

Theosophy," H. P. B. states that members best help the movement by Theosophy being an example in their lives.

So what does living the example of Theosophy in one's life mean? To me, practical Theosophy means love. Not love in the romantic sense of the word, but love without boundaries, without conditions, and without sentimentality. It is love that embodies compassion for all beings, great and small. It is love that allows the heart to be open. It is love that allows freedom for every individual to be who they are, but love that uses discernment as its guard.

Living Theosophy is living altruistically. It is heart work at the core. Our intelligence can only take us so far. Eventually we need to turn off our minds and open our hearts. Given the time period of H. P. B.'s life, I have come to believe that she was careful to use the word love minimally because of the misinterpretation that can surround it. Instead she used language that at times seems "heady" to say the least. In *The Secret Doctrine*, her volume on *Cosmogogenesis* is actually a beautiful love story. Coded in allegory, it paints the picture of the Absolute selflessly giving in order to know itself. When we look at the teachings from this perspective, we can realize that we truly are the microcosm of the macrocosm. The sayings "As above, so below" or "As within, so without" come to mind. And if we follow the qualities of the Divine, such as selflessness, we will live a life that brings us back into touch with our own divinity and our connection to the All That Is. We are once again reunited with the Beloved. What greater love story is there? And, as mentioned earlier, none of this has to do with romance for real love is more than poetic words and gestures. It goes beyond the human desires. Love has to do with self-sacrifice, freedom, compassion, and the wisdom to know thy Self. Interestingly, as a mental health counselor, these are the same qualities I encourage clients to have in their relationships. But sadly, I can't seem to get them to read the *Secret Doctrine*. I really can't understand why.

It is very easy for us to get caught up in the descriptions in H. P. B.'s writings and forget that they are clues to who we are. Her work *Isis Unveiled*, I feel, is an introduction to the basis of Theosophy and gives us a better understanding of the ancient teachings and our connection with the world around us. In this work H. P. B.'s descriptions of rituals of purification and initiation performed by ancient societies give us a glimpse into the unseen