

and what the Society should never become. Church organizations, Christian and Spiritual sects were shown as the future contrasts to our Society.”

This quote from *The Original Programme of the Theosophical Society* very well embodies many devoted members’ greatest fear. That being the fear of having its principles and teachings used to create an actual church or cult, and misusing the doctrines entrusted to its members by twisting them into some form of misguided dogma. The idea of calling it an actual fear may seem like a very strong word, but a spade is a spade, and a fear is a fear.

When the Liberal Catholic Church was being formed and promoted by members of the TS Adyar, it had many critics insisting that they had created the very anathema to what the founders intended. The voice of the critics was that of fear talking. It is viable to assess whether or not it was a good idea, or even whether it was entirely necessary, but to accuse it of being antithetical to the purpose of the Theosophical movement? Flapdoodle.

“The Theosophical Society was chosen as the corner stone, the foundation of the future religions of humanity.” This well-known phrase was not stated idly, nor scribed by any common person. There is no reason not to believe the Liberal Catholic Church to be the first of many future religions, each conducive to Theosophy in its own way. As long as there is no dogma, and each member is free to interpret the esoteric meaning of liturgy, symbol, or allegory in any way – that faith does fulfill the intention of the Theosophical movement.

In the article *Is Theosophy a Religion?*, H. P. B. explains that Theosophy cannot be a religion because Theosophy is religion. “It transmutes the apparently base metal of every ritualistic and dogmatic creed (Christianity included) into the gold of fact and truth, and thus truly produces a universal panacea for the ills of mankind ... Because Theosophy can be practiced by Christian or Heathen, Jew or Gentile, by Agnostic or Materialist, or even an Atheist, provided that none of these is a bigoted fanatic, who refuses to recognize as his brother any man or woman outside his own special creed or belief.”

The problem with her logic, in regards to practitioners of other faiths being able to practice Theosophy, is that most of those religions are dogmatic. To put it another way, if someone is at first a dogmatic Christian (as many