

THE THREE FUNDAMENTAL PROPOSITIONS

According to H. P. Blavatsky, there are three fundamental propositions which are essential to an understanding of the Theosophical philosophy. The following passages, quoted from the Proem of The Secret Doctrine, are an abridgement of the full description of these three fundamental propositions.

1. An Omnipresent, Eternal, Boundless, and Immutable PRINCIPLE on which all speculation is impossible, since it transcends the power of human conception and could only be dwarfed by any human expression or similtude. It is beyond the range and reach of thought--in the words of the Mandukya Upanishad, "unthinkable and unspeakable."
2. The second assertion . . . is the absolute universality of that law of periodicity, of flux and reflux, ebb and flow, which physical science has observed and recorded in all departments of nature. An alternation such as that of Day and Night, Life and Death, Sleeping and Waking, is a fact so common, so perfectly universal and without exception, that it is easy to comprehend that in it we see one of the absolutely fundamental laws of the universe.
3. The fundamental identity of all Souls with the Universal Over-Soul, the latter being itself an aspect of the Unknown Root; and the obligatory pilgrimage for every Soul--a spark of the former--through the Cycle of Incarnation (or "Necessity") in accordance with Cyclic and Karmic law, during the whole term. In other words, no purely spiritual Buddhi (divine Soul) can have an independent (conscious) existence before the spark which issued from the pure Essence of the Universal Sixth principle--or the OVER-SOUL--has (a) passed through every elemental form of the phenomenal world of that Manvantara, and (b) acquired individuality, first by natural impulse, and then by self-induced and self-devised efforts (checked by its Karma), thus ascending through all the degrees of intelligence, from the lowest to the highest Manas, from mineral and plant, up to the holiest archangel (Dhyani-Buddha).

Jana Yoga

Jana Yoga has been called the yoga of knowledge. H. P. Blavatsky has said that Theosophy may be thought of as Jana Yoga. The following passage, therefore, applies to the study of Theosophy.

"As one progresses in Jana Yoga one finds conceptions arising which, though one is conscious of them, one cannot express nor yet formulate into any sort of mental picture.

As time goes on these conceptions will form into mental pictures. This is a time to be on guard and refuse to be deluded with the idea that the newfound and wonderful picture must represent reality. It does not.

As one works on, one finds the once admired picture growing dull and unsatisfying and finally fading out or being thrown away. This is another danger point, because for the moment one is left in a void without any conception to support one, and one may be tempted to revive the cast-off picture for want of a better to cling to.

The true student will, however, work on unconcerned, and presently further formless gleams come, which again in time give rise to a larger and more beautiful picture than the last. But the learner will now know that no picture will ever represent the truth.

This last splendid picture will grow dull and fade like the others. And so the process goes on, until at last the mind and its pictures are transcended and the learner enters and dwells in the world of no-form, but of which all forms are narrowed reflections."

H. P. Blavatsky

QUOTE FROM THE TAO TE CHING

The ten thousand things have their beginning
In absolute emptiness,
Complete quiet.
Energetically growing,
Restlessly changing,
All complete themselves
By returning to stillness.

The wise see the action and its foundation;
The foolish see only the changes.

From a quiet mind comes vision;
From vision comes knowledge of unity;
From knowledge of unity comes compassion for all.
From compassion comes greatness,
From greatness comes Tao.

From Tao comes life without end.

The Golden Stairs

A clean life, an open mind, a pure heart, an eager intellect, an unveiled spiritual perception, a brotherliness for one's co-disciple, a readiness to give and receive advice and instruction, a loyal sense of duty to the Teacher, a willing obedience to the behests of Truth, once we have placed our confidence in, and believe that Teacher to be in possession of it; a courageous endurance of personal injustice, a brave declaration of principles, a valiant defense of those who are unjustly attacked, and a constant eye to the ideal of human progression and perfection which the secret science depicts—these are the golden stairs up the steps of which the learner may climb to the Temple of Divine Wisdom.

17. drifting clouds
18. marching feet
19. a vast expanse of sky
20. the Rock of Gibraltar
21. a fleeing thief
22. a devouring monster
23. a tedious song
24. a string of beads
25. a galloping horseman

BIBLIOGRAPHY FOR THEOSOPHY COURSE

Foundations of the Ageless Wisdom, by Ed Abdill

A video course with study guide for use individually or with a study group.

Note: The Video and Study Guide go together. Individual study guides or

the video alone may be purchased separately for groups.

Ancient Wisdom, Modern Insight, by Shirley Nicholson

A Quest Book linking contemporary insights with theosophical principles.

Theosophy, by Robert Ellwood

A synthesis of theosophical concepts in modern language.

The Key to Theosophy, (an abridgement) by H. P. Blavatsky

A question & answer approach to Theosophy by the principal founder of the Theosophical Society. Available also in an unabridged version.

The Voice of the Silence, by H. P. Blavatsky

A magnificent, poetic statement of the spiritual path. When read in a meditative spirit, it speaks to the spiritual intuition. Several editions are available.

The Basic Ideas of Occult Wisdom, by Anna K. Winner

Perhaps one of the simplest texts on central Theosophical concepts.

The Secret Doctrine, by H. P. Blavatsky (TPH edition, (c) or (p))

A monumental work on cosmogenesis & anthropogenesis, for the serious student only. A major reference work.

The Secret Doctrine (Abridgement), by H. P. Blavatsky

For those who want to read the central concepts of the Secret Doctrine, while still reading Blavatsky's own words.

Karma Rhythmic Return to Harmony Edited by Hanson & Stewart

A collection of articles on Karma by various authors.

Reincarnation The Phoenix Fire Mystery, by Head & Cranston

An excellent book tracing the idea of reincarnation from

ancient to modern times

Masters and Men, by Virginia Hanson

The story of the Mahatma Letters. An excellent introduction to the letters

and to the Masters. A fictionalized account, but all words of the Masters are taken directly from the letters themselves. (The fictionalized dialogue is poor, but the history is accurate and fascinating.)

Mahatma Letters in Chronological Sequence, TPH Manila

The letters sent by the Masters K.H. and Morya, mostly to A. P. Sinnett toward the end of the last century. (Chronological edition is best, but the original publication, still available, has letters grouped by subject matter.)

Perennial Philosophy, by A. Huxley

An excellent anthology of the ageless wisdom, quoting many sources and traditions.