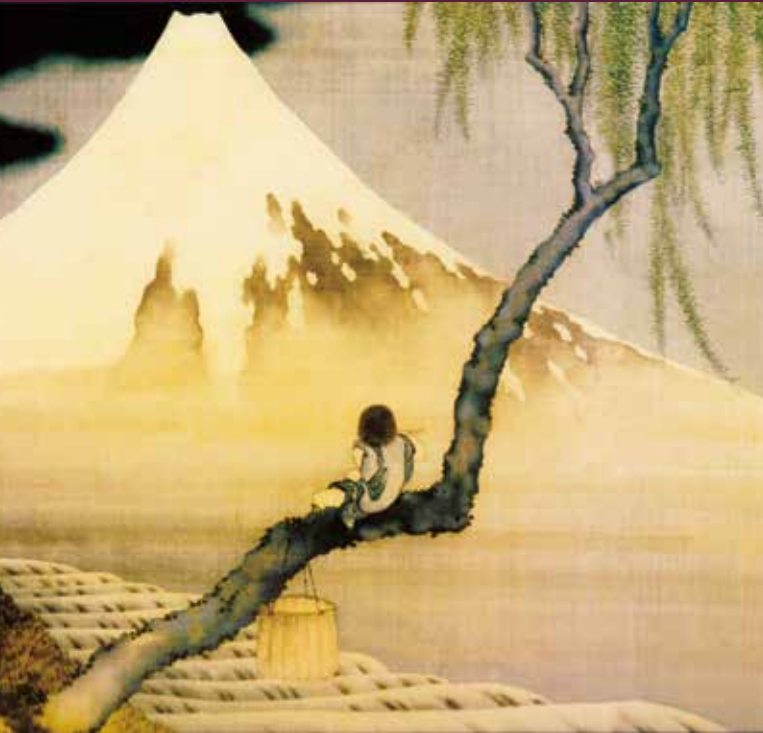


Course Thinking Differently



International
Study-centre for
Independent
Search for truth

www.blavatskyhouse.org

WHY THINK DIFFERENTLY?

AN IMPERFECT WORLD

Our world is far from perfect. Few people would deny this. Despite all the technical and scientific advances, we have not managed to build a world in which man lives in harmony with himself and his environment.

The reality is that whole nations still live in degrading circumstances. Armed conflicts and environmental pollution threaten life on our planet. Problems on a smaller scale are countless. These problems follow each other in such quick succession that many people respond with apathy.

IMPERFECT SOLUTIONS

Naturally people look for solutions everywhere, but where are they to be found? Most scientific and technical achievements seem, at best, to tackle the *symptoms*; we don't get to the root of the problems. New techniques often generate new problems, such as medical-ethical issues.

In addition to this, life's questions are a source of distress in themselves for many people. They are unable to find satisfactory answers to the whys and wherefores, the 'where did we come from' and 'where to from here'. They seek answers. Religion based on a personal God and creator, or Science explaining evolution as mere changes of forms, don't offer adequate solutions to them. Furthermore alternative philosophies are for many people too vague.

Bearing in mind that all problems facing mankind are caused by mankind, it follows that solutions should also only be sought within mankind, starting with individual people.

WHAT CAN YOU CONTRIBUTE

It follows from all this that the solution lies with *us* — an illuminating and encouraging thought. If we see ourselves as an inseparable part of humankind, then we can conclude that the emphasis must be on *our own* contribution to the solution of all the world's problems.

When we talk about human beings, we are in fact talking about thinking beings. Although some people are more superficial in their thinking than others, it remains our

capacity for thought that separates us from other creatures on our planet. It is the way we think that determines our individual mentality. And it is the dominating mentality of mankind as a whole that is behind the problems facing our world at the moment. The conclusion is obvious: this mentality can only be changed by adjusting our thinking habits.

Therefore:

Think – Think differently – DARE TO THINK DIFFERENTLY!

HOW TO THINK DIFFERENTLY

The course Thinking Differently is there to support you in your efforts to free yourself from ingrained thought patterns and prejudices. We maintain that the above problems – an imperfect world and searching people – have their roots in a deeply entrenched materialistic mentality. This mentality means that the material expressions of life are seen as life itself.

When these can no longer be observed, one speaks of death. A distinction is made between 'living' and 'dead' matter — a thought process that is even evident in contemporary religion, but most especially in modern science. This mentality prevents mankind from getting to the essential cause of many problems; it leads instead to dead ends and pseudo-solutions.

The course focuses on a mentality that is clearly in opposition to this. But it is important that we should be able to put our way of thinking to the test at all times. For this reason, the course is based on an open-minded search for Truth. We impress upon participants not to believe any ideas we introduce, without questioning them. That is what makes the course special. Merely taking someone's word for something is taboo. As a participant you will be expected to put things to the test yourself and only accept what is being claimed once you have experienced through your own investigation that it is right.

METHODOLOGY OF THE COURSE

The course Thinking Differently offers an opportunity to those, who are genuinely seeking answers, to *independently* explore and reform their way of thinking. It offers realistic

new structures for a practical life philosophy that provides answers to the many questions and problems that confront us. The course is based on the core Wisdom that forms the foundation of all major religions and philosophies with which the names of humankind's greatest thinkers are associated. This core Wisdom is the essence of the teachings of Jesus, Buddha, Lao-tse, Plato, Krishna and many others, and is also found in Esoteric Philosophy or Theosophy.

At the heart of this core Wisdom is the urge for spiritual growth and advancement, to become one with the higher aspects of our being. These higher aspects represent the best characteristics and abilities, latent in each one of us. In effect it is a striving for union with the Reality behind and beyond outer life, by changing our way of thinking in such a way that we become capable of leading our life instead of enduring it as something preordained: a fate over which we have no control.

The content of the course and the approach used are based on this Wisdom. The method is also known as Râja-Yoga — union achieved through exercising the 'royal attitude to life'. Those who created this course are members of The Theosophical Society who themselves have experienced the value of these philosophies. They can offer no guarantee for success other than the testimonials that they have put these core ideas to the test in their daily lives and have found them to be right.

It should be clear that the course Thinking Differently is not merely another attempt to force people to accept a set of notions. On the contrary. During the course people's opinions are respected and interaction is open and frank. Your own experiences will be placed and discussed in the light of the subjects presented in the lessons.

It takes courage to decide to 'improve the world, starting at home'. We would not give our wholehearted support to the course had it not been our conviction that it is of real value for those who have taken this decision. If you too see the need to take on the problems that face our world, if you too are looking for a different attitude to life, take up this challenge and dare to think differently!

COURSE CONTENTS

The following gives a summary of the subjects under discussion during the lessons.

Lesson 1 The nature of human thought

What is the focus of human thought? Is our way of thinking sound? What contradictions are evident in our way of thinking?

Lesson 2 Reality and illusion

Are sensory perceptions always infallible? What lies behind the world of phenomena? Absolute and objective idealism. Is it possible to learn how to recognise reality?

Lesson 3/4 Human consciousness

The configuration of human consciousness. An investigation into the various aspects that make up the human consciousness. Pointers for an investigation into the orientation of your own thought processes.

Lesson 5 Man know thyself

Guidelines for an investigation into your own character. The notions 'good' and 'evil'. What is consciousness? Selfishness and selflessness.

Lesson 6 Controlling thoughts

The properties that play a role in all of nature's processes. Being master of your thought process. Guidelines for analysing thinking processes.

Lesson 7 Thoughts

What are thoughts? Spirit and matter in their interconnectedness. Is it possible to create new thoughts?

Lesson 8 Thought processes

What is 'subconscious' thought? How do thought processes work? How can you change the way you think?

Lesson 9 Directing thoughts

Transferring thoughts and 'perceiving' thoughts. Is it possible to help others through thinking? How can you use the power of thought safely?

Lesson 10 Changing thought patterns

'Your life is what your thoughts make it'. Is it possible to change one's character? The power of the imagination. Creating ideas.

Lesson 11 Unveiled thinking – *the Socratic method*

Knowledge or Wisdom? Judging 'facts' and opinions. Developing the power of discernment. What is right? The essence of things.

Lesson 12 Where humans are wanting

Is the majority always right? Why do philosophy and religion reach different conclusions? Is a synthesis possible? Requirements a life philosophy must meet.

FOLLOW-UP COURSE *LIFE WISDOM*

To students who have completed the course Thinking Differently, we offer the follow-up course Life Wisdom. This second course enables them – applying their new method of thinking – to build a new vision of life. Once again, the emphasis will be on the student's self-motivation. There will be no requirement to accept any prescribed dogmas or to learn them by heart, but students will be encouraged to test the ideas that develop during the course in their daily lives.

This way they can build a life vision which can develop in parallel with the rapid changes occurring within society. In short, students discover a new foundation for life based on unchanging truths.

This course will discuss in 12 lessons the following topics:

1. Life and death
2. Cause and effect
3. The hierarchical structure of the cosmos
4. Heredity and self-becoming
5. The purpose of life and self-guided evolution
6. The two life paths
7. The knowledge of the Inner Self

INTERNATIONAL STUDY-CENTRE FOR INDEPENDENT SEARCH FOR TRUTH is associated with the Theosophical Society Point Loma – Blavatskyhouse.

The Society is non-profit organisation, run by volunteers working for the spiritual and mental well-being of humanity. It offers an open door to all independent thinkers – young and old – who, in their search for truth, want to gain an understanding of their own life, of their fellow humans and what they can mean to them, as well as of everything happening in society.

The Society offers a knowledge, free from dogma, which is largely based on the 'How' (Science), the 'Why' (Philosophy) and the 'Where' (Religion) within life.

You can follow our courses, visit our lectures and conferences, or simply study our books and magazines at home. On our website www.blavatskyhouse.org we offer free online books and (live stream) lectures.

International Study-centre for Independent Search for truth is an officially recognised 'Public Benefit Organisation' (see <http://www.anbi.nl>, no. 50872).

Donations are welcome:

www.blavatskyhouse.org/donations



De Ruyterstr. 72-74
2518 AV The Hague
The Netherlands
Tel.: 0031 (0) 703461545
www.blavatskyhouse.org

Contact:

e-mail info@blavatskyhouse.org

Title, Name and Forename:

Address:

Postal code, city, country:

Telephone:

E-mail:

Hereby wishes to participate in the course Thinking Differently.

The course fees will be deposited into the bank account of the Theosophical Society – Blavatskyhuis, The Hague, the Netherlands, c/o 'Admin. Courses',

IBAN **NL38RABO0156169177**

BIC **RABONL2U**

Paypal account **webmaster@stichtingisis.org**

on behalf of The International Study-centre for Independent Search for Truth's.

Please note: If a participant withdraws from the course before completion, no claims can be made for a refund of fees or the remainder of the course material.

The Foundation reserves the right to fix the venue and/or to postpone or cancel courses, in which case payments will be refunded.

Date:

Signature: