

A Mahatma Unveils the Esotericism in the TS Seal

[Although the Founders wanted the Theosophical Society to be free from official doctrines and creeds, they chose an emblem which is profoundly rich in esoteric symbolism. It contains, in a concise form, ageless principles of the Esoteric Philosophy. In the quote below, Mahatma K.H. reveals the spiritual dimensions of the interlaced triangles in the Society's seal. It is indeed a masterclass in esoteric symbology.]



Symbol: a visible sign of something invisible
Merriam-Webster Dictionary

“Does your B.T.S.¹ know the meaning of the white and black interlaced triangles, of the Parent Society's seal that it has also adopted? Shall I explain? — The double triangle viewed by the Jewish Kabalists as Solomon's seal, is, as many of you doubtless know the *Sri-yantra* of the archaic Aryan Temple, the “mystery of Mysteries,” a geometrical synthesis of the whole occult doctrine. The two interlaced triangles are the *Buddhangams* of Creation. They contain the “squaring of the circle,” the “philosophical stone,” the great problems of Life and Death, and — the Mystery of Evil. The *chela* who can explain this sign from every one of its aspects — is *virtually an adept*. How is it then that the only one among you, who has come so near to unravelling the mystery is also the only one who got none of her ideas from books? Unconsciously she gives out — to him who has the key — the first syllable of the *Ineffable name*! Of course you know that the double-triangle — the *Satkona Chakram* of Vishnu — or the six-pointed star, is the perfect seven. In all the old Sanskrit works — *Vedic* and *Tantrik* — you find the number 6 mentioned more often than the 7 — this last figure, the central point being implied, for it is the germ of the six and their matrix. It is then thus ... — the central point standing for seventh, and the circle, the *Mahakasha* महाकाश — endless space — for the seventh *Universal Principle*. In one sense, both are viewed as *Avalokitesvara*, for they are respectively the Macrocosm and the microcosm. The interlaced triangles — the upper pointing one — is Wisdom concealed, and the downward pointing one — Wisdom *revealed* (in the phenomenal world). The circle indicates the bounding, circumscribing quality of the *All*, the Universal Principle which, from any given point expands so as to embrace all things, while embodying the potentiality of every action in

¹ British Theosophical Society

the Cosmos. As the point then is the centre round which the circle is traced — they are identical and *one*, and though from the standpoint of *Maya* and *Avidya* — (illusion and ignorance) — one is separated from the other by the manifested triangle, the 3 sides of which represent the three *gunas* — finite attributes. In symbology the central point is *Jivātma* (the 7th principle), and hence Avalokitesvara, the *Kwan-shai-yin*, the manifested “Voice” (or *Logos*), the germ point of manifested activity; hence, in the phraseology of the Christian Kabalists “the Son of the Father and Mother,” and agreeably to ours — “the Self manifested in Self — *Yi-hsin*, the “one form of existence,” the child of Dharmakaya (the universally diffused Essence), both male and female. Parabrahm or “Adi-Buddha” while acting through that germ point outwardly as an active force, reacts from the circumference inwardly as the Supreme but latent Potency. The double triangles symbolize the Great Passive and the Great Active; the male and female; Purusha and Prakriti. Each triangle is a Trinity because presenting a triple aspect. The white represents in its straight lines: *Jnanam* — (Knowledge); *Jnata* — (the Knower); and *Jneyam* — (that which is known). The black-form, colour, and substance, also the *creative, preservative, and destructive* forces and are [these] mutually correlating, etc., etc.”

(Source: *The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett*, The Theosophical Publishing House, Adyar, Madras, 1962, pp. 340-341)