

TALK ON WHITE LOTUS DAY, may 8, 2019

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Helena Blavatsky was certainly one of the most remarkable human beings in recent history, particularly for the past several centuries. She is not not as famous or influential as Einstein or Gandhi, but she was one who, more than anyone in the past centuries, have opened a closed door to a reality beyond the scientific and cultural world; it is a reality which humanity has been blind to for many centuries.

There are four facets of her work that I would like to mention here as among her greatest contributions to mankind.

First, she unveiled the curtain to the world of the Mahatmas. For centuries, the existence of the Mahatmas has mainly been legendary. Perhaps for the first time in history, she demonstrated that these great beings existed on the basis of documented evidences and testimonies of well-known people. This opened up a vast amount of literature as well as organizations based on the existence of these Mahatmas. The idea of perfectibility has become an idea that was no longer strange.

Second, HPB also opened up a new era of knowledge of human life and the cosmos that was largely hidden to the world, especially the West. Teachings such as the seven principles of a human being, the astral body, reincarnation, the after-death processes, Atlantis, and others, have become very common today after a century. Human knowledge has taken a new inward direction. It began to balance the frantic race of humanity to explore the material universe with a better understanding of our own nature and the inner realities of our consciousness.

Third: more important is the idea of universal brotherhood or sisterhood. In the 19th century, the idea of oneness with people of other religions, races and even gender was a strange idea. This was just about 10 years after the ending of slavery in the United States. It was also a period of religious intolerance. The idea of universal brotherhood was a bold vision of the oneness of humanity that went against the feeling of superiority of one religion or race over others, of one gender over another. The Theosophical Society was a pioneer in creating a momentum to make this idea of oneness of humanity an accepted one.

Finally, the Theosophical Society that she co-founded is a pioneering spiritual organization based on complete freedom of thought. Practically all religious and spiritual organizations are based on certain doctrines that

members are required to subscribe to. The Theosophical Society uncompromisingly adheres to the principle that truth must be pursued in a spirit of freedom because truth cannot be dogmatized. This is one of the reasons why the Mahatmas declared that the Theosophical Society is meant to be the cornerstone of the future religions of humanity. I believe that the religions of the far future will be founded on this principle.

Madame Blavatsky was the herald of the changes that will come in the coming centuries. She constructed intellectual bridges and opened up new possibilities in human growth.

Today, 128 years after her death, we fondly remember her. But the best way to pay homage to her great life and work is to study her teachings, make them practical in daily life, create institutions such as schools to make the ideas enduring, and bring them to a wider circle day by day, year by year and century after century.