

Thus the question: Why should the average person learn of it at all? Wouldn't all Theosophical students be better off having never heard of Occultism in the first place?

H. P. B. conveys that the occult sciences provide much for the simple student of ethics and causality, even though they may not become a practitioner of the higher occult arts. It is the same as when a Westerner learns about the laws of karma or comes to a basic comprehension of thought power. After coming to any deep understanding about how the universe works, it brings about changes in every action and premeditation for the responsible adult. And hopefully, understanding such higher truths changes one's behavior and approach to life towards a much more altruistic direction.

Occultism is not about siddhis, and it is also not just about spiritual perfection. Occultism is about causality. It is about learning that pushing one domino leads to the last domino also falling over. That is necessary knowledge for anyone in a human skin. When the population of the world is capable of learning that they are much more powerful than they think they are, choicelessness is no longer an option, and the correct choice is altruistic Brotherhood. That is Theosophy.

In an article by H. P. B., entitled *Practical Occultism*, she directly addresses "the essential difference between theoretical and practical Occultism; or what is generally known as Theosophy on the one hand, and Occult science on the other ..." The majority of the article is a listing of Occult laws and practices, and the purpose of writing such an article to Western audiences has a great amount of subtext to any who are paying attention. Not only do those (again, about six or so) occultists that are in practice not need for her to spell out the rules to them, but least of all would they learn it from an English periodical. She lists these rules for the theoretical Occultist, synonymous as she mentioned, with a Theosophist. She states them in plain language so that those with the acumen and accountability can follow the golden rule a little further, or at the very least follow a more Hippocratic one so that we do not unintentionally harm others.

To distinguish Theosophy from Occultism more clearly, she explains, "Any person of average intellectual capacities, and a leaning toward the metaphysical; of pure, unselfish life, who finds more joy in helping his neighbour