

hindrances to a chosen path of action. A leader shows a compassion that inspires others to rise above the fears and divisions that inhibit cooperation and to do their best.

We can recognize and be inspired by historical leaders as well as those in more visible, contemporary affairs, but the question is: What is the difference in leadership referred to by the term, 'Theosophical leadership?' The answer in one fundamental way is found in the word "*theos*." Among its many rich meanings *theos* could be understood as that which is divine in wisdom and illumination, that which expresses the sacred and the spiritual, that which gives forth the most rich and comprehensive truth. Although the word "*theos*" may be attached to a being or to an entity, according to Theosophical teaching it conveys a central, abstract idea about what exists. That is a reference to the divine spark — that divine, sacred light that is at the core of everything that exists. It is the *Christos* in every atom. This divine spark or *atman* is the essential identity and higher self of every human soul. That spark is what enables us to perceive and to learn. The *atman* most directly activates and illuminates two very important principles in the human soul — the ability to discern what is true and right and good and the ability to reason at a level of understanding universal principles. When activated, those core capacities of the human soul called in Sanskrit the *buddhi*, and the *manas*, can in turn enlighten and guide the lower principles of the human being. Thus, we can integrate our highest powers with the more worldly of our principles, the lower quaternary of the physical body, the astral body and the forces that course through them.

Therefore, Theosophical leadership is leadership that is illuminated and guided by the *theos* within each human soul. That source brings a special kind of illumination and a special kind of understanding into the human consciousness and into communication and interaction with other human beings. One current ideal of Theosophical leadership is the Dalai Lama. We read about his discipline, his thorough commitment to a life of seeking sacred illumination, and we witness his tremendous energy, his sense of humor, his boundless compassion in the way he reaches out to each and all. Thus the Dalai Lama is a good example of leadership that is enlightened by the highest spiritual powers and energies available to a human soul. What is remarkable about him is that, having come as a refugee at a fairly young age, plunged into