

remember.” And so you return. But – as Rip Van Winkle and others found out – while we are away, everything changes. However, while everyone you knew is gone, the magic old ladies you would give anything to talk to now that you are an old lady too are still there, the books are being studied, people are talking about the ideas, the meaning, what always lasts. The work at ULT, for many years, was maintained by volunteers and, for those of you who are familiar with volunteerism in the United States, those volunteers who maintained churches, school, nonprofits were women who were not - as the euphemism goes – employed outside the home. That has changed now. But for many, many years, the Bhagavad Gita class on Wednesday afternoon was seen, unconsciously perhaps but still seen, as the old ladies’ class. And as the old ladies’ class it was not seen as something that was really cutting edge, not seen as where the dynamic history of the Theosophical movement was going.

So, as the years went by and the old lady volunteers are no longer with us, if you were to join us in LA at one o’clock on Wednesday afternoons, what you would now find, to be blunt about it, are fellow-students who are able to “be there” when the rest of the world is at work: those who are unemployed, retired, ill, homeless, or simply truly devoted students with open minds and hearts who are able to step out of the jog trot of the daily into a new vision of possibilities – the Gita class.

Of course, all the years you were away from active class participation, you “studied”. (It was really “dabbling,” but how could you know?) You dabbled in the Gita, and you thought you “read” *The Secret Doctrine*. You even impressed yourself with all you knew! So you arrive in a class where there are other students who have been studying for a while, and you realize that you don’t know anything at all. How refreshing! You discover that when we study alone, we focus on what we like; on what’s congenial to our own personality. We don’t study anything we are not interested in, so we easily can miss huge chunks of different, unsettling ideas. Startled and humbled, you also experience a great relief as you realize that, while you have been studying what your personality liked, this great teaching actually is about what happens when your personal nature says, “I’m so tired. I just have to rest for a bit,” thus allowing the Real Mind and Heart – our Krishna nature – to be heard through the new silence.

And that’s just what happens in the Bhagavad Gita. Arjuna says “I