

The Esoteric Quarterly

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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; e-mail: editor@esotericstudies.net.

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The *Esoteric Quarterly*'s mission 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.

INNER GUIDANCE OF THE WORLD

The guidance and inspiration of the inner subjective government of the planet stand behind all constructive human efforts. Given different names by people in the East and West—the Spiritual Hierarchy, the Masters of Wisdom, or the Company of Illumined Minds—its members function as custodians of the divine Plan. They watch over our evolution and guide the destiny of humanity. They carry this forward by implanting ideas in the minds of thinkers and by evoking consciousness, rather than by infringing upon the free will of the human spirit through enforced control. They are governed by love and wisdom.

More on this theme is given in a compilation of the writings of Alice A. Bailey and Helena Roerich, *The Spiritual Hierarchy: Inner Guidance of the World*, available free from:

School for Esoteric Studies

275 S. French Broad Avenue
Asheville, NC 28803

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

Evolution of Human Consciousness

Studying the expansion of human consciousness is part of our stated mission, so it is appropriate and timely to devote an issue of the *Esoteric Quarterly* to that worthy subject. The six articles presented here address developments in consciousness on scales ranging from a few centuries to millions of years.

William Meader's article reminds us that the evolutionary journey is marked by ongoing tension between our higher and lower selves. The soul constantly urges us forward, while the personality may resist progress for long periods, trying to preserve a long-relished position of dominance. However the time comes when the lower self accepts its destiny and begins to collaborate with the soul. Rapid progress can then take place, and the evolution of consciousness proceeds apace. The beneficial effect is not just on the individual. When a soul takes this momentous step the whole human race receives a positive impulse.

To take a longer perspective, we see that racial evolution has been promoted by the creation of successively more perfect physical forms within which human consciousness could expand. In his article Philip Lindsay surveys the stages through which, according to Theosophical teachings, the present, fifth rootrace has evolved. We now stand at the threshold of a new subrace. And within the next few centuries a whole new rootrace will appear, enabling the human life-wave to begin the next stage of its journey. One of the qualities of the next rootrace allegedly will be enhanced intuition.

Even on the relatively short time-scale of a few centuries we can see the effects of human evolution on our institutions and our philosophical and esoteric teachings. We also see how developing human potential is exploited for the common good. Kim Rogers explores the loss of long-familiar societal anchors in the late 20th century. The sense of disorientation or alienation launches people on a search for new

meaning. One way it does this is to create new "religions"—not always of a spiritual nature. However the forms these religions take have deep roots in the arcana of antiquity.

Carol Parrish-Harra gives us new insights into the Agni Yoga teachings, drawing upon her own experiences and contacts with the Russian culture from which Helena Roerich emerged. The teachings provide a manual for ethical living and the expansion of consciousness. To be in the vanguard of evolution, Dr. Parrish explains, is not for the faint-hearted: "There is no promise of rest, but intense instructions for those who would confront their own human frailty and dare to become a disciple of the fiery world."

Dorothy Riddle's article explores the evolution of human will. Our will, according to esoteric teachings, is threefold, consisting of the will-to-be, will-to-good, and will-to-know. In its totality the human will reflects that part of the divine Will that applies to humanity. However our ability to express the divine will depends both on our willingness to cooperate with higher purpose and the degree of conscious development we have attained.

The final article studies the evolution of esoteric healing in three major pillars of Christianity: the Orthodox, Roman and Anglican churches. The healing ministry initiated by the Master Jesus was continued in an uninterrupted tradition of sacramental and pastoral healing in Eastern Orthodoxy. Just within the last 100 years, the western churches have taken a new interest in healing. There is considerable overlap with conventional medical therapies and healing concepts discussed by esoteric writers. The healing ministry offers rich opportunities for service to all people of goodwill as well as to trained professionals.

In addition to the articles in this issue, we draw readers' attention to the book reviews and to

the invitation from the School for Esoteric Studies to participate in the 2007 Subjective Group Conference. Information is provided on how to get involved.

As always we hope you enjoy the articles and other features in this issue. Please share your thoughts with us on what you read in the *Esoteric Quarterly*. Your feedback will help us improve what we are doing. And, of course, we invite authors to submit articles and book reviews to the *Quarterly*. The quality of our publication depends on the quality—which has been consistently high—of the articles you submit.

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.”

Quotes of the Quarter

Today something new is happening. There is the emergence of a new kingdom in nature, the fifth kingdom; this is the Kingdom of God on earth or the kingdom of souls. It is precipitating on earth and will be composed of those who are becoming group-conscious and who can work in group formation. This will be possible, because these people will have achieved a self-initiated perfection (even if relative in nature) and will be identified with certain group expansions of consciousness. It will also be because they have arrived at love

of their fellowmen, just as they have loved themselves in the past....

Their work will largely be to summarise and make effective the work of those two great Sons of God, the Buddha and the Christ. As you know, One of Them brought illumination to the world and embodied the principle of wisdom, and the Other brought love to the world and embodied in Himself a great cosmic principle—the principle of love.

Alice Bailey. *Discipleship in the New Age*, I.
Lucis Publishing Company, 1944.

Explain to me, please, why it is ridiculous to believe in God, but not ridiculous to believe in man? Why it is not ridiculous to believe in humanity? Why it is stupid to believe in the Kingdom of Heaven but intelligent to believe in an earthly utopia?

Aleksandr Ivanovich Herzen. Quoted in *The Russian Idea*. Lindisfarne Press, 1992

Man most people rightly think a composite being, but wrongly think a composite of two parts only, for they reckon the mind as only a part of the soul, being no less in error than they who think the soul to be only part of the body; for the mind is as much better and more divine than the soul, as the soul is superior to the body. For the conjunction of body and soul produces . . . Reason, whereof the one is the origin of pleasure and pain, the other, of vice and virtue. Of these three combined things, the earth furnished for the birth the body, the moon the soul, the sun the mind, just as he supplies light to the moon. The death which we die makes the man two instead of three, the second (death) makes him one out of two. The first takes place in the region of Demeter [because the earth] and also the dead are subject to her, whence the Athenians of old used to call the [dead] “Demetrians.” The second [death] takes place in the moon, the dominion of Persephone; and of the former the consort is the Earthly Hermes, of the latter, the Heavenly. The former separates the soul from the body, hastily and with violence; but Persephone gently and slowly loosens the mind from the soul, and for this reason she has been named the “Only-begotten.”

Plutarch. *On the Apparent Face in the Orb of the Moon*, 28. (Transl: K. L. King.)

I have seen at other times and in other places many scriptoria, but none where there shone so luminously, in the outpouring of physical light which made the room glow, the spiritual principle that light incarnates radiance, source of all beauty and learning, inseparable attribute of that proportion the room embodied. For three things concur in creating beauty: first of

all integrity or perfection, and for this reason we consider ugly all incomplete things; then proper proportion or consonance; and finally clarity and light, and in fact we call beautiful those things of definite color. And since the sight of the beautiful implies peace, and since our appetite is calmed similarly by peacefulness, by the good and by the beautiful, I felt myself filled with a great consolation and I thought how pleasant it must be to work in that place.

Umberto Eco. *The Name of the Rose*. (Transl: W. Weaver.) Harcourt, 1980.

Medicine in the next century will be built around certain major premises:

1. Preventive medicine will be the goal, producing the attempt to keep the body in proper balanced order.
2. Sound sanitation and the providing of healthy conditions will be regarded as essential.
3. The supply of the right chemical properties to the physical body will be studied—a science of chemistry which is yet in its infancy, though it is becoming a flourishing infant.
4. An understanding of the laws of vitality will be regarded as of prime importance, and of this the emphasis today on vitamins and the influence of the sun are wholesome indications.
5. The use of the mind will be regarded, above everything else, as a factor of major importance: the mind will be seen as the prime influence as regards the centres, for people will be taught to work on their centres through mental power and thus produce a right reaction from the endocrine system. This will necessarily involve the right directing of thought to a centre, or the withdrawal of attention from a centre, with consequent effect upon the glandular system. This will all be based upon the occult law that “Energy follows thought.”

Alice A. Bailey. *Esoteric Healing*. Lucis Publishing Company, 1953.

Neglect of the mind-body link by technological medicine is actually a brief aberration when viewed against the whole history of

the healing art. In traditional tribal medicine and in Western practice from its beginning in the work of Hippocrates, the need to operate through the patient's mind has always been recognized. Until the nineteenth century, medical writers rarely failed to note the influence of grief, despair, or discouragement on the onset and outcome of illness, nor did they ignore the healing effects of faith, confidence, and peace of mind. Contentment used to be considered a prerequisite for health.

The modern medicine man has gained so much power over certain diseases through drugs, however, that he has forgotten about the potential strength within the patient. One elderly

physician friend recently told me of reading the diary of his uncle, also a doctor. In the early years, the diarist always recorded what happened to the individual or the community prior to an illness or epidemic, but as medicine became more technological, this part of the history grew less and less important to him and finally was omitted altogether. Awareness of the mind's powers was lost as medicine cast out all "soft data, the information that's not easily quantified or scientific.

Bernie S. Siegel, MD. *Love, Medicine & Miracles*. Harper & Row, 1986.