

The Aquarian Theosophist

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Blair launches faith foundation

Former prime minister Tony Blair has launched a faith foundation to tackle global poverty, challenge conflict and unite the world's religions.

Mr Blair, who is a Roman Catholic, unveiled the foundation in New York.

The Tony Blair Faith Foundation has three aims: to promote faith as a force for good, improve awareness between religions and tackle poverty and war.

Mr Blair said there was "nothing more important" than creating understanding between different faiths and cultures.

'Peaceful co-existence'

At the launch in New York, he said: "The characteristic of today's world is change. The consequence is a world opening up and becoming inter-dependent.

"The conclusion is that we make sense of this inter-dependence through peaceful co-existence and working together to resolve common challenges.

"We must be global citizens as well as citizens of our country," he told the audience of academics, media and business and religious leaders.

'Idealism becomes the new realism'

He went on to cite a poll which showed the percentage of people in most Muslim countries who said religion was an important part of their lives is in the high 80s and 90s, while in the United States it is about 70% and in Europe under 40%.



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One of the goals of the foundation was to counter extremism in all six leading religions, he said.

Former US president Bill Clinton took time out of his wife's campaign to become the Democrat presidential candidate to attend the launch, at the headquarters of media group Time Warner.

"Though there is much focus, understandably, on extremism associated with the perversion of the proper faith of Islam, there are elements of extremism in every major faith"

Tony Blair on his foundation's aims

He described Mr Blair as "a good man as well as a great leader", saying "his own religious faith is genuine, deep and shapes his life".

In an earlier interview with Time magazine, Mr Blair, who is now a peace envoy to the Middle East, said the foundation was "how I want to spend the rest of my life".

The vocation is something the former prime minister has been considering for some time.

But Mr Blair said while in office he feared being branded a "nutter" if he talked about his religious views.

A short video of Mr. Blair's speech is at:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/uk_politics/7427809.stm

On trust and faith

"With right knowledge, or at any rate with a confident conviction that our neighbours will no more work to hurt us than we would think of harming them, the two-thirds of the World's evil would vanish into thin air." SD i 643

TESTIMONY AS TO MAHATMAS

On the evidence available on the presence and existence of the Great Adepts – MEN -- like we all are, who have spiritualized themselves, the "THEOSOPHICAL MAHATMAS".

Mr. W. Q. Judge, editor of PATH, New York, in 1895-6 published the following testimony:

'Testimony As To Mahatmas'

THE name Mahâtmâ in these articles is intended to embrace also Masters, Brothers of the Lodge, Initiates, and the like. The word testimony embraces all statements and proofs intended to bring out and constitute evidence of fact. All persons who have testimony on this subject are invited to send it to the PATH, where it will appear either in full or condensed. I should be informed in each case whether or not names may be used. If not to be used, an initial will precede the published statement. **W.Q.J.**

1. The Vedas, admittedly among the oldest of religions books, if not in fact the oldest, contain the word Mahâtmâ, which means "great soul". The Bhagavad-Gîtâ says that "such a one (a Mahâtmâ) is difficult to find".

2. From H. P. B. Her assertions to her relatives many years ago that she knew such wonderful beings; later, similar assertions and objective proofs to her American friends, then to her English and Indian friends; her statement and that of Masters themselves in writing that they had assisted her in most of the book Secret Doctrine.

This message was received by Dr. Hübbe-Schleiden of Germany, and has been reprinted in the PATH. With H.P. B. begins the testimony for the Western world in this age, and she began a revival in India of the belief in the actual present existence of Mahâtmâs, as to whom a general belief had always existed there.

3. Col. H. S. Olcott has asserted continuously, in private and public, in all parts of the world by speech and writing, that he has had personal objective and introspective proof of the

existence of not only the one Master so much spoken of, but also of K.H. and others. He declared very often most unequivocally that he had met the Masters.

In the London Convention of 1894 he made the same statement in public on the platform. He writes publicly that Isis Unveiled was worked upon in New York by more than one of the Masters; he gives testimony as to having received a turban from one of the Masters; he further mentions that many of the Masters came to New York when he met and worked with H.P.B., and that he conversed with some of them.

4. Damodar K. Mavalankar, a Hindu who joined the Society soon after H. P. B. went to India and worked for it unselfishly for seven years, has often declared that he knew personally of the existence of the Masters spoken of in Theosophical literature.

5. Mohini M. Chatterji, another Hindû, often stated prior to 1884 that he knew of the existence of said Masters personally.

6. Mr. A. P. Sinnett, President of the London Lodge T.S. and author of Esoteric Buddhism, says that that book was made up from letters from the said Masters, and in that book and *The Occult World* he gives certain particulars on the subject, testifying to the same point. He has always asserted his belief in their existence on personal knowledge as well as on argument and testimony.¹

7. William Q. Judge has given testimony for many years to the same effect to wit, that he knows personally of the existence of the said Masters, as well as of others, and also that he knows a great many persons, and has for many years, who personally know independently of himself the same fact.

8. R., an American, testifies to having known, before hearing of the Theosophical Society, the Master whose picture is known to several members, and that many years' help from the same Master has given complete proof of his existence and the possibility of the existence of any others.

9. The Christian Bible describes in many instances saints and sages who appear to stand in the same position as a Mahâtma. The mysterious character who appeared in the Bible once for the purpose of blessing Abraham, "the friend of God", was named Melchizedek and was probably a Master.

10. The Countess Wachtmeister has repeatedly declared that she has seen in the astral light at Theosophical meetings and at other places, and very often near H.P.B., the figure of the Master as described by many other persons and as pictured, and that she has received, independently of H.P.B., in circumstances where fraud or trick would be impossible, messages from said Master.

11. D., a member of the American Section, says that in early youth, in a vivid dream, a being came and offered comforting remarks on the subject of predestination which then was oppressing D.'s mind. The face of the being was deeply impressed on the memory. After joining the T.S., D. one day was shown the Master's picture, and was amazed beyond measure to see that it was the likeness of the being who in youth, many years before, had come in the dream.

12. W.D. says that for a long time he wished to have introspective proof of the existence of the Masters, believing in the possibility of such existing. He became deeply involved in business, and was engaged in his work in a sparsely inhabited place. While writing on business he became conscious that some one appeared to be standing near him, and then he saw it was the Master, either present astrally or in thought-picture. This aroused the surety within of their actual present existence.

13. T.P.T., an American, says that during almost the whole of life, for many years, a being,

¹ The original letters to APS from the Mahatmas are available for viewing by the public in the British Library, Kings Cross, London. See picture on p 3.

identical with the picture of the Master, has been continually helping in spiritual development, insisting on altruistic work and guarding against falling into personalities.

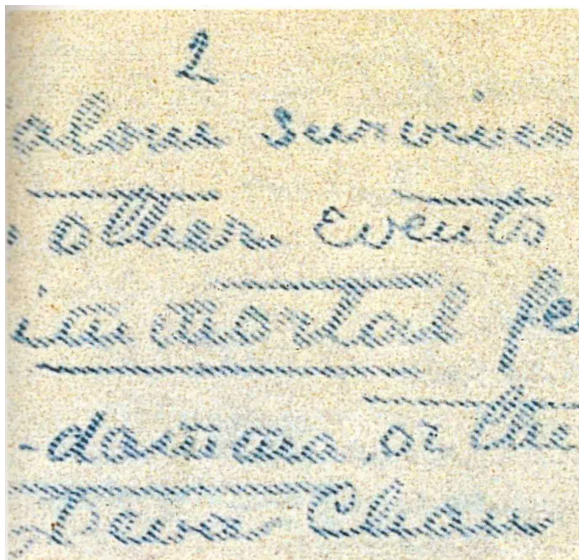
"He is glorious in appearance, majesty, power, and kindness; he is human, yet far beyond us: he has directed me to the Theosophical Society; I am as sure of his existence as I am of any fact in my entire life. He not only directed me to the T. S., but also told me to join it; he has identified himself to me as H.P.B.'s Master; he watches the T.S. I know as surely as I know anything."

from PATH Magazine, Vol. 9, p. 385, taken from a series of four articles in the PATH Vol. 9:

Feb 1895 p. 385-7 and Mar 1895 p. 424-6

and in Vol. 10:

May 1895 p. 44 - ? and July 1895 p. 127-8



Above, an image of one of the Mahatma Letters in the British Library.

This image is taken from Dr Vernon Harrison's book 'An examination of the Hodgson Report of 1885' on the analysis of HPB's handwriting. Note the fine regular striations common to many of these letters.

Kindness Tornado Rips Through Town

GOOD NEWS NETWORK

<http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>

Without warning Biddeford, Maine experienced a tornado of kindness on Thursday. Residents were lifted up and spirits were tossed into unfamiliar territory as Michael Chase of the Kindness Center churned up a whirlwind of "100 acts of kindness in 100 minutes."

At ground zero, the back of his truck parked behind city hall in the small downtown area, Michael dispensed from a large board 100 kindness cards containing action items for the volunteers to complete. Young kids handed out flowers and balloons to strangers and passers-by, who, often wanted to help with the kindness challenge themselves.

"Give me #56," demanded a new recruit. When he turned the card over, it instructed him to go collect 12 non-perishable items for the local food pantry. He dutifully returned with a bag of groceries which the Kindness Center later donated.



Founder Michael Chase at his Kindness Center board

Two young men were just coming from a meeting with their probation officer and asked what was going on. They immediately volunteered, but added a caveat, "But first, can I tell my probation officer? Let him know we're doing something good?"

In the small town of 30,000 Michael Chase has become known as the "Kindness guy". It fits. Though he was a professional portrait photographer for 16 years he gave it up recently, he says, to "pursue a career in kindness". Chase, 38, wants to get the message out to schools and businesses about the benefits of doing something good for the community, but also of being kind to yourself.

<http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/inspired/individuals/tornado-of-kindness.html>

More News

- ♦ Airline Workers Show True Moral Fabric
- ♦ Litter Cleanup Yields Thousands in Bag, Found by Owner's Friend
- ♦ David Duchovny Supports Unicef in Myanmar
- ♦ Top Tailpipe Polluters Clean Up Their Act

PROOFS OF REINCARNATION?

"Mozart when an infant could compose orchestral scores. This was not due to heredity, for such a score is not natural, but is forced, mechanical, and wholly conventional, yet he understood it without schooling.

How? Because he was a musician reincarnated, with a musical brain furnished by his family and thus not impeded in his endeavors to show forth his musical knowledge.

But stronger yet is the case of Blind Tom... whose family could not by any possibility have a knowledge of the piano, a modern instrument, so as to transmit that knowledge to the atoms of his body, yet he had great musical power and

knew the present mechanical musical scale on the piano. There are hundreds of examples like these among the many prodigies who have appeared to the world's astonishment."

<http://www.theosociety.org/pasadena/ocean/oce-10.htm>

The Tale of 'Blind Tom' Wiggins

Play Chronicles Life of Slave Pianist who Awed Audiences in 1800s

March 6, 2002 -- Mark Twain called him an "inspired idiot," who could "play two tunes (on the piano) and sing a third at the same time, and let the audience choose the keys he shall perform in."

"Blind Tom" Wiggins was able to mimic music and other sounds at an early age.



"Blind Tom" Wiggins performed before and after the Civil War.

Photo courtesy
www.twainquotes.com

The subject of Twain's back-handed praise was Thomas Wiggins, a blind slave from Georgia known as Blind Tom who toured concert halls throughout America and Europe as a musical oddity. He also was known as Thomas Bethune, named after his owner, Gen. James Bethune.

From an early age, Wiggins seemed to crave sound. At four, Wiggins was able to reproduce music from memory after hearing it played by Bethune's children. When Wiggins was six, he began improvising on the piano and composing music.

Born in 1849, he could recite any poem and play any piece of music on the piano after hearing it only once. He earned over \$100,000 a year for Bethune, who kept custody of him even after emancipation. Now Atlanta's 7 Stages Theater has produced HUSH: Composing Blind Tom

Wiggins, a play about Wiggins' life, Georgia Public Radio's Susanna Capelouto reports for Morning Edition.

His life was full of contradictions. "He had a strange walk and would sway and twitch when he played the piano," Capelouto says. "He could mimic whatever he heard, even in foreign languages, but rarely expressed his own thoughts."

The play features a character called Tom's Fool, who takes the audience inside Wiggins' head and explains his compulsive need for sound as an overwhelming craving: "Even when his master strikes him, he is so captured by the sound of the blow that he barely flinches."

Scholars now believe Wiggins was an autistic savant -- much like Dustin Hoffman's character in the film *Rain Man*. That term wasn't around in the 19th century, when few people questioned whether Wiggins was exploited.

HUSH director Del Hamilton says he wanted to look beyond the hype that audiences at the time responded to.

"Between his blindness and autism and the fact that he was a slave and advertised like a freak and an oddity and toured around in this P.T. Barnum-like show, one of the difficulties was trying to make sure that we were accurate and not over the top," Hamilton says.

After the Civil War, Wiggins' parents were pressured to give custody of Tom to the Bethune family. Years later, after two court battles, Tom was returned to his mother, who was unable to care for him. He ended up living in New York with Bethune's estranged daughter-in-law. As time went on, he refused to play the piano because he wanted to be back at his old master's house.

As his character in the play says, "Tom wants to sit in master's parlor. I want to sit quiet and listen just like he taught me. Then I will play my piano for me, just for me."

When Wiggins died in 1908, his obituary in *The New York Times* referred to him as a "freak pianist" who played "with a conception of music that was as great as his skill. His technique came as naturally as did his musical emotions."

Pianist John Davis helped revive Wiggins' story by recording his music in a 1999 CD, *John Davis Plays Blind Tom*. "He left these pieces of music that are beautifully written, pieces of a certain style, and that, to me, is ultimately going to be his legacy," Davis says.

HUSH ends its run at the 7 Stages Theater in Atlanta on Sunday and is then set for a tour of the Southeast.

Do You Believe in Reincarnation?

Some poll results from the Oprah Winfrey Show on the Q:

"Do you believe in reincarnation?"

Yes 70.9%

No 29.1%

Number of responses: 11,905

http://www.oprah.com/cgi-bin/poll0826_new.cgi

Karma & Reincarnation

"Even members of the T.S. have often wondered why H.P.B. and others well known in the Society lay so much stress on doctrines like Karma and Reincarnation.

It is not alone because these doctrines are easily apprehended and beneficent to individuals, not only because they furnish, as they necessarily do, a solid foundation for ethics, or all human conduct, but because they are the **very key-notes of the higher evolution of man.**"

The Synthesis of Occult Science
by William Q. Judge

ULT DAY 2008 : Robert Crosbie & his writing



WHO WAS ROBERT CROSBIE?

❖ Mr. Robert Crosbie, the founder of the United Lodge of Theosophists, was born in Montreal, Canada, on Jan 10th, 1849. From an early age he was a student of mysticism. He emigrated to Boston in 1869. There he met Mr. Judge in 1886 when the latter lectured at the Theosophical Society, and they quickly became close friends.

❖ On Nov. 17, 1908 he issued a PRELIMINARY MEMORANDUM anticipatory to the formation of the ULT. This commenced with a caption addressed

"TO ALL OPEN MINDED THEOSOPHISTS"

❖ Mr. Crosbie drew up with the help of his companions a vital document named Declaration of the ULT. It embodies the original principles, programs and lines of work which had been articulated by the Masters and their two accredited Messengers, H.P.Blavatsky and W. Q. Judge, in their writings.

On Feb. 18th, 1909, he founded the ULT at Los Angeles. The Declaration was adopted as the sole document that defined its work. An EXPLANATORY STATEMENT was issued then.

❖ He worked tirelessly for the Theosophical Movement till his death on June 25th, 1919. Since then, associates of ULT observe this as ULT Day.

BOOKS BY ROBERT CROSBIE

❖ The Friendly Philosopher

Mr. Crosbie, after founding the ULT at Los Angeles, besides bringing back into circulation articles of Madam H.P. Blavatsky and W.Q.Judge, also corresponded with students and inquirers and explained the principles on which the ULT was based and operated.

These letters include the history, significance and importance of the Theosophical Movement, the status, nature and mission of the original Messengers, H.P.Blavatsky and W.Q.Judge, and principally on the practical application of the philosophy of Theosophy in daily life and on the art of living the Higher Life.

They are of invaluable guidance and inspiration to all true student aspirants.

The book also contains the text of 30 of the numerous lectures he delivered on Theosophy and its application in the "The Eternal Verities."

❖ Universal Theosophy

The text of some of the lectures delivered by Mr. Crosbie compiled under the title "The Eternal Verities" in the book The Friendly Philosopher is separately printed as Universal Theosophy for convenience. They have been found by generations of students to be simple and yet comprehensive introduction to Theosophy and its application to larger questions of life.

❖ Answers to Questions on The Ocean Of Theosophy

Mr. Judge's The Ocean of Theosophy was considered by Mr. Crosbie, as borne out by experience of generations of students, to be the perfect condensation of H.P.Blavatsky's The Secret Doctrine, and he constantly used it in the study classes at the ULT. He answered questions raised by the student on the philosophy in the study class which were stenographically taken down, later edited and issued as companion volume to the Ocean. It is found to be great help in the study of Theosophy.

WorldWide Telescope

Two New Ways to Explore the Virtual Universe, in Vivid 3-D by STEVE LOHR

http://topics.nytimes.com/top/reference/timestopics/people/l/steve_lohr/index.html?inline=nyt-per

The skies may be the next frontier in travel, yet not even the wealthiest space tourist can zoom out to, say, the Crab Nebula, the Trapezium Cluster or Eta Carinae, a star 100 times more massive than the Sun and 7,500 light-years away.

But those galactic destinations and thousands of others can now be toured and explored at the controls of a computer mouse, with the constellations, stars and space dust displayed in vivid detail and animated imagery across the screen.

The project, the WorldWide Telescope, is the culmination of years of work by researchers at Microsoft, and the Web site and free downloadable software are available at <http://www.worldwidetelescope.org/>

There are many online astronomy sites, but astronomers say the Microsoft entry sets a new standard in three-dimensional representation of vast amounts data plucked from space telescopes, the ease of navigation, the visual experience and features like guided tours narrated by experts.

"Exploring the virtual universe is incredibly smooth and seamless like a top-of-the-line computer game, but also the science is correct," said Alexander Szalay, a professor of astronomy and physics at Johns Hopkins. "No sacrifices have been made. It just feels as if you are in it."

The WorldWide Telescope project spans astronomy, education and computing.

Educators hope its rich images, animation and design for self-navigation will help entice computer-gaming young people into astronomy and science in general. The space service, astronomers say, could also become valuable in scientific discovery, especially with a professional version being developed with the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

Peter & the Wolf

The story

Peter, a young boy, lives with his grandfather in the Russian countryside.

One day Peter goes out into the meadow, leaving the garden gate open, and the duck that lives in the yard takes the opportunity to go swimming on the nearby pond.

He starts arguing with a little bird ("What kind of bird are you if you can't fly?" - "What kind of bird are you if you can't swim?"). Peter's pet cat sneaks up on them, and the bird - warned by Peter - flies into a tall tree while the duck swims to safety in the middle of the pond.

Peter's grumpy grandfather scolds Peter for being outside in the meadow ("Suppose a wolf came out of the forest?"), takes him back into the house and locks the gate.

Shortly afterwards "a big, grey wolf" does indeed come out of the woods. The cat quickly climbs into the tree, but the duck, who has excitedly jumped out of the pond, is chased, overtaken and gulped down by the wolf.

Peter fetches a rope and climbs over the garden wall into the tree. He asks the bird to fly around the wolf's head to distract him, while he lowers a noose and catches the wolf by his tail. The wolf struggles to get free, but Peter ties the rope to the tree and the noose only gets tighter.

Some hunters, who have been tracking the wolf, come out of the forest ready to shoot, but Peter gets them to help him take the wolf to the zoo in a victory parade that includes himself, the bird, the hunters leading the wolf, the cat and grumpy grumbling Grandfather ("What if Peter *hadn't* caught the wolf? What then?").

In the story's ending, the listener is told that "if you listen very carefully, you'd hear the duck quacking inside the wolf's belly, because the wolf in his hurry had swallowed her alive."



WAS PROKOFIEV INSPIRED BY THE STORY OF ARJUNA?

First performed in Moscow in 1936, Peter and the Wolf has delighted audiences of every age and is one of Sergei Prokofiev's most celebrated works. The story, based on Prokofiev's own childhood memories, is a classic tale of bravery and friendship, with the young Peter attempting to save his friends the cat, the bird and the duck, from a vicious wolf.

The characters from Prokofiev's masterpiece have some parallels with those in the ancient story of the Mahabharata in which Arjuna fights in the battle between the Kurus and the Pandus. Here the Kurus seek to 'devour' or exile the true heirs, the Pandus, who must regain their lost their position by bravery in battle.

In Prokofiev's story of the brave Peter is shown in his opposition to the 'hungry' wolf. Peter can be taken as a model of Arjuna, the young warrior and 'archer', that is to say one 'skilled in action'.

The vain and selfishly motivated wolf is like Duryodhana, the one with the ambitious ego who is really directing the affairs of state in the Kuru camp. He is Kama, the principle of personal desire, lustfulness etc, who is inherent in the 'blind' physical body (Dhritarashtra) of which he is the son, and one we all must conquer

within ourselves as we proceed along the path of soul-life.

The over-cautious Grandfather represents something of the conservative Bishma type, the oldest of the Kuru warriors opposing Arjuna on the battle field, there standing for the external aspect of 'rules and regulations'. But he is not wholly on the wrong side, and with Drona, the tutor of 'archery', they *teach both sides*.

The bickering duck and bird and the cat are perhaps man's other mental, psychic and astral principles of the consciousness and body, one of which in the story – the duck – is initially consumed by the wolf, the lower desires.

The most interesting of these is the duck, who is *still alive* inside the wolf: perhaps to suggest that he is an aspect of the embodied soul, 'captured' and enslaved by the desire principle. But this soul is also in its higher aspect often represented as an aquatic water fowl, a reflection of the immortal Hamsa, the swan 'out of time and space' of the Vedas. Thus Peter asks the duck, "What kind of bird are you if you can't fly?" - "What kind of bird are you if you can't swim?" He suggests we should expect more from this aspect of Being which has yet to be awakened, freed from domination by the personal man...

All this points, in a wonderfully symbolic way, to the cycle of man's fall and his hard-won redemption. Could it be that the perennial attraction of Peter and the Wolf lies in this eternal story of man which we, as so often in youth or mid-life, 'loose' our inner compass, stray off the path, and so must fight to regain that dimly remembered position as we truly should be, of what we really can be in our inner and most sacred nature... in our struggle to locate the bright lamp of enlightenment.

The 70th anniversary of this classic story was celebrated in 2006.

(This article and the background notes were drawn from material from 'The Bhagavad Gita', W.Q.Judge's 'Notes on the Bhagavad Gita', the Wikipedia entry for "Peter and the Wolf", and "About Peter and the Wolf... a spectacular new interpretation of Prokofiev".

<http://www.allinlondon.co.uk/whats-on.php?event=5958>)

'Earthquake Clouds' Now Appear in Japan

Unknowncountry.com has reported on linear cloud formations that appeared in China prior to the Sichuan earthquake, and have been reported by our readers in Northern California and Seattle. Now a truly extraordinary series of these clouds has been photographed by pilots in Japan.

See the video at
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E0abAkbtQM>



Do these formations suggest that more earthquakes are coming? They might well, because such sightings have previously taken place prior to big quakes.

So far, there is no evidence of any unusual seismic activity in California or Japan, but, of course, that could change at any moment.

The occult teaching is that "on the physical plane effects are brought out through the **electrical and other fluids acting with the gases on the solids of the globe...**

Earthquakes may be brought on according to this philosophy by two general causes; *first*, subsidence or elevation under the earth-crust due to heat and steam, *second*, **electrical and magnetic changes which affect water and earth at the same time**. These last have the power to instantaneously make the earth fluidic without melting it, thus causing

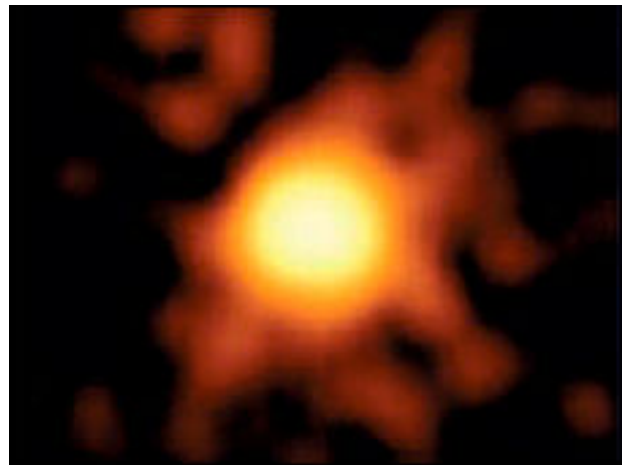
immense and violent displacements in large or small waves. **And this effect is sometimes seen now in earthquake districts when similar electrical causes are at work in a smaller measure."**

from the Ocean of Theosophy p 123.

Exploding star caught in the act

Astronomers have been able to capture and record the first moments when a massive star blows itself apart.

After decades of searching, researchers have used the world's top telescopes to observe the remarkable event.



Previously, scientists had only been able to study these "supernovas" several days after the event.

The results, published in the journal *Nature*, show that within two hours of the blast, a giant fireball scattered radioactive debris across space.

The phenomenon was detected by the Swift space telescope, a collaboration between the US space agency (Nasa), the UK and Italy.

Supernovas are some of the most spectacular events in the Universe, producing the same

amount of energy as trillions of nuclear bombs detonating simultaneously.

Typically, they occur when a massive star - more than eight times the mass of the Sun - runs out of fuel and collapses to form a hot relic called a neutron star.

Their extreme brightness allows them to be seen in distant galaxies.

But observers cannot pick up this optical emission until several hours or days after the explosion, so a supernova's first moments are shrouded in mystery.

Death of a star

The event in the constellation of Lynx was captured by pure chance.

Alicia Soderberg, from Princeton University in New Jersey, and her colleagues were using Swift to survey the spiral galaxy NGC2770.

They saw an extremely luminous X-ray outburst in an area of sky that had shown nothing bright just two days earlier.

They attribute the outburst to the breaking out of the supernova shockwave, which ploughs its way through the star's gaseous outer layers - blowing it to smithereens.

"We were in the right place, at the right time, with the right telescope," Dr Soderberg explained.

Dr Kim Page, from the University of Leicester, who led the X-ray analysis, commented: "This observation is by far the best example of what happens when a star dies and a neutron star is born."

Swift's X-ray instrument was largely developed at Leicester by a team led by Professor Alan Wells. He told the BBC that Swift had been designed from the outset to tackle issues such as the early behaviour of supernovas.

Historic pictures sent from Mars

A Nasa spacecraft has sent back historic first pictures of an unexplored region of Mars.

The Mars Phoenix lander touched down in the far north of the Red Planet, after a 680 million-km (423 million-mile) journey from Earth.

The probe is equipped with a robotic arm to dig for water-ice thought to be buried beneath the surface.

It will begin examining the site for evidence of the building blocks of life in the next few days.

A signal confirming the lander had reached the surface was received at 2353 GMT on 25 May.



Martian landscape – the planet is in a state of 'obscuration'.

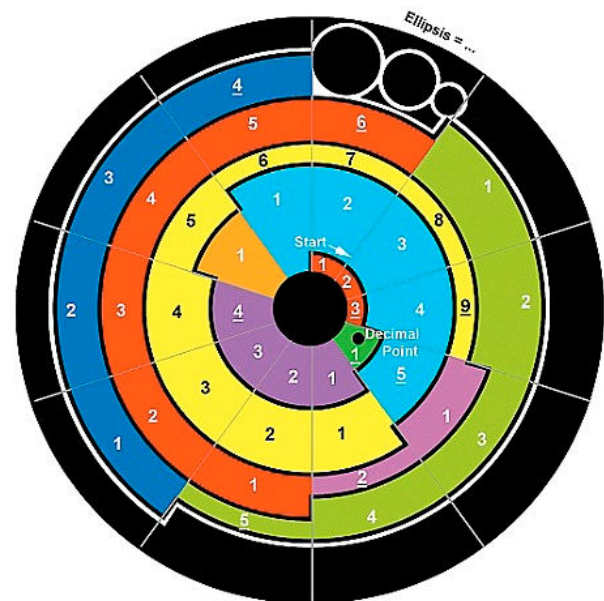
Important new crop circle formation

Barbury Castle, near Wroughton, Wiltshire, UK. 1st June 2008

From first glance, it appears that this enormous design, near the banks of Neolithic Hill Fort Barbury Castle shows echoes of the ratchet, which was one portion of the Barbury Castle Triangle/Tetrahedron of 1991. Its is still regarded as "the mother of all pictograms". The proportions within this 2008 event indicate a far more intricate ratchet than its 1991 predecessor.



This ratchet design also appears to demonstrate the number seven, as notes within the diatonic scale. The whole structure is also a collection of numeric, musical and geometrical harmonies.



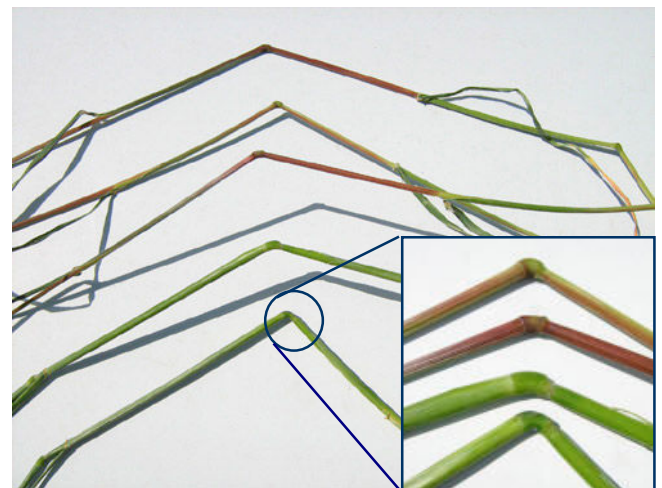
Barbury Castle Crop Circle

1 June 2008, Barley

Indicates the value of π

$$\pi = 3.141592654...$$

Are we once again witnessing at this location, another formation from the Circle-makers indicating sound as a conveyed message which the ancients regarded as a prime creative force of the Universe?



Above: note the bending at the node of the stalk

(There's more than just connections to π in this layout; there are also links to ϕ – the golden section 1.618. Ed)

<http://www.cropcircleconnector.com/2008/barbury/barbury2008a.html>

CORRESPONDENCE

Theosophy Web Site for London Ontario

June 14 2008

Laura Gray writes:

It is a beginning. So please take a look.

www.theosophycentre.com

It was our plan to have a separate web page for Manas, but constraints of time and money make that difficult at the moment so we have added it to what we think is of greater importance - to inform local people of our London Ontario ULT Centre.

We will be changing the articles on Manas every week and we invite your comments. The forum seems to follow each article. We will be adding the History of Manas Magazine soon. We hope all will email thoughts and articles as well for publishing on the web site.

Manas deserves a web site of its own so we look forward to the evolution of that aspiration, in the meantime we will use this as a learning step. Jane Jacobs (writer and city designer) stated that Manas Magazine was a University of the truest kind, one that charged no tuition and offered no degrees. Manas exemplifies the highest application of our thinking principle at this time in our evolution.

You can send your comments to
laura7gray@gmail.com

Dear Laura,

Congratulations!!

Your announcement certainly is forward-looking and of great optimism.

The work you plan regarding items from Manas Magazine seems especially of interest to many of us in Los Angeles. There was a period when

Armand Courtois was translating - Armand lectured in several different languages in addition to his self-induced - self-devised labours of translation.

Best wishes; and may your new web-site prosper!

jerome

A reader's support to clear Judge's name

June 12 2008

Rodolfo Don writes:

Dear Jerome and Will,

I have decided to add my name to the efforts in support of bringing justice to clear Judge's name of any wrong doings in the 'Judge Case.'

I don't understand why there are officials in the Theosophical Movement who think that they have the authority to decide who is and who is not a valuable Theosophist. As I see it, all the Founders of the Theosophical Society are part of the Theosophical Movement, without exception. As well as all the workers that followed.

Only Karma can really tell how much credit any worker deserves. We lack the vision and wisdom to judge others. We can only be sure about the validity of the original teachings, because we know their origin. Anything else become valuable when they help clarify and bring new insights to the Teachings.

These are my views on the subject. As a matter of fact they have been in my mind for quite some time.

Yours in Brotherhood,
Rudy

June 14 2008

Carlos Aveline writes:

Dear Rudy

Good to see that you decided to add your name to the efforts in support of bringing justice to Judge's name and work.

Although we have a more concentrated effort in writing Letters to Adyar around 13 April every year, it would be just great of you to sent an air mail letter to Ms. Radha Burnier any time you feel like.

In that case, please let us have a copy of it, so that we keep files updated.

It would also be divulged, adding to the 2008 actions, and your example would certainly help others to decide for action.

Best regards Carlos

The Promise of Moderation

The Carnegie Council presents a discussion of

The Arab Center: The Promise of Moderation

With Marwan Muasher on

Tuesday, June 17, 2008

Ambassador Muasher believes that Arab moderates hold great promise, both for achieving stability in the region and for improving the prosperity of its diverse citizens.

Yet moderates have been losing ground to religious extremists—failing to win support of the people on the street while also failing to bring about peace they have worked so hard to achieve. So why has the Arab Center (Jordan, Egypt, Saudi Arabia) made such little progress?

Marwan Muasher is currently Senior Vice President of External Affairs at the World Bank.

He previously served as Jordan's Deputy Prime Minister responsible for Reform and Government Performance, and earlier as its Foreign Minister and Minister of Information.

He was the Jordanian Ambassador to the United States and Jordan's first Ambassador to Israel.

Celebrity Scientologist's Public Defection

April 16, 2008

Jason Beghe, a character actor best known for roles on TV's "CSI," "Numb3rs" and the now-cancelled "Cane," took to YouTube yesterday to slam his former religion.

Beghe, who was a member of the Church of Scientology for 13 years and was even featured in a promotional video for the church in 2005, now says, "Scientology is destructive and a rip-off."

In the video, billed as a three-minute teaser to a longer interview that's on its way, Beghe goes on to say, "It's very, very dangerous for your spiritual, psychological, mental, emotional health and evolution. I think it stunts your evolution. If Scientology is real, then something's (bleeped) up . . . It ain't delivering what it's promised. It sure has not."

Beghe wasn't just a peon in the church. The actor, who's best friends with David Duchovny, spent a lot of money to make it to the coveted "OT 5" level achieved by Cruise, John Travolta and Kirstie Alley.

But Beghe now warns, "The further up the bridge, the worse you get . . . I don't have an agenda. I'm just trying to help. I have the luxury of having gotten into Scientology and after having been in it, been out. And that's a perspective that people who are still in and not out do not have."

A rep for Scientology said, "There are millions of Scientologists around the world who will tell you of their daily wins in applying Scientology in their lives. One need only visit www.scientology.org to see this for yourself."

Beghe's salvo is the latest hit to Cruise's controversial faith. Since the beginning of the year, several creepy videos of Cruise exhorting people to join Scientology and laughing maniacally have hit the Web - videos which the church demanded be taken down, to no avail.

http://www.nypost.com/seven/04162008/gossip/pagesix/ex_scientologist_rips_church_106695.htm

PUBLICATION REVIEWS

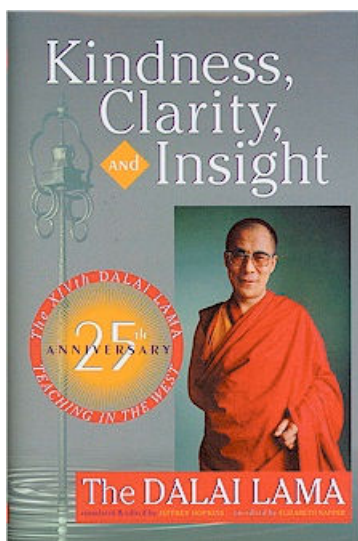
'Kindness, Clarity, and Insight' by Dalai Lama

from the book:

...if you consider just the subtlest mind and the wind or energy that serves as its mount, the mere factor of luminosity and knowing of the subtlest mind itself as well as the energy associated with it are what will be transformed into the mind and body of a Buddha.

This is the mind that will turn into an omniscient consciousness--a Buddha's mind; it is this mind which will be transformed, not some other mind coming from the outside. In other words, the Buddha nature is inherent; it is not imported from somewhere else.

This is true because the very entity of the mind, its nature of mere luminosity and knowing, is not polluted by defilements; they do not abide in the entity of the mind. Even when we generate afflictive emotions, the very entity or nature of the mind is still mere luminosity and knowing, and because of this we are able to remove the afflictive emotions.



- from **Kindness, Clarity, and Insight**
25th Anniversary Edition

by The Fourteenth Dalai Lama, His Holiness Tenzin Gyatso, edited and translated by Jeffrey Hopkins, co-edited by Elizabeth Napper.

Published by Snow Lion Publications.

Announcements:

INTERNATIONAL THEOSOPHY CONFERENCE 2008

at HAVERFORD COLLEGE
HAVERFORD, PENNSYLVANIA

August 7 – 10, 2008

Thursday, 1:00p.m., through Sunday afternoon

Keynote Address: Global Dialogue: Universal Communication of Wisdom in the 21st Century

Topics:

- ♦ The Theosophical Lineage Underlying All Spiritual Traditions
- ♦ Universal Theosophical Ideas for a Global Dialogue
- ♦ Integrating the Six Schools of Indian Philosophy for the Purpose of Global Dialogue
- ♦ The Timeless Message of the Upanishads
- ♦ Islam and Theosophical Doctrine
- ♦ The Practical Philosophy of the Sufis
- ♦ Does the Absolute Love You?
- ♦ Living the Higher Life
- ♦ Neuroplasticity: Modern Truths for Making the Brain Porous to the Influences of the Soul
- ♦ Synesthesia: Hearing Colors, Seeing Sounds: the Return of an Ancient Sense
- ♦ The Mind-Heart Connection: Scientific Evidence and Practical Applications
- ♦ Meditation: Recognizing Stages and Content
- ♦ Learning from the Embryo

If there are any questions at all, contact by email theosophy@theosconf.org or call (760) 765-1090

Full programme:

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?InternationalTheosop/38f16f545e/7f11417ba5/d298ab3e9e>

WISDOM IN ACTION

Sickness and patience, the woes of others, meditation and work

I regret exceedingly all your troubles and difficulties. They are all, it goes without saying, matters of Karma, and must right themselves in process of time. Meantime, your work and duty lie in continuing patient and persevering throughout. The troubles of your friends and relatives are not your Karma, though intimately associated with it by reason of the very friendship and relation. In the lives of all who aspire to higher things there is a more or less rapid precipitation of old Karma, and it is this which is affecting you. It will go off shortly, and you will have gained greatly in having gotten rid of a troublesome piece of business.

As it will take many a life for one to overcome the personal nature, there is no good in imagining what things and thoughts would then be like. It is certain that, in the long journey, the whole nature changing, it is adjusted to all conditions. Many of those matters which we call the woes of others are really nothing at all, and only "deep"; the real woe of the race is not that.

By setting apart a particular time for meditation, a habit is formed, and, as the time comes round, the mind will after a while become trained, so that meditation at the particular time will become natural. Hence, it will be well for you to keep to the same hour as far as possible.

You ask if I was at where you saw me. Let me tell you something in confidence. I am around at all places, but, of course, most at such as where you, and others like that are, but, it is not necessary for me to remember it at all, as it is done without that, since this brain has enough to do here. To remember, I should have to retire and devote myself to that, and it would make things no better.

A college course is not necessary for occultism. One of the best occultists I know was

never in college. But if a man adds good learning to intuition and high aspiration he is naturally better off than another. I am constantly in the habit of consulting the dictionary and of thinking out the meanings and the correlations of words. Do the same. It is good.

The old mission of the Rosicrucians, though dead on the outside, is not dead, for the Masters were in that as They are in this, and it may be possible to usher in a new era of western occultism devoid of folly. We should all be ready for that, if it be possible.

In regard to the pictures which you see, observe them with indifference, relying always on the Higher Self, and looking to it for knowledge and light—pictures or no pictures.

ON WORK

Yes, that business is already a "back number," stale and unprofitable. I have found that work tells. While others fume and fret and sleep, and now and then start up to criticize, if you go right on and work, and let time, the great devourer, do the other work, you will see that, in a little while, the others will wake up once more to find themselves "left," as they say in the land of slang.

Do, then, that way. Your own duty is hard enough to find out, and by attending to that you gain, no matter how small the duty may be. The duty of another is full of danger. May you have the light to see and to do! Tell to remember to work to the end to make himself an instrument for good work. Times change, men go here and there, and places need to be filled by those who can do the best sort of work, who are full of the fire of devotion, and who have the right basis, and a sure and solid one for themselves.

My love to all.

from Letters That Have Helped Me, p 120 – 1, by
W.Q.Judge

Next month:

"Contacting the Press, the weakness of gossip, and keeping silent"