

1. Introduction

New Light on Ancient Wisdom - The Fourth Way

The new information within the esoteric psychology / philosophy is based on the hypothesis of the evolutionary process of consciousness on the cosmic physical plane. In the past fifty years, under the influence of Eastern teachers who brought various forms of meditation to the West, more spiritual groups have come into existence. The West has brought development to the intellect and the East the same to the spiritual component. The new era we are in now will unite these two roads - the intellect and intuition. The most striking feature of the next cycle will be a consequence of psychology. From the viewpoint of modern psychology, a new factor comes to light, namely the recognition of the soul as a principle.

There are three major schools of thought: Introspectionism, Behaviorism and Vitalism¹. The truth stored in all these schools is ONE truth and all of its aspects have a relationship with the others. As a result of the current struggle and separation, these three schools are mainly concerned with fighting each other's theories, yet the facts of all three being correct, their conclusions only partly coincide. The three movements need each other and merging them will lead to the fourth. On a larger scale this leads to a fusion of Eastern mysticism and Western occultism.

¹) A.A.Bailey: White Magic, p.241-242

²) A.A.Bailey: White Magic, p.192-193

Definition of Occultism

This term refers to the hidden forces of life and to those sources of behavior, which lead to objective revelation².

What is meant by occult work? True occult work involves:

1. Coming into contact with the Plan
2. Having the sincere desire to cooperate with the Plan
3. Working on building thought forms and, being the creator of these thought forms, limiting attention to the mental area.
4. Important: all created thought forms (whether they manifest themselves as an organization, religion, a school of thought, a book or whatever life's work it manifests) that express spiritual ideals with the emphasis placed on the life aspect is covered by the White Magic. It is called the Right Path.

The Right Path is contrary to the thought forms that increase the power of the substance and add something to the powerful energy of the form substance. These thought forms contribute to the Left Path through which the Plan and Target are veiled and hidden. The next step will be the esoteric (scientific or occult) psychology of the soul / monad. This requires a different approach: personal development is not the goal, but rather gaining knowledge and understanding of the cosmic physical plane, the laws of cause and effect and rebirth and of the 7 fundamental energies. The aim is to promote the awareness of Humanity. This will ultimately lead to an open telepathic contact / channel between the Spiritual Hierarchy and Humanity.

2. New light on ancient wisdom

Esoteric movements in the West, such as the Freemasons or Rosicrucians, have handed down the esoteric knowledge through history (necessarily hidden because Western man was not ready yet for it). Ms. Helena P. Blavatsky made this knowledge public with her great work "The Secret Doctrine" in 1891. Master DK wrote down these teachings by means of Alice A. Bailey (from 1919) for the New Era. Both writers then already announced that these teachings would become accessible to a larger audience in the 21st century.

3. Hypothesis and objective:

The cosmic physical plane has 7 planes of consciousness and each area has again 7 subareas of consciousness. Learning takes place through the 7 fundamental energies, the laws of cause and effect and the law of rebirth. The way in which understanding and experience in these areas are to be acquired, asks for a developed intellect (discrimination) to promote the developing intuitive ability by means of guided meditations; experiences are developed and / or put into form by the intellect and mental application in practice. Heart and mind learn to work together.

The goal is not to serve their own development, but to serve the whole (as a characteristic of the soul). By studying, meditating and practicing, the life experiences will broaden our own consciousness in a natural way.

4. Who are the Masters of Wisdom?

The Masters of the Spiritual Hierarchy are people like you and me. They have gone through the whole evolutionary process and have reached the stage of mastery, which also is the mankind's purpose.

A Master evolves further to even higher fields (an infinite process), but some of the Masters long ago decided to stay and help Humanity as teachers.

5. Stages of development of consciousness:

Seen from the hypothesis of the evolution of consciousness and counted from the beginning of mankind (the child stage) Humanity as a whole is now on the stage of puberty in its various phases. In summary a part of Humanity is approaching majority (being a soul-conscious personality) and another part is halfway. A very small part moves still in its early stages. In between are many steps on this ladder.

6. Signs of the efficacy of the soul:

We know about the concept of the soul, but being personalities we do not recognize it directly, although it is always present. But we know such concepts as responsibility, justice, tolerance, service, forgiveness, etc. These acquired properties, based on proper motives (no imposed norms and values by others such as parents, religion or society) are the first signals that the soul gains influence on our existence and thus lets us start the progressive development of a wider consciousness.

7. The soul / monad as a mediator:

The cosmic physical plane consists of 7 fields and 49 subfields. The soul is the mediator between the spiritual consciousness / area and the physical body. In the incarnation, the soul uses the personality with his 3 vehicles of perception: the physical, emotional (or astral) and mental body. Thus considered, the vehicles are seen separately (every body can have a different energy) while at the same time they are more or less merging.

In this age of Aquarius is Humanity (by his rapid development of the mental body) ready for the next step by focusing on the efficacy of the soul. In the final stage, the monad itself is the direct mediator in the personality. To make it somewhat comprehensible, see diagrams and the lecture about the Composition of Man.

8. Science? It must be testable

The esoteric point of view involves the progressive awareness that all areas and subareas of the cosmic physical plane have to be experienced. At an even higher turn of the spiral more knowledge (Cosmic Fire) is needed. But for most people this information is sufficient as a first step toward the goal of the soul / monad, expressed in our personal lives, but also toward what is seen as the purpose of Humanity as a whole.

The accuracy of this view of life can only be tested by means of theoretical knowledge and research through intuition (buddhic area), both in daily life experiences as it is in the spiritual realm. Theory and practice go together. Although there occur many concepts in these teachings that are recognizable by experiences with religion, they will be passed through the perspective of psychology as a new science. There are two lines that need to go together: the KNOWING of the soul / intuition is the source and the INTELLECT is the performer or designer at the physical level (e.g. Mozart / Beethoven / Bach / Spinoza / Lincoln, etc.)

TRUE HUMILITY is the guide in this SCIENCE and this is expressed by reviewing facts, developing a vision and an adequate response to the tensions between different periods.³

9. Intuition:

The soul / monad is intuitive, but what does that mean? There are 3 forms of intuitive perception (instinctive - mental - intuitive) the highest of which form gives the right information from the higher realms and is put into the form by means of symbolic language and by way of telepathic impressions that precipitate in the higher mind of the receiver (see diagram) and made concrete by the lower mind. The hallmark of this information is that it is not recognized by mankind, but is always present. That's how it has been throughout human history, but revealed only by a few individuals. Currently, however, they will be accessible to a large extent of Mankind (in the different steps of the ladder). For the correct reception it is requested to be fully free from delusions and illusions on the physical, astral and mental bodies.

The journey through the evolution of consciousness begins with an occult way to take knowledge of the Composition of Man and to become aware of the world glamour.

10. Confusing information.

Many spiritual movements and their teachers used this idea, but often one has added his own ideas.

This is unavoidable, but a reader or student should be aware that because of the unfamiliarity of the delusions and illusions of the areas and subareas of the cosmic physical plane, distortions of reality might be present. So far I have only encountered a few courses (but there will undoubtedly be more) that use World Glamour and the Composition of Man on the cosmic physical plane in their curricula.

11. The original teachings of Master DK in the books of Alice A. Bailey.

The motivation for publishing lectures and topic summaries on the website literally "off the books" is to prevent distortion.

"Food for Thought" gives a little more freedom to the writers on the website to include their own thoughts to add to the topics. At all times one should continue to reflect, research and stimulate his intuition to check the accuracy of these teachings. Ultimately the joy of recognition can show. It is always your own soul that determines this (freely translated quote from Master DK).

12. A few comments

By studying the Composition of Man on the basis of the schedule and the reading, there may arise a change in vision or thinking about life. In case you are further interested, please have a look at the summaries (lectures) on the 26 books of Alice A. Bailey on the website. If you like to study all of the books, they are also available as a CD-ROM (in English). Also available are the books of Helena P. Blavatsky, Helena Roerich or the website of the Theosophical Society www.theosofie.nl. If you would like to go further then the school of spiritual development will welcome you (free access).

The Arcane School in Geneva (<http://www.lucitrust.org>) was founded in 1923 by Alice A. Bailey and is affiliated with the United Nations. The school is maintained by means of donations.

There are other schools including The Morya School in Brisbane, Australia, www.brisbanegoodwill.org offers studies on the same basis (Alice A. Bailey).

A common complaint is that the books are so difficult. That may be true, but to the extent to which intuition unfolds, the specific language will always be better understood.

Ultimately, the continuation is defined by inner motivation of the soul.

Elly Lichtenberg
Unit of Service, Maastricht.