

THEOSOPHY IN A NUTSHELL — 15 POINTS

An excerpted list from *Self-Culture in the Light of Occultism* by I. K. Taimni

1. The manifested universe is rooted in an Eternal, Boundless, Immutable, Ever-unmanifest Principle which is called the Absolute, Parabrahman, or the Ultimate Reality.
2. Consciousness (Spirit) and Power (Matter) are not two independent Realities but two polar aspects of the Absolute. They are the first products of differentiation and the basis of manifestation.
3. From this Triad proceed all the numberless universes which appear and disappear in an endless cycle of *Srishti* (Manifestation) and *Pralaya* (Dissolution).
4. The innumerable Solar Systems which form part of the manifested universe are expressions of the Ultimate Reality, each Solar System forming an independent unit and yet remaining rooted in the Ever-Unmanifest Reality.
5. Every Solar System is a perfectly ordered mechanism which is not only governed by immutable laws of Nature but is the manifestation of a transcendent Intelligence which is called God or Logos.
6. The physical sun and the planets connected with it are the outermost or densest part of the Solar System, there being several invisible worlds composed of increasingly finer matter interpenetrating the physical world.
7. The whole Solar System with its planets, visible and invisible, is a vast theater of evolution on which life in its various stages and innumerable forms is evolving (unfolding) to greater and greater perfection.
8. All this stupendous process is taking place according to a definite Plan present in the Divine Consciousness and controlled and guided by various hierarchies of Beings at different stages of evolution.
9. The evolution of humanity on our earth is guided by an Occult Hierarchy composed of perfected human Beings who have unfolded within themselves transcendent powers and faculties of which we can have no conception at our present stage of development. They are in constant and intimate touch with one another and with the affairs of the world and guide it according to the Divine Plan in consideration of karmic constraints (positive, negative, or neutral) with consummate skill and wisdom.
10. Life evolves gradually stage by stage through the mineral, vegetable, animal, and human kingdoms, the evolution being continued even after the perfection of the human stage has been reached.
11. All human beings are Divine in essence, contain within themselves all the qualities and powers which we associate with Divinity in a germinal state and these are unfolded gradually, leading to an ever-increasing perfection and expansion of consciousness which has no limit.

12. The unfoldment of these latent qualities and powers is brought about through the process of reincarnation, the soul incarnating again and again in different countries and under different circumstances to gain experiences of all kinds and then spending periods of rest on the super-physical planes to assimilate these experiences.
13. Not only the physical but all other aspects of human life are governed by natural laws operating in their respective spheres. This all-embracing law of cause and effect, which is generally known as karma, makes each human being the master of his or her own destiny and the dispenser of happiness or misery for themselves.
14. As the evolution of forms in the vegetable and animal kingdoms can be accelerated by utilizing biological laws, so the evolution of MAN can be greatly accelerated by the application of mental and spiritual laws operating on their respective planes.
15. The Science of Self-Culture is based on the application of these natural laws in their totality to the problem of human evolution and is therefore as certain and reliable in giving definite results as the laws working on the physical are in the field of modern Science.

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