

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 Esoteric Quarterly

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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 student 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.

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קבלה

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Winter Peace

The theme for this winter editorial is inspired by Christopher Beikmann's photographic collage. (See our *Picture of the Quarter*.) Beautiful and serene, his archetypal Buddha with its classic hand mudra, derives from the mudra assumed by the Buddha while he was meditating under the bodhi tree in the pursuit of liberation. Nestled in whiteness of winter snow, this image, like winter itself, reminds us of the need to withdraw from external sense perceptions in order to enter into elevated states of meditative concentration and awareness. It represents a great spiritual effort to free ourselves from outworn forms, personality desires and attachments so that, like the Buddha and his emblem, the *padma* or lotus, we become a purified and colorless form—a perfect balance of thought and tranquility. Beikmann's art encourages us to enter the peaceful solitude of winter where the inextinguishable Light of the Soul reveals its presence. In so doing, we can more fully cooperate with the new cycle of cosmic currents that are currently streaming into our planet.

These potent influences form the basis of Jan Detrich's article—the fourth in a series of astrological commentaries concentrating on the present world cycle. In this current article, the author concentrates on the nature and significance of the Cardinal Cross as it emerges in several cardinal squares within the circle of the celestial sphere during the next several years. Cardinal energies intensify the relationship between spirit and matter and provide the momentum for revolutionary change. These powerful spiritual energies “bring the world into greater conformity with the Will of God and carry the directional seeds or impulses which set the stage for a new era.”

The next article in this issue explores the identity and significance of Mary, the mother of Jesus, one of the most widely venerated figures in Christianity. This article is most apropos since it is during the winter season that we can contact the spiritual sub-plane of the Mother Goddess who gives life to the “light of the world.” Written by John Nash, this article considers the diverse narratives concerning Mary that have emerged into historical view, not only in Christianity and the Eastern Orthodoxy, but also in Islam and the western esoteric tradition. The author discusses the mariological basis for Mary's title as the virgin mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Mother of the World. Mary's role as Co-Redemptrix is also touched upon. Nash's article concludes by encouraging an “esoteric Mariology” that views the “new Mary” as a commanding “role model for both men and women” and as a “high initiate” whose existence is completely compatible with esoteric philosophy and the Path of Discipleship.

An article by Zachary Lansdowne examines the compelling similarities between facets of the *Tao Te Ching* and Alice A. Bailey's “Technique of Integration for the Fourth Ray.” Lansdowne discusses all five stages of the Integration Technique, as outlined by Bailey, and provides a corresponding passage from the *Tao Te Ching* followed by an explanation of both passages. His analysis uncovers a primary theme shared by Taoist philosophy and the Fourth Ray Integration Technique—the need to discover and resolve the pairs of opposites that form the basis of our mental constructs. Both the Tao and Bailey's Integration Technique reveal that the harmonization of duality and end of conflict can only take place through alignment, detachment or indifference and

the recognition of the complementary nature and the unity of all things.

The final article in this issue by Adam De Franco considers the new ashrams being externalized in the western hemisphere as a result of the influx of Aquarian energies and the shift in Hierarchical focus from east to west. Based primarily on the writings of Lucille Cedercrans and to a lesser extent those of Alice A. Bailey, De Franco discusses the energetic constructs underlying the establishment of the new ashramic centers in Canada, the US and South America. The value of these new centers, as the author emphasizes, “cannot be underestimated,” since they “raise the vibratory frequency of the planetary grid” and make it more “capable of carrying Hierarchical fire and intent.”

In addition to the articles in this issue, we include a *Student Paper* dealing with the individual and planetary astral bodies. This issue also contains our *Quotes of the Quarter* and a book review for *Sun of God* by Gregory Sams. We also offer two new poems, *Spotless Mirror* by Adam De Franco and *To Those Who Think Deeply* by Marian Crowell.

The Winter Issue also contains an updated cumulative index of articles in Volumes 1 thru 5 of the *Esoteric Quarterly*. The editorial staff would like to take this opportunity to extend its heartfelt thanks to all the authors who have shared their work with us.

Finally, we wish to thank our Review Board and all those who volunteered their time and expertise to ensure the *Quarterly* continued success. We are indebted to their efforts. We are sorry to announce that Rene Fugere has retired from the Review Board. A special thanks to Rene for sharing his wisdom.

We wish everyone Winter Peace and all the blessings of the season.

Donna M. Brown
Editor-in-Chief

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, and/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 our journal to be used as a platform for attacks on individuals, groups, 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 an 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 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 our policy clear: 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.”

Poems of the Quarter

Spotless Mirror by Adam DeFranco

The path of ultimate receiving is in giving
This reveals the perfect economy of the
universe
The order of the world in it's natural state
Our differences are diminished
The yin and yang complementary
Who we really are is assured
Unity the very essence

In giving truly of oneself nothing is taken
away
The balance is always kept
The scales are even, unperturbed
This indigenous sense of ourselves is always
naturally present and extraordinary
Atma is the spotless mirror of creation
Our original definition

To Those Who Can See Deeply by Marian Crowell

To those who can see deeply
Words can't quite convey
The beauty and power
Of that which they realize
Silence is their path
Preventing misunderstanding
And exploitation
By those
Who know not what they do.
Manifestation
Has its roots
In silence
One cannot dig up a seed
To see

How it progresses
Without killing it
It is not the time
To shout in the ears
Of those who cannot hear.
Nor is it the time
To announce the misdeeds
Of others
Who will only feel pain
If your will belongs to one
Whose need for fulfillment
Has been extinguished
The warmth of the light
Is enough and all



Winter Peace
by Christopher Beikmann
www.ancientartizen.com

Quotes of the Quarter

Mary is virtually the only feminine *Avatara* of the Semitic world. She pertains to the category of the major *avataras* of the lunar type, although when she is conceived as the feminine aspect of the *Logos* and even as its essence, her wisdom necessarily transcends these distinctions.

Whereas the Prophet of Islam represents the path and the deployment of all the perfections and Jesus the wisdom of the inward, the Virgin incarnates the non-legislative and primordial wisdom. By contrast with the wisdom of Solomon, which is at once—encyclopedic, cosmological, metaphysical and also practical, the wisdom of Mary—does not embrace certain contingent orders. It is —of necessity metaphysical, mystical and eschatological, and —thereby contains in virtually every possible science, as the one and colorless light contains the varied and colored hues of the rainbow. It follows that her *risalah* (message) is not the *risalah* of her son, but her son himself, who symbolizes in this context the *Logos* as such.

The Milk of the Virgin: The Prophet the Saint and the Sage
by Renaud Fabbri

The Lord possessed me at the beginning of his ways. I existed before he formed any creature. I existed from eternity, before the earth was created. The abysses were not yet ready and already I was conceived. The fountains had not yet come out of the earth; the heavy mass of mountains had not yet been formed: I was begotten before the hills. He had created neither earth, nor the rivers, nor strengthened the world on its poles. When he prepared the heaven, I was present,

when he confined the abysses within their bounds and prescribed an inviolable law; when he confirmed the air above the earth when he balanced the waters of the fountains; when he shut up the sea within its limits and imposed a law on the waters, so that they should not pass their bounds; when he laid the foundations of the earth, I was within him and I regulate all things.

From the *Mass of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin*

In Indian philosophy we frequently come across the idea that everything is dual in relative existence, manifesting as the *dwandwas*—the pairs of opposites such as heat/cold, wet/dry, light/darkness, and so forth. “So it is that existence and non-existence give birth the one to (the idea of) the other; that difficulty and ease produce the one (the idea of) the other; that length and shortness fashion out of the one the figure of the other; that (the ideas of) height and lowness arise from the contrast of the one with the other; that the musical notes and tones become harmonious through the relation of one with another; and that being before and behind give the idea of one following another.” The meaning here is that one *dwandwa* (opposite) instructs us in the existence of the other. The presence gives rise to the concept of the absence of an object or a quality. But the fundamental truth being aimed at is the fact that relative existence teaches us all about itself—that we need only observe it to learn the truth about everything. Buddha speaks of this in the *Dhammapada*, as well. Life is not just the best teacher, it is the only teacher.

Commentary on the Tao Teh King
by Swami Nirmalananda Giri

In...Hindu or Brahmanical thought, the pairs of opposites are experienced as a continuum extending from external opposites such as heat and cold to the fluctuations of inner emotion and the conflict of ideas such as good and bad. The Hindu *marga* or path, aims at freeing the individual completely from the entanglement in the opposites, which seem inherent in human experience, so that he can experience oneness with Brahma (moksa.) “What is meant...is the union of opposites in which they are canceled out...” Brahman is the union and dissolution of opposites, and at the same time stands outside them as an irrational factor. It is therefore wholly beyond cognition and comprehension. The specific psychological process the yogi uses to realize this transcendence is the systematic withdrawing of attention from both external objects and internal psychic states—in other words from the opposites. This eventually results in the elimination of sense perception and the disappearance of conscious contents (rational ideas) which opens up the way for rising images from the collective unconsciousness. These...are the archetypes “...primordial images, which, because of their universality and immense antiquity, possess a cosmic and superhuman character.” The great images of the Vedas, such as *rta* (divine cosmic order) and *dharmā* (universal moral law) are symbols with the power to regulate and unite the destructive tensions between the pairs of opposites.

Jung and Eastern Thought, by Harold G. Coward (New York: SUNY Press 1985)

Now we find that the new Synthetic Ashram must carry almost the total responsibility for the manifestation of the Divine Plan for humanity for the next 2500-year period. This period (a cycle) within which much change must take place, within which the evolutionary development of humanity (which has moved ever so slowly over millions of years) must come into a sharp focus and a real apparent change.


That is, that evolution which has accumulated over a long period of time must, in this 2500-year period, be made obvious, be given an outer form

I refer now to the evolutionary development of the consciousness of humanity, a subjective evolution which must be given an objective form.

Lucille Cedercrans, *Ashramic Projections: The Synthetic Ashram* (Wisdom Impressions, 2007)

Metaphysics is not a branch of philosophy concerned with what lies beyond physics. Nor is it in fact a purely human knowledge bound by the context and categories of the human mind. Rather, metaphysics, which some...translators render as metaphysic in order to emphasize its non-multiple but unitary nature, is the science of Ultimate Reality, attainable through the intellect and not reason, of an essentially suprahuman character and including in its fullness the whole of man's being. It is sacred or *scientia sacra*, a wisdom which liberates and which require not only certain mental capacities but also moral and spiritual qualifications. It is gnosis in the original non-sectarian meaning of the term, the *sophia* of the ancient sages and the *sapientia* of the medieval ones. It is the *jnana* of the Hindus and the *al-ma' rifah* or *al-ma' hikmah* of Muslims. It is light and presence and issues from the seat of intelligence which is the heart while its elaboration is carried out by the mind. Its conceptual understanding, however, although of great importance is one thing and its realization quite another.

Seyyed Hossein Nasar, *The Essential Writings of Frithjof Schoun* (Bloomington, World Wisdom, Inc. 2005)



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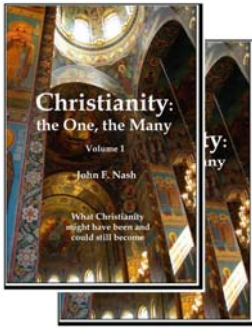


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by John F. Nash
Xlibris, 2007

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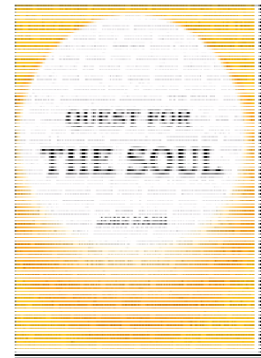
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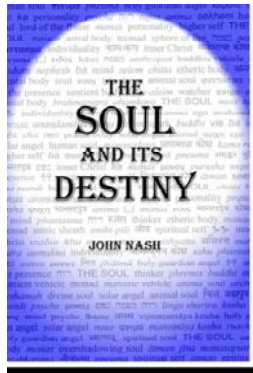
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