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SERVING A HIGHER PURPOSE

Let us acknowledge then that each one has just so much of happiness as he has of virtue and wisdom, and virtuous and wise action. —Aristotle, *Politics*

The second Object¹ of the Theosophical Society encourages members to engage in “the comparative study of religion, philosophy, and science.” The third Object asks us to explore Nature’s “unexplained laws” and the untapped powers that lie dormant within ourselves. A serious and sustained inquiry into either of these Objects could easily involve many years of study, if not lifetimes. But to what end?

In her 3rd letter to the American Convention,² H. P. Blavatsky reminds us that our study of Theosophy should ultimately serve a higher purpose than gratifying our momentary curiosity on some metaphysical point or providing us with a veneer of self-importance when we discourse with others on arcane subjects:

The Ethics of Theosophy are more important than any divulgement of psychic laws and facts. The latter relate wholly to the material and evanescent part of the septenary man, but the Ethics sink in and take hold of the real man—the reincarnating Ego. We are outwardly creatures of but a day; within we are eternal. Learn, then, well the doctrines of Karma and Reincarnation, and teach, practice, promulgate that system of life and thought which alone can save the coming races.

To have any lasting value, the effort we invest in our Theosophical study needs to bear dividends in our daily life. The serious student would do well to ask, “How have my studies made me a more peaceful and loving person? To what extent have I become a force for good in the world?”

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¹ <http://www.theosophical.org/about/intro.php>

² <http://www.theosophical.org/resources/articles/1890Convention.pdf>