

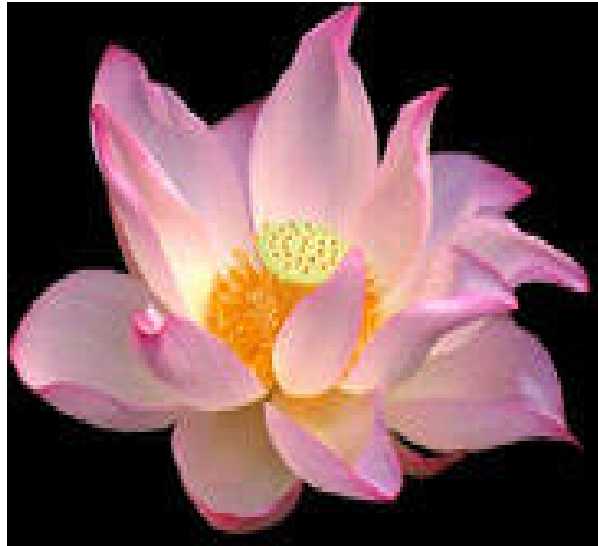
# *The Esoteric Quarterly*

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**Esoteric philosophy  
and its applications to  
individual and group  
service and the expansion  
of human consciousness.**



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## *The Esoteric Quarterly*

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# *The Esoteric Quarterly*

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## Divine Purpose and Symbolism

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Our field of interest is not known for its dependence on dogma, but there are certain core beliefs to which most esoteric students subscribe. One of these is the notion that the universe and its lives are purposeful and unfold within a framework of Divine Will. As finite beings we cannot pretend to comprehend Will in its entirety. In fact we are told that even the evolved beings who comprise the Hierarchy of Masters understand only a small part—albeit much more than we do. That part is referred to as Purpose (with a capital “P”). The masters give us occasional glimpses of Purpose to guide the course of human affairs.

To the extent that we have free will, we are not constrained to go along with the Hierarchy’s wishes; but through trial and error we discover that voluntary compliance increases collective success and happiness. At some point—a most important one in the unfoldment of consciousness—mere compliance gives way to enthusiastic collaboration, allowing us to realize much more of our human potential. The Aquarian Age, perhaps more than any previous age, offers rich opportunities for humanity to work with the masters to express Hierarchical Purpose and make the world a better place.

Clearly there is much to be gained by studying Hierarchical Purpose to understand how it works and discover what specific plans may have been made for the years and decades ahead. Three articles in this issue of the *Esoteric Quarterly* address this important issue.

John Hinds’ article deals specifically with our relationship to the “great chain of being” that links all life, from the lower kingdoms to the masters and beyond. It is within this chain that we find our place and discover our service responsibilities. Temple Richmond’s article seeks to contact Purpose through the expansion of consciousness to the buddhic plane: the

plane of intuition, wisdom and synthesis: the plane, indeed, where the masters can be found. Richmond provides meditation exercises to help us move to this higher level. Finally, the short paper by Yves Chaumette stresses that Purpose is to be sought in our receptivity to the whole human experience and—echoing the conclusions of the earlier studies—our commitment to serve.

The other three articles in this issue all address aspects of symbolism. Symbols speak to the intuition as much as to the intellect, and have provided a basis for esoteric study since the time of the ancient mystery schools.

Donna Brown’s article explores the Qabalistic Tree of Life and its esoteric companion, the Tarot, to provide insights into the coming of the Teacher for the Aquarian Age. This Avatar will express itself both in an individual outpouring, comparable to the Christ experience of 2,000 years ago, and also in a rapid expansion of group consciousness in all who open themselves to its influence. The last full-length article draws on the wisdom of the Qabalah, as well as on Egyptian, Neoplatonic and Christian theology, in an attempt to formulate a consistent symbolic model of the trinity. Emphasis is placed on the process by which the trinitarian aspects emerge and on their numerical and gender symbolism.

This issue concludes with a short paper by Angela Lemaire, which turns to the symbolism of mythology. The paper explores the 12 labors of the Greek hero Hercules, viewed as symbols of initiation. Lemaire challenges artists around the world to express the meaning of the twelve Herculean labors through the creative arts.

At the time of writing (early April 2005), the world mourns the death of Pope John Paul II. We might disagree with some of John Paul’s positions on doctrine and church discipline, but

few could question his commitment to world service. Untiring in his ministry, he shared his energy, humanity, joy and suffering to within a few days of his passing. His life made a difference, and we are challenged to do likewise.

Publishing the *Esoteric Quarterly* would not be possible without the tireless support of authors, reviewers, members of the editorial board, and everyone else involved. We thank them all for sharing their time, talents and energy. This is a wonderful service opportunity, and we encourage you, our readers, to participate also, by submitting your own articles and book reviews. As should be clear by now, the *Quarterly* covers a wide variety of esoteric topics. What might seem to be a unique interest may be of great interest to our readers; so please don't be shy.

In particular we welcome letters to the editor. Please share your views on the articles, reviews, or any other aspects of the *Quarterly*.

John Nash  
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## Publication Policies

Articles are selected for publication in *The Esoteric Quarterly* because we believe they represent a sincere search for truth, support the service mission to which we aspire, or contribute to the expansion of human consciousness.

Publication of an article does not necessarily imply that the Editorial Board or the School for Esoteric Studies agrees with the views expressed. We encourage critical thinking and evaluation of ideas. However, we will not allow this journal to be used as a platform for attacks on individuals, institutions or nations. This policy applies to articles and features as well as to comments from readers.

In turn, we understand that the author of an article may not necessarily agree with the views, attitudes or values expressed by a referenced source. Indeed, serious scholarship sometimes requires an author to cite work that he or she finds abhorrent. We will not reject an article for publication simply on the grounds that it contains a reference to an objectionable source.

## Quotes of the Quarter

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From the point of Light within the Mind of God  
Let light stream forth into the minds of men.  
Let Light descend on Earth.

From the point of Love within the Heart of God  
Let love stream forth into the hearts of men.  
May Christ return to Earth.

From the centre where the Will of God is known  
Let purpose guide the little wills of men—  
The purpose which the Masters know and serve.

From the centre which we call the race of men  
Let the Plan of Love and Light work out.  
And may it seal the door where evil dwells.

Let Light and Love and Power restore the Plan on Earth

The Great Invocation, Universal Prayer  
for the Aquarian Age

We shall then be led to the consideration of the evolution of intelligence, or of the factor of mind which is working out as ordered purpose in all that we see around us. This will reveal to us a world which is not blindly going on its

way, but which has back of it some plan, some co-ordinated scheme, some organised concept which is working itself out by means of the material form. One reason why things appear to us so difficult of comprehension is involved in the fact that we are in the midst of a transition period, and the plan is as yet imperfect; we are too close to the machinery, being ourselves an integral part of the whole. We see a little bit of it here, and another little bit there, but the whole grandeur of the idea is not apparent to us. We may have a vision, we may have a high moment of revelation, but when we contact the reality on every side, we question the possibility of the ideal materialising, for the intelligent relationship between the form and that which utilises it seems so far from adjustment.

Alice A. Baily. *The Consciousness of the Atom*. Lucis Publishing Co., 1922.

This love of symbol had a curious effect upon the medieval way of thinking... Symbolic interpretation involves a certain concordance and analogy of essences... [T]he symbol and the thing symbolized have in common certain characteristics which can be abstracted and compared. Thus, red and white roses flourishing among thorns could bring to mind the virgins and martyrs who shone forth amidst their persecutors. Roses and thorns on the one hand, martyrs and persecutors on the other: they had certain properties in common, the white of innocence, the red of blood, harshness, cruelty. Colours were in this way reduced to essences, with a distinctive and autonomous value.

Umberto Eco. *Art and Beauty in the Middle Ages*. Yale University Press, 1986.

Kabbalah is a word meaning "tradition," and it is a major thesis of this work that the tradition

this esoteric tradition was dedicated to transmit had its origin with the ancient Hebraic priesthood... The sacred science that engaged the priest-scientists of the Hebrew Temple, as of so many ancient cultures, was focused on the three areas that could demonstrate the same unification of the finite with the infinite... These three areas are geometry (both earthly and astronomical), sound (both harmonic and linguistic), and number: geometry involving the realm of the limited, sound of the unlimited, and number of that which can bring these inverse polarities into relationship.

Leonora Leet. *The Secret Doctrine of the Kabbalah*. Inner Traditions, 1999.

[T]he world was made in six days, not because the Creator stood in need of a length of time (for it is natural that God should do everything at once, not merely by uttering a command, but by even thinking of it); but because the things created required arrangement; and number is akin to arrangement; and, of all numbers, six is, by the laws of nature, the most productive: for of all the numbers, from the unit upwards, it is the first perfect one, being made equal to its parts, and being made complete by them... [I]t is formed so as to be both male and female, and is made up of the power of both natures; for in existing things the odd number is the male, and the even number is the female... It was fitting, therefore, that the world, being the most perfect of created things, should be made according to the perfect number... the first combination of odd and even numbers, since it was to embrace the character both of the male who sows the seed, and of the female who receives it.

Philo of Alexandria. *The Creation of the World*. 30 CE. Oliver J. Thatcher (ed.). Milwaukee: University Research Extension Co., 1907.