

One of the first requirements of Theosophical leadership in daily life is to approach each and all with kindness — a virtue that the Dalai Lama speaks of often — to approach every human being, every situation with a heart filled with kindness. That is easier if one recognizes the fundamental identity of every human soul with every other and assumes that spark of the divine is in everything that lives. A strong sense of human solidarity implicit in this fundamental source of shared identity could be an unspoken but effective basis of communication and activity. That mental attitude right away brings those who perhaps not by choice, but by necessity, would lead, into a *rapprochement* with others. A leader must listen and engage in discussion and recognize the perspectives and the statements of the needs of others. Listening leads to a sense of mutual purposes and opens a mind to fresh opportunities for creative action. Thus emerges a synthesis of ideas that unites and inspires a community.

H. P. Blavatsky explained that all she did was to bring together several Theosophical ideas descended from ancient sources. She simply provided the ribbon that tied them together. We think that is a good metaphor for Theosophical leadership. In other words, it is not a leadership of imposing a particular idea, a particular plan of action, a dominant will, but a leadership that is open to suggestions and ideas and then has a way of synthesizing those ideas into an expression of a principle and then into a plan of action with a sense of future as well as of present needs. This is what distinguishes a leader from a follower who is yet to become a leader because, Theosophically, every human being could become a leader in some situation, somehow, somewhere. A leader may have only a little more knowledge or insight into the objective needs that are part of the cycle of the time. These needs according to Theosophy would have to do, again, with the inspiration, the liberation, the evolution of the human soul. This is leadership that enables others to see the benefits of becoming more like the sage, more able to be detached from the elements of the personality, more able to engage in a commitment with less baggage and fewer karmic anxieties.

A Theosophical leader would be able to adapt the teaching to a particular situation, finding ways to express it and yet never compromise on what is essential to the teaching and essential to the goals that promote human evolution. A Theosophical leader would have a very definite sense of