

# ANCIENT WISDOM

## INTERNATIONAL T. S. ELECTION SUPPLEMENT

OCTOBER, 1952

### AN EXPLANATION

This supplement is issued in the interest of the Theosophical Movement which has been the foremost, indeed the only concern of ANCIENT WISDOM since it was founded over 17 years ago.

Because of the commanding importance to the Society's progress of the forthcoming International Election, it has seemed desirable that this publication should make known its position to its many readers who are T.S. members. Also that it should afford space for the opinions of notable figures who—because of their long prominence in the work—have had every facility for reaching a considered judgment.

We likewise believed that full publicity should be given to the impressive background of the candidate we have the honor to support and to her deep-felt words of acceptance.

To do justice to so eventful an episode in the Society's history as the election of its chief executive officer (only the fifth in 77 years) would have taken half of the regular edition of this journal. Engrossing as the subject necessarily is to T.S. members, ANCIENT WISDOM is also read by many non-members, most of whom could not be expected to possess the same interest.

We are therefore printing four extra pages this month which carry only the Election material, the balance of the paper being devoted, as usual, to the specialized subjects with which ANCIENT WISDOM customarily deals.

The Supplement is published as a service to the Movement and with the eager hope that the very great personage who offers herself for this high and responsible office, may win the favor of its readers.

### FROM LOIS HOLMES

National Vice-President

#### In Appreciation of Shrimati Rukmini Devi

The Theosophical Society in America welcomed beautiful Shrimati Rukmini Devi this summer to be the honored guest at its national convention and summer sessions at Olcott and to tour the Section.

Those members who have been in the Society for some years have watched Rukmini Devi grow from a shy young girl into the flower of womanhood, now filling an important place in theosophical activities, in art, in education and also holding an official position in the government of India.

In whatever she undertakes, she brings to it new life, with glowing warmth of feeling that gives to it fresh understanding, so invaluable in the present confused state of affairs  
(Continued on Page 2)

### UKMINI DEVI'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE

California, Sept. 18, 1952

Dear Friend:

I have written to you giving a formal consent to being nominated as a candidate for the high office of President of The Theosophical Society. But I cannot rest content until I tell you how deeply I value the honour you have done me by even thinking of me as worthy of an office so gloriously held by such a one as Annie Besant and others.

Only after deep thought and meditation have I accepted your nomination, as I am aware of the tremendous responsibility. Yet I am conscious of the great opportunity for service.

Though unsought by me, I feel I must accept this opportunity given so kindly by your Section. And I know full well that I lack many of the qualities which are necessary for the perfect fulfillment of that great office.

The final decision of course rests with the members, and if I am not chosen I shall continue to work along the lines now open to me. But, wherever I am, I am a Theosophist first.

At present I do not know who the other candidates may be, but I want to assure you that I have no feeling of rivalry to anyone. If my brother Sri Ram stands, as seems likely, our friendship and affection for each other is such that it would not matter to either of us what the result is, as long as it is best for The Theosophical Society.

I have agreed to be a candidate only because I feel that my first duty is to The Theosophical Society and through it to the world at large. And if I am to undertake this heavy burden I prefer to do so when I am comparatively young so that I can give the best years of my life to it.

It is true that I am burdened with heavy responsibilities in the Educational Institutions of the Besant Cultural Centre at Adyar, including the Besant Theosophical School (founded by Dr. Arundale at Dr. Besant's request), the Arundale Training Centre, and Kalakshetra Art Centre. Also I am in the midst of plans for the transfer of this Centre to its own grounds.

Besides these, my own work and influence has spread into the public life of India, carrying with it many contacts and activities, such as the Unesco, Animal Welfare, Educational and other movements. And now I am a member of the Council of States in the Indian Parliament.

The question may well be asked, how shall I find time to work as the President of The Theosophical Society? I have thought this over and remem-  
(Continued on Page 3)

### FOR INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT OF THE THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, ANCIENT WISDOM SUPPORTS UKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE

We believe Rukmini Devi to possess in full measure the many and varied qualifications requisite to this high office. Our judgment is based not only on the many public lectures and addresses to members given by Rukmini Devi which we have heard or read. The Editor has been granted the privilege of several conferences with her in which her views regarding the needs of the Society have been amplified and discussed. He has been profoundly impressed by her breadth of understanding, her grasp of essentials and her sound attitude toward the many difficult problems with which the Society has to deal.

We believe Rukmini Devi to possess in greater degree than any other nominated candidate the ability, background, strength of character and knowledge to head this great spiritual institution that means so much to all of us privileged to belong to it—that means so much to a world that sorely needs what our Society alone can give.

We believe Rukmini Devi would prove a worthy successor to the spiritual and intellectual giants who have preceded her—to H. S. Olcott, to Annie Besant, to her own beloved husband George S. Arundale, and to C. Jinarajadasa.

To us who regard Theosophy as the most sacred teaching on earth, and The Theosophical Society as the Masters' chosen instrument for disseminating it, the support of the best candidate for the International Presidency is a matter of deepest moment. The future of Theosophy throughout the world is bound up in the choice to be made by the membership.

The Editor is aware that many members both in this country and abroad who are not fully informed as to the qualifications of the respective candidates, will look to ANCIENT WISDOM for a lead to guide them in their voting.

That is the purpose of this Special Election Supplement and the information it affords regarding the nominee who, above all others, we are convinced has the capacity to lead our great movement in the spirit and power of those who have gone before, yet with the addition of the modern progressive outlook for which the changed world conditions cry out. Every vote will be  
(Continued on Page 4)



## USEFUL DATA IN SELECTING A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

(Submitted by a Member)

### Vital Statistics

Looking ahead for the SEVEN years beyond Feb. 1953 (beginning of the new term) who of the present-mentioned candidates is likely to give us the BEST service from the standpoint of physical health and stamina, ability to stand rigors of travel, to meet the need for frequent Lodge and public appearances, etc.?

Name	Year of Birth	Present Age
Mrs. Arundale	1904	48
Mr. Cook	1887	65
Mr. Sri Ram	1889	63

### Achievement Statistics

Who has made, and IS MAKING, successful, enduring, growing achievements in notable fields of human progress, of marked value to present and future status of Theosophy and the T.S.?

Take as an *index* the field of EDUCATION. For is not the T.S. a world movement for the SPIRITUAL EDUCATION of humanity?

DR. BESANT, in her last Convention Message, said: "To help make Adyar a Flaming Center, I should very much like to have a School near our Headquarters . . . I will do all I can to help, as I think a School is necessary for Adyar's future."

Immediately thereafter, and with but a handful of pupils to begin with, Dr. Arundale, third President of the T. S., founded the Besant Theosophical School. Mrs. Arundale took over a large part of its management. Upon his death, she took over the whole of it. Today that School, including its Montessori section for tiny children, numbers 450 students.

Soon afterwards, and as fulfilment of the prophecy of Dr. Besant and Bishop Leadbeater, Mrs. Arundale founded the Kalakshetra Academy of Arts, adjoining the School at Adyar. Today that contains 80 specialists in art, 20 additional students giving part time to the Besant Theosophical School.

Later, also at Adyar, Mrs. Arundale established the Arundale Training Center for students beyond high-school age. 90 are now enrolled.

### Enlarged Fields for T. S.

#### Activity & Public Interest

Who has contributed MOST to enlarging the scope of T. S. activity, interest, and public esteem?

The answer is synthesized in this: Recently the President of the Republic of India has appointed Mrs. Arundale to the Council of States, the upper house in the Indian Parliament. This in recognition of her notable contribution to Art and Cultural Work.

Who is so well fitted as Mrs. Arundale to widen the contacts of Theosophy among the influential thinkers of the world?

## FROM L. W. ROGERS

Former President

Theosophical Society in America

I have been asked to give an opinion about what is the most important thing involved in the pending election of a President of The Theosophical Society and what particular qualities the incumbent of that august office should possess. To my mind the paramount thing, in all the various Sections of the Society, is putting across to the public an understanding of the three objects which the Masters gave the Society for that purpose.

As for qualifications, the President should be a capable lecturer, a good traveler, much of the enthusiasm of youth with the serenity and dignity of maturity; young enough in body to be energetic with a mind tranquil and balanced. At this date (September) all those nominated are well known and highly honored. Yet there is considerable choice among them. Looking at the matter impersonally and thinking only of the welfare of the Theosophical Society, my vote will go to Rukmini Arundale. She seems qualified on all points. At 48 she is neither young nor old. She is physically vigorous and mentally alert. She has excellent platform presence and can represent the Society anywhere with dignity. She has had much experience in national life and is a member of the Indian government. That is a matter of considerable importance. She seems to be a very satisfactory candidate.

## RUKMINI'S INTUITION AND HEART-WISDOM

By Dr. G. Srinivasa Murti

Director Adyar T. S. Library, Sanscrit Scholar, Physician to Dr. Besant, Dr. Arundale, Mr. Jinarajadasa

From a letter written to an American friend

Your idea to prepare a statement on behalf of Rukmini Devi and give it wide publicity is excellent.

Rukmini's approach to any and every question is from her own unique Theosophical standpoint. It is not mere intellectual display or head-learning that she gives out when she addresses audiences.

It is rather a thrilling and exhilarating outcome of high intuition (Buddhi) when she creates an electric and wonderful atmosphere and pours out from *heart-wisdom*.

Her addresses read well, but they are even more effective when we listen to her.

As an ambassador of Theosophy to the general public—certainly in India—she is the best known in Governmental and high circles.

In that respect she will be the most acceptable and appreciated successor to Dr. Besant.

## FROM LOIS HOLMES

(Continued from Page 1)

throughout the world. To me, she has an especial talent for stripping away the non-essentials from a situation, enabling others to see the fundamentals of it with a clarity and directness that inspires confidence.

In Kalakshetra, the Arundale Training Center and the Besant Theosophical School she has shown her capacity for organization and successful business administration. She never forgets the human side, giving of her time and energy to assist those who seek to further theosophical activities, particularly young people, who will carry onward and forward our Theosophical Society.

Her keynote during this visit has been to arouse among her listeners the discovery of the spirit that lies inside each individual and groups of individuals, that it may express itself in greater beauty and integrity.

It is apparent that we are opening new experiences in theosophy at this time and that a person of Shrimati Rukmini Devi's stature will as a leader and if elected as president, strengthen the organization with her inspiration and attract noble people of high ideals to Theosophy.

## FROM HERB HARRISON

President Glendale Lodge T.S.

Past President Sou. Calif. Federation

### Why I Admire Rukmini Devi

First. There are the intangible reasons, developed through personal contact with her. There is something so very inspiring about her presence, that it gives one the feeling that she is the possessor of great spiritual depths—of a spiritual quality that leaves one rather in awe. However, I have no ability to judge the spiritual qualities of anyone except as they affect me.

Second. I believe that she has other necessary qualifications for our highest office. She has gained invaluable experience in organization and administration from the direction and maintenance of her schools, in the face of terrific obstacles; in the face of ever-occurring financial crises; in the face of rapidly changing economic and social conditions in India.

Third. She is favorably and honorably known the world over. She holds a most favorable position in her own country. She brings to the Society a respect from many great leaders of many peoples. She brings to the Society her personal friendship with such distinguished persons as Prime Minister Nehru of India; of Lord and Lady Mountbatten; of Rabindranath Tagore; of Sir C. P. Ramaswami Aiyar; of the late Mahatma Gandhi; and of many other educational, cultural, political and spiritual leaders not only of India, but of many other countries. This in itself is of inestimable value to our Society. She was the beloved protege, too, of Dr. Annie Besant.



**FROM MAY S. ROGERS**

Once Secretary to Dr. Annie Besant  
at Adyar

I have known Rukmini Arundale for twenty-seven years. During the first two years of this acquaintance we were together some part of almost every day. This is a priceless memory.

All the years of her life since then have written a dramatic story of the unfoldment of the lovely, sensitive girl—then so completely protected from all the rough edges of life—into the woman we know today. This woman, still beautiful, sensitive, gracious has been finely tempered in the world's furnaces of experience, and this without the protecting shield of George Arundale, since his death. All of the potential qualities that were indicated in her youth have, in maturity, blossomed into full expression.

Rukmini is today a truly great creative artist. This is evidenced in everything she undertakes and carries through. She has a will of steel, balanced and directed by an amazing intuitive perception. She is an orator and uses this gift to inspire and illuminate as well as to teach.

The record of her work in India has demonstrated that she has genius in organization and administration combined with a tireless energy, driving power and perseverance which have enabled her to overcome handicaps that seemed insurmountable. The cultural institutions she has established and directs are incontrovertible evidence of her ability to achieve that which she undertakes. She has the rare quality of being able to attract competent, qualified people to assist her.

**FROM A LONG-TIME MEMBER  
AND WORKER:**

Elizabeth W. Ballard

One privilege enjoyed by members of The Theosophical Society, has been as unbroken succession of leaders and teachers, known largely, to be sure, through their books, though for the fortunate there has been the privilege of hearing them speak and experiencing the wonderful approachability that is the mark of the truly great.

The American Section is host to one of these, Shrimati Rukmini Devi, approachable, understanding, friendly. Like others of our leaders, there is public recognition of her work in her school for children, Kalakshetra, and of revival and restoration of the Sacred Dance of India, to its place of honor. This work has won for her a position of responsibility and leadership in India's Upper House of Parliament.

This is more than recognition of beauty and graciousness of a great lady; it is acknowledgment of worth and need of her experience as a skillful executive, the capabilities of an inspiring leader for the development of her country and the world.

**LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE**

(Continued from Page 1)

bered that other Presidents had exactly the same problem.

Dr. Besant was busily occupied in the Central Hindu College as well as in many other Educational, Religious, Social, Economic and Political movements. Yet, when the call came, she undertook the arduous task of President of The Theosophical Society, passing on to others what she could, and continuing such of her former activities as she felt were important.

The work that she did for the world and for India, even while being President, brought her the love and respect of all people. At the same time, it brought to The Theosophical Society a strength and influence as never before.

When Dr. Arundale became President he had a similar problem, for he was then President of the Indian National League, Editor of the journal New India, Chairman of the Directors of the Broadcasting Station in Australia, as well as head of many Educational and Youth movements.

Col. Olcott was the founder of numerous Buddhist schools in Ceylon, and of the Panchama Schools in India. His service to Buddhism is remembered even until this day. When writing of the future of the Society he said that it was his problem to find a person to succeed him as President who would, amongst other things, push on the educational work, now so prosperous in Ceylon and Southern India. He found Annie Besant.

In fact it is my regret that I am not great enough to follow in their footsteps. But I have had the privilege of the blessing, the guidance and the love of Dr. Besant and Dr. Arundale. And I pray that this inspiration may aid me in my endeavor to help the Society.

I am blest with a band of devoted helpers, young and old, outstanding in talent and capacity, who will carry on such of my present activities as I may assign to them. Thus I will be more free for the added work that will come if I am elected President.

My purpose shall ever be to work with my fellow-members in friendship and affection, and to attain the highest ideal of human progression and perfection.

Let me conclude by saying that my only wish is that I may serve the Elder Brethren in any form or any place, however great or small. I wish for nothing better than that They shall continue to have as President a person of Their choice to inspire and guide the Society.

(Signed) RUKMINI ARUNDALE

**FROM WM. J. ROSS**

President Southern California Federation

If I could meet each one of your readers and talk to them face to face perhaps I could convey something of what I feel and think, give them some idea of the qualities which endear Ru-

**RUKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE**

A Brilliant and Distinguished Career

(Editor's Note: The following information is taken from *World Biography* and other authoritative sources).

Born 1904, Madura, India, daughter of Pandit Nilakanta Sastri; married Dr. George S. Arundale 1920. Studied dancing under Anna Pavlova. Engaged in research work on dance, music, drama and education; travelling in various countries; toured India extensively with dances recitals and lectures; specialized in Bharata Natya, music, drama; produced *The Light of Asia*; incidents from the *Life of Bishma*, numerous other productions based on exalted religious themes. Lectures and writes on Theosophy, religion, art, culture, education, animal welfare work, etc.

President, World Federation of Young Theosophists; Kalakshetra (International Art Center), Adyar, Madras. Vice-Pres. South Indian Humanitarian League; South Indian Painters (artists) Assn.; Director, Besant Theosophical School, Arundale Montessori Training Center for Teachers. Pres., The Bharata Samaj (prominent Hindu religious organization). Appointed to Council of States (Upper House) Republic of India, 1952.

Chairman of Managing Comm. for Madanapalle College in India, founded by Dr. Besant; now comprising 700 pupils. Member of Madras Govt. Comm. for preparing syllabus for Music and Dance in Madras Educational System. Member of the Natl. Commission of UNESCO for art issues in India. Member of Govt. Comm. for reforming music on radio programs. Member of Comm. for Cancer Relief. Constantly invited to preside over Conventions of many organizations for public service, and especially of women's activities.

Commenced tours on Theosophical Work with Dr. Arundale in 1924, first visiting Europe. From then until now, she has made 36 voyages (many of them air-flights) in the name of Theosophy. These embrace Australia, America, Europe, New Zealand, Canada, Java, Indo-China, etc. She accompanied her husband until 1938, his final overseas trip. Since his death (1945) she has made world-tours in 1946, 1948, 1949, 1951, 1952, on the invitation of The Theosophical Society in various countries. She is Head of the famous Theosophical Center at Huizen, Holland.

kmini to her friends, but in writing I doubt if I can do this. Perhaps I should mention what she has done, her work in education, in art, especially in the revival of the ancient Indian art of the dance and her present recognition in the political field, outstanding proof of her ability to do things: or perhaps I should stress her eternally youthful spirit which approaches each problem

(Continued on Page 4)



## **UKMINI DEVI RECEIVES MAJORITY OF NATIONAL DIRECTORS' VOTES AS T.S. PRESIDENTIAL NOMINEE**

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As announced in *The American Theosophist* for September, page 164, the following nominations for International President of The Theosophical Society have been made by the Board of Directors of The Theosophical Society in America. We are adding the number of votes received by each, this information not being given in the above announcement:

UKMINI DEVI ARUNDALE ..... 4 votes

N. SRI RAM ..... 3 votes

SIDNEY COOK ..... 2 votes

We heartily congratulate the National Board on its majority choice of a candidate and ANCIENT WISDOM is happy to join in fullest endorsement and approval of this enlightened action.

## **UKMINI AS "A MESSENGER"**

By K. SANKARA MENON

(Brilliant educationist, right-hand assistant to Dr. Arundale in educational work, chief adviser to the Besant Cultural Center, Adyar.)

In many ways (chiefly along educational and artistic lines) Rukmini is the logical successor to the traditions left by Dr. Besant.

Of all the members of the Theosophical Society she is best able to convey to the world outside the Society the vital message of Theosophy which the world so badly needs today.

In recent years Rukmini has become one of the most respected people in India. It is not only her status as an artist that is recognized, but the fact that she has a sincere and vital message to give to this nation in particular and to humanity at large.

She is listened to with respect, and I think that this general recognition of her as a messenger has a profound spiritual significance.

FROM WM. J. ROSS

(Continued from Page 3)

as a new idea to be solved in the light of what is and is not in conformity to some past pattern; that spirit which for example in each of her dances manifests itself as the re-creation of the spirit of the dance, not in the repetition of a past form; that spontaneity and enthusiasm which not only enables her to do things but to get others to do things against tremendous odds. They are all important but inadequate to describe Rukmini.

Let me say simply that I regard her as an outstanding person fully able to carry on the tradition established by the great women of the Society, H.P.B. and A.B., and to give new life to the Theosophical movement.

## **ANCIENT WISDOM SUPPORTS**

(Continued from Page 1)

needed and every member should feel it a sacred duty to vote—as indeed it is. With fullest appreciation of the responsibility involved and the vast importance of the outcome, ANCIENT WISDOM with utmost sincerity and in all good faith commends to its readers' support

UKMINI ARUNDALE

## **A CONVENTION IMPRESSION OF UKMINI**

By IDELLE G. LUNTZ

Rukmini Devi is a wonderful leader. She has great charm and ability. Her warmth and devotion to the Cause of Theosophy and its former great leaders inspire those who follow in the path. Her great love for all the Universe and its creatures endears her to those of us who really know and love her. I was deeply impressed by her talks at Convention this summer and agreed most fully with everything she said.

Rukmini Devi has shown great strength of character in her determination and sacrifice to keep Kalakshetra Art Center together. Dr. Annie Besant and Dr. George Arundale have had great influence in moulding opinions for many Theosophists. Rukmini reveres their memory and doubtless receives help and guidance from them.

Children love Rukmini, teenagers respect her charm and ability, the middle aged and older groups of men and women are happy to know one who has found her Way of Life and surmounted the rocky path. Rukmini is a shining light of the Real and to me an INSPIRATION.

## **THEOSOPHY AS UKMINI SEES IT**

Excerpts from Her Writings

"He taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."

—Mat. 7:29

Many of us think perhaps by this teaching or by that teaching we are helping the world. Every teaching will degenerate into a dogma unless it is inspired by the power to love. And the power to love gives the understanding that, after all, the ultimate truth is the reality within each individual. It is that understanding that must become a living power in our life. To know how to live is the greatest art of all.

\* \* \*

What we really lack today is the power to feel. We are not really burning with love for people. We can all talk brotherhood, but it will have no value. The Christ said the same thing; and you and I say the same thing. Many millions follow Him, but few follow us, because we do not have the power behind us which gives value to our words; and the value of our words is our experience.

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Everybody is beautiful in the eyes of one who knows how to love everybody. The Christ-like individual is the individual who loves the whole world and is in love with it in such a way that he sees its divinity.

\* \* \*

Theosophy is the Heart of the Christ, the Heart of the Buddha, the Heart of all religions, of no religion—but the Heart. And this is what we must go into the world to teach, but most important of all, whatever our activities may be, to live. —My Theosophy.

\* \* \*

Theosophy, the white light shining above, on passing into the denseness of our world becomes the spectrum, embodying like a magnificent opal the whole range of colors.

If one turns it this way, it is Science; another way it becomes Art, it becomes Yoga, or Music, or Dance.

\* \* \*

The Great Plan exists and man with his intelligence and capacity has touched a fringe of the Plan, from which has developed what we call Science, which has so far mainly concerned itself with the outermost workings of Nature's laws.

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Through Theosophy one learns, not only the part which is now called Science, but the whole, which is the great Macocosm, the life force in operation, with its universes, its laws, its order, its plan—all of which are represented in man, a complete being.

This real Science which leads through knowledge of the operation of evolutionary forces to knowledge of the plan, is Theosophy in its true form—Occultism.

—Yoga: Art or Science