

leaders of all sorts. The best leaders step down when they are either at their peak or admit that they should step down before they hurt a group, perhaps unwittingly, because of illness or aging. The truth is that the health of a Lodge depends on all its members, but problems exist at the top as much as the bottom. If a meeting center is run in a healthy way, it will flourish, so spiritual members count. Flexibility is ever health, and rigidity is ever disease. Rigidity in leadership and membership is usually a sign of problems to come.

Patience is the most practical tool to achieve Theosophical unity. It is one of the principal ways to combat the paranoia that comes from many uncertainties. Those with a rather large case of the “not-enoughs” or the “too-muchses,” which they only too readily report in others but cannot see in themselves create logjams, as we were taught in Theosophy School plays.

Too often those born into Theosophy have faced the danger of feeling above it all so fall into the very traps they have been teaching others to avoid. Those traps include becoming dependent on income and benefits from working for the movement and property management that leads to internecine wars. So the material world creeps into the spiritual and needs to be honestly evaluated so that people learn to help themselves and not become codependent on Theosophical salaries, foisting their family problems onto the Lodges instead of developing the necessary personal responsibility. In other words, healthy boundaries are needed — personally, financially, legally, and spiritually. Theosophical interdependence is not codependence.

What good is it to exercise compassion when people do not know how to receive love? That is one of the biggest problems of our day. People do not know how to feel and experience. Compassionate people impress others to open their hearts and minds to compassion by creating a safe space for this to happen. This is a huge issue for the the homeless, the mentally challenged, the traumatized, the war-torn refugees, and the many poor. We see many of them searching for personal healing at our Lodge meetings. They have learned that it is safer not to trust the hand of fellowship because past experience shows it cannot be counted on. One scam after another — abuse, neglect, incest, addiction, diseases — afflict the soul's ability to find its way out for nourishment.

Many Theosophical groups are not happy. Often their classes are morose, heavy, monotonous, ponderous, lacking happiness, joy, and the