

May 2010

WHITE LOTUS DAY

Throughout the Theosophical world, May 8th is known as White Lotus Day, a day set aside to commemorate the passing of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky, the founder of the Theosophical Society. More than any other person, she was responsible for resurrecting the forgotten truths of the wisdom tradition and bringing them into the modern era. But it was no cakewalk, for she accomplished this in the face of relentless opposition and biting ridicule. For this, all of us whose lives have been touched deeply by Theosophy owe her a great debt of gratitude. Without her fiery courage and unending self-sacrifice, how much poorer our lives would be.

In this passage from *The Secret Doctrine* where she refers to herself in the third person, HPB strikes a tone of unshakable confidence: “Abuse she is accustomed to; calumny she is daily acquainted with; at slander she smiles in silent contempt.” In another marvelous passage, she dismisses her critics with splendid disdain: “To my judges, past and future, therefore—whether they are serious literary critics, or those howling dervishes in literature who judge a book according to the popularity or unpopularity of the author’s name, who, hardly glancing at its contents, fasten like lethal *bacilli* on the weakest points of the body—I have nothing to say.”

Can there be any doubt as to the skill HPB had with words? The poet Robert Frost once said, “The right reader of a good poem can tell the moment it strikes him that he has taken an immortal wound—that he will never get over it.” Similarly, HPB had the rare ability to strike people in that fashion. Many of us freely admit that we, too, have been “wounded” by her writings and, moreover, we are not in a hurry to get over it.

David P. Bruce is the National Secretary of the Theosophical Society in America.