

Service through Will, Wisdom and Love

by Marja Artamaa

Marja serves as the International Secretary of the Theosophical Society. This talk was given at the TOS South Zonal Conference, which was held at Adyar, in Chennai, India, on March 24, 2018.

Meeting with TOS people, I really feel honoured. I am with you, with pleasure and joy. The main reason why I appreciate the TOS, is that the TOS takes action when there is a need due to a catastrophe (earthquake, flood), and because it gives continuous help for the needy. TOS members care for humanity and people's wellbeing, near and far.

The TOS has an impact on the future of humanity. How so? By helping with the education of poor children, and by caring for the little ones under school age. And when one helps mothers, one helps children. All this impacts not just the now, but more importantly, the future, when they are grown up and strive to be good citizens.

HH the Dalai Lama once talked to school graduates, who were about to finish their schooling. He advised them in his kind way to "*develop or create a better world, happier world, with non-violence, no line between rich and poor.*" He also pointed out that we human beings must work united, through common effort, or common goal – towards a happy world. This 21st century should be a peaceful century – but what we see going on does not look good. Now, to create a happier, peaceful world, inner peace is very important. "*World peace must be achieved through inner peace,*" he says, "*warm heartedness is very essential.*" Through those seemingly little actions, we can do big things. It goes with any age, whether you are young, middle or old age.

As humans, we have a long way to go, much to do, but the opportunity and also responsibility, lie on all those of us who have the means to help and who have the will to help.

Today, in this Conference, we talk about **service through will, wisdom and love**. With those powers, a change to a better world can be made.

It can be done, when there is the right kind of **will**.

It can be done, when there is **wisdom** of understanding the necessity.

It can be done, because there is **love**, which embraces all in Oneness.

SERVICE

What is required is a service-minded approach for creating a happier, peaceful world, and to give oneself to the service of humanity.

Dr Martin Luther King, Jr once said: “*Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. You don't have to have a college education to serve. You don't even have to make your subjects and verbs agree to serve. You only need a heart full of grace.*”

What does service-minded mean? Having a spirit of selfless service. There is a slight difference between unselfish and selfless action.

Unselfishness comes when one learns to drop personal needs and wants to help others. Personal reasons have less importance. Trying to forget oneself when working for others. This all is good – but there is still a small thought of *my will* to do good.

Selfless action is completely without thoughts for oneself, or one's own comfort. It is to live to the highest that is within us. It is pure action in each moment, at the service of God, or at the service of the King (as said in the RT), or at the service of a higher cause. One is always ready to serve. Real service means to be co-workers with the Trans-Himalayan Masters, who are the real founders of the TS. Selfless action is expressed also in the following words: ‘*let Thy Will happen, not my will*’.

WILL

I think that with the motto of this conference we mean Thy Will, not my will. My will, when it is good, is a fine step to move forward, but Thy Will leaves you to the service of the Great Ones, for the Masters' work.

That will is noble. That will is loving. That will sees everything as One. All action derived from that Will is noble, caring and warm-hearted.

We are worthy, whether it be small or big thing we are doing for others. Service in the heart and mind is selfless action.

WISDOM

Now, where does the wisdom come from, the wisdom to do good and to serve best? To my understanding the world is fundamentally righteous and just. That is the work of karma; it does not favour some over others. By deeply understanding causes and effects, one becomes wise in action. That takes time; it takes lives to learn within the heart, so that it becomes the source of our causal body. Wisdom is learnt through both errors and efforts.

The potential for wisdom lies within everyone. What we are asked to do is: be open, and trust higher powers – or better expressed – trust in the guidance of the Highest.

We may ask ourselves three questions:

- Who is a wise human being?
 - One who is skilful in life and acts according to Truth.
 - Wisdom belongs to the soul.
- How do we become wise?
 - This cannot be studied or taught.
 - Wisdom arises through experience cultivated under service.
- Where does wisdom come from?
 - Wisdom comes from Love.

LOVE

Service through Love is the greatest of all. Real service is an expression of Love. We find several levels of the expression of love.

First there is love for uniting people. It is our life with family, relatives, friends, work, societies, peoples.

Then there is love for humanity, humankind. It brings about compassion and the realisation that all of humankind is on a journey towards perfection, that the world is in constant change, and that each one of us is a part of that whole – not above it. Humankind, of which we are a part, cannot be left to destroy itself. That attitude demonstrates love towards the world.

Thirdly – Love IS. It is the universal love, all embracing, love of spirit, love of god, god is love. The power of love strengthens our trust in life and hope for better.

CONCLUSION

To conclude this talk:

Following HH, the Dalai Lama's advice, we can develop a better world, a happier world with inner peace and warm heartedness. With these qualities, our service may be used. I once more thank you for your invitation. Service through Will, Wisdom and Love made me think of this important aspect of the work more than I would have by myself.