

The Esoteric Quarterly

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



The School for Esoteric Studies.

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The mission of the *Esoteric Quarterly* is to provide a forum for the exploration of esoteric philosophy and its applications. Full-length articles and short papers are solicited pertaining to both eastern and western esoteric traditions.

We also encourage feedback from readers. Comments of general interest will be published as letters to the editor.

All communications should be sent to editor@esotericstudies.net.

The Spiritual Global Network

Today we can discern a growing global network of people who are becoming an increasingly potent force for transformation in human affairs. They are inclusive, not separative; they seem to be in touch with the “soul of humanity,” urging “a conspiracy of love,” as did paleontologist-priest Teilhard de Chardin.

People aligned with this higher consciousness inevitably become transmitters of a wider vision, dedicated to the well-being of humanity. They are linked together by an attitude of mind and heart rather than by outer organization.

A view of the deeper spiritual significance of this integrating group, including practical evidence of their work today, is offered in *Building and Bridging: The New Group of World Servers*, available from:

School for Esoteric Studies

275 S. French Broad Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801-3951

Email: ses@main.nc.us; www.esotericstudies.net

One copy of this booklet is available free, but your \$5.00 (U.S.) donation is encouraged to help keep these publications in service.

Discipleship and the Expansion of Consciousness: Potential and Pitfalls

The relative emphasis may have shifted from time to time, but esoteric work has always had the dual goals of nurturing the expansion of human consciousness and contributing to the implementation of Hierarchical Purpose through discipleship work. The dual goals and the means for accomplishing them are discussed in every occult school.

A disciple, as Temple Richmond reminds us, is “one whose character and capacities have qualified her or him to enter into a subjective or telepathic relationship with one of the Ashrams of the Masters, and is thus fundamentally attuned to the major work in the world which must go forward under the Divine Plan.” To make this possible the disciple selflessly commits him- or herself to a rigorous program of preparation, typically including meditation, study and service. Discipleship work opens up the potential for moving individually and collectively to new levels of human consciousness. However, it encounters many challenges, and the path to expanded consciousness can be anything but smooth.

The articles in the current issue of the *Esoteric Quarterly* all relate, in one way or another, to this broad theme. Each article also draws upon and explores specific teachings of the schools within the Trans-Himalayan tradition. Temple Richmond’s article provides a comprehensive review and analysis of the Alice Bailey teachings on discipleship and initiation. It reflects Richmond’s long study of the teachings as well as the impeccable standards of scholarship which are her hallmark. This is a two-part article, and Part II will be published in the Fall 2006 issue,

In the second article, David Reigle presents a mantra taught to students in traditional occult schools in Tibet. The author suggests that this mantra provides a means for contacting and

communicating with the Solar Angel and recommends its use by western students. The mantra is presented in transliterated Sanskrit, with tips on pronunciation. An English translation is provided for reference.

Jacqueline Watts’ article examines the various levels of the mind as they unfold during the evolution of consciousness. Watts draws on eastern sources and also on relevant western commentaries.

The article by Zachary Lansdowne addresses two familiar impediments to the expansion of consciousness, glamour and *maya*, and relates them in an evocative way to the beasts in the *Book of Revelation*. This work is presented as part of Dr. Lansdowne’s larger study of esoteric symbolism in *Revelation* that has now been published in book form. The article provides an interesting connection between eastern and western esotericism.

The last full-length article explores another pitfall in the expansion of consciousness: the sudden realization that a particular esoteric path no longer has meaning or validity to the student. This phenomenon, which may be more common than we like to admit, can have a devastating impact on a student’s self-worth and trust in esoteric teachings. But, with compassion and understanding, the student can emerge with greater wisdom and effectiveness, possibly in new areas of discipleship work.

William Meader’s short paper provides a timely examination of intelligent design from an esoteric perspective. Studies of this type are urgently needed at a time of intense public—and often politicized—controversy between the scientific theory of biological evolution and fundamentalist interpretations of scripture. We encourage further submissions on this topic. Meanwhile, we direct readers’ attention to the review of the Dalai Lama’s

book: *The Universe in a Single Atom*, that addresses the issue of evolution and a number of other topics of contemporary concern.

Two other books are reviewed in this issue, both of which should also be of considerable interest to our readers.

John Nash
www.uriel.com

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. Nor do we have the means to verify all facts stated in published articles.

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 letters to the editor. 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 reference to work that the author 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

Edgar Cayce's most terrifying vision of America's involvement in the war came on August 30, 1941, more than three months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The vision was not only unique for the message it contained, but because it occurred while Edgar was in the middle of giving a business reading for a local Virginia Beach labor leader. Using language and imagery straight out of the Book of Revelations, the Source painted a grim picture of the destruction to come.

"I saw a great... white horse, with a man all dressed up in armor and in flowing robes but black, [and] fringed around the edges in gold," Edgar said, describing his vision. "Then I saw another horse coming—a very red horse. As it came closer I saw that the rider... had on white and blue armor, and there were hordes of people following him. Then as the two horses came together, it seemed that [the rider] disappeared and the two groups clashed. The followers of the first horse were well armed, while the others were not. Yet, there were

such hordes following the red horse that they seemed to march right through the ranks of the well-armed group, though millions were slain."

Sidney D. Kirkpatrick. *Edgar Cayce: An American Prophet*.
Riverhead Books, 2000.

As our knowledge of human nature grows, we cannot fail to be impressed by the great diversity of human gifts, by the richness of individuality amongst mankind, the almost infinite variety of human beings, the complexity of human nature....

Is there a key by means of which human nature may be understood and this infinite variety and vast potentiality of man be comprehended and reduced to order? Theosophy answers "yes," and further says that the key is numerical, the governing number being seven. Thus there are seven main types of human beings, each with its outstanding natural attributes and qualities.

All qualities and powers are within every human being, but in each of the seven main types there is a preponderant tendency. Knowledge of these seven types and their corresponding attributes provides a key to the understanding of human nature.

Geoffrey Hodson. *The Seven Human Temperaments*. Theosophical Publishing House, 1952.

[I]t sometimes happens that souls which have advanced far into the Mysteries turn back at the call of human love and forge anew the chains of karmic ties... [A] soul that is traveling fast may turn back to hold out a hand to a beloved one who is progressing more slowly...

If we rule our homes in a spirit of selfless love and serenity of heart, asking no return, but doing our duty for the sake of the need of those to whom we minister, our house will be a true Temple of the Hearth-Fire in which we can receive our initiation. But let it be remembered that the serenity of heart must be there as well as the faithful performance of duty...

Let us try to keep our homes always in readiness for the coming of the Wayfaring Christ, Who, as the old story has it, goes up and down among men saying "The foxes have their holes, and the birds of the air have their nests, but the Son of Man has not where to lay his head."

Dion Fortune. *The Training and Work of an Initiate*. Aquarian Press, 1930.

