

WHITE LOTUS DAY

Elton A. Hall

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Theosophically, the One Life connects all of us and everything in existence. Karma and reincarnation connect us intimately. Surely karma brings us together today and signals the importance of working together for the future of humanity and all that exists. As above, so below. Just as a trillion cells constitute one human body, and a trillion trillion subatomic particles constitute those cells, so all of us together embody the One Life. Consciousness pervades the human body, and yet our consciousness of ourselves make our minds and bodies responsible participants in cosmic and human evolution. Our being together is for something larger than our personal selves.

This powerful and magnificent perspective is due to one human being: Helena Petrovna Blavatsky. Though the Mahatmas have shared this understanding across history, H.P. Blavatsky brought it into its modern focus and clarity. We owe everything we understand and to which we aspire entirely to her. She was the instrument for the Masters to teach all that can be taught to humanity at this time in human evolution. We owe a great debt of gratitude for her persistence in the face of unkindness and opposition, for her self-sacrifice from the moment she met her Master.

That debt can be paid only through our own aspirations, our own self-devised efforts. We pay the debt through our own assimilation of the Three Fundamental Propositions into our thoughts, words, and deeds—each according to his or her ability. The condition of the world since H.P. Blavatsky's work shows the need for our efforts. The century after her passing from the earthly scene saw the hideousness of war and inhumanity of people to other people. The atomic bomb came as a warning. In this century, our awareness of environmental decay and climate change only drive that warning home. Humanity will either rise to the fundamental challenge that confronts itself or it will destroy itself. The question is whether we will be part of meeting that challenge or merely sleepwalk our way into ever greater darkness.

The crossroads facing humanity, taking the left path into ever-increasing decay or the right path toward the divine light, also faces each of us. We have the sacred privilege of having encountered Theosophy, and

this privilege carries a great responsibility. That responsibility is set out in *The Voice of the Silence*. This text is H.P. Blavatsky's great presentation of the most ancient Wisdom, the heart and soul of Theosophy. It asks: do we live for ourselves, our egos that will perish, or for the whole of humanity and existence? We in our highest nature are an eternal part of One Life. In H.P. Blavatsky's language, learning from her about *theosophia*, the eternal doctrine, means that our *dharma*, our duty and the law we have encountered, reveals what we must do.

H.P. Blavatsky's teachings have filtered out into the world in many partial ways, often distorted, misappropriated by personal egos, sometimes turned into notions of salvation and easy optimism. Yet even this is not wholly bad. It has spread ideas like karma and reincarnation and even the One Life around the globe. But all this will not do, unless it opens the way for true Theosophy. And humanity will step into the light of true Theosophy only if we do our humble, yet important, part through our thoughts, words, and actions.

We help ourselves only in helping others. And we are in this great project together. No matter where we live or how distant we are from one another in so-called physical space, we are joined together as souls engaged in the Great Work. Coming together here today is only a public manifestation of an inner truth. It is a truth we are able to grasp in some degree, thanks to the mighty efforts of H.P. Blavatsky. It is appropriate that we meet on White Lotus Day to honor her and remember her with gratitude. The deeper honor of her and greatest gratitude to her is in how we live and work for Theosophy.

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you a celebration of H.P. Blavatsky's life and to be together today. May this be the beginning of many more connections in the future.