

*Hungry serpents
bringing out Compassion*



From *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (E.S. INSTRUCTION No. III) XII pp. 587-88.¹

LET ME GIVE YOU AN ILLUSTRATION OUT OF REAL LIFE. When the notorious Madame Coulomb came to me in Bombay, with her husband, to ask for bread and shelter, though I had met her in Cairo, and knew her to be a treacherous, wicked, and lying woman, nevertheless I gave her all she needed, because such was my duty. But when, in course of time, I saw she hated me, envied my position and influence, and slandered me to my friends while flattering me to my face, my human nature revolted. We were very poor then, poorer even in fact than we are now, both the Society and ourselves, and to keep two enemies at our expense seemed hard. Then I applied to my Guru and Master, who was then at three days' distance from Bombay, and submitted to his decision whether it was right and theosophical to keep *two such Serpents* in the house; for she, at any rate, if not her husband, threatened the whole Society. Would you know the answer I received? These are the words *verbatim*, the reply beginning with an aphorism from the Book of Precepts:

If thou findest a hungry Serpent creeping into thy house, seeking for food, and, out of fear it should bite thee, instead of offering it milk thou turnest it out to suffer and starve, thou turnest away from the Path of Compassion. Thus acteth the fainthearted and the selfish.

Went on the message:

You know that you are PERSONALLY threatened; you have still to learn that SO LONG AS THERE ARE THREE MEN WORTHY OF OUR LORD'S BLESSING IN THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY — IT CAN NEVER BE DESTROYED. . . .Your two Karmas [her's and mine] run in two opposite directions. Shall you, out of abject fear of that which may come, blend the two [Karmas] and become as she is? . . .They are homeless and hungry; shelter and feed them, then, if you would not become participant in her Karma.²

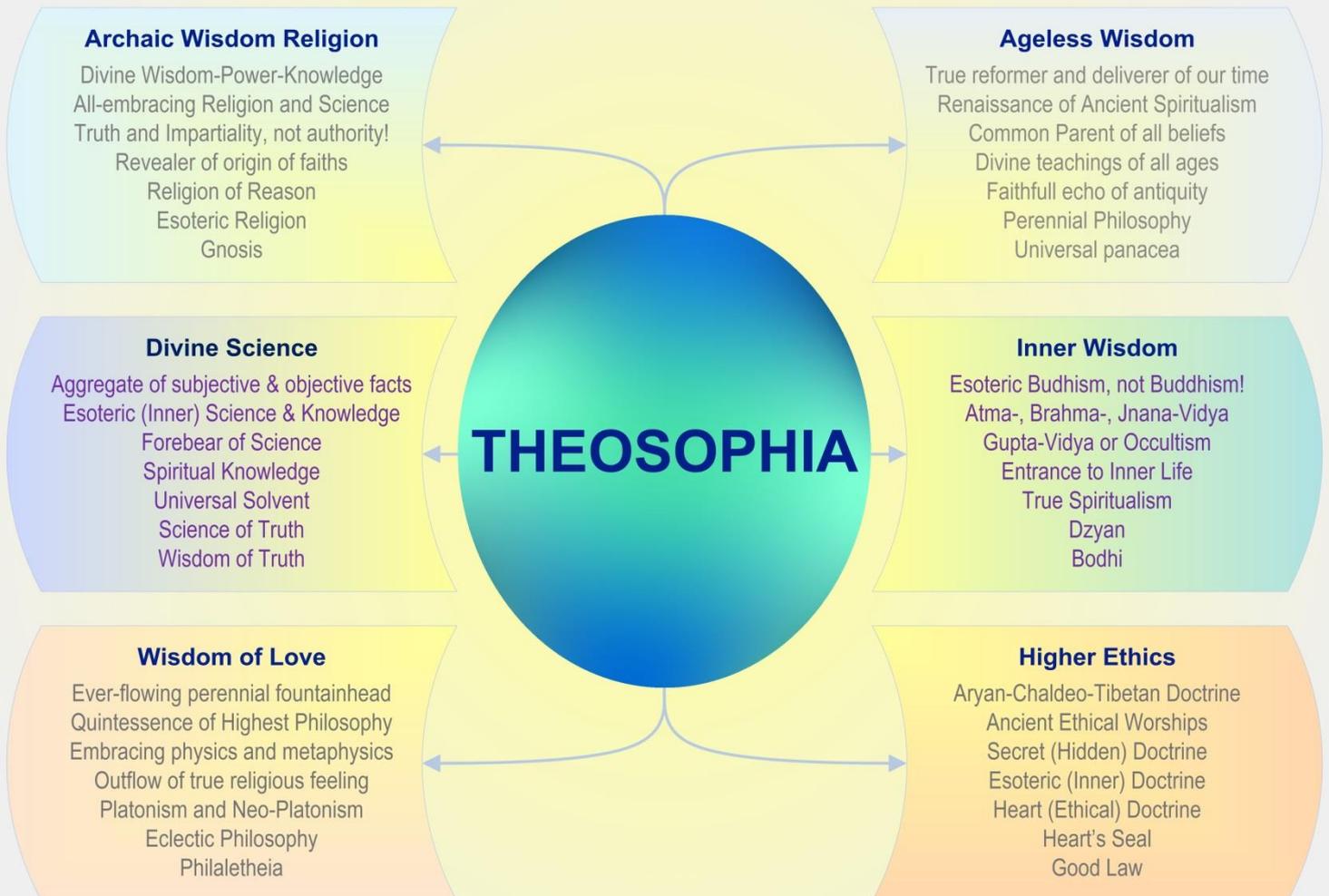
Helena Petrovna Blavatsky

¹ Frontispiece: Snake Nest, by Jane Ryder.

² [Students may wish to consult "When the serpent sloughs off his skin," in our Constitution of Man Series. This is an entirely different illustration: Briefly, as the reptile upon casting his coat becomes freed from a casing of gross matter and resumes its existence with renewed activity, so man, by casting off the gross material body, enters upon the next stage of his existence with enlarged powers and quickened vitality.

There now follows a Diagram, from our Theosophy and Theosophists Series. — ED. PHIL.]

Irrigated by Compassion and Charity Immortal, there is a constant outpouring of Spiritual Knowledge, Love, and Guidance for the Great Orphan. It emanates from the Highest Noëtic Realms of the Universe, from Regents of Rounds and Races, Higher and Lower Avatars, Gautama Buddha and his Incarnations, Rishis and Mahatmas.



Practical Theosophia is far more important than Esoteric Knowledge.

BEHOLD THE TRUTH BEFORE YOU: A CLEAN LIFE, AN OPEN MIND, A PURE HEART, AN EAGER INTELLECT, AN UNVEILED SPIRITUAL PERCEPTION, A BROTHERLINESS FOR ONE'S CO-DISCIPLE, A READINESS TO GIVE AND RECEIVE ADVICE AND INSTRUCTION, A LOYAL SENSE OF DUTY TO THE TEACHER, A WILLING OBEDIENCE TO THE BEHESTS OF TRUTH, ONCE WE HAVE PLACED OUR CONFIDENCE IN, AND BELIEVE THAT TEACHER TO BE IN POSSESSION OF IT; A COURAGEOUS ENDURANCE OF PERSONAL INJUSTICE, A BRAVE DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES, A VALIANT DEFENCE OF THOSE WHO ARE UNJUSTLY ATTACKED, AND A CONSTANT EYE TO THE IDEAL OF HUMAN PROGRESSION AND PERFECTION WHICH THE SECRET SCIENCE (GUPTA-VIDYĀ) DEPICTS — THESE ARE THE GOLDEN STAIRS UP THE STEPS OF WHICH THE LEARNER MAY CLIMB TO THE TEMPLE OF DIVINE WISDOM.

Blavatsky Collected Writings XII, (E.S. INTRODUCTION) p. 503; [quoting from a Master of Wisdom's Letter.]



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Suggested reading for students.³



From our Secret Doctrine's Second Proposition Series.

- BLAVATSKY ON KARMA AND REINCARNATION
- BLAVATSKY ON THE MIND IN NATURE
- BLAVATSKY ON THE SECRET CYCLES
- BLAVATSKY ON THE THEORY OF CYCLES
- INSIGHTS TO THE OPERATION OF KARMA IN EUROPEAN HISTORY
- KARMA IS THE UNCREATED LAW OF TRUTH AND JUSTICE
- KARMA OPERATES ONLY WHEN THERE IS A LIVING BEING TO MAKE IT
- KOSMOS IS ETERNAL NOETIC MOTION UNMANIFESTED
- MAN IS THE SOLE AUTHOR OF HIS FORTUNE AND FUTURE
- PROPOSITION 2 – COMPASSION: THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH⁴
- PROPOSITION 2 - DIAGRAM.JPG
- PROPOSITION 2 - DIAGRAM NOTES
- PROPOSITION 2 - KARMA NUGGETS
- PROPOSITION 2 - UNKNOWN AND UNKNOWABLE
- RETRIBUTIVE JUSTICE IN THE CAVE OF THE ECHOES
- THE ELECT SOUL IS PUNISHED THROUGH MARTYRDOM
- THE SECRET DOCTRINE ON KARMA AND REBIRTHS
- THE WHEEL OF EZEKIEL.JPG
- THOUGH FATE COMPREHENDS INFINITE, IT IS FINITE IN ITS OPERATIONS
- WALKER ON REINCARNATION, A FORGOTTEN TRUTH (1888)



³ Students should be fully conversant with the metaphysical concepts and learning aids set out in our Secret Doctrine's Propositions Series 1 and 3. — ED. PHIL.

⁴ C.A. Bartzokas (*Comp. & Ed.*). *Compassion: The Spirit of Truth*, Gwernymynydd: Philaletheians UK, 2005; v. 05.88.2021; 398pp. This is our first Major Work.