

# Live and Let Live

by Professor Sahadeb Patro



**Professor Sahadeb Patro, President, Utkal Theosophical Federation**

**J**esus Christ says, “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you?” A meaningful life comes from a deep sense of awareness about who you are and why you’re here. Our souls sing of faith, and our hearts, hymn of love. Our heart is wide enough to embrace the world and our hands are long enough to encompass the world. Reverence of life is a great virtue. The whole of human existence is a celebration. Our true happiness lies in the happiness of other people.

H.P. Blavatsky says in *The Key to Theosophy*: “... a true Theosophist must put in practice the loftiest ideal, must strive to realise his unity with the whole of humanity, and work ceaselessly for others.” Only as you live Theosophy, can you spread Theosophy. It is not our words; it is our life, that affects people,

claims Annie Besant. Live so that you make others smile. The measure of life is not in duration, but in donation out of pure love and compassion – donation of your organs necessarily to save others’ lives. Live simply so that others may simply live. The law of natural wealth is “to have and not to hold.” Some people live in dying, some others die in living. Herman Melville said, “We cannot live only for ourselves. A thousand fibres connect us with our fellowmen.”

Life finds its purpose and fulfilment in the expansion of happiness for others, for we belong to the whole of existence. “He who experiences the unity of life sees his own self in all beings, all beings in his own self, and looks on everything with an impartial eye,” says the Buddha. We are all humans and hence let’s live life which does credit to humans. We are blessed with beautiful human forms, sharp intellect and sensitive heart. Why shouldn’t we fit it with compassion for all beings?

Master Morya says: “For to work for mankind is grand, its recompense stretches beyond this brief dream of life into other births.” (*Letters from the Masters of Wisdom*, letter No. 51) Theosophy truly believes in animism. The hands that help are far holier than the lips that pray. The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth... Whatever befalls the earth

befalls the children of the earth. We did not weave the web of life; we are merely a strand in it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All species have natural affinity. Saint Teresa would say there is a tremendous strength that is growing in the world through sharing together, working together, suffering together and praying together. “Live and Let Live” can be a practically pragmatic reality for it speaks of equanimity, and not equality which is just a myth. Live as big as you can with what you have got, and with what you have given. We need much less than we think we need.

Every human being is, in essence, a bridge between heaven and earth. Brotherhood is our common cord; it is our novelty. He who gives liberally goes straight to the gods; on the high ridge of heaven he stands exalted, enunciates the *Rig Veda*. The attempt of the truly good ones is to find the good in others. Truly in God ‘we live, move, and have our being’. The spirit of God empowers the spirit of man. To love another is to see the face of God, points out Victor Hugo. Believe in each in its place and a place for each. We live, we love; we let it go! He that does well to another does good also to himself. Everybody may not be good, but there’s something good in everybody. Be there for others, but never leave yourself behind. Only in love is unity and duality not in conflict, affirms R. N. Tagore. Love is unto itself a higher law. Love is a symbol of eternity. It wipes off all sense of time, destroying all memory of a beginning and all fear of an end. Love is the astrolabe of God’s mysteries, espouses Rumi.

The Nobel Peace Laureate Albert Schweitzer emphatically says that until humans extend the circle of their compassion to all living things, they will not themselves find peace. For small creatures as we, the vastness of the universe is bearable only through love. We are all one family. Strands of love go out from heart to heart and from soul to soul. God sees them all, guides them all, and weaves them all into a glorious tapestry. The simple things are also extraordinary things, and the wise can see it. Simplicity is our natural wealth, luxury is our artificial poverty. Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, a touch that never hurts, wrote Charles Dickens. If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other, expounds Mother Teresa. What you think yours is not yours in the true sense; you’re riding a day dream, a reverie. Only your conscience and consciousness are intrinsically yours.

Jain Samvatsari, the last day of Paryushan, is when Jains seek forgiveness from all creatures of the world – human and non-human – that they may have harmed knowingly or unknowingly. Be a lamp, a lifeboat, a ladder. Help someone’s soul heal. Walk out of your house like a shepherd, advises Jalaluddin Rumi. Men’s hearts ought not to be set against one another but set with one another. The Spiritual heart is where love resides and presides. This speaks of and testifies to the indivisible oneness of existence. Real generosity toward the future lies in giving all to the present, says Albert Camus. When in thirst you drink from a cup, you see God in it. Those who are not in love with God will see only their own face in it. The more intently you think of the wellbeing of others, the more oblivious of self you become. A life lived in full awareness is the best way to live, for such a life truly believes in ‘Live and Let Live’ – ‘Treat the people the way you want to be treated’ is an extension of this maxim.

Christmas is forever, not just for one day – for loving, sharing, giving are not to be put away like bells and lights and tinsel, in some box upon a shelf. The good you do to others is the good you do to yourself. Nothing in this world really belongs to us; we are merely borrowers. God gave us the gift of life; it is up to us to give ourselves the gift of living well. Inculcate a sense of purpose in life – and know then that the purpose is to serve others – invent life in the service to others. Saint Francis of Assisi entreats, “Master, grant me that I might never seek so much to be served as to serve.” Each person must live their lives as a model for others. The best way to find your self is to lose yourself in the service of others.

Compassion is the basis of morality, says Arthur Schopenhauer. Sympathy is just lip service – lip sympathy. Empathy is to bear the brunt of others’ pain and suffering, making it one’s own. Give to every human being every right that you claim for yourself. “Kindness in words creates confidence, kindness in thinking creates profoundness, kindness in giving creates love,” affirms Laozi (Lao Tzu). Feeding a living creature is far more important than making offerings to idols. We are at best one-to-one, but as Theosophists, we have to be one-to-many. Man, in truth, is himself a sacrifice, claims the Chandogya Upanishad. We only have what we give, not what we get. Live in harmony, in concern. Be organised and cooperative. Speak with one voice and make your resolutions with one mind... you will not falter to execute your duties. As Theosophists – let our operating principle be the oneness and wholeness of humanity without any distinction whatsoever.