

What is Theosophy?

To define theosophy, theos-sophia or literally 'wisdom of the gods', a distinction is made between modern theosophy and ancient or timeless theosophy. Timeless theosophy, also known as the "wisdom tradition" or "eternal philosophy", is a tradition that can be found in human cultures around the world and throughout history. It is the basis of the inner or mystical side of many religions, sciences, philosophies and cultures. Modern theosophy is a contemporary presentation of this tradition as set forth by the Theosophical Society.

Spirituality in harmony with the foundations of religions

Today there is a clear distinction between religious institutions and the living experience of the soul. Theosophy is not in itself a religion, although it is religious in that it supports and encourages humanity's efforts to connect with the deep values that lead to the Root without Root. As Annie Besant urged, "live religion, rather than leave it," individual theosophists may profess various world religions - Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian, Hindu, Buddhist. Others have no religious affiliation but prefer a philosophical, scientific, artistic, yogic, ecological, etc. approach. The Theosophical Society expresses the conviction that human beings, across all these differences, are interconnected, can communicate and cooperate. As such, it provides an ideal platform for interfaith dialogue, mutual respect, and the common search for Truth.

Some Theosophical Doctrines

Although non-dogmatic, modern theosophy offers the following ideas, among others, for our consideration and many theosophists consider them not as fixed beliefs but as possible approaches to life that allow us to deepen our experience of the world as we live it:

- ❖ the duty of altruism, concern for the welfare of others,
- ❖ the ultimate perfection of the human nature, and thus of society and life,
- ❖ the reality of free will and personal responsibility,
- ❖ the power and influence of thought on oneself and one's environment,
- ❖ the existence of worlds of experience beyond the physical world,
- ❖ the presence of life and consciousness in all matter,
- ❖ the evolution of mind and intelligence as well as physical matter
- ❖ the law of karma (or ethical justice) and reincarnation.



Theory and practice

These propositions seem abstract. How can we apply them in our daily lives? These abstract ideas can have practical and very specific implications, for example:

The world we live in is fundamentally a good place, to be used wisely, embraced and honoured: rejoice in Life.

We develop as human beings, not by abandoning the world, but by cooperating with Nature to preserve it and allow it to perfect itself: respect the environment and live in an ecologically responsible manner.

We are all different expressions of the same Life, so whatever happens to one of us happens to all of us - everything is connected: help your neighbour, to help Life.

Disharmony and evil are the result of ignorance and selfishness: live in harmony and kindness in order to teach by the example of your life, your attitude and your actions.

Ultimately, all members of the Theosophical Society decide on their own practices and lifestyles, but many theosophists follow a certain way of life that is implied by theosophical ideas. They meditate or pray regularly, are often vegetarians and avoid the use of furs or skins; they do not consume alcohol or drugs (except for medical reasons). They support the rights of all human beings to fair and equitable treatment, appealing to their deep sense of ethics and Universal Brotherhood.

The Three Objects

The Belgian Theosophical Society welcomes new members. The only condition is that you accept its three Objects:

- 1) To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour;
- 2) To encourage the comparative study of religions, philosophies and sciences;
- 3) To study the unexplained laws of Nature and the latent powers in Man.

The idea of mutual respect which is brought forth by the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity is the corner stone of it all: religions, science and philosophical systems are equivalent insofar as they have drawn from the great source of ageless Wisdom.



The Belgian Theosophical Society

The Belgian Theosophical Society, as part of the Theosophical Society Adyar, offers activities that inspire a truly spiritual life. Its branches offer lectures, various study groups and publications. Each of our initiatives aims to contribute to the spiritual development of every person who is open to it. It invites its Members and Sympathisers to participate in the regeneration of humanity through spiritual self-transformation.

This brochure provides a brief overview of what theosophy is. If it has caught your attention, we invite you to visit our website, www.ts-belgium.be. You can also attend one of our public activities, consult our library, or visit our bookshop with authentic spiritual books. Sign up to receive one of our publications (Dutch or French) and stay informed of all activities in Belgium.



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The principle which gives life dwells in us and without us; is undying and eternally beneficent; it is not, or seen, or smelt, but it is perceived by the one who desire perception.

Light on the Path

