

The Future of the Theosophical Tradition

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Every true spiritual teaching comprises three aspects: theory, which expounds its fundamental verities; practice, which experiments with these verities; and the testimony of the genuineness of the experimentation by those who practice.

Generally, for most of the established and organized religions, theory has become dogma while practice has lost its experimental value. As to the testimony of the genuineness of the experience, this aspect is almost non-existent, replaced long ago by blind faith under the argument of mystery. This has a common and obvious reason: all these religions have lost the vivifying contact with their founder.

The third and last aspect, which is the testimony of genuineness by those who practice the spiritual life, is bound to give proof that the teaching is true – that is, non-eroded by time and non-polluted by the action of human thought. In addition, it has to prove that the experience of the teaching leads those who practice towards an ever-greater understanding that will cancel or refute the wrong assertions brought into the doctrine. This experience constitutes the distinctive mark of the theosophical doctrine. How can we link Theosophy and the Theosophical Society to the three aspects mentioned?