

Theosophical foundation.

Theosophical teachings – if they are true – have the characteristic of remaining unscathed by time and thought. A Theosophist can testify to the genuineness of the teaching by giving it the element of irrefutability. History tells us that after his illumination, Gautama the Buddha was asked to give proof of it. As an answer, he touched the earth as a witness, showing by this mudra that his experience of illumination was as irrefutable as the reality of the earth.

This testimony cannot be given either by co-disciples or by institutional hierarchies. Each soul, before acquiring the merit of being directly instructed by the Elder Brothers, is destined to experiment for itself the truths which it has learned, assimilated and lived. Each one is meant to “be a lamp unto oneself,” as advised by the Dhammapada. The guidance comes from the innermost depths of oneself where, unceasingly, aspiration “to that which has neither substance nor existence” [4: 27] burns with a high, clear and steady flame.

Learning to know his lower nature and to master it, the student learns to observe life, the heart of human beings and his own heart as exhorts *Light on the Path*:

Regard earnestly all the life that surrounds you.

Learn to look intelligently into the hearts of men.

Regard most earnestly your own heart.

For through your own heart comes the one light which can illuminate life and make it clear to your eyes. [4: 23–24]

Thus the student Theosophist will be able to perceive the true dimension of life. And observing Nature outward, and his consciousness inward, he can learn from Her the secrets concealed in deeper levels of consciousness and matter. According to *The Mahatma Letters*, the Adepts had explored these levels at the peril of their lives in a remote epoch of universal time. The inner faculties can be developed to the extent of introspective investigation. These faculties help the flowering of intuition and the growth of discernment.

Thus we come to the future of the Theosophical tradition which will rely upon those individuals who consent to lead pure lives based on goodness