

Gandhi: " *Theosophy is Universal Brotherhood of Humanity* "



In the New Acropolis Ottawa lecture on Friday November 12th, "Can we still 'be the change we want to see in the world', as dreamed by Mahatma Gandhi?", guest lecturer Parth Doshi quoted Noel Richard-Nafarre: "*the common culture may take advantage of the thickness of silence in order to minimize or ignore the essential.* "

Parth Doshi explained that a crucial, key factor in Gandhi's life and destiny was more often deliberately occulted than forgotten: his meetings with Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, the impressive, yet controversial figure, who brought the esoteric teachings of Theosophy to the Western World in the late 19th Century.

Doshi pointed out that Mohandas K. Gandhi was introduced to H. P. Blavatsky (H.P.B.) in London in 1890, while working for his law degree. He was also given his first copy of the *Bhagavad-Gita*, which was to become his lifelong guiding text.

In his autobiography Mahatma Gandhi recalls that H.P. Blavatsky's book "*The Key to Theosophy*" deeply marked his mind. "*This book (...) disabused me of the notion fostered by the missionaries that Hinduism was rife with superstition,*" testified Gandhi.

Both meeting with H.P.B. and reading "*The Key to Theosophy*" awakened Gandhi's inner path which he was to walk until his death. While talking with Louis Fisher, Gandhi insisted twice: "*Theosophy (or deep spiritual philosophy), is Universal Brotherhood of Humanity.*"

Quoting the concluding words of Parth Doshi, "*If Helena Petrovna Blavatsky's teachings had the power to awaken the one who was to become Mahatma Gandhi, everyone concerned with spirituality as the main source of peace and fulfillment should consider both Gandhi's philosophy and H.P.B.'s wisdom.*"



References:

- <http://newacropolis.ca/gandhi/>
- Noel Richard-Nafarre, Helena P. Blavatsky ou la Réponse du Sphinx - Biographie
- Pyarelal Nair, Mahatma Gandhi, vol. 1: The Early Years. Ahmedabad: Navajian Publishing House, 1965.
- Gandhi's autobiography: The Story of My Experiments with Truth, Washington D.C. Public affairs press, 1948.
- Fischer L. "The Life of Mahatma Gandhi" New York, Harper, 1950.

New Acropolis Ottawa future events to December 2010:

Café-Philo: "Generosity, still valuable today ?"

Free admission

When: Tuesday November 23rd at 7:00 pm

Where: the MUST Wine Bar, 41 William Street in the Byward Market in Ottawa

Information: www.thecafephilo.com

Lecture: "Plato, the Allegory of the Cave and the Updated Path to Wisdom"

Regular: \$18 - Students: \$15

When: Thursday December 9th at 7:00 pm

Where: New Acropolis, 331 Cooper # 602