

# Theosophical Leadership

## **Introduction:**

by Jan Nicolaas Kind

*“For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or the present are certain to miss the future.”*

— John F. Kennedy

In 2008 members of the Theosophical Society Adyar democratically elected their International President. It turned out to be a highly controversial election. Until today the aftermath of that unfortunate epoch is still felt. It is not the intention now to open old wounds or to launch another series of useless bickering, on the contrary. But every self-respecting organization, so also the TS Adyar, should have the courage to look at certain events retrospectively and learn from them, so that any mistakes made may be avoided in the future.

Before long, at the latest in 2015, once more an International President will have to be chosen and it is quite possible that this time more than one candidate will be on the ballot. But having learned from the 2008 debacle, and looking forward to the future, even if there should be only one candidate, it is a good exercise to ponder on the subject of Theosophical leadership. What are the requirements and challenges for a modern leadership that will enable the largest Theosophical organization to find its rightful place in the world, serving humanity? Who could be suitable candidates? And how should members prepare themselves for that inevitable election looming on the horizon?

Theosophy Forward invites its readers to reflect on this subject and express their reflections, because the 2008 election proceedings were an example of how not to elect a leader. A repetition must be avoided. Constructive contributions are welcomed by the editor and will be carefully considered for publication in the magazine. Thoughts in general, names, wishes, questions, suggestions, or demands, would be appropriate as long the tone remains positive.