

a gift we can give others. He stated, “We must do good; the desire to do good is the highest motive power we have, if we know all the time that it is a privilege to help others. Do not stand on a high pedestal and take five cents in your hand and say, ‘Here, my poor man,’ but be grateful that the poor man is there, so that by making a gift to him you are able to help yourself. It is not the receiver that is blessed, but it is the giver. Be thankful that you are allowed to exercise your power of benevolence and mercy in the world.”

As we can see, no work, no sacrifice can be sacred without love. The message given in *At the Feet of the Master* states that will, wisdom and love are three aspects of the Logos. If we wish to do the Masters’ work, we must do it through love. We all need love. The whole of creation is held together by the bonds of divine love and compassion. In H. P. B.’s *The Voice of the Silence* she asks, “Canst thou destroy divine COMPASSION? Compassion is no attribute. It is the LAW of LAWS – eternal Harmony ... a shoreless universal essence, the light of everlasting Right, and fitness of all things, the law of love eternal.”

The work of the Theosophical Order of Service is sacred. It was started to provide TS members with a platform to put theosophical concepts into action; to make those principles concrete. Can there be anything more sacred? It is right action with love and respect, with compassion between the server and served. It is service to the living god within every being.

We have had plenty of examples of service as sacred labor from the leaders of the Theosophical Society and the Theosophical Order of Service. Our late International President Mrs. Radha Burnier (TS Adyar) worked for the welfare of others for most of her life. Through her Watchtower notes, she directed the attention of all TS/TOS members and readers of *The Theosophist* to the need for right action, to minimize cruelty, superstitions, prejudice and sufferings of all beings. But the world is not free from these vices despite the amount of work we have done. This also is part of sacred labor. No matter how tired we become or how weary of the world we may be, we must not lose sight that our labor is for a higher cause, a greater cause, a sacred cause.

One of the teachings in H. P. Blavatsky’s *Practical Occultism* states “The god in us – that is to say, the spirit of Love and Truth, Justice and Wisdom, Goodness and Power – should be our only true and permanent Love,