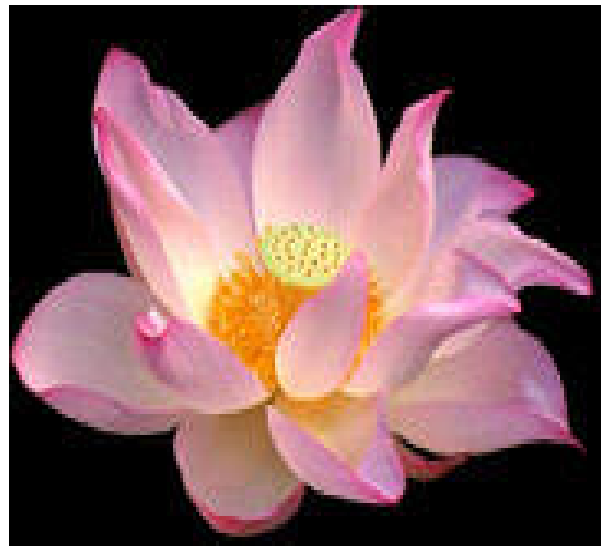


The Esoteric Quarterly

**Fall 2004
Volume 1
Number 1**

A publication of the School for Esoteric Studies

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



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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 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. All correspondence should be addressed to editor@esotericstudies.net.

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Birth of a New Journal

The need for a new journal to serve the worldwide community of esoteric students has been evident for some time. Some excellent publications focus on particular esoteric traditions, one or two serve the rigorous demands of academic research, and a much larger number address the needs of beginning students and casual readers.

The Esoteric Quarterly provides a medium for the dissemination of high-quality articles on esoteric philosophy and its applications to individual and group service and to the expansion of human consciousness. Our goal is offer a mix of articles and features exploring traditional and modern insights into the subjective life that both penetrates and transcends the world of everyday affairs.

Esoteric studies address issues of spirituality. Emphatically, spirituality relates not only to religion but to the whole spectrum of activities that improve the human condition, foster mutual relationships based on justice and compassion, and move humanity forward on its evolutionary journey. Esoteric studies are concerned with individual aspirations, service and initiation and also with the increasingly important group work in which those activities are integrated and collectively reinforced. Part of that work, as John Cobb notes in his President's Letter, is the sharing of insights: "the Group will teach the group."

The Esoteric Quarterly is a peer-review journal, and articles are submitted to a blind review process in which quality and relevance can be evaluated, free from personality concerns. The Editorial Board and external referees earn our special thanks for their work—all done on a voluntary basis—that makes the review process possible.

We are all aware of the "sectarianism" that has divided organizations and people studying esoteric teachings over the last 150 years. The

attitudes and behavior of competing groups has, at times, been not only unseemly but in sharp contrast to the very principles of inclusiveness that the teachings promote. The master teachers all insist that Truth is much greater than any single body of teachings and that, ultimately, all bodies of teachings must converge toward a synthesis appropriate to the particular stage in the evolution of human consciousness.

The Esoteric Quarterly will publish articles relating to both the Eastern and Western Esoteric Traditions. For example, we welcome articles on the work of Alice Bailey, Rudolf Steiner and Geoffrey Hodson; on the yoga of Sri Aurobindo, the Buddhism of Chögyam Trungpa Rinpoche, the idealism of Mahatma Gandhi, and the inspiration of the Dalai Lama. We welcome articles about esoteric Christianity, Judaism and Islam, the Rosicrucian movement, and the Qabalah. Especially welcome are articles that explore connections among the insights and practices of different traditions.

A major theme of the current issue is *synthesis*. The first full-length article was written many years ago by Roberto Assagioli, whose life was described as having "a wholeness offered to few men or women." We are honored to publish it to a general audience for the first time. A second article reaches conclusions similar to Dr. Assagioli's based on the timeless wisdom of the Qabalah and the teachings of the Tibetan Master. A third explores macro-microcosmic synthesis through "heaven symbols" and their correspondences with aspects of the human constitution. Our last full-length article addresses the evolution of human law, its relationship with natural and cosmic laws, and its impact on the development of consciousness. To complete our theme, this issue also includes a short paper: "Toward Synthe-

sis,” contributed by a student in the School for Esoteric Studies.

Regular features in *The Esoteric Quarterly* will include book reviews and news from the School for Esoteric Studies. Book reviews are unsolicited. Our objective is to provide information about newly published books to guide your reading activities.

The School for Esoteric Studies offers *The Esoteric Quarterly* at no charge as a service to esoteric students worldwide. The relatively low cost of the online format makes this possible. However, the School’s work is supported entirely by contributions, and money is needed on an ongoing basis if this work, including the publication of this journal, is to continue. Contributions are tax-deductible in the United States and many other countries. For information on how to make a donation, please see the School’s website: www.esotericstudies.net.

Meanwhile, welcome to *The Esoteric Quarterly*!

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.

We encourage critical thinking and evaluation of idea. 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 comments from readers.

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 an author to cite work that he or she finds abhorrent. We will not reject an article for publication simply on the grounds that it contains a reference to an objectionable source.

President’s Letter

The Esoteric Quarterly

For decades, the School for Esoteric Studies has been doing its part to build a group of effective spiritual servers through its training program. Everyone involved has shared in the growth of group consciousness that is part of this purpose. All are fellow students, and all help each other as opportunities arise, according to the Hierarchical model.

In the last few years, there has been an interesting new development. Esoteric schools and groups are no longer working in relative isolation from each other. Paralleling the development of the Internet, and facilitated by it, there has been an increasing sharing of information

and human resources within the global esoteric community. The proliferation of conventions, conclaves, circulating articles and informational websites indicates that the “trainers” (and their students) are being trained further by a larger group phenomenon to which it would not be an exaggeration to apply the term *externalization*. That which has been taking place without our conscious knowledge is becoming visible for all to see. Previously we used the term “intergroup” to describe what we saw and considered to be a next step. In the quality of the work being done and the ideas being transmitted, we now see indications of a group

externalization of knowledge, love and power, carrying the imprint of the world of the Soul, of the kingdom of God. We don't need Masters striding forth—Their influence reaches the world through all of us.

The School for Esoteric Studies is honored to host the new *Esoteric Quarterly*. Our vision is that this online publication will provide a forum for the many inspired individuals who are recording the content of the ongoing Externali-

zation. Through this process the Group will teach the group, and the construction of humanity's antahkarana will accelerate in keeping with the increasing tempo of revelation.

John Cobb, President,
School for Esoteric Studies
www.esotericstudies.net

Quotes of the Quarter

[Man] now comprehends something of the significance of the promise made him in the beginning: "Ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." He now deliberately plucks the golden apples that grow high up on the Tree of Knowledge and is determined to eat of them, no longer at the suggestion of the serpent, for he has reaped the bitter experience both of haste and of disobedience to his divine guidance and can no longer be seduced by the senses, but at the direction of the Lord God who planted the tree in the midst of the garden.

Harriette & Homer Curtis. *The Key of Destiny*.
Sun Books, 1923.

The Greek philosophers maintained that the world is a wonderful and beautiful place. The natural world alone contains enough marvels to reward our contemplation and appreciation without end. That is to say nothing of the spiritual world, which is revealed to us not only by the history of ideas and civilizations, but is also omnipresently revealed within each and every person by the nature of conscious-

ness itself... Yet, despite the wonders of the universe and our unique powers to survey the realms of both mind and matter, we have been socially trained to concern ourselves only with the smallest fragments of a larger reality...

[It is] a tendency to concentrate at a centre, or to merge.

David Fideler. *Jesus Christ: Sun of God*.
Quest Books, 1993.

The first Aspect [of Deity], or the will to exist, is governed by the Law of Synthesis, and the activities of the cosmic entities who are its embodiments are governed by the law of enforced unity, and of essential homogeneity. It is the law that eventually comes into play after spirit and matter are blending, and adapting themselves each to each; it governs the eventual synthesis of Self with Self, and finally with the All-Self.

Alice A. Bailey. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*.
Lucis Publishing Co., 1925.