

# *The Esoteric Quarterly*

**Fall 2006  
Volume 2  
Number 4**

*A publication of the  
School for Esoteric  
Studies*

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



---

**The School for Esoteric Studies.**

275 S. French Broad Avenue, Asheville, North Carolina 28801, USA.  
[www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly](http://www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly); e-mail: [editor@esotericstudies.net](mailto:editor@esotericstudies.net).

---

# *The Esoteric Quarterly*

*The Esoteric Quarterly* is published by the School for Esoteric Studies. It is registered as an online journal with the National Serials Data Program of the United States Library of Congress. International Standard Serial Number (ISSN) 1551-3874.

Further information about *The Esoteric Quarterly*, including guidelines for the submission of articles and review procedures, can be found at: [www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly](http://www.esotericstudies.net/quarterly). All correspondence should be addressed to [editor@esotericstudies.net](mailto:editor@esotericstudies.net).

---

## **Editorial Board**

Donna M. Brown (United States)  
Barbara Domalske (United States)  
Gail G. Jolley (United States)  
Bruce Lyon (New Zealand)  
Kathy Newburn (United States)  
Robert G. Waggener (United States)

Editor-in-Chief: John F. Nash

---

Copyright © *The Esoteric Quarterly*, 2006.  
All rights reserved.

Copies of the complete journal or articles contained therein may be made for personal use on condition that copyright statements are included. Commercial use without the permission of *The Esoteric Quarterly* and the School for Esoteric Studies is strictly prohibited.

# The Esoteric Quarterly

## Contents

Volume 2, Number 4. Fall 2006

	Page		Page
<b>Features</b>		<b>Symbolism and the Path</b>	67
Editorial	5	“A Subjective Worker”	
Publication Policies	6	<b>Book Reviews</b>	
Letters to the Editor	6	<i>Meditations on Planets in Signs</i>	73
Quotes of the Quarter	7	by James Davis	
<b>Articles</b>		<i>The Revelation of Saint John</i>	73
<b>Disciples and the Year 2025</b>	9	by Zachary Lansdowne	
Nancy Seifer		<b>News from the School</b>	
<b>Zodiac and Ray Cycles in Esoteric Astrology: The Beginning of the Age of Aquarius</b>	15	<b>Revelation of Beauty and Joy</b>	75
Phillip Lindsay		Chuck Heinrichs	
<b>Discipleship and Initiation: The Three Stages and Seven Steps to Hierarchy and Beyond (Part II)</b>	27	<b>An Invitation</b>	75
Temple Richmond			
<b>The Virgo Full Moon</b>	45		
Luisa Romero de Johnston			
<b>Devas, Nature and Humanity</b>	51		
Donna Brown & John Nash			

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](mailto:editor@esotericstudies.net).

## **The New Millennium in Spiritual Perspective**

The advanced Beings who guide the evolution of humanity are preparing to emerge into outer visible functioning in the world. In preparation for this, the inner side of world developments is gradually precipitating into human consciousness in the form of a growing global impetus toward freedom and right human relations, a necessary first step.

Could the fact of this preparatory stage explain some of the constructive and destructive events we see unfolding in the world? Could there be a positive purpose behind apparent chaos?

More on the theme of the emergence of the Kingdom of God on Earth is given in a free compilation from the writings of Alice A. Bailey, *The Externalization of the Hierarchy*, available from:

### *School for Esoteric Studies*

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

Email: [ses@main.nc.us](mailto:ses@main.nc.us); [www.esotericstudies.net](http://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.

## Optimism and Pessimism

---

Esoteric teachers have normally presented an optimistic picture of the expansion of human consciousness and the growth of loving, respectful relationships among people, groups and nations. But it is hard to reconcile that optimism with what the news media show us on a daily basis. At the time of writing the world seems to be in particularly bad shape, and—at least as viewed from the personality level—there are few grounds for expecting things to improve any time soon.

Perhaps we can reassure ourselves by thoughts that the present difficulties stem from crystallization of outworn forms, or that violence, indifference and greed are the death-throes of infantile segments of humanity—or for that matter ourselves—left behind in the surge to a new world order. In any event there is an urgent need for people of goodwill everywhere to bring light and love into their lives and into the collective human consciousness. A letter to the editor expresses the general sense of pessimism but also offers some hope.

This may be a critical time in human history. However, from our perspective in the trenches, we cannot evaluate the world situation as the Masters of Wisdom no doubt can from their broader and wiser perspective. Accordingly, there may be good reasons to set aside our anxieties for a few moments and review the prophecies for the next decades and centuries contained in esoteric teachings.

The first two articles in this issue of the *Esoteric Quarterly* do just that. Nancy Seifer's article focuses on the year 2025 which has often been cited as the date when the Christ will reappear or the Hierarchy will exteriorize. When the original prophecies were made, 2025 was so far in the future—beyond the life expectancy of the people who read them—that there seemed an eternity to prepare for it. But the date is getting excitingly—or frighteningly—close, and the urgency of preparation is

correspondingly greater. Philip Lindsay's article takes a larger view, examining what esoteric teachings reveal about the beginning of the widely heralded Aquarian Age. Naturally we are disappointed by Lindsay's conclusions. But if he is right that the New Age will not dawn for another century, that may explain why the world still seems so mired in Piscean-style problems.

The third article: the conclusion of Temple Richmond's exploration of the paths of discipleship and initiation, contributes to this discussion by presenting in clear terms the path humanity must follow in order to realize its near-term potential—and approach its glorious longer-term destiny. Richmond's article may well come to be regarded as the definitive study of the initiations. Part I appeared in the Summer 2006 issue.

The other articles in this issue step back to look at broader issues of esoteric teachings. But they also contribute to the overall theme. Luisa Romero de Johnston's article—particularly appropriate since this issue is published during the sign of Virgo—discusses the great sacrifice Life makes when it descends into dense matter. Nowhere is this sacrifice more evident than in the world's war zones, where human forms as well as the fabric of the planet are experiencing untold suffering.

The article by Donna Brown and her co-author explores the natural environment in which we live and the deva evolution which builds and ensouls it. The article draws upon the literature of all ages and diverse cultures to bring new clarity to our understanding of the devas, their relationship to nature, and humanity's relationship with both.

The last article, whose author asked to remain anonymous, explores the spiritual path from the standpoint of symbolism. It includes a number of visualization exercises that help the

seeker tune into the higher levels of his or her being.

In addition to the usual book reviews, this issue also includes a short section contributed by our sponsor, the School of Esoteric Studies.

The continued success of this journal depends on the flow of high-quality articles, and we invite prospective authors to consider the *Esoteric Quarterly* as the vehicle of choice for sharing their insights. Our mission is to publish articles on esoteric philosophy and its applications. Topics can relate to either the western or the eastern esoteric tradition. The latter includes Buddhism, Hinduism and Taoism, as well as the Trans-Himalayan teachings represented by Theosophical literature and the writings of Helena Roerich and Alice Bailey. Articles that integrate different traditions are especially welcome. This is a peer-review journal; all articles are blind-refereed, and final decisions on publication are made by the Editorial Board.

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.

An issue of concern in all online journals is the potential volatility of content. Conceivably articles could be modified after the publication date because authors changed their minds about what had been written. Accordingly we wish to make clear our policy on this issue. We reserve the right to correct minor typographical errors, but we will not make any substantive alteration to an article after it “goes to press.”

## Letters to the Editor

---

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to John Nash’s compassionate article, *Discipleship and Disillusionment*. By addressing issues that are normally closeted away, the article brought to light how rare it is to read about the pitfalls of the path from a *human* perspective, and how useful that can be.

Crises, as we well know, are part and parcel of the discipleship path. We all pass through

“battlefields” and “burning grounds” and emerge from them, as the teachings describe, with insights that change us profoundly. Those insights can often be extremely helpful and encouraging to others. Nash’s article raises the possibility that the time might be ripe for engaging in dialogue about the challenges faced by disciples in these times.

One issue that is currently troubling for some, if not the cause of deep crisis, is how to handle contradictions and inconsistencies that appear

in the teachings. When coming across statements in the books that contradict each other, or are at variance with facts emerging since the books were written, some of us have experienced considerable discomfort. Questions arise: Is there something we aren't seeing? Could we resolve the contradiction if we knew more? Or is it possible that information transmitted by a Master is incorrect?

In one particular area of the teachings transmitted by the Tibetan Master through Alice Bailey, reality has diverged markedly from what the Hierarchy anticipated. It appears that Their expectations for humanity, as outlined in *The Externalization of the Hierarchy*, have largely failed to materialize. There was a wave of altruism in the post-war period, and the altruistic impulse is now increasingly apparent among certain groups. But the trend toward selfishness has so far outpaced the trend toward selflessness that the future of many species, including our own, is imperiled. Selfishness on an unprecedented scale is also a major culprit in the climate change crisis, not mentioned in the Bailey books.

For students who have accepted the books as gospel, and have relied on the impression conveyed that the transition to the New Age would be relatively painless (without noting the Tibetan's many caveats), such discrepancies can lead to a crisis of faith. What is happening in our world right now is not mirrored in the books. Yet the teachings as a whole are so

incredibly valuable, and have become so foundational to our sense of reality, that questioning any part of them can be psychologically threatening. If it turns out they are not correct in all regards, where does that leave us?

In religious life, a crisis of faith often leads to a departure from that faith. When a person can no longer believe in the doctrine, he or she may feel obliged to turn away from the religion entirely. One of the many differences between traditional religion and the esoteric path is that the latter is based on knowing, not on belief. In fact, the teachings repeatedly caution us against turning them into a doctrine or dogma. They are actually intended to help us reach beyond them, by attaining a level of consciousness at which we can know truth directly—through the intuition.

It seems that remembering this intention of the teaching is important as we navigate this difficult era of transition, perhaps feeling unprepared, if we have based our sense of reality on the printed word. And yet when things do not unfold as foreseen, we are thrown back upon our inner resources. That can be extremely stressful, but it can also serve to stimulate the development of the intuition. Perhaps this is one of the hidden gifts of our times.

Sincerely yours,

Nancy Seifer  
Reston, Virginia

## Quotes of the Quarter

---

“Arise, Henry—rise up, noble-minded, good, and generous, though widely mistaken man—Thy faults are those of this cruel and remorseless age—thy virtues all thine own.”

Catherine (Katie) Glover,  
*The Fair Maid of Perth* by Walter Scott, 1828.

For within you is the light of the world—the only light that can be shed upon the Path. If you are unable to perceive it within you, it is useless to look for it elsewhere. It is beyond you; because when you reach it you have lost yourself. It is unattainable, because it for ever recedes. You will enter the light, but you will never touch the flame.

Mabel Collins. *Light on the Path*.  
Theosophical Publishing House, 1888.

One of the results of the world condition at this time is the speeding up of all the atomic lives upon and within the planet. This necessarily involves the increased vibratory activity of the human mechanism, with a consequent effect upon the psychic nature, producing an abnormal sensitivity and psychic awareness. It would be of value here to remember that the condition of humanity at this time is not the result of simply one factor, but of several—all of them being active simultaneously, because this period marks the close of one age and the inauguration of the new...

This is a transition period between the passing out of the Piscean Age, with its emphasis upon authority and belief, and the coming in of the Aquarian Age, with its emphasis upon individual understanding and direct knowledge. The activity of these forces, characteristic of the two signs, produces in the atoms of the human body a corresponding activity. We are on the verge of new knowledges and the atoms of the body are being tuned up for reception. Those atoms which are predominantly Piscean are beginning to slow down their activity and to be “occultly withdrawn,” as it is called, or abstracted, whilst those which are responsive to the New Age tendencies are, in their turn, being stimulated and their vibratory activity increased.

Alice A. Bailey. *The Externalization of the Hierarchy*. Lucis Publishing Company.  
(Passage written in March 1934).

He who experiences and hears much on Earth will also be learned in the resurrection, while he who knows nothing will be inferior. For there are many mansions in God’s house, and each one will find his mansion according to his learning. We are all learned but not equally, all wise but not equally, all skillful but not equally; he who searches deeply is most. For research and seeking experiences thrive in God and avoid the vices of the world; they flee worldly service, obedience to princes, court manners, nice gestures... Obedience to God, this is man’s command. Obedience to men, what else is it than a vain shadow?... Oh, how joyful is he who thinks in the following of his creator! He finds pearls that will not be thrown to the swine.

Paracelsus. *A Book on Nymphs, Sylphs, Pygmies, and Salamanders, and on the Other Spirits*, published posthumously, sometime after 1541.

Nature had shown me a great mountain, crowned with a peak of immaculate whiteness, but she was unable to teach me the way leading to it.

René Schwaller de Lubicz.  
*Nature Word*, Lindisfarne, 1982.