

Unity by Multiplication, Multiplication by Units

by John Roberts - USA

The recognition of pure Theosophy - the philosophy of the rational explanation of things and not the tenets - is of the most vital importance in the [Theosophical] Society, inasmuch as it alone can furnish the beacon-light needed to guide humanity on its true path. - H. P. B. in her *First Message to American Theosophists*, 1888.

At first glance, it may seem that nothing could be simpler or more plainly stated than is the aim of the Theosophical Movement in the words of H. P. Blavatsky, addressed to a convention of American Theosophists in one of the climacteric years of the nineteenth-century effort: the year of The Secret Doctrine, and the year when the Esoteric Section would be announced. How is it, then, that the Movement today has become such a complex disunity? Why is it that almost none of the simple, plain directions of the Teacher are being consistently followed in the various “branches” of the Movement - let alone the fact that the very existence of rival societies is contrary to the First Object!

Even to define “pure Theosophy” is to start an internecine war among so-called Theosophists, although to fight about pure Theosophy is manifestly absurd: as well expect Einstein to propose a duel because an amateur mathematician scoffed at the Relativity Theory! What, then, is the war about? Why, about impure “theosophys,” and waged by those who desire to plant themselves in the ground that has been cleared in the name of H. P. B. and the Masters.

It is not significant that various and distinct interpretations of Theosophy are expounded in Theosophical circles. Nor is it surprising that some interpretations are useful, inspiring, and honest, while others are degrading, deceitful, and morally infectious. The Theosophical Movement continues nevertheless, except when free speech and a healthy divergence of