

Principles and Organization of the Religious Society of the Temple of the People

The Temple of the People was founded in November 1898 by Francia A. La Due and William H. Dower in Syracuse, New York. It is a continuation of the Theosophical teachings given to the world in 1875 by Madame H.P. Blavatsky and carried on by William Quan Judge.

Theosophy is the study of our human relationship to God, blending the religious teachings of East and West. It gives a key to the art of right living in accord with the divine and natural plan of evolution, and honors our interdependence with all life.

In 1903, the Temple organization moved to Halcyon, California, establishing an intentional community wherein the objects of the Temple could be articulated in daily life as well as circulated to all interested people. The spiritual as well as temporal affairs of the community are administered by the Guardian in Chief. The first Guardian in Chief was Francia A. LaDue, followed by Dr. William H. Dower, Pearl F. Dower, Harold E. Forgostein, and Eleanor L. Shumway. The present Guardian in Chief is Richard A. London. The Temple of the People at Halcyon is the International Headquarters for the organization, and its membership reaches all over the world.

Cosmically, the Temple of the People corresponds to the Temple of Humanity, which is composed of all members of the human race. This in turn corresponds to the Temple of the Universe, which is all Creation. Specifically, the Temple of the People is one of the bodies, or vehicles, for the manifestation of the Avatar, the Christos, who brings about the age of Brother-Sisterhood — kinship and unity — the next step in the evolution of Humanity.

THE OBJECTS OF THE TEMPLE

First: To formulate the truths of religion as the fundamental factor in the evolution of the human race. This does not mean the formulation of a creed.

Second: To set forth a philosophy of life that is in accord with natural and divine law.

Third: To promote the study of the sciences and the fundamental facts and laws upon which the sciences are based, which will permit us to extend our belief and knowledge from what is known to the unknown.

Fourth: To promote the study and practice of the arts on fundamental lines, showing that the arts are in reality the application of knowledge to human good and welfare and that the Christos can speak to humanity through the arts as well as through all other fundamental lines of manifestation.

Fifth: To promote knowledge of true social science based on immutable law, showing the relationship between one human being and another, and between human beings, God, and nature. When these relationships are understood we will instinctively formulate and follow the law of true brother-sisterhood: the unity and kinship of ALL life.

Religion, science, and economics: These are the foundation stones of the Temple. There can be no true religion without its scientific basis, and there can be no right economic system not based on a science that is religious and a religion that is scientific.

TEMPLE OFFICERS

Guardian in Chief: The Guardian in Chief of the Temple of the People is the Chief Priest of the Society. As a Corporation Sole, all powers of administration, both temporal and religious, are vested in this officer.

Seven Officers will be appointed by the Guardian in Chief at each annual Convention, to serve the Religious Society of the Temple of the People for the ensuing year. The first four officers listed will be chosen from members living at or near the Center. The three delegates-at-large will be chosen from members who do not live at the Center. These officers will meet regularly with the Guardian in Chief to discuss matters pertaining to the Religious Society of the Temple of the People.

These positions and what they symbolize for the Temple are as follows:

Inner Guard: Symbolizing the responsibility to the feminine aspect of manifestation, the nurturing, connected, indwelling spiritual force.

Outer Guard: Symbolizing the responsibility to the masculine aspect of life, the protecting, questing, balancing force.

Scribe: Symbolizing the responsibility to the records of our aspirations, hopes, and faith, and the flow of these to and from all human hearts and minds.

Treasurer: Symbolizing the responsibility to our storehouse of spiritual treasure, filled with the jewels we have been given to care for, use, and enhance.

Three Delegates-at-Large: Symbolizing the many members worldwide whose dedication to the Truth expressed through the Temple Teachings is inspiring. They are meeting the challenge of putting these teachings into daily practice without the outer group support and daily meetings available here at the Center.

Temple Members: Temple members shall consist of all who have requested and been granted admittance into the Temple of the People.

Chartered Temple Square: Under the auspices of the Guardian in Chief, a Charter for a Temple Square may be granted to a group of members of the Society upon application to Headquarters and by meeting the requirements for such a Charter.

ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE

The following are the orders of the religious society of the Temple of the People and are under the direction of the Guardian in Chief:

The Order of the Forty-Nine is designated to include all of humanity. Any and all members of the Temple of the People are members of this Order. A course of study is available to all members. No one is required to move to any other order.

The Order of the Thirty-Six is the first step in the inner work of the society of the Temple of the People. Study and service to humanity lead to a deeper spiritual commitment to service through Temple principles and beliefs. There is a course of study for this order. After diligent study of the Teachings, members of this order may be invited to enter the novitiate order known as the Order of the Twenty-Eight.

The Order of the Twenty-Eight is the novitiate for the Order of the Fourteen. This Order focuses on a deepening commitment to the practice of the principles of Service and Brother-Sisterhood. After demonstrating this commitment, one may be invited to enter the Order of the Fourteen.

The Order of the Fourteen, is the Order of the Holy Grail. Its focus is on service to all life, by working and building toward ideal outer conditions of order and harmony, ever impelled by the unerring instinct of the Christ-spark within. After study and service, one may be invited into the ordained priesthood, which is active participation as a celebrant of sacred services and as a counselor / minister to anyone seeking guidance. The Order of the Fourteen is the Order of the Exoteric Priesthood, and is the novitiate for the Order of the Seven.

The Order of the Seven is the Esoteric Order of Priesthood. In this order, the focus is on learning to recognize the Light both in oneself and in others through active service, prayer, and meditation. With this recognition comes the opportunity to help the radiance of inner Divinity shine forth to become one with the Universal Light.

The Order of the Twenty-One, the first exoteric order of the Temple, is also semi-esoteric in a sense, as the sacred number twenty-one numerically represents, and is, three sevens. This Order is animated and inspired by those forces that may be summed up in the word *Expression*, and will therefore seek to express the Temple to the world along the lines of art, science, and philosophy. There are no dues in this Order, nor is any particular obligation to be assumed beyond interest in the objects of the Order. Non-Temple members may belong to the Order of the Twenty-One, wherever situated. The aim is to associate artists, scientists, and educators in the Order, in either full or honorary membership, as there is interest in its objects.

TEACHINGS AND OTHER ASPECTS OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY

The Temple Teachings include all official publications and materials of the Religious Society of the Temple, and are under the direction of the Guardian in Chief.

The William Quan Judge Library Archive is the library of the religious society.

The Halcyon Book Concern is the publisher and distributor of the teachings of the Religious Society of the Temple of the People.

The Temple Builders is the children's department of the Temple. Builders are taught the value of service to others, the Golden Rule, and other Temple principles.

The International Convention is held at Headquarters from the first Sunday of August through the second Sunday of August each year. The convention is open to members of all orders and friends of the Temple. Admittance to inner orders and ordination of priests may take place at this time. A member of the priesthood may be delegated by the Guardian in Chief to conduct this work away from Headquarters when necessary. Special conventions may be held at the discretion of the Guardian in Chief.

Temple Study Classes are held on Tuesdays and Fridays at 5:30pm. All are welcome. To join, please use the Contact link on the Temple website: templeofthepeople.org.

The foregoing is a summary of the history, principles, and organization of the Religious Society of the Temple of the People. The core of the Temple is Unity, Kinship, and the expression of the Golden Rule through our lives and beings. We must live the things we say we believe in, and the many techniques and tools contained in Temple Teachings can help each of us in this process.

The Temple as a Principle includes the whole world. We become a mighty power for Good as we keep attuned to the ideal of unselfish service, with minds open and receptive to truth from every angle.

The motto of the Temple is "Creeds Disappear, Hearts Remain." It is essential that we keep this in the forefront of our hearts and minds as we pursue our ideals.

May we walk together in Peace and Light, born of wisdom gained through interaction, experience, and Love.

The Avataric Mantram

I will endeavor to realize the presence of the Avatar as a living Power in my life.

The Temple of the People • Halcyon, California USA