

Human Regeneration - Part I

T.S. Work and the Fundamental Change in Man and Society

by Radha Burnier - India

[Recognizing regeneration as the kernel of all Theosophical work, the International Theosophical Centre at Naarden, The Netherlands, jointly with the Federation of Theosophical Societies in Europe, organized two seminars in July 1990, with a number of office-bearers, workers and members of the Society from different countries as participants. The proceedings of the seminar were published as a book under the title *Human Regeneration*.]

We are meeting in the context of important changes that are taking place at the present moment, particularly in Europe. There were other times in the history of the world when great changes appeared to take place. But the world always reverts to a condition of chaos; and degeneration sets in in all institutions, social or political.

The subject of human regeneration is very important because a truly momentous change in the history of humanity will occur only when there is a revolutionary change in the human being. Probably a sufficient number of human beings must change to bring about a radical change in the course of human history. Therefore it is important for us to explore this question.

Every civilization has to meet challenges of various kinds. If they do not meet the challenge before them adequately, a nation or a people fail; the civilization begins to disappear. Historians like Toynbee have put forward a theory of challenge and response. Slowly the modern world is becoming conscious of the enormity of the challenge before our present civilization, if it can be called a civilization at all. We have had two terrible world wars, besides a number of other tragic struggles and minor wars (minor only in comparison to the world wars). The danger is not over, although there is talk of peace; we cannot eliminate the possibility of other wars breaking out, merely because Europe is changing.