

The Theosophical Society, for example, exists independent of the divine philosophy known as Theosophy or any of its doctrines and teachings. In fact, the only requirement besides the membership fee is the belief in the objects, in existence since the inception of its Original Programme. Without proper historical context, this has led some members to think that since a belief in any specific teaching is not necessary for Theosophical Society membership, the organization may as well be viewed as entirely separate from the doctrines of Theosophy and their practice.

However, if the Society were truly viewed as separate from Doctrine, what would be left? There would be little forward momentum keeping the heart of the Theosophical Society beating at all. Imagine an international organization with many quaint yet well stocked libraries of rare volumes, but no one ever applied the knowledge beyond writing ontological articles or giving lectures for the sake of discourse. They would host occasional interfaith ceremonies and prayer services featuring a variety of local religious leaders. It would be very much like a town activities center only for anything loosely spiritual, and the members would have little in common as far as motivation beyond the fact that they all have a similar affection for the atmosphere.

It sounds nice in a way, except that the Universalist Unitarian church does something similar, and the Theosophical Society has a purpose which is very different. For the Theosophical Society, something like this would represent a slow death. Or perhaps not death, if there are still three good working Theosophists in the world, but it certainly would come to lack productivity. The common goal necessary, with which every lodge can work independently of each other and yet still know they are all working for the same thing, is the means toward achieving Brotherhood. The means to get to that goal could have been any number of things, but for the TS it has become the education of Theosophy. There are many organizations that work toward Brotherhood, like the Peace Corps for example, or the Girlscouts, or as mentioned the Unitarian Universalist Church. The Theosophical Society teaches Theosophy, and those who choose to may apply those teachings to their lives, but it is not a requirement to be a member.

The Theosophical Society must always encourage the study of Theosophy, and must only *encourage* the study of the Theosophy. Dogmatism is nothing more than a presumption of authority, and Theosophists can be just