

buddhi, a universal source of divine illumination and ethical discernment. Those who have fully awakened buddhi walk among us as inspiring exemplars of human potential. They live in unity and harmony with all of life. But how did they develop the “heart” quality that motivates their renunciation of rewards earned and bliss deserved? How did they become fully sensitive to feelings of human suffering in a world of turmoil and confusion? The answer is both mysterious and practical. Cultivation of “heart” qualities begins early in life as children are encouraged to feel love and yet accept discipline. Lessons of helpful service are mixed with experiences of happiness. Thereafter, ample messages of cooperation, brotherhood, service, karma and recognition of a common good help the child or young adult develop “heart” qualities in healthy relationships. In time, “heart” qualities can become natural and spontaneous. If learned deeply enough, these qualities can carry over to future lives where the process of education begins again.

In *The Key to Theosophy*, H. P. Blavatsky offers several methods of education that promote both head-learning and heart qualities. True Theosophical education must treat each child as an intelligent individual. Each child must be taught how to think and reason for himself. He must also be taught mutual charity, love for fellow man, and above all, unselfishness. That is the heart doctrine. The purely mechanical workings of the memory should be reduced to a minimum. Efforts should be made to awaken the inner senses and the latent capacities of the child. Although some schools of modern education have adopted some of these goals, their methods are nevertheless missing one central key: the knowledge of the soul. The typical methods of education for centuries focus on cultivating the mind rather than the soul. Theosophy points out that the mind is merely the vehicle, the instrument of the soul. Therefore, head-learning without the development of soul-wisdom, breeds selfishness, pride and arrogance.

True education and the use of the heart doctrine requires a recognition of the immortal, reincarnating soul in each one of us. This recognition should bring about fundamental changes in our thinking and actions. A one-life view gives no logical aim and goal to life, other than “survival of the fittest” in the “struggle for existence” or simply promotes an exaggerated image of an admired personality. Orthodox religious ideas can distort the possibilities for human development. The idea that in each baby