### The Problems of María Montessorí

#### Flow of Ideas

Theosophy

Montessori

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd











#### **Fundamental Principles**

• Theosophy

Montessori

- Catechesis of the
  - Good Shepherd

Plato

 All Knowledge preexists within man and merely needs to be recalled.

#### Aristotle

VS

• Man begins as a blank slate and must attain knowledge from outside.

#### The Theosophists



"So-called gnosis' was an enormous temptation in the early Christian Church. By contrast, persecution, even the bloodiest, posed far less of a threat to the Church's continuing purity and further development. Gnosticism had its roots in late antiquity, drew on oriental and Jewish sources, and multiplied into innumerable esoteric doctrines and sects. Then, like a vampire, the parasite took hold of the youthful bloom and vigour of Christianity. What made it so insidious was the fact that the Gnostics very often did not want to leave the Church. Instead, they claimed to be offering a superior and more authentic exposition of Holy Scripture, though, of course, this was only for the 'superior souls' ('the spiritual', 'the pneumatic'); the common folk ('the psychic') were left to get on with their crude practices. It is not hard to see how this kind of compartmentalizing of the Church's members, indeed of mankind as a whole, inevitably encouraged not only an excited craving for higher initiation, but also an almost unbounded arrogance in those who had moved from mere 'faith' to real, enlightened 'knowledge'." - Hans Urs Von Balthasar, The Scandal of The Incarnation



#### **Atheistic Evolution**

**Intelligent Life Basic Life Planets** Stars Heavier elements **Basic Elements** Subatomic Particles Energy

Theosophist Evolution Man evolves into God Intelligent Life **Basic Life** Planets Stars

Heavier elements

**Basic Elements** 

**Subatomic Particles** 

Energy God Preexists

#### THE SEVEN ROOT RACES OF THE TERRESTRIAL COSMIC ERA



#### Doctrines change with "there was really no reason because a priest or teacher six hundred years ago interpreted the Bible in one way (probably suitable for his time and age) that it should be acceptable now in a different time and age, under a different civilisation and with widely different problems. If God's truth is truth then it will be expansive and inclusive, and not reactionary and exclusive. If God is God, then His divinity will adapt itself to the emerging divinity of the sons of God, and a son of God today may be a very different expression of divinity from a son of God five thousand years ago."

Alice A. Bailey, The Unfinished Autobiography of Alice A. Bailey, Lucis Publishing Company, 1951, p142

# Eugenícs/ New Moralíty

Alice Bailey said, "certain physical restrictions should be imposed, because it is now evident that beyond a certain point the planet cannot support humanity."6 Bailey's proposed solutions were far-reaching: eugenics, and the reshaping of human sexuality so that people—like animals and plants—only mate and reproduce for a part of each year: "The emphasis in the future will shift from the urge to produce large families to that of producing quality and intelligence in the offspring. This will include that science of which eugenics is the distorted and exoteric indication."7 "The real change in human consciousness which is needed will appear only as the race itself is brought under a rhythmic law—under which, for instance, the animal lives function, or the seasonal law under which forms in the vegetable kingdom operate-thus transferring the whole concept on to a higher turn of the evolutionary spiral." False Dawn, Lee Penn, pg 63

The Religion of Teilhard

Teilhard said:

"...the birth of a new faith for the world I believe only Christianity can carry it out... I am convinced of it: The religion of the future is on the point of springing forth form a new christology stretched out to the organic dimensions of our new universe."

Approaches, March 1966, "The Strange Faith of Teilhard de Chardin" by Henri Rambaud

Faith in the World

Teilhard said:

"The world( The value, infallibility and goodness of the world, this is – definitely - the first and only thing in which I believe."

The thought of Teilhard de Chardin, New York, Harper and Row, 1967, p.376

A Christian?

Teilhard wrote:

"Creation, spirit, evil, God (and more specifically, original sin, the Cross, the Resurrection, the Parousia, charity...) all these notions once they are transposed to a "genesis" dimension, became amazingly clear and coherent."

Claude Cuenot, Teilhard de Chardin, Baltimore, Helicon Press, 1965, p. 274

• Note "genesis" means evolution.

## Evolution as a First Principle

In regards to evolution Teilhard says:

"It is a general condition to which all theories, all hypotheses, all systems must bow and which they must satisfy henceforward in order to be thinkable and true."

Le Phenomene Humain, Paris, Editions de Seuil, 1955 P. 242.

### Eugenics

• Why is it that in Rome, along with a 'Biblical Commission' there is no 'Scientific Commission' charged with pointing out to authorities the points on which one can be sure Humanity will take a stand tomorrow—points, I repeat, such as: 1) the question of eugenics (aimed at the optimum rather than the maximum in reproduction, and joined to a gradual separation of sexuality from reproduction); and 2) the absolute right (which must, of course, be regulated in its 'timing' and in its conditions!) to try everything right to the end—even in the matter of human biology."

Teilhard, Letter 1953

#### Totalitarianism

"The modern totalitarian regimes, whatever their initial defects, are neither heresies nor biological regressions: they are in line with the essential trend of 'cosmic' movement"

Teilhard de Chardin, Future of Man, p. 46.

#### **Communism and Theosophy**

The true communistic platform is sound; it is brotherhood in action and it does not—in its original platform— run counter to the spirit of Christ.

A. Bailey, The Rays and the Initiations, p680.



#### Maria Montessori with Bindhi (Third Eye)

#### Don't Teach

- "I am not yet prepared to go as far as the Montessori system in leaving complete liberty to the child, becuae I have not tried it yet. But the main idea is right, that you should help the child to teach himself. That is the great secret of all education. Not that you should pour into his brain, as if it were an empty vessel, a certain number of facts that he was to memorize, but that you should draw out his powers of observation, his intelligence, and later his power of reasoning."1 Annie Besant
- Annie Besant, 'Wake up, India; a plea for social reform.' pg184

#### Maria Montessori

- "The child unconscious drinks in divine power, whilst the reasoning consciousness of the adult is but human."
- The child, society and the The Child, Society and the World: Unpublished Speeches and Writings, Maria Montessori

#### What is a teacher ?

"What is a teacher ? He is nothing more nor less than an ambassador, an ambassador from the eternal soul to its temporary dwelling-place, the body. Madame Montessori believe, realised this fundamental relationship has. I between the teacher and the child. She says that the teacher watches. It is the work of the teacher to watch, not to control; not to give instruction, but to educate, to watch, to draw out that which already is there; not that which has previously been put in, but that which is already there waiting to be expanded."

> Annie Besant, *Theosophy and world-problems*, pg. 95 https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31175015498697?urlappend=%3Bseq=105

#### Monessori on the Teacher

"Consequently the task of the new teacher has become much more delicate than that of the old one,... The most difficult thing is to make the teacher understand that if the child is to progress she must eliminate herself and give up those prerogatives that hitherto were considered to be the sacred rights of the teacher. She must clearly understand that she cannot have any immediate influence either upon the formation or upon the inner discipline of the students, and that her confidence must be placed and must rest in their hidden and latent energies. Certainly there is something that compels the teacher to continually advise the small children, to correct them or encourage them, showing them that she is superior on account of her experience and her culture. But until she is able to resign herself, to silence the voice of all vanity, she will not be able to attain any result." Maria Montessori, https://www.levir.com.br/theosophy/Child.htm

#### Children are Divine

"A vital contribution of the Theosophist to educate is... the assertion of the fundamental divinity of man, and of the gradual deification of man as the process of evolution. This fact, I venture to think, is of vital importance in education. The child is not only an ageold soul, but he is also, in essence, Divine, and he has the three great gifts of Divinity, of God to man, and of God to His creation—essential omnipotence, essential omniscience, and the time to make the essential real. Annie Beasant, Theosophy and world-problems, pg. 93 https://hdl.handle.net/2027/uc1.31175015498697?urlappend=%3Bseg=103

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#### How do we Know Religon?

"We must remember that religion is a universal sentiment which is inside everybody and has been inside every person since the beginning of the world. It is not something which we must give to the child".

Maria Montessori, The Child, Society and the World: Unpublished Speeches and Writings

#### Errors of the Modernist

Moreover, the first actuation, so to say, of every vital phenomenon, and religion, as has been said, belongs to this category, is due to a certain necessity or impulsion; but it has its origin, speaking more particularly of life, in a movement of the heart, which movement is called a sentiment. Therefore, since God is the object of religion, we must conclude that faith, which is the basis and the foundation of all religion, consists in a sentiment which originates from a need of the divine.

#### Maria Montessori

 "Just as language has many expressions: English, Swedish, Swahili, and so forth, so does elevation express itself by way of different creeds: Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism and many different belief systems in order to communicate with and about god."

• The child, society and the The Child, Society and the World: Unpublished Speeches and Writings, Maria Montessori

## Montessorí and the Omega Poínt

"Nor is the [only] purpose of life to perfect oneself, nor only to evolve. The <u>purpose of life is to obey</u> <u>the hidden command which ensures harmony</u> <u>among all and creates an ever better world</u>. We are not created only to enjoy the world, <u>we are</u> <u>created in order to evolve the cosmos</u>."

Maria Montessori, "Absorbent Mind" pg.56.

\*Notes: The page number is given to the Owl edition cited in the bibliography, but this passage in its entirety does not appear in that (revised) edition. Rather, it appears is an earlier edition published by The Theosophical Publishing House, Madras, India, in 1949, p. 90.

#### **Corruption of the Higher Science**

Metaphysics

Mystical evolution

- Philosophy of Nature
- "we are created in order to evolve the cosmos."

- Psychology
  - Pedagogy

"The child unconscious drinks in divine power, whilst the reasoning consciousness of the adult is but human."

 It is the work of the teacher to watch, not to control; not to give instruction, but to educate, to watch, to draw out that which already is there

#### **Cosmic education**

"We use the term 'cosmic education' to refer to an education which is an effective preparation of the new generations to understand how humanity is being drawn towards a unified whole. This concept must not be presented as some ideal imposed upon mankind in order to judge their actions, but as a pre-existent reality which is constantly unfolding. We are not talking about the forcing of human beings to cooperate with each other so as to be united. Rather, we are speaking about elevating human consciousness" Maria Montessori

# What about Montessori's Catholic Book?



THE MASS Explained to Children Maria Montessori

- Appears to be a contradiction with her theosophy.
- Could she have been faithful during her youth?
- Maybe her revolutionary pedagogy was started before her involvement in theosophy.

### **Religious Infiltration**



"Liberal Catholic Church"

- Concerned with text and rituals, but not doctrines.
- Elaborate and beautiful liturgy.

#### Montessori's rebellious youth

- Attended a school for boys in her youth.
- In 1899, which was 7 years before she started her new pedagogy she stated: "the woman of the future will have equal rights as well as equal duties... Family life as we know it may change, but it is absurd to think that feminism will destroy maternal feelings. <u>The new woman will marry and have children out of choice, not because matrimony and maternity are imposed on her</u>." Maria Montessori
- Where does this idea come from in someone raised Catholic?
- According to statistical analysis, the feminists living in Montessori's generation were several hundred times more likely to join the Theosophical Society than was the average member of the country's population.

#### Friendship with Annie Besant

- Montessori's first documented involvement in theosophy can be found in 'Quest Magazine' and 'Maria Montessori: A Biography.'
- Both writings affirm that around 1907 Maria Montessori struck a friendship with occultist Annie Besant.

#### Good within the Montessori Method



# How can the Good come from something so distorted

- Chance
- Ex. Farmer
- Lie is only effective if it is based on some truth.

#### More defects

- •The child still needs to be taught.
- •Higher Montessori Classes use less of the method.

•Same with seminar teaching.