

The potential for change is always present. Our world is darkened by corruption, deceit, ambition, violence, hatred, greed, instability, disadvantage, fear and uncertainty – and bereft of compassion. The Council for a Parliament of the World's Religions has evolved an interesting model of 'like-minds' working to harmonise their relationships in a context where insurmountable differences have prevailed for a long time. And the motivation is expressed in a shared vision and mission to create a better and just world. The website www.parliamentofreligions.org describes these as well as presenting information and news about structures and projects.

While the Council may be emerging as a global vehicle for the expression of practical religion, the question may be asked about the relevance and core business of Theosophy and the Society in these times of turmoil. The following extracts from H. P. Blavatsky and the Mahatma Koot Hoomi shape the direction of a possible response.

"Theosophy must not represent merely a collection of moral verities, a bundle of metaphysical ethics epitomized in theoretical dissertations. Theosophy must be made practical, and has, therefore to be disencumbered of useless discussion ... it has to find objective expression in an all-embracing code of life thoroughly impregnated with its spirit – the spirit of mutual tolerance, charity and love".¹

"Theosophy is divine nature, visible and invisible, and its Society human nature trying to ascend to its divine parent ... It was formed to assist in showing to men that such a thing as Theosophy exists, and to help them to ascend towards it by studying and assimilating its eternal verities." ²

... "the essence of Theosophy is the perfect harmonizing of the divine with the human in man, the adjustment of his god-like qualities and aspirations, and their sway over the terrestrial or animal passions in him. Kindness, absence of every ill feeling or selfishness, charity, goodwill to all beings, and perfect justice to others as to oneself, are its chief features."³

(Theosophy's) "most holy and important mission" is "to unite firmly a body of men of all nations in brotherly love and bent on pure altruistic work, not on a labor with selfish motives."⁴

"The crest wave of intellectuality must be taken hold of and guided into spirituality"⁵