

**THAT IS WHAT I WANT YOU TO
HELP ME IN, TO MAKE THE WORLD
BEAUTIFUL FOR OTHERS.**

Dr. Besant's last address,
Headquarters Hall, December 24, 1931

It is not our words that influence people so much as our lives; our lives if they are unselfish, pure, loving and helpful are the best propaganda of theosophical ideas; for it is no good to talk theosophy unless we live what we talk.

Dr. Besant's last address



Annie Besant, Col. Henry S. Olcott
and Countess Wachmeister

In her Watchtower notes in *The Theosophist* of January 1918, Dr. Besant listed six tasks for members of the Theosophical Society. They were to 'penetrate the atmosphere with theosophical ideas, recast education, reform penology, raise labour from drudgery to creative joy, lift the disinherited classes and eliminate the double standard of morality between men and women'. Members responded with enthusiasm and the work of the TOS steadily expanded during the 1920s and 1930s.

Although the TOS is not as widely represented throughout the world as the TS, much work of social significance has been achieved over the decades, particularly in the fields of animal rights, anti-vivisection, theosophical education and parenting, ecology, healing, world peace, prison reform and opposition to capital punishment.

Let us judge our spirituality by our effect on the world. . . What are we here for, save to help each other, to love each other, to uplift each other?

Laws of the Higher Life

History shows that where members are prominent in social reform, the reputation of the Theosophical Society is enhanced by reflection and attention drawn to its teachings. The founders were in the forefront of reform in many areas and Annie Besant simply followed in their footsteps. She stood unequivocally for the betterment of the humanity, for the redress of social wrong, and the alleviation of human suffering. Members still draw inspiration from the remarkable woman who founded their Order.

