is living in this active testing ground of incarnated life...

*- many implications ... the illusion of the personal self  
... the emptiness of outer forms*

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## At the time of death

- ....we review the life gone by as the physical frame fades away
- After a short time (at the 2nd death) the remaining lower aspects are left in kama loca
- The real Self (the Ego) begins a long period of earned rest before the next birth.

*- 'Tunnel of light' experiences & reviews are increasingly common as medical resuscitation techniques have improved.*

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Spirituality

- ...Often during this life, our spiritual nature is obscured in our self-centred daily lives as we focus on our immediate 'needs'.

But the spiritual Self is always in the background to guide us if we seek it with strong earnest desire.

Our treading the path starts from these accumulated wishes

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Towards the Self of All

- .....We can strive to reach our Higher Self - ATMA - by:
  - ...Listening to the still small voice of conscience
  - ...Noting the dreams from the Higher Self
  - ...Developing our intuition
  - ...Meditating

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

...Studying the principles of the Wisdom Religion

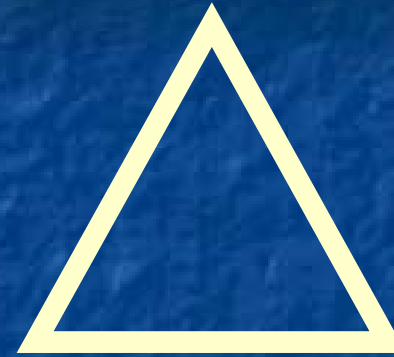
...Aligning ourselves with nature

...Engaging in action for the greater good of all beings

...Carefully reading the events of our daily life

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Brotherhood



- .....Brotherhood is a fact in nature. We are ONE at the highest spiritual component of our nature. We are sparks from one flame. We are the fingers on one hand.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Non-separateness : we should

- Understand we are not separate from *anyone*
- Emphasise brotherhood, altruism and compassion in our daily life
- Strive to know our higher Self
- Use the guiding rule to  
“ *act for & as the Self of All* ”

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## One source

- .....The religions of the world are branches on the tree, whose trunk is the ancient - once universal - wisdom religion.
- Like branches, they stem from one source but the actual forms are different and complex.

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Instructors of mankind

- .....Periodically, great teachers come amongst us to help us in this evolutionary path. They may create another branch on the tree suited to that time.
  - Three great *reformers* came in a short period of time: Buddha, Christ and Confucius (the Indian, the Jewish and the Chinese).

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## Myth

- .....Mythology often transmits some of this knowledge in (veiled) symbolic form.
  - The metaphysical 'Trinity' is common to many religions
  - 'Giants' & 'Titans' are found in many cultures
  - A 'biblical flood' is present in most traditions
  - Virgin births of great teachers are quite universal

# Key Concepts of Theosophy

## UNITY

- .....Humanity's potential is infinite and every being has a contribution to make toward a grander world. We are all in it together. We are one.