

# The Clarion

End of Summer Issue - August 2021

Normally we meet at 332 Harbour Way in Richmond, close to 880; just 4 blocks from Bart. Parking in back. We look forward to seeing you there when the pandemic is over.

## LUGHNASADH AUGUST

By Barbara Penninton

August the 1st sanctifies the start of the harvest season  
The great Sun God Lugh knows the true, sacred reason

The first harvest festival, Lughnasadh or Lamma time  
The vibrancy of nature is in its glory and most sublime

We celebrate the redolent fullness of a shapely pear  
Apples laughing from tree branches are beyond compare

Crack open the first ripe and ready sheaf of wheat  
Grind the wheat berries and add thyme for a treat

Place on the altar the first braided loaf of bread  
Pray for success of the harvests that are yet ahead

Shape the corn dollies out of soft husks and string  
Listen to the precious message each one will sing

Bless all the harvest workers who use primal power  
To endure the endless days of hardship and glower

Autumn wildness and uncertainty will soon be here  
With imagined scenes of loss and even sharp fear

Great Sun God Lugh has transmitted his fiery all  
To hearts enchant and to souls encourage and enthrall

## SCHEDULE OF CLASSES

**AUGUST CLASSES ON ZOOM.US:**

**Member ID: 397993561.**

**For the Secret Password, please call  
Peggy Heubel at (510) 926-2869**

**1st Sunday, August 2, 1:00-2:30 TS : The  
Secret Doctrine Dialogues (facilitator  
Henry Rutgers)**

**2nd Sunday, August 9, 1:00-2:30 TS:  
Fundamental Theosophy (facilitator Peggy  
Heubel)**

**3rd Sunday, August 16 1:00-2:15 LCC:  
Hidden Side of Christian Festivals  
(facilitator Deaconess Imelda Brown)**

**4th Sunday, August 23, 1:00-3:00 TS  
Hermeticism: The Golden Thread  
(facilitator Barbara Penninton)**

**-and-**

**5th Sunday, August 30, 1:00-2:00 PM TS:  
Evolution of Higher Consciousness  
(facilitator Peggy Heubel)**



# Comet Neowise Illuminates the Skies

By Barbara Penninton

## THEOSOPHICAL VIEWS OF COMETS

Comet (Theosophical World): A celestial object characterized by a long visible tail when orbiting near the sun. It has a small nucleus with a gaseous envelope called the coma, with dust that is blown away by solar radiation. The tail may extend as long as 100,000,000 kilometers, despite the fact that its nucleus may be only about 10 kilometers wide. The comet has a second tail, called the plasma tail, composed of ionized gases blown by the solar wind.

A comet's revolution around the sun may range from three years to hundreds of thousands of years. Astronomers believe that there are hundreds of millions of comets in what is now called the Oort Cloud which is about a light-year away from the solar system.

Helena P. Blavatsky states in *The Secret Doctrine* that comets are a phase of the evolutionary development of celestial bodies in the cosmos. Diffused matter in space form themselves into comets and later become suns and globes. Quoting esoteric sources, she states :

"The Central Sun causes Fohat to collect primordial dust in the form of balls, to impel them to move in converging lines and finally to approach each other and aggregate." (Book of Dzyan). . . . "Being scattered in Space, without order or system, the world-germs come into frequent collision until their final aggregation, after which they become wanderers (Comets). Then the battles and struggles begin. The older (bodies) attract the younger, while others repel them. Many perish, devoured by their stronger companions. Those that escape become worlds." (SD 1:201)

Article by Judge

There are, in the first volume of the *Secret Doctrine* (first ed. pp. 203-209), two paragraphs which indicate some of the views of the Adepts in respect to comets.

Born in the unfathomable depths of Space, out of the homogeneous Element called the World-Soul, every nucleus of Cosmic matter suddenly launched into being begins life under the most hostile circumstances. Through a series of countless ages it has to conquer for itself a place in the infinitudes. It circles round and round between denser and already fixed bodies, moving by jerks, and pulling toward some given point or center that attracts it, trying to avoid, like a ship drawn into a channel dotted with reefs and sunken rocks, other bodies that draw and repel it in turn; many perish, their mass disintegrating through stronger masses and, when born within a system, chiefly within the insatiable stomachs of

various suns. Those which move slower and are propelled into an elliptic course are doomed to annihilation sooner or later. Others moving in parabolic curves generally escape destruction, owing to their velocity.

Some very critical readers will perhaps imagine that this teaching as to the cometary stage passed through by all heavenly bodies is in contradiction with the statements just made as to the moon's being the mother of the earth. They will perhaps fancy that intuition is needed to harmonize the two. But no intuition is, in truth, required. What does science know of comets, their genesis, growth, and ultimate behavior? Nothing - absolutely nothing! And what is there so impossible that a lay center - a lump of cosmic protoplasm, homogeneous and latent - when suddenly animated or fired up, should rush from its bed in Space and whirl throughout the abysmal depths in order to strengthen its homogeneous organism by an accumulation and addition of differentiated elements? And why should not such a comet settle in life, live, and become an inhabited globe!

## NEOWISE

By Barbara Penninton

Early Spring as humanity was shutting down  
A spectacular comet flashed through town

Comet NEOWISE was streaking around  
Our surprising messenger would astound

Named after a mighty cosmic telescope  
Its glorious presence inspired higher hope

Bright and brilliant, gold and blue  
Neowise proclaims what is true

The comet dances merrily in the skies  
And generously offers words to the wise

Speaking directly in each and everyplace  
Join me in scenic travels in space

Your soul journeys easily in orbits like mine  
Radiating an elegant, compassionate shine

Trust in lofty sacred journeys through eternity  
And discover magnificent, timeless mystery

# Idealism and the Fact of Unity: Does Darkness Rule the World?

By Peggy Heubel, President TSEB

If we would understand anything *The Secret Doctrine* has to tell us, we need look no further than in the *Proem*—the very beginning of the book. The *Three Fundamental Propositions* are the very basis, the foundation, and the premise upon which the whole of theosophy is simply commentary.

While the *Propositions* are relatively brief, they cannot be stated in their entirety on this page for lack of space. The most important of the three is the First: There is a rootless, causeless cause, out of which all else arises—Absolute Be-ness.

Try as we might, we cannot add or subtract from this concept without destroying the basic truth or core of it. Books have been written in attempts at further explanation or enlightenment but the words “there is nothing else but THAT” is the ultimate conclusion for those who have done their own research and for those who will, with an unbiased and open mind, make a similar attempt.

The foregoing was a simple “preamble” to the idea that ALL are ONE, of ONE; inseparable from ONE fundamental SOURCE. The result in and of life and living must, therefore, be UNITY not just at the highest, divine, and most spiritual level but at the most mundane and material level.

Since unity is the highest aspect of ONE-NESS, we marvel with great sadness at the separatism and egotistically-based ignorance endemic within human society throughout the world. A great darkness engulfs the world—spiritual darkness wherein we, in general, feel comfortable. Yet this comfortable darkness has caused æons of untold injustice, injustices based upon fear and hatred, pain and suffering, power and resentment; bigotry and intolerance. We can expand the list to include the *results* of these: the pervasive growth of societal inequality, of rampant poverty, of sickness and death from lack of health, of ignorance for lack of educational opportunities.

These words directly represent the human condition TODAY—not hundreds of years ago. This is our society, human relationship within our own town, our own state, our own country, and all around our world, NOW. Shall we stand for it? Shall we allow this to continue?

Yes, we are ONE: one race—the human race. We know this to the very core of our being, yet we continue to stand by, silently, as the struggle for inclusiveness continues. Inclusiveness? Should there even be a question of “inclusiveness” since one-ness of being is our indivisible nature? We are so fractured in our ideologies, in our beliefs, our philosophies, and even in our religions (if we have one), how are we, as “ordinary” humans, to counteract such dreadful contradiction to the oneness and unity that exists at the very center of our being?

We cannot and must not, in all good conscience, continue to speak about the great ideals of brotherhood, of love, and of simple respect—for this has gotten us nowhere. Holding great ideals is useless without action. We can volunteer to our heart’s content forever; can pray for one another and for the stranger amongst us forever. We can donate this that or the other for the alleviation of poverty forever. All our efforts combined have done nothing to help the overall human condition and we shall continue this forever—life after life.

We (human society) is at the crossroads where light and darkness meet. We have a choice, an active choice, as to which direction we will travel. It is not the purpose here to provide a cure for what ails humanity, but we know whatever it must be it must lead us toward unity. If we are theosophists, the realization of universal brotherhood is our object; if we are religionists, we surely understand the *Golden Rule* that exists in every religion. If these mean anything, we are obligated to live in the light of our belief in them...and this means a change of mind and of effort. There comes a time with silence is betrayal of unity.

Let us work in any way we can toward total and complete integration of all peoples into what can be thought of as a philosophy of Oneness and Unity. Let us work toward inclusiveness without distinctions of any kind. Let our actions in support of these change the world. It is a hard fight, but worthy of THAT which we are.

## Ask And It Shall Be Answered

Dear Peggy,

I agree with you about Unity and One-ness as presented in your essay above, “Idealism and the Fact of Unity: Does Darkness Rule the World?” However, in our discussion yesterday, based on our reading of Pablo Sender’s *Evolution of Higher Consciousness*, Chapter VI, we read about gnostic dualism, which led to a discussion of Good and Evil in the world, which led further to how in rare instances people lose their soul and become soulless. When they die, their soul doesn’t proceed to heaven or hell, or to reincarnate. They are eternally left behind, often to spook other living beings, striving to lead them to further corruption. Such soulless entities are left as total failures without ever being able to be redeemed because of

the evil they had done. We were told HPB had written that there is a wall created for our benefit keeping evil ones at bay. Having read that when Christ harrowed hell He redeemed all those that had been left there, and I, having been familiar with Buddhist and other teachings stating that our job will not be complete until we see every last sentient being become a Buddha (including Nero, Caligula, Hitler and Trump) I can’t fathom such separation. How can angels have created a wall for our benefit keeping evil beings (think Mexicans) at bay? This left me with the conundrum of the Good God and the Evil God. How can we have both and still have Unity and One-ness?

Best,  
Odette

Dear Odette,

This question is addressed by Theosophy, as follows:

Darkness does not “rule the world”—ignorance rules. Let us begin at the beginning:

The Source of all out of which all arises, in which all exists, is One inseparable Whole and remains so throughout eternity. As the Source begins to manifest (unfolds) out of Kosmos, untold differentiations occur within and of it; yet this apparent separateness remains Whole.

Everything in this manifesting Universe of differentiated matter has two aspects—the light and the dark side—the positive and the negative—which two attributes, applied practically, lead one to use, the other to abuse by that faction of Being called “human” as the result of free-will. In the metaphysical worlds of occult science, these two attributes can be (though not necessarily so) at odds with one another depending on motive and motive alone, which the difference between “White” and “Black” Adepts or Magicians. These terms reference degrees of spiritual purity and not of color.

Free will is an attribute of *human*-ness. Alone of all Beings, humans can choose to perform any action good, bad, or indifferent. Most individuals understand the basic concepts of right and wrong: most try to do what they believe is right.

If we take note of one of the underlying theosophical concepts, i.e., the evolutionary development of the Monad on the lower planes of existence, we can begin to understand what we mean by evil and how a human being may become “soulless” by choosing actions (thoughts, words, and deeds) hostile to the fundamental nature of the manifesting Whole. Light and dark, as its one primary aspect, is a polar pair inseparable one from the other; neither could exist without the other. As such, they represent balance, equilibrium, and harmony at the very core of existence; at the core of OUR (human) existence. Through our free will, we can choose to either work with or against the natural order of the universe even though we seem to be separate from the Whole as the result of our physical-plane perspective.

Yet, none-the-less, we are intimately connected and inseparable from the Whole...unless we choose otherwise. If we freely choose otherwise, we can do so only by intentionally separating our “lower self” (the personality) from our Higher Self (the Ego). This requires the elimination or destruction of the “bridge” between the two: the Antahkarana. This intentionality is of the nature of Darkness, of negativity—the antithesis of Light and the positiveness of the All-Good. It is the elevation above all of separateness, it is greed, egoistic pride, it is the need for power over all others and results in cruelty beyond imagination while striving toward individual separation from the ONE LIFE.

This striving for individual existence does not begin and end with one incarnation and the destruction of the Antahkarana is but the final results of many such lives: a soulless entity. Once this happens there is no turning back; there can be no “redemption” and the entity, bereft of its spiritual principles, cannot be “saved” through any means at any time. It will be destroyed—disintegrated at Pralaya (the end of the current Maha-Manvantara); its individual essences will disintegrate and return to the One Essence and, hence, will cease to exist in constituent “parts”. The negative energy generated by that now non-existent entity was deepened and its effects added to the Darkness in the same way Light is increased when a Christ, Buddha, Saint, or Adept is born into, and lives only to help, the world.

There is so much more that could be said about the “soulless” ones, how they have used, and use, elemental energies to further their goals. The elementals of the lower kind are subjected to the will of a sorcerer; how these (throughout long aeons) have become every kind of “demonic” entity directed toward “weaker and receptive” human beings in furtherance of their guiding, but separate, agendas. This kind of Darkness (caused by human free-will) is held in check by what is

termed the “Guardian Wall”—simply a suggestive name given to the host of adepts and saints collectively, who watch over, help, and protect Humanity. A “Brother of the Shadow” is impeded in his fiendish work by the joint efforts of these human (though more evolved) “Stones” of the Wall.

In closing, is there any help, any redemption, for the seriously selfish sinner—one who is decidedly walking definitely walking in Darkness? Yes. Help is ALWAYS available for any who have, initially, rejected goodness in favor of selfish and egotistical spiritual isolationism. As long as the Bridge (the Antahkarana) remains in place; still connects the lower with the higher, there remains the possibility, even while in “Avichi” (the bottom of the barrel, so-to-speak; a type of cold Hell). Even there (upon a sincere expression of regret and

remorse), the Highest Self hears and the still-human-one will, once again, reincarnate and thereby have another chance to redeem itself before it is too late...if it WILL.

Best,  
Peggy

## THE GOLDEN RULE



### Hinduism

Everything you should do you will find in this:  
Do nothing to others  
That would hurt you if it were done to you.

MAHABHARATA 5:1517



### Buddhism

Do not offend others  
As you would not want to be offended.

UDANAVARGA 5:18



### Taoism

The successes of your neighbor and their losses  
Will be to you as if they were your own.

T'AI-SHANG KAN-YING PIEN



### Confucianism

Is there any rule that one should follow all of one's life?  
Yes! The rule of the gentle goodness:  
That which we do not wish to be done to us, we do not do to others.

ANALECTAS 15:23



### Judaism

That which you do not wish for yourself  
You shall not wish for your neighbor.  
This is the whole law: the rest is only commentary.

TALMUD SHABBAT 31^



### Christianity

In everything, do to others what  
You would have them do to you.  
For this sums up the law and the prophets.

MATTHEW 7:12



### Islam

None of you shall be true believers  
Unless you wish for your brother  
The same that you wish for yourself.

SUNNATT



### Earth Wisdom

Do one of the above;  
And live in such a way that you will enrich, and not diminish,  
Our relatives in the Earth family  
Of animals and plants, soil, air, and water.

# Revisiting Demeter, Nature Goddess Associated with the Astrological Sign of Virgo

By Barbara Penninton

Respect for the exquisite spiritual quality of Mother Nature has been essential in the grand epic of life. Most of the story of life stars a nature goddess who represents the essential sacred qualities of life embedded in all existence. In this profound lore, the magnificent goddess of nature is honored with marvelous artistic creations.

Most of "civilized" humanity has desecrated this story and replaced the powerful nature star with a modern substitute. At center stage now is a worldview of human supremacy that relegates nature to the role of stage prop. This modern worldview at its extreme currently is suggesting that nature on planet earth is broken and the solution is to colonize another planet. While some anguish over the demise of nature, others throughout the world continue to honor Mother Nature and collaborate in rejuvenation of the planet.

Let's revisit an epic Greek tale in which goddesses of nature played starring roles. The main character of the story is the nature goddess, Demeter

A vibrant red poppy symbolizes Demeter of the Olympian Pantheon, who reigns over earth vitality, initiates souls into the mysteries and provides the mother force for the flowering of humanity. For two thousand years the work of Demeter in inspiriting the earth and the soul of humanity was considered essential to evolution to the kingdoms of life.

Demeter first appears with the Eleusinian Mysteries in approximately 1450 BCE and continued until about 390 CE. At this point, representations of Demeter are cruelly destroyed.

The significance of Demeter is described in the Discourses of Epictetus;

But no man sails from a port without having sacrificed to the gods; and invoked their help. Nor do men sow without having called on Demeter

Plato in the Phaedo described the mysteries:

Our mysteries had a very real meaning; he that has been purified and initiated shall dwell with the gods.

The goddess, Demeter with other nature spirits, enchants humanity and the environment. She provides certain energies and forces that make it possible for renewal, regeneration and rebirth.

Throughout centuries, the Eleusinian rituals were considered essential for humanity to thrive and to evolve. The rituals over many days guided initiates in a process of descent to a deeper level, discovery of the sacred and with the help of Hermes to ascend to higher planes.

The Eleusinian Mysteries follows the life of Demeter with her daughter, Persephone, begins with idyllic scenes that highlight the loving relationship of mother

and daughter played out in nature. One scene shows Persephone delightedly painting all the flowers in nature.

We'll let Homer tell the story.

Homer describes the scene of Lord Hades with his fierce horses seizes Persephone, "unwilling, lamenting and screaming for her father." An anger most horrific seized the heart of Demeter who left her throne on Mount Olympus to live a lowly existence in towns and in fields. Leaving the power of her throne and overcome by grief.

Sitting down on a humble support, Demeter drew her veil across her lovely face...grieving silently not speaking to anyone...longing for her finely adorned daughter.

The fields were no longer brightened with hand-painted flowers. The goddess of renewal was constricted in the terrible pain of grief. The forces of rejuvenation, abandoned by their beautiful mother and wise leader, were stunned into inaction. The whole of the land was distressed and the god, Zeus was besieged by the angry mobs to release Persephone from Hades. Hermes had the power and magic to release Persephone at least partially from Hades.

Glorious mother and beautiful daughter were reunited for part of the year. Homer describes the reunion.

Demeter, she with the beautiful garlands in her hair. Straightaway she sent up the harvest from the land with its rich clods of earth and all the wide earth with leaves and blossoms was laden.

The Eleusinian mysteries based their central principles on the descent into the unknown where an alchemical process takes place impelling an ascent into a higher level of spiritual life. The alchemy takes place deep into the soil of the land and in the soul of the initiate. Without the deep alchemy the earth loses its regenerative power and humans stumble and falter on their journey of immortality.

We may be learning that the story of life cannot dismiss the stars of nature like Demeter because the mother force is too deeply embedded in the forces of nature. Even sophisticated, modern minds can recognize that life is dependent on the mother principle.

Civilizations in the ancient world recognized that unseen forces in nature played a primary, vital role in their lives. The wise in these civilizations recognized that these internal forces were internal as well as external. These seers recognized that wellbeing requires a respectful cooperation with nature spirits and forces. Although in advanced civilizations, we may have to relearn the basics of respect for Mother Nature and Demeter may be a guide.



# In Thoughtful Jest

Chosen and Arranged by Odette Lardé



"I tweet,  
therefore I trend!"



Aristotle Instructs Young Alexander In Philosophy



"Wherever you go, there you are!"



Buddhist Compliment

