

Greeting to 128th Summer National Convention of TS in America

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Theme: "Science and the Experience of Consciousness."

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Dear brothers and sisters,

Heartful greetings from Russia to your scientific Summer National Convention of Theosophical Society in America!

The difficulty of being real scientists is that they work ahead of their time. They are the engine of progress, but the inertia of common way of thinking is not ready to accept new ideas. Most people just ignore them or even fight for old dogmas. The consciousness is said to be the hardest and the slowest thing to change. We know from the history that it takes generations for an idea to come to life.

Looks like the attitude toward the unknown has not changed much our days. Even the scientific world very often gives a hostile reception or simply ignores everything that doesn't keep within the existing framework. So any historical artifacts which do not fit with the existing conceptions aren't taken into account, unusual human abilities are called as deception or hallucination, foresight is usually counted for coincidence. That happens not because such phenomena have no explanation. Explanations has always been given. In particular the theosophical doctrine gives quite concrete and full outlook on the Universe and human structure, on their interrelation and development, on sources of all kind of phenomena and even on the conditions for them to appear. The most probable cause of dislike for every new thought seems to be the unwillingness to change the developed stereotypes as any attempt in this direction is perceived as a challenge and even a personal insult to certain authorities. Those who blindly accept words of these authorities see danger to look silly at such attempts.

It seems like this attitude towards searchers for the truth has not change since the times of Socrates and Giordano Bruno, but has stopped being so tragic though. These people still have to be fools for their parents in order to be treated as geniuses for their grand-children. If the one goes one step ahead of a crowd, he becomes a leader, but if the one foresees ten steps further than others – his fortune is to share the title of a madman with the other great people.

Each period of time is unique. We have fast communication technologies nowadays which give us the ability to spread any knowledge almost instantly. Science supplies us with its inventions rapidly and moves the frontier of impossible further and further, which has almost taught us not to surprise any more. Events from all over the world are filling everyday life of a person regardless of the living place. This accelerates the time in our perception, for the time is measured in terms of events, indeed. That what has happened around us during the last and current centuries may cause feeling that the statement about slow progress of consciousness is not true or belongs only to the past. However one more special feature of our time can correct this conclusion. We live at the turn of the cycles. Such a period is often called a time of changes. The longer the cycles – the greater the changes to come at their turn. This is natural and has happened more than once. At these times many people who are ready for considerable consciousness improvement are being incarnate.

However not everybody understands and uses this opportunity. After a long training during many reincarnations there comes the examination time. That is why human progress in knowledge grows so rapidly– those who come to this world has already known much of what they re-discover now in their preparation for the exam. Success or failure in passing of the exam is greatly depends on awareness of existence of training and examination at all. And that is where theosophy may help us.

We are taught that everything has consciousness of its kind. It presents in a mineral, a plant and an animal, but human experience of consciousness is reasonable. A human being is aware of self-consciousness. If the lower divisions of the kingdoms of life evolve without awareness of the process, – in case of a human being the situation is different. This is where our free will plays its role. It is up to a man either to evolve or to degrade, to study the laws of universe or to stay ignorant, to become pioneer or to fear any activity, to give oneself to public service or to serve oneself only. In any case the choice has to be done and our free will is that what determines the future experience of our consciousness. If we choose to help others to understand what we have learned, if we choose to give our knowledge without expecting any feedback or reward – we do what theosophy teaches us, we support the Universal Brotherhood foundation and make its time a little bit closer.

So welcome this heartfelt greeting from Russia and let this scientific convention be spiritualized by noble aspiration to serve mankind!

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