

particularly important motive for leadership that is empowered by the theos.

A spiritual leader wants to awaken a human soul and inspire it to do better. A leader encourages a pilgrim to tread the path that leads towards realization of a better, truer self, and ultimately to become an exemplar of spiritual evolution. Thus, a Theosophical leader would want to liberate a human being from all the kinds of karmic limitations of conditioned existence and promote the spiritual freedom of each and all. This aim would be pursued by a combination of wisdom and adaptive understanding of the needs of particular individuals in particular situations at particular times. Leadership is truly an art.

Theosophical leadership is also to be understood as that kind of leadership that is in line with the wisdom, purpose and mission of Theosophical adepts and all the great teachers who come to teach, to arouse, to awaken and to promulgate the great message of *Theosophia*. This might seem like a kind of leadership that is simply beyond most of us. One might hope to glimpse and be inspired by such a leader who brings light and knowledge into the darkness of an iron age. Yet this is a rare experience. Cannot more immediate examples of Theosophical leadership be found and understood at the level of ordinary people in ordinary life seeking to do the right thing? How could an ordinary person of average competence become a leader somehow reflecting the ideals and the capacities of the highest exemplars of Theosophical leadership? Thinking about that question several qualities of leadership in action in everyday life and for more immediate purposes come to mind. We have all had the experience of being in some kind of group trying to do something, build a house, print a magazine, organize a youth group, or whatever. Is not a faith in human brotherhood and the ethics of cooperation required for the success of any such project? How can we lead while just being one worker among many?

One of the first requirements of Theosophical leadership in daily life is to approach each and all with kindness — a virtue that the Dalai Lama speaks of often — to approach every human being, every situation with a heart filled with kindness. That is easier if one recognizes the fundamental identity of every human soul with every other and assumes that spark of the divine is in everything that lives. A strong sense of human solidarity implicit in this fundamental source of shared identity could be an unspoken but effective basis of communication and activity. That mental attitude right away brings those who perhaps not by choice, but by necessity, would lead, into a