

*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.

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Our Fourth Year

With this issue, the *Esoteric Quarterly* enters its fourth year of publication, serving the worldwide community of esoteric students by providing a medium for sharing insights, ideas and knowledge. Our journal continues to win broad acclaim. A recent correspondent honored us by commenting that “the quality of articles is superb.” That is of course a tribute to the excellent work of the authors who entrust their articles to us. It is also a tribute to our Editorial Board that reviews and selects articles for publication. More on our Board later.

The current issue begins with a two-part article by Joann Bakula that discusses the ancient mysteries and prospects for restoration of the mysteries in the Aquarian Age, as predicted by a number of esoteric writers. Dr. Bakula points out that restoration will be made possible by a combination of meditation and service. She also notes that it will involve kingdoms of nature both above and below the human.

Dorothy Riddle’s article discusses the destructive aspects of Will. Destructive energy is often misunderstood or feared, but Dr. Riddle explains it as a natural element in evolution, allowing new forms to take the place of forms which no longer serve useful purposes. She also points out that destructive energy is expressed by all seven rays, not just the first ray.

Zachary Lansdowne’s article discusses the early Christian text, the *Gospel of Truth*. In that somewhat-difficult text, “salvation” is conceived of as overcoming ignorance. Correspondingly, as Dr. Lansdowne notes, the Logos serves as the savior through facilitating the flow of knowledge into human consciousness.

The final article in this issue presents an historical account of the emergence of the Christian Kabbalah. The Kabbalah originated within esoteric Judaism and remains a vibrant

aspect of Jewish mysticism, philosophy and psychology. However, Christian scholars of the Renaissance drew upon its ancient wisdom to shed new light on doctrine, to provide a framework for Hermetic magic, and even to serve an ecumenical function.

In this issue we continue the recent practice of including a Poem of the Quarter, the current one is devoted to the Soul Quest. And as always we offer some thoughtful quotes, several of which relate to the published articles. This issue concludes with three more book reviews to guide readers as they contemplate the bewildering array of titles coming onto the market.

We announce with sadness Bruce Lyon’s retirement from the Editorial Board of the *Esoteric Quarterly*. We shall miss Bruce who served with distinction since the *Quarterly*’s inception, but we wish him well in his future endeavors.

On the plus side, we welcomed Dorothy Riddle of Vancouver, Canada, onto our Board last Fall. Dorothy, who also serves on the Board of Directors of the School for Esoteric Studies, brings to the *Esoteric Quarterly* a wealth of knowledge and experience. Immediately prior to publication of this issue, Barbara Maré of New Zealand and Joann Bakula of the United States also joined the Editorial Board. We look forward to their participation in preparing the Summer and future issues of the *Quarterly*. We are fortunate and privileged to have these outstanding individuals on the team.

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, sup-

port 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,

The *Esoteric Quarterly*'s Fall 2007 article: “The Power and Timelessness of Ritual,” by John Nash, strikes resounding chords of symbiotic harmony within my soul. A woman in my thirties with deep connections to healing energy and ancestral roots, I am encouraged and hopeful that the return to ritual in spiritual traditions will open many pathways for people with wounds from Reformer experiences. The reclaiming of magic as a pure and good connection to God in Christianity, Islam, Judaism and other world religions is a necessary portal for our civilization to journey through if we ever hope to dissolve the iron grip of fear that holds so many immobilized in illness, discontent, and emptiness. As Dr. Nash mentions, “Poorly or carelessly performed ritual can easily become empty and meaningless. It might even attract negative energies.”

My experience with this began when I was child and felt confused and trapped by the “sacraments” my church practiced because of the lack of sincere spirit connection. On a

deeper consciousness level, I am also aware of previous life experiences with the witchcraft genocide that ravaged our globe as the powers of darkness rose in an attempt to desecrate our connection with Angelic Beings. As the mother of two young children, I have been blessed with constant reminders that we model heart and spirit connections with the higher realms in our daily lives and will be held accountable if a disregard is shown for the magic present in everyday circumstances. Our children are coming into this earthly plane with higher frequencies of Spirit awareness and will help us to embrace the return to the white magic that was once so prevalent in our religious ceremonies. And as Nash also reminds us, Christianity's potential ability to “provide the ethical base the western mystery tradition has often lacked”, is strongly supported by the recent discoveries of ancient mystery texts previously lost before this century.

As in all things, the divine plan of the astral light beings seems to have brought us higher in our spiral dance to a more enlightened awareness of Christ's teachings and deep

rooted connection to the mystery schools. As if seeing the puzzle pieces fall into place, our slow evolution toward divine enlightenment has been the result of and simultaneously created the time for master music compositions, enlightened healing arts, technological visual and intercommunicative devices which are all bringing us step by step closer to the center of the labyrinth where the universal mosaic can become clearer. Connection and understanding not through our earthly senses but the surreal ability to see without sight and to hear without ears. An integrated commu-

nity of light conscious human beings able to intuitively connect through mind, heart and soul connections will one day heal our global condition and elevate us to a balanced phenomenological existence. Thank you for such a thoughtful and clearly articulated article that has been an inspirational source for soul searching.

Respectfully,

Deborah Betko
Alexandria, Virginia.

Quotes of the Quarter

Many heroic mythologies are solar in structure. The hero is assimilated to the sun; like the sun, he fights darkness, descends into the realm of death and emerges victorious. Here darkness is no longer, as it is in lunar mythologies, one of the modes of being of divinity; instead, it symbolizes all that the god is *not*, hence the adversary *par excellence*. Darkness is no longer valorized as a necessary phase in cosmic life; in the perspective of solar religion, it is opposed to life, to forms, and to intelligence.

Mircea Eliade.
The Sacred and the Profane.
Harvest Books, 1959.

The universe emerges out of all-nourishing abyss not only fifteen billion years ago but in every moment. Each instant protons and antiprotons are flashing out of, and are as suddenly absorbed back into, all-nourishing abyss. All-nourishing abyss then is not a thing, nor a collection of things, nor even, strictly speaking, a physical place, but rather a power that gives birth and that absorbs existence at a thing's annihilation. The foundational reality of the universe is this unseen ocean of potentiality. If all the individual things of the universe were to evapo-

rate, one would be left with an infinity of pure generative power.

Brian Swimme
The Hidden Heart of the Cosmos.
Orbis Books, 2001

The ancients spoke well when they established man between eternal and temporal things for the reason that he is neither purely eternal nor purely temporal, since he partakes of both natures. And to man, who thus exists as a mean between the two, power is given to assume whichever nature he wishes. Hence there are three kinds of men to be found. Some are numbered with the gods, although such are but few. And these are the men who, having subjugated the vegetative and the sensitive, have become almost completely rational. Some from total neglect of the intellect and from occupying themselves with the vegetative and sensitive alone, have changed, as it were, into beasts. And perhaps this is what the Pythagorean fable means when it says that men's souls pass into different beasts. Some are called normal men; and these are the ones who have lived tolerably according to the moral virtues. They have not, however, devoted themselves entirely to the intellect or held entirely aloof

from the bodily powers. Each of these two latter sorts has a wide range, as is plain to see. With this agrees what is said in the Psalm: "Thou hast made him but a little lower than the angels," etc.

Pietro Pomponazzi of Mantua. *On Immortality. The Renaissance Philosophy of Man.* Univ. of Chicago Press, 1948.

Jehudah the Hasid [a 13th-century German rabbi], though fully convinced on the effectiveness of magic and other occult disciplines, was sharply opposed to their practice. He appears to have sensed very clearly the contrast between the magician who prides himself on his control of the elements, and the humble Hasid who craves no form of

power. But his perception of the danger did not prevent the magical elements in his heritage from gaining the upper hand over his moral ideal. In the legend he appears as the bearer and dispenser of all those magical powers and attributes which he was at such pains to renounce, and this legend is by no means the product of later generations: it began to form already during his lifetime. In this conception, the Hasid appears as the true master of magical forces who can obtain everything precisely because he wants nothing for himself. Nowhere else in Judaism has man the magical creator been surrounded with such a halo.

Gershom Scholem.
Major Trends in Jewish Mysticism.
Schocken Books, 1946.

Poem of the Quarter

The Soul Quest

Linda "Tiger" Francis

Oh, Ego of Darkness
You claim to be my friend, but are you?
My Soul Quest is to know the wisdom of "The Spirit."
Father Universe and Mother Earth,
Have told me that my greatest gift will unfold,
By tapping into "The Spirit."
So, eternal flame of truth warm me.
Lead me into the Light—Self Enlightenment,
Where there is:
Gratitude,
A daily awareness of awesome beauty,
An appreciation of the simple things,
Where there is love, fearlessness,
forgiveness,
And an inner peace that shines its rays of light
Into the face of all humankind.

Blue winged bird of flight take me to my personal truth,
To claim my divine heritage, with honor.
Lift my wings to soar above the dark shadows of the ego.

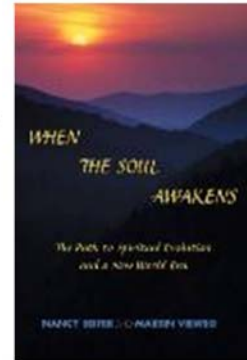
Oh Ego, not in the least will I hate you,
I will not go to war with you, either,
For I have noticed in hate and war there are no winners.

Instead, I will shine light in your eyes,
And watch you run to a dark corner somewhere out of sight,
For fear is not only your tool of choice for controlling us,
But it is also your greatest enemy -
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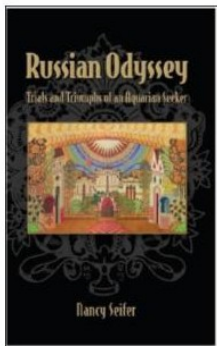
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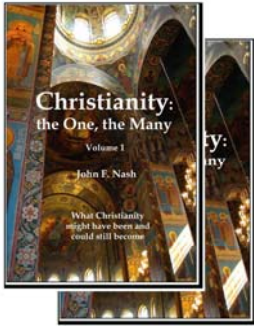
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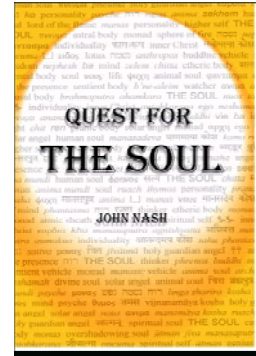
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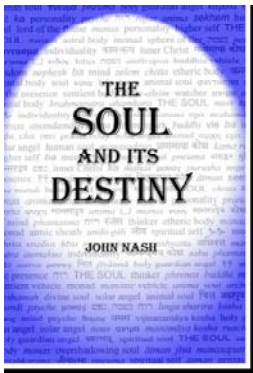
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