



However, I'm not thinking of wide sociological process. I'm facing the failures of the theosophical movement.

A kind of perplexity results from examining some of the policies in major institutions of the theosophical movement, when irresponsible attitudes wipe out people's ability to think by themselves.

Let us see one practical example, chosen among others.

Most readers who are familiar with the theosophical literature know that the Ningma or Dugpa sect, in Tibet and elsewhere, is adverse to the work of the Masters of the Wisdom. The fact is stated in many places in theosophical writings.

On the other hand, everyone knows that the book "The Tibetan Book of the Dead", published by Mr. Evans-Wents, is Ningma in contents and pretends to teach people how to avoid the law of Karma and the Law of Responsible Action.

Every student is also aware of the fact that the Masters of the Wisdom define themselves as the humble servants of the One Law, and patiently try to teach and inspire theosophists and mankind with Ethics.

And yet, such a Ningma book as the "Book of the Dead" widely circulates - since the early part of 20th century - in theosophical and esoteric circles whose leaders still purport to follow the teachings of the Masters.

Theosophical lodges act as if reading and absorbing the senseless contents of "The Tibetan Book of the Dead" were an elegant action, intellectually elevated and theosophically sophisticated.

Of course, since Annie Besant abandoned the original teachings and ethics of theosophy in the 1890s, there has been an affinity between certain circles of nominal theosophists and the Ningmapasic sectarians.

Such a fact can be no surprise to independent thinkers.

In addition to this, Carl G. Jung, a distinguished servant of the Nazi government in Germany in the 1930s and a lifelong Ethics-denier, is one of the icons of make-believe spirituality in Western nations and succeeded in opening the doors of superficial esotericism to the Ningmas in general, and to this "Book of the Dead" in particular.

These are all well-established facts.

But that a large number of nominal theosophists, almost all of them sincere, should study the theosophy of Blavatsky and the Masters while absorbing the ideas of Ningma books is a paramount example of brainlessness in thought and action.

In order to live their subconscious affinity with morally blind sorcerers who are well-known as fierce adversaries of theosophy, reasoning is forgotten by dozens of influential theosophists; the voice of conscience, that points to goodness, sincerity and altruism, is silenced; ostensive boycotters of the Masters' work are proclaimed welcome; and even experienced theosophists look at such facts and pretend not to see them, because defending ethics might look like politically incorrect to some.

Poor theosophical movement deserves better. Some discernment and respect for truth should emerge once again. A new wave of ethical feelings and self-responsible reasoning can be born. A love for impersonal justice protects true students of esoteric philosophy.

Om, Shanti.

(Carlos Cardoso Aveline)

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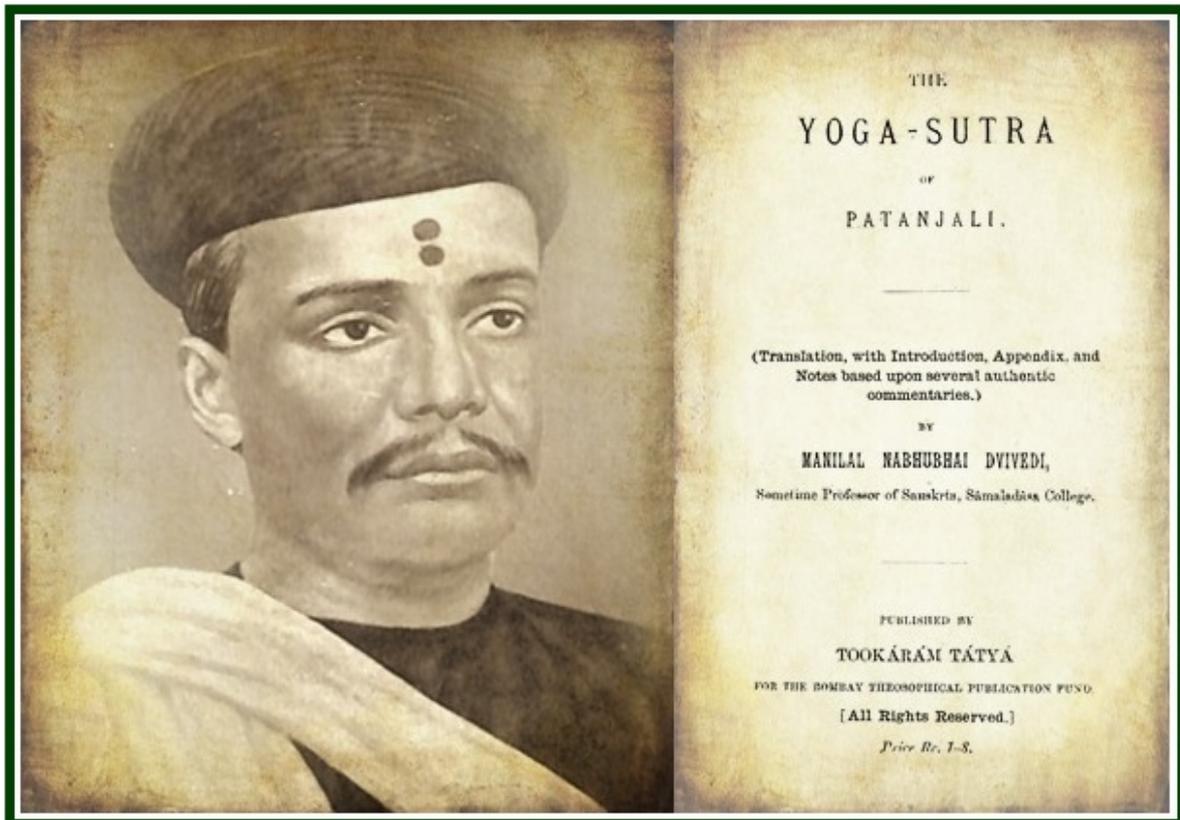
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## The Preliminary Practice of Yoga



The preliminary practice of Yoga or *Kriya Yoga*, as described in the Yoga Sutras - consists of three elements: **mortification** (austerity, Tapah), **study**, and **resignation to Ishwara**. [1]

What does the name “Ishwara” - or Iswara - mean? The concept is popularly personalized as a sort of God or Lord. A Master of the Wisdom clarifies the issue as he discusses the expression “Avalokitesvara” in the Mahatma Letters. The Sage writes that **Iswara** implies “rather the adjective than the noun, *lordly*, self-existent *lordliness*, *not* Lord.”

He proceeds:

“It is, when correctly interpreted, in one sense ‘the *divine Self* perceived or seen by *Self*, the *Atman* or seventh principle ridded of its *mayavic* distinction from its Universal Source - which becomes the object of perception for, and by the *individuality* centred in *Buddhi*, the sixth principle, - something that happens only in the highest state of *Samadhi*. This is applying it to the microcosm. In the other sense Avalokitesvara implies the seventh *Universal Principle*, as the object perceived by the Universal *Buddhi* ‘Mind’ or Intelligence which is the synthetic aggregation of all the Dhyana Chohans, as of all other intelligences whether great or small, that ever were, are, or will be.” [2]

Unfortunately, so far most theosophical authors, instead of studying the Letters and getting to understand the concept in its true and impersonal meaning, have indulged in the popular personalization of **Ishwara**, as if such a cosmic and abstract intelligence were “someone out there looking at us”.

M. N. Dvivedi, William Q. Judge and I. K. Taimni are among the authors who use the personal pronoun “he” while referring to Ishwara. Taimni also calls Ishwara “God”, another unfortunate mistake. (See the article “[Masters Teach That There Is No God](#)”.)

Leaving the personalistic mistakes aside, we should say, then, that the preliminary practice of Yoga consists of, one, austerity, or Tapah; two, study of universal Law; and three, renouncing all except the seventh principle and unlimited cosmic intelligence.

Taimni says: “The preparatory self-discipline is triple in its nature corresponding to the triple nature of a human being. *Tapas* [Tapah] is related to his will, *Svadhya* [study, self-study] to the intellect and *Ishwara-pranidhana* [renunciation of all but Ishwara] to the emotions.” [3]

Taimni writes that Tapah has a plurality of meanings: purification, self-discipline, and austerity among others. He says the origin of the word, which relates to fire, is probably connected to the process of purification of gold in high temperatures. (The Science of Yoga, p. 225)

Tapah - or physical, emotional and mental austerity - comes in the first place in Preliminary Yoga. It helps us to burn the different forms of ignorance in our lives. It paves the way to a better understanding of things (through study) and to the right kind of devotion. As to the feeling of devotion, as we have seen, it is not directed to any personal deity, but to the several levels of universal, abstract, absolutely impersonal Intelligence and Law. (CCA)

## NOTES:

[1] See the opening of Section II, p. 29, at “[The Yoga-Sutra of Patanjali](#)”, by [Manilal Nabhubhai Dvivedi](#).

[2] Letter LIX, pp. 343-344 in “[The Mahatma Letters](#)”.

[3] From “The Science of Yoga”, I. K. Taimni, TPH, Adyar, 446 pp., 1993 (first edition, 1961), p. 129.

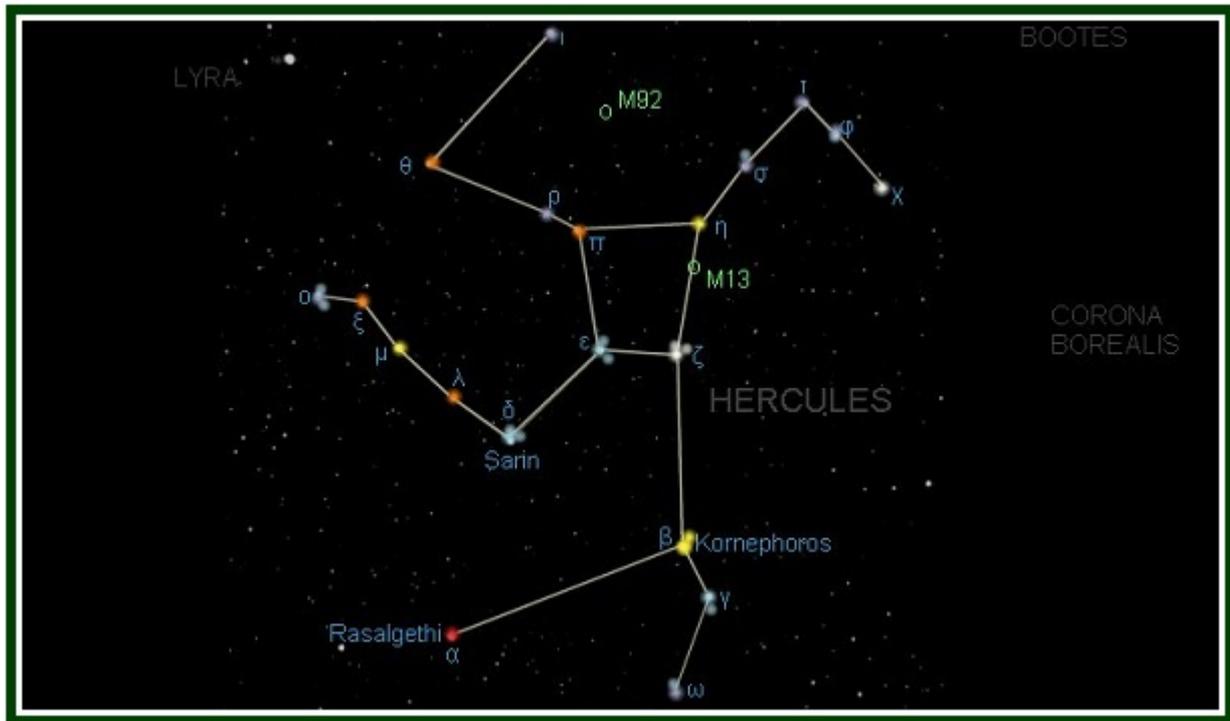
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See more articles on Yoga in the January 2019 edition of “[The Aquarian Theosophist](#)”.

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# Hercules, Baladeva and the Origin of the Mysteries

Helena P. Blavatsky



Hercules Constellation Stars

[The following text is reproduced from “Collected Writings”, Helena P. Blavatsky, TPH, USA, volume XIV, pp. 246-259. Original title: “The Origin of the Mysteries”.]

All that is explained in the preceding Sections <sup>1</sup> and a hundredfold more was taught in the Mysteries from time immemorial. If the first appearance of those institutions is a matter of historical tradition with regard to some of the later nations, their origin must certainly be assigned to the time of the Fourth Root Race. The Mysteries were imparted to the elect of that Race when the average Atlantean had begun to fall too deeply into sin to be trusted with the secrets of Nature. Their establishment is attributed in the Secret Works to the King-Initiates of the divine dynasties, when the “Sons of God” had gradually allowed their country to become *Kukarmadesha* (the land of vice).

<sup>1</sup> Reference to the previous texts in the volume XIV of the “Collected Writings”, among them “The ‘Zohar’ on the Creation and the Elohim”, “Modern Kabalists in Science and Occult Astronomy”, “Hebrew Allegories” and “Eastern and Western Occultism”. (CCA)

The antiquity of the Mysteries may be inferred from the history of the worship of Hercules in Egypt. This Hercules, according to what the priests told Herodotus, was not Grecian, for he says:

“Of the Grecian Hercules I could in no part of Egypt procure any knowledge: ..... the name was never borrowed by Egypt from Greece ..... Hercules, ..... as they [*the priests*] affirm, is one of the twelve (great Gods), who were reproduced from the earlier eight Gods 17,000 years before the year of Amasis.”

Hercules is of Indian origin, and - his Biblical chronology put aside - Colonel Tod was quite right in his suggestion that he was Balarama or Baladeva. Now one must read the *Puranas* with the Esoteric key in one's hand in order to find out how on almost every page they corroborate the Secret Doctrine. The ancient classical writers so well understood this truth that they unanimously attributed to Asia the origin of Hercules.

“A section of the *Mahabharata* is devoted to the history of the Hercula, of which race was Vyasa ..... Diodorus has the same legend with some variety. He says: ‘Hercules was born amongst the Indians and, like the Greeks, they furnish him with a club and lion's hide.’ Both [*Krishna and Baladeva*] are (lords) of the race (cula) of Heri (Heri-cul-es) of which the Greeks might have made the compound Hercules.”<sup>2</sup>

The Occult Doctrine explains that Hercules was the last incarnation of one of the seven “Lords of the Flame”, as Krishna's brother, Baladeva; that his incarnations occurred during the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Root-Races, and that his worship was brought into Egypt from Lanka and India by the later immigrants. That he was borrowed by the Greeks from the Egyptians is certain, the more so as the Greeks place his birth at Thebes, and only his twelve labours at Argos. Now we find in the *Vishnu-Purana* a complete corroboration of the statement made in the Secret Teachings, of which Puranic allegory the following is a short summary:

Raivata, a grandson of Saryati, Manu's fourth son, finding no man worthy of his lovely daughter, repaired with her to Brahma's region to consult the God in this emergency. Upon his arrival, Haha, Huhu, and other Gandharvas were singing before the throne, and Raivata, waiting till they had done, imagined that but one Muhurta (instant) had passed, whereas long ages had elapsed. When they had finished, Raivata prostrated himself and explained his perplexity. Then Brahmâ asked him whom he wished for a son-in-law, and upon hearing a few personages named, the Father of the World smiled and said:

“Of those whom you have named the third and fourth generation [*Root-Races*] no longer survive, for many successions of ages [*Chatur-Yuga, or the four Yuga cycles*] have passed away while you were listening to our songsters. Now on earth the twenty-eighth great age of the present Manu is nearly finished and the Kali period is at hand. You must therefore bestow this virgin-gem upon some other husband. For you are now alone.”

Then the Raja Raivata is told to proceed to Kusasthali, his ancient capital, which was now called Dvaraka, and where reigned in his stead a portion of the divine being (Vishnu) in the

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<sup>2</sup> Tod's “Annals of Rajasthan”, Vol. I, pp. 32-33. (HPB)

person of Baladeva, the brother of Krishna, regarded as the seventh incarnation of Vishnu whenever Krishna is taken as a full divinity.

“Being thus instructed by the Lotus-born [*Brahmâ*], Raivata returned (with his daughter) to earth, where he found the race of men dwindled in stature [see what is said in the Stanzas and Commentaries of the races of mankind gradually decreasing in stature] <sup>3</sup>, reduced in vigour, and enfeebled in intellect. Repairing to the city of Kusasthali, he found it much altered,” because, according to the allegorical explanation of the commentator, “Krishna had reclaimed from the sea a portion of the country”, which means in plain language that the continents had all been changed meanwhile - and “had renovated the city” - or rather built a new one, Dvaraka; for one reads in the *Bhagavata-Purana* <sup>4</sup> that Kushasthali was founded and built by Raivata within the sea; and subsequent discoveries showed that it was the same, or on the same spot, as Dvaraka. Therefore it was on an island before. The allegory in *Vishnu-Purana* shows King Raivata giving his daughter to “the wielder of the ploughshare” - or rather “the plough-bannered” - Baladeva, who “beholding the damsel of excessively lofty height ..... shortened her with the end of his ploughshare, and she became his wife.” <sup>5</sup>

This is a plain allusion to the Third and Fourth Races - to the Atlantean giants and the successive incarnations of the “Sons of the Flame” and other orders of Dhyani-Chohans in the heroes and kings of mankind, down to the Kali-Yuga, or Black Age, the beginning of which is within historical times.

Another *coincidence*: Thebes is the city of a hundred gates, and Dvaraka is so called from its many gateways or doors, from the word “Dvara”, “gateway”.

Both Hercules and Baladeva are of a passionate, hot temper, and both are renowned for the fairness of their white skins. There is not the slightest doubt that Hercules is Baladeva in Greek dress. Arrian notices the great similarity between the Theban and the Hindu Hercules, the latter being worshipped by the Suraseni who built Methorea, or Mathura, Krishna’s birthplace. The same writer places Sandracottus (Chandragupta, the grandfather of King Ashoka, of the clan of Morya) <sup>6</sup> in the direct line of the descendants of Baladeva.

There were no Mysteries in the beginning, we are taught. Knowledge (Vidya) was common property, and it reigned universally throughout the Golden Age (Satya-Yuga). As says the Commentary:

*“Men had not created evil yet in those days of bliss and purity, for they were of God-like more than of human nature.”*

<sup>3</sup> See *S.D.*, Vol. I, p. 609; Vol. II, pp. 329-332, and p. 733. (Boris de Zirkoff, editor of the Collected Writings)

<sup>4</sup> *Op. cit.*, IX, III, 28 [*in Wilson’s ed. III, p. 249 fn.*]. (Note by HPB, supplemented by Boris de Zirkoff with the worlds in brackets)

<sup>5</sup> *Vishnu-Purana*, Bk. IV, ch. 1, Wilson, Vol. III, pp. 248-54. (HPB)

<sup>6</sup> The clan of Morya, in the direct line of the descendants of Baladeva-Hercules. A significant information to theosophists. See the article “[The Mauryan Dynasty](#)”. (CCA)

But when mankind, rapidly increasing in numbers, increased also in variety of idiosyncrasies of body and mind, then incarnated Spirit showed its weakness. Natural exaggerations, and along with these superstitions, arose in the less cultured and healthy minds. Selfishness was born out of desires and passions hitherto unknown, and but too often knowledge and power were abused, until finally it became necessary to limit the number of those *who knew*. Thus arose Initiation.

Every separate nation now arranged for itself a religious system, according to its enlightenment and spiritual wants. Worship of mere form being discarded by the wise men, these confined true knowledge to the very few. The need of veiling truth to protect it from desecration becoming more apparent with every generation, a thin veil was used at first, which had to be gradually thickened according to the spread of personality and selfishness, and this led to the Mysteries. They came to be established in every country and among every people, while to avoid strife and misunderstanding exoteric beliefs were allowed to grow up in the minds of the profane masses. Inoffensive and innocent in their incipient stage - like a historical event arranged in the form of a fairy tale, adapted for and comprehensible to the child's mind - in those distant ages such beliefs could be allowed to grow and make the popular faith without any danger to the more philosophical and abstruse truths taught in the sanctuaries.

Logical and scientific observation of the phenomena in Nature, which alone leads man to the knowledge of eternal truths - provided he approaches the threshold of observation unbiased by preconception and sees with his spiritual eye before he looks at things from their physical aspect - does not lie within the province of the masses. The marvels of the One Spirit of Truth, the ever-concealed and inaccessible Deity, can be unravelled and assimilated only through Its manifestations by the secondary "Gods", its acting powers. While the One and Universal Cause has to remain forever *in abscondito*, Its manifold action may be traced through the effects in Nature. The latter alone being comprehensible and manifest to average mankind, the Powers causing those effects were allowed to grow in the imagination of the populace. Ages later in the Fifth, the Aryan Race, some unscrupulous priests began to take advantage of the too easy beliefs of the people in every country, and finally raised those secondary Powers to the rank of God and Gods, thus succeeding in isolating them altogether from the One Universal Cause of all causes.<sup>7</sup>

Henceforward the knowledge of the primeval truths remained entirely in the hands of the Initiates.

The Mysteries had their weak points and their defects, as every institution welded with the human element must necessarily have. Yet Voltaire has characterised their benefits in a few words:

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<sup>7</sup> There were no Brahmans as a hereditary caste in days of old. In those long-departed ages a man became a Brahman through personal merit and Initiation. Gradually, however, despotism crept in, and the son of a Brahman was created a Brahman by right of protection first, then by that of heredity. The rights of blood replaced those of real merit, and thus arose the body of Brahmans, which was soon changed into a powerful caste. (HPB)

“In the chaos of popular superstitions there existed an institution which has ever prevented man from falling into absolute brutality: it was that of the Mysteries.”<sup>8</sup>

Verily, as Jean Marie Ragon puts it of Masonry:

“Its temple has Time for duration, the Universe for space. (...) ‘Let us divide that we may rule’, have said the crafty; ‘Let us unite to resist’, have said the first Masons.”<sup>9</sup>

Or rather, the Initiates whom the Masons have never ceased to claim as their primitive and direct Masters. The first and fundamental principle of moral strength and power is association and solidarity of thought and purpose.

“The Sons of Will and Yoga” united in the beginning to resist the terrible and ever-growing iniquities of the left-hand Adepts, the Atlanteans. This led to the foundation of still more Secret Schools, temples of learning, and of Mysteries inaccessible to all except after the most terrible trials and probations.

Anything that might be said of the earliest Adepts and their divine Masters would be regarded as fiction. It is necessary, therefore, if we would know something of the primitive Initiates to judge of the tree by its fruits; to examine the bearing and the work of their successors in the Fifth Race as reflected in the works of the classic writers and the great philosophers. How were Initiation and the Initiates regarded during some 2,000 years by the Greek and Roman writers? Cicero informs his readers in very clear terms. He says:

“An Initiate must practise all the virtues in his power: justice, fidelity, liberality, modesty, temperance; these virtues cause men to forget the talents that he may lack.”<sup>10</sup>

Ragon says:

“When the Egyptian priests said: ‘*All for the people, nothing through the people*’, they were right: in an ignorant nation truth must be revealed only to trustworthy persons (...). We have seen in our days, ‘*all through the people, nothing for the people*’, a false and dangerous system. The real axiom ought to be: ‘*All for the people and with the people*’.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> See under *Idolatry* (Section III) and under term *Initiation* (Ancient Mysteries) in *A Philosophical Dictionary* (many editions) which H.P. Blavatsky probably translated directly from Voltaire’s French. (Boris de Zirkoff, editor of the Collected Writings)

<sup>9</sup> *Des Initiations Anciennes et Modernes*, [pp. 17-18. Nancy, France, F. Guerard, 2nd ed., 1842.] “The mysteries”, says Ragon, “were the gift of India.” In this he is mistaken, for the Aryan race had brought the mysteries of Initiation from Atlantis. Nevertheless he is right in saying that the mysteries preceded all civilizations, and that by polishing the mind and morals of the peoples, they served as a base for all the laws - civil, political, and religious. (Note by HPB, with extra bibliographical information included in brackets by editor B. de Zirkoff)

<sup>10</sup> *De Officiis*, I, 33. (HPB)

<sup>11</sup> *Des Initiations* ..., pp. 21-22. (HPB)

But in order to achieve this reform the masses have to pass through a dual transformation: (a) to become divorced from every element of exoteric superstition and priestcraft, and (b) to become educated men, free from every danger of being enslaved whether by a man or an idea.

This, in view of the preceding, may seem paradoxical. The Initiates were “priests”, we may be told - at any rate, all the Hindu, Egyptian, Chaldaean, Greek, Phoenician, and other Hierophants and Adepts were priests in the temples, and it was they who invented their respective exoteric creeds.

To this the answer is possible: “The cowl does not make the friar.” If one may believe tradition and the unanimous opinion of ancient writers, added to the examples we have in the “priests” of India, the most conservative nation in the world, it becomes quite certain that the Egyptian priests were no more priests in the sense we give to the word than are the temple Brahmans. They could never be regarded as such if we take as our standard the European clergy. Laurens observes very correctly that:

“The priests of Egypt were not, strictly speaking, ministers of religion. The word ‘priest’, which translation has been badly interpreted, had an acceptation very different from the one that is applied to it among us. In the language of antiquity, and especially in the sense of the initiation of the priests of ancient Egypt, the word ‘priest’ is synonymous with that of ‘philosopher’. (...) The institution of the Egyptian priests seems to have been really a confederation of sages gathered to study the art of ruling men, to centre the domain of truth, modulate its propagation, and arrest its too dangerous dispersion.” <sup>12</sup>

The Egyptian Priests, like the Brahmans of old, held the reins of the governing powers, a system that descended to them by direct inheritance from the Initiates of the great Atlantis. The pure cult of Nature in the earliest patriarchal days - the word “patriarch” applying in its first original sense to the Progenitors of the human race <sup>13</sup>, the Fathers, Chiefs, and Instructors of primitive men - became the heirloom of those alone who could discern the noumenon beneath the phenomenon.

Later, the Initiates transmitted their knowledge to the human kings, as their divine Masters had passed it to their forefathers. It was their prerogative and duty to reveal the secrets of Nature that were useful to mankind - the hidden virtues of plants, the art of healing the sick, and of bringing about brotherly love and mutual help among mankind. No Initiate was one if he could not heal - aye, recall to life from apparent death (coma) those who, too long neglected, would have indeed died during their lethargy. <sup>14</sup> Those who showed such powers were forthwith set above the crowds, and were regarded as Kings and Initiates. Gautama Buddha was a King-Initiate, a healer, and recalled to life those who were in the hands of

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<sup>12</sup> *Essais Historiques et critiques sur la Franche Maçonnerie*, pp. 142-143. [2nd. ed., Paris, Chomel, 1806.] (Note by HPB, with extra information included in brackets by editor B. de Zirkoff)

<sup>13</sup> The word “patriarch” is composed of the Greek word “Patria” (“family”, “tribe”, or “nation”) and “Archos” (a “chief”), the paternal principle. The Jewish Patriarchs who were pastors, passed their name to the Christian Patriarchs, yet they were no priests, but were simply the heads of their tribes, like the Indian Rishis. (HPB)

<sup>14</sup> There is no need to observe here that the resurrection of a really dead body is an impossibility in Nature. (HPB)

death. Jesus and Apollonius were healers, and were both addressed as Kings by their followers. Had they failed to raise those who were to all intents and purposes the dead, none of their names would have passed down to posterity; for this was the first and crucial test, the certain sign that the Adept had upon Him the invisible hand of a primordial divine Master, or was an incarnation of one of the “Gods”.

The later royal privilege descended to our Fifth Race kings through the kings of Egypt. The latter were all initiated into the mysteries of medicine, and they healed the sick, even when, owing to the terrible trials and labors of final Initiation, they were unable to become full Hierophants. They were healers by privilege and by tradition, and were assisted in the healing art by the Hierophants of the temples, when they themselves were ignorant of Occult curative Science. So also in far later historical times we find Pyrrhus curing the sick by simply touching them with his foot; Vespasian and Hadrian needed only to pronounce a few words taught to them by their Hierophants, in order to restore sight to the blind and health to the cripple. From that time onward history has recorded cases of the same privilege conferred on the emperors and kings of almost every nation.<sup>15</sup>

That which is known of the Priests of Egypt and of the ancient Brahmans, corroborated as it is by all the ancient classics and historical writers, gives us the right to believe in that which is only traditional in the opinion of sceptics. Whence the wonderful knowledge of the Egyptian Priests in every department of Science, unless they had it from a still more ancient source? The famous “Four”, the seats of learning in old Egypt, are more historically certain than the beginnings of modern England. It was in the great Theban sanctuary that Pythagoras upon his arrival from India studied the Science of Occult numbers. It was in Memphis that Orpheus popularized his too-abstruse Indian metaphysics for the use of *Magna Grecia*; and thence Thales, and ages later Democritus, obtained all they knew. It is to Saïs that all the honor must be given of the wonderful legislation and the art of ruling people, imparted by its Priests to Lycurgus and Solon, who will both remain objects of admiration for generations to come. And had Plato and Eudoxus never gone to worship at the shrine of Heliopolis, most probably the one would have never astonished future generations with his ethics, nor the other with his wonderful knowledge of mathematics.<sup>16</sup>

The great modern writer on the Mysteries of Egyptian Initiation - one, however, who knew nothing of those in India - the late Ragon, has not exaggerated in maintaining that:

“All the notions possessed by Hindustan, Persia, Syria, Arabia, Chaldaea, Sydonia, and the priests of Babylonia [*on the secrets of Nature*], were known to the Egyptian priests. It is thus

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<sup>15</sup> The kings of Hungary claimed that they could cure the jaundice; the Dukes of Burgundy were credited with preserving people from the plague; the kings of Spain delivered those possessed by the devil. The prerogative of curing the king’s evil was given to the kings of France, in reward for the virtues of good King Robert. Francis the First, during a short stay at Marseilles for his son’s wedding, touched and cured of that disease upwards of 500 persons. The kings of England had the same privilege. (HPB)

<sup>16</sup> See Laurens’ *Essais Historiques...* for further information as to the worldwide, universal knowledge of the Egyptian Priests. (HPB)

Indian philosophy, without mysteries, which, having penetrated into Chaldea and ancient Persia, gave rise to the doctrine of Egyptian Mysteries.”<sup>17</sup>

The Mysteries preceded the hieroglyphics.<sup>18</sup> They gave birth to the latter, as permanent records were needed to preserve and commemorate their secrets. It is primitive Philosophy<sup>19</sup> that has served as the foundation-stone for modern Philosophy; only the progeny, while perpetuating the features of the external body, has lost on its way the Soul and Spirit of its parent.

Initiation, though it contained neither rules and principles, nor any special teaching of Science - as now understood - was nevertheless Science, and the Science of sciences. And though devoid of dogma, of physical discipline, and of exclusive ritual, it was yet the one true Religion - that of eternal truth. Outwardly it was a school, a college, wherein were taught sciences, arts, ethics, legislation, philanthropy, the cult of the true and real nature of cosmic phenomena; secretly, during the Mysteries, practical proofs of the latter were given. Those who could learn truth on all things - *i.e.*, those who could look the great Isis in her unveiled face and bear the awful majesty of the Goddess - became Initiates. But the children of the Fifth Race had fallen too deeply into matter always to do so with impunity. Those who failed disappeared from the world, without leaving a trace behind. Which of the highest kings would have dared to claim any individual, however high his social standing, from the stern priests, once that the victim had crossed the threshold of their sacred Adytum?

The noble precepts taught by the Initiates of the early races passed to India, Egypt, and Greece, to China and Chaldea, and thus spread all over the world. All that is good, noble,

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<sup>17</sup> *Des Initiations* ..., p. 25. [2nd ed., 1842] (Note by HPB, with information included in brackets by editor B. de Zirkoff)

<sup>18</sup> The word comes from the Greek “hieros” (“sacred”) and “glupho” (“I grave”). The Egyptian characters were sacred to the Gods, as the Indian Devanagari is the language of the Gods. (HPB)

<sup>19</sup> The same author had (as Occultists have) a very reasonable objection to the modern etymology of the word “philosophy”, which is interpreted “love of wisdom”, and is nothing of the kind. The philosophers were scientists, and philosophy was a real science - not simply verbiage, as it is in our day. The term is composed of two Greek words whose meaning is intended to convey its secret sense, and ought to be interpreted as “wisdom of love”. Now it is in the last word, “love”, that lies hidden the esoteric significance: for “love” does not stand here as a noun, nor does it mean “affection” or “fondness”, but is the term used for Eros, that primordial principle in divine creation, synonymous with **πόθος**, the abstract desire in Nature for procreation, resulting in an everlasting series of phenomena. It means “divine love”, that universal element of divine omnipresence spread throughout Nature and which is at once the chief cause and effect. The “wisdom of love” (or “philosophia”) meant attraction to and love of everything hidden beneath objective phenomena and the knowledge thereof. Philosophy meant the highest Adeptship - love of and assimilation with Deity. In his modesty Pythagoras even refused to be called a Philosopher (or one who knows every hidden thing in things visible; cause and effect, or absolute truth), and called himself simply a Sage, an aspirant to philosophy, or to Wisdom of Love - love in its exoteric meaning being as degraded by men then as it is now by its purely terrestrial application. (HPB)

and grand in human nature, every divine faculty and aspiration, were cultured by the Priest-Philosophers who sought to develop them in their Initiates.

Their code of ethics, based on altruism, has become universal. It is found in Confucius, the “atheist”, who taught that “he who loves not his brother has no virtue in him”, and in the *Old Testament* precept, “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself”.<sup>20</sup> The greater Initiates became like unto Gods, and Socrates, in Plato’s *Phaedo*, is represented as saying:

“The Initiates are sure to come into the company of the Gods.”

In the same work the great Athenian Sage is made to say:

“It is quite apparent that those who have established the Mysteries, or the secret assemblies of the Initiates, were no mean persons, but powerful genii, who from the first ages had endeavoured to make us understand under those enigmas that he who will reach the invisible regions unpurified will be hurled into the abyss [*the Eighth Sphere of the Occult Doctrine; that is, he will lose his personality for ever*], while he who will attain them purged of the maculations of this world, and accomplished in virtues will be received in the abode of the Gods.”<sup>21</sup>

Said Clemens Alexandrinus, referring to the Mysteries:

“Here ends all teaching. One sees Nature and all things.”

A Christian Father of the Church speaks then as did the Pagan Pretextatus, the pro-consul of Achaia (fourth century A.D.), “a man of eminent virtues,” who remarked that to deprive the Greeks of “the sacred Mysteries which bind in one the whole of mankind”, was to render their very lives worthless to them. Would the Mysteries have ever obtained the highest praise from the noblest men of antiquity had they not been of more than human origin? Read all that is said of this unparalleled institution, as much by those who had never been initiated, as by the Initiates themselves. Consult Plato, Euripides, Socrates, Aristophanes, Pindar, Plutarch, Isocrates, Diodorus, Cicero, Epictetus, Marcus Aurelius, not to name dozens of other famous Sages and writers.

That which the Gods and Angels had *revealed*, exoteric religions, beginning with that of Moses, *reveiled* and hid for ages from the sight of the world.

Joseph, the son of Jacob, was an Initiate, otherwise he would not have married Aseneth, the daughter of Petephre (“Potiphar” - “he who belongs to Phre”, the Sun-God), priest of Heliopolis and governor of On.<sup>22</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Lev. xix, 18. (HPB)

<sup>21</sup> *Phaedo*, 69. (Note by Boris de Zirkoff)

<sup>22</sup> “On”, the “Sun”, the Egyptian name of Heliopolis (the “City of the Sun”). (HPB)

Every truth *revealed* by Jesus, and which even the Jews and early Christians understood, was *reveiled* by the Church that pretends to serve Him. Read what Seneca says<sup>23</sup>, as quoted by Dr. E.V.H. Kenealy:

“ ‘The world being melted and having reentered the bosom of Jupiter [*or Parabrahman*], this God continues for some time totally centered in himself and remains concealed, as it were, wholly immersed in the contemplation of his own ideas. Afterwards we see a new world spring from him (...). An innocent race of men is formed (...).’ And again, speaking of a mundane dissolution as involving the destruction or death of all, he [*Seneca*] teaches us that when the laws of Nature shall be buried in ruin and the last day of the world shall come, the Southern Pole shall crush, as it falls, all the regions of Africa; and the North Pole shall overwhelm all the countries beneath its axis.<sup>24</sup> *The affrighted sun shall be deprived of its light*; the palace of heaven, falling to decay, shall produce at once both life and death, and some kind of dissolution shall equally seize upon all the deities, who thus shall return to their original chaos.”<sup>25</sup>

One might fancy oneself reading the Puranic account by Parasara of the great Pralaya. It is nearly the same thing, idea for idea. Has Christianity nothing of the kind? Let the reader open any English *Bible* and read chapter iii (3-13) of the *Second Epistle of Peter*, and he will find there the same ideas.

“There shall come in the last days scoffers, (...) saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished. But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are (...) reserved unto fire, (...) in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. . . Nevertheless we (...) look for new heavens and a new earth.”

If the interpreters chose to see in this a reference to a creation, a deluge, and a promised coming of Christ, when they will live in a New Jerusalem in heaven, that is no fault of Peter. What he meant was the destruction of the Fifth Race and the appearance of a new continent for the Sixth Race.

The Druids understood the meaning of the Sun in Taurus, therefore when all the fires were extinguished on the 1st of November their sacred and inextinguishable fire remained alone to illumine the horizon like those of the Magi and the modern Zoroastrian. And like the early Fifth Race and the later Chaldaeans and Greeks, and again like the Christians (who do it to this day without suspecting the real meaning), they greeted the “Morning-Star”, the beautiful

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<sup>23</sup> *Hercules Oetaeus*, 1102. (Boris de Zirkoff)

<sup>24</sup> *Hercules Oetaeus*, or “Hercules on Mount Oeta”, is not difficult to find online. Seneca, the Iberian Stoic philosopher, also wrote “Hercules Furens”, or “The Madness of Hercules”. (CCA)

<sup>25</sup> *Book of God*, p. 160. (HPB)

Venus-Lucifer.<sup>26</sup> Strabo speaks of an island near Britannia where Ceres and Persephone were worshipped with the same rites as in Samothrace, and this was the sacred Ierne, where a perpetual fire was lit.<sup>27</sup> The Druids believed in the rebirth of man, not, as Lucanus explains,

“That the same *Spirit* shall animate a new body, not here, but in a different world,”<sup>28</sup>

but in a series of reincarnations in this same world; for as Diodorus says, they declared that the souls of men after a determinate period would pass into other bodies.<sup>29</sup>

These tenets came to the Fifth Race Aryans from their ancestors of the Fourth Race, the Atlanteans. They piously preserved the teachings, while their parent Root-Race, becoming with every generation more arrogant, owing to the acquisition of superhuman powers, was gradually approaching its end.

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**A chela under probation** is allowed to think and do whatever he likes. He is warned and told beforehand: you will be tempted and deceived by appearances; two paths will be open before you, both leading to the goal you are trying to attain; one easy, and that will lead you more rapidly to the fulfilment of orders you may receive; the other - more arduous, more long; a path full of stones and thorns that will make you stumble more than once on your way; and, at the end of which you may, perhaps, find failure after all and be unable to carry out the orders given for some particular small work, - but, whereas the latter will cause the hardships you have undergone on it to be all carried to the side of your credit in the long run, the former, the easy path, can offer you but a momentary gratification, an easy fulfilment of the task.

(From [The Mahatma Letters](#), Letter XXX, pp. 230-231.)

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<sup>26</sup> Mr. Kenealy quotes, in his *Book of God*, Vallancey, who says:

“I had not been a week landed in Ireland from Gibraltar, where I had studied Hebrew and Chaldaic under Jews of various countries and denominations, when I heard a peasant girl say to a boor standing by her ‘*Feach an Maddin Nag*’ (‘Behold the morning star’), pointing to the planet Venus, the Maddina Nag of the Chaldeans.” (HPB)

<sup>27</sup> *Geography*, Bl. IV, iv, 6 & v, 4. (Boris de Zirkoff)

<sup>28</sup> *Pharsalia*, I, 452-463. (Boris de Zirkoff)

<sup>29</sup> There was a time when the whole world, the totality of mankind, had one religion as they were of “one lip”. “All the religions of the earth were at first one, and emanated from one centre”, says G.S. Faber. [From his *Dissertation on the Mysteries of the Cabiri*.] (Note by HPB, supplemented by Boris de Zirkoff in square brackets)

# The Key to Progress



Personal desires open the door to confusion, while austerity and contentment lead to lasting victories. Lao-tzu said:

“Earth is below and does not struggle for height, so it is secure and not dangerous. Water flows downward and does not struggle for speed, so it is not slow. Therefore sages grasp nothing and so lose nothing, contrive nothing and fail at nothing.” [1]

Spiritual beauty flows above short term considerations.

A knowledge of the Law enables the pilgrims to invisibly transcend external circumstances, while physically remaining where they are.

NOTE:

[1] “Wen-tzu, Further Teachings of Lao-tzu”, translated by Thomas Cleary, Shambhala Dragon Publications, 1992, see Chapter 47, page 47.

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**It is he alone who has the love of humanity at heart**, who is capable of grasping thoroughly the idea of a regenerating practical Brotherhood who is entitled to the possession of our secrets. He alone, such a man - will never misuse his powers, as there will be no fear that he should turn them to selfish ends. (Letter XXXVIII, p. 252, in “[The Mahatma Letters](#)”).

# Inward Training

## A Few Ancient Verses from the Book “Original Tao”, by Harold D. Roth



### One

The vital essence of all things:  
It is this that brings them to life.  
It generates the five grains below  
And becomes the constellated stars above.

When flowing amid the heavens and the earth  
We call it ghostly and numinous.  
When stored within the chests of human beings,  
We call them sages.

### Two

Therefore the vital energy is:  
Bright! - as if ascending the heavens;  
Dark! - as if entering an abyss;  
Vast! - as if dwelling in an ocean;

Lofty! - as if dwelling on a mountain peak.

Therefore this vital energy  
 Cannot be halted by force,  
 Yet can be secured by inner power [Te].  
 Cannot be summoned by speech,  
 Yet can be welcomed by the awareness.

Reverently hold onto it and do not lose it:  
 This is called “developing inner power”.  
 When inner power develops and wisdom emerges,  
 The myriad things will, to the last one, be grasped.

## Three

All the forms of the mind  
 Are naturally infused and filled with it [the vital essence],  
 Are naturally generated and developed [because of] it.  
 It is lost  
 Inevitably because of sorrow, happiness, joy, anger, desire, and profit-seeking.  
 If you are able to cast off sorrow, happiness, joy, anger, desire, and profit-seeking.  
 Your mind will just revert to equanimity.  
 The true condition of the mind  
 Is that it finds calmness beneficial and, by it, attains repose.  
 Do not disturb it, do not disrupt it  
 And harmony will naturally develop.

[Reproduced from the ancient Chinese work in verses “Inward Training”, which is published in the volume “**Original Tao**”, by Harold D. Roth, Columbia University Press, New York, 1999, 268 pp. The above verses make chapters I, II and III, pages 46-50.]

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\* **“Until final emancipation reabsorbs** the *Ego*, it *must* be conscious of the purest sympathies called out by the esthetic effects of high art, its tenderest cords respond to the call of the holier and nobler *human* attachments. Of course, the greater the progress towards deliverance, the less this will be the case, until, to crown all, human and purely individual personal feelings - blood-ties and friendship, patriotism and race predilection - all will give away, to become blended into one universal feeling, the only true and holy, the only unselfish and Eternal one - Love, an Immense Love for humanity - as a *Whole!* For it is “Humanity” which is the great Orphan, the only disinherited one upon this earth, my friend. And it is the duty of every man who is capable of an unselfish impulse, to do something, however little, for its welfare.” ([The Mahatma Letters](#), p. 32, Letter VIII)

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# A Certain Perplexity



It is not easy to understand why the studies of the theosophical movement do not clearly unfold around the topic of the *seven principles of consciousness* and Antahkarana, the “bridge” to one’s spiritual soul.

The average newcomer to theosophy easily sees that almost everything depends on this theme. Examples are the understanding of universal wisdom, our perception of the discipleship process, one’s realization of the cosmic laws and the knowledge of oneself.

Fortunately, we can say, at least, that we have something about this issue on the associated websites:

[Antahkarana, the Bridge to Sky](#)

[The Seven Principles of Consciousness](#)

[The Seven Principles of Movement](#)

[The Challenge of Learning](#)

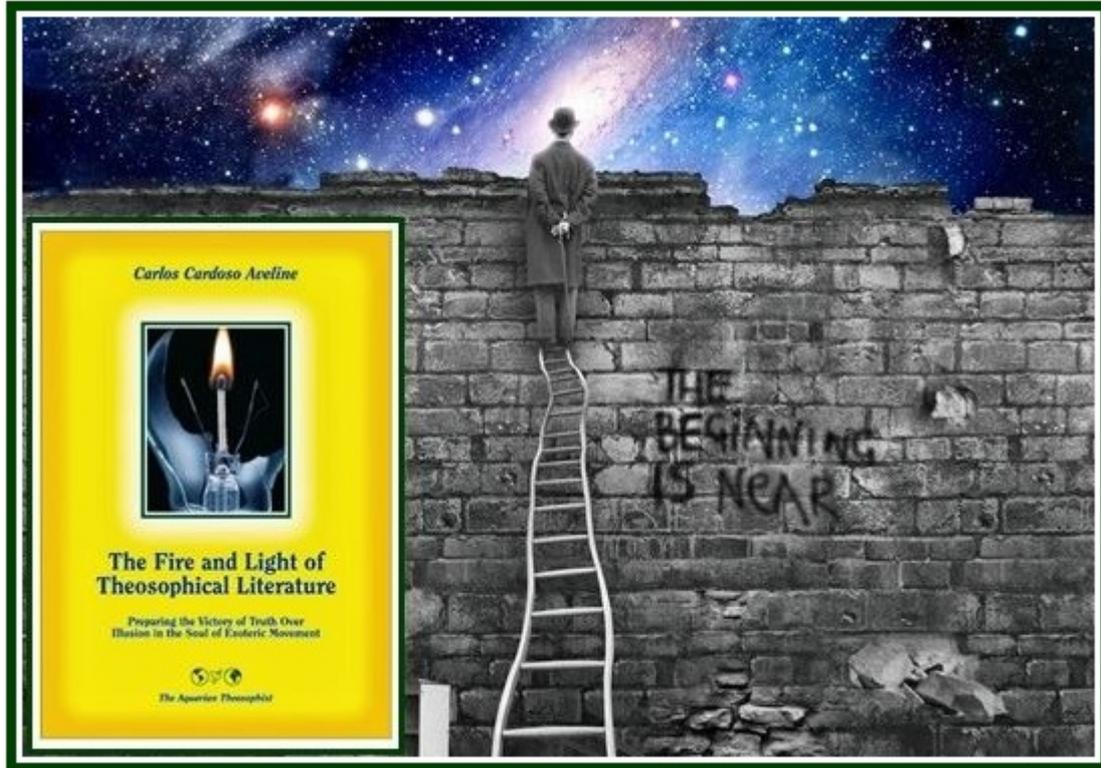
In theosophy, each step is the first step of a long journey to be traveled. Every effort inaugurates a new cycle. A single morning renews one’s entire universe on the basis of a vast previous experience. The student must be his own teacher, his own pupil, so as to deserve Help from time to time. (CCA)

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See the list of [Books Available in the Associated Websites](#).

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## The Kindle Edition of “The Fire and Light”, at Amazon



Thanks to the careful editorial work of Ms. Arnalene Passos do Carmo and Mr. Aécio Dalfior, the book “**The Fire and Light**” is now easy to buy in a **Kindle edition** at Amazon:

[https://www.amazon.com/-/pt/gp/product/B08JD3V3N2/ref=dbs\\_a\\_def\\_rwt\\_bibl\\_vppi\\_i0](https://www.amazon.com/-/pt/gp/product/B08JD3V3N2/ref=dbs_a_def_rwt_bibl_vppi_i0)

However, if you prefer to buy it in paper direct from Raja Yoga Books-The Aquarian, click **here**: <https://www.rajayogabooks.com/products/the-fire-and-light-of-theosophical-literature>.

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\* **Economic, political and social life now undergoes** a high speed change whose end results are yet to be known. Every aspect of the present civilization is going through a transmutation which causes multiple positive and negative effects. There are no mere spectators. The actions of one individual affect all. In other words, one must be aware of the *domino effect* or the law of interaction. The theory of complexity confirms the *butterfly effect*, which establishes the power of a small event to change the whole world.

**[Click to read the text](#)**  
**[“Doing What Depends on Us”](#)**

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# Thoughts Along the Road

## Strengthening One's Closeness to the Trees



\* One should not be too soft or too hard, with oneself or the others. Both an excessive kindness and a constant severity tend to throw life off balance. A certain amount of hardship is necessary for one to keep realistic. A degree of comfort is also welcome to the path of wisdom, if combined with moderation, austerity and voluntary simplicity.

\* Trying to suppress or forget the past is both vain and brainless. On the other hand, having a personal detachment regarding the past constitutes a decisive factor in being effective in whatever we do. One needs to look at the past with full independence, in order to take lessons from it, so as to build a better future in the short term and long term alike.

\* No one can instantly attain perfection. However, all beings improve themselves in due time. We can always learn from our mistakes and do our best in the right direction.

\* The true source of social peace is silent. It can be found in the soul of each one but cannot be produced by mere propaganda. External conditions can only - in the best scenario - accept the energy of the soul and adapt to it. An evolution of society in the right direction depends on the state of the inner being. The landscape that matters is the landscape of the soul, and this is closely related to the natural environment around us.

\* Our collective loss of contact with the rhythms of nature has accelerated since the last decades of 15th century. It got worse after the industrial revolution of the 19th century. One hundred years ago, Paul Carton emerged as a strong Pythagorean voice teaching the need for a new cycle of natural health and close friendship with natural environment.

\* In the 21st century, as the Western civilization faces growing problems, each of us can expand his physical and spiritual friendship with the trees and the living spaces that have resisted the cycle of urbanistic destruction. The result of such a practical decision is peace.

\* Strengthening our personal closeness to nature, and more especially to the trees, is a powerful source of well-being and contentment for all. It can be put in practice here and now, in accordance with our daily reality and circumstances. The consequences are always beneficial.

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## **The Daily Work of a Pioneering Project:** **Independent Theosophy on Facebook**

By doing one's best and with the right motive, one learns. "Theosophist is, who Theosophy does", says Helena Blavatsky on page 20 of "[The Key](#)". As we help others, we ourselves obtain help. Before hoping to harvest, one must sow.

Taking such facts into consideration, these are some action fronts of the Independent Lodge of Theosophists on Facebook, in English, Spanish and French, updated 16 October 2020:

### **Groups:**

\*[Theosophy and Future](#), 1243 members.

\*[Teosofía Iberoamericana](#), 1158 members.

### **Pages:**

\*[Art and Theosophy](#), 4420 followers.

\*[E-Theosophy](#), 10,240 followers.

\*[Raja Yoga Books](#), 2622 followers.

\*[Teosofía en Español](#), 4671 followers.

\*[Theosophy Online](#), 2159 followers.

\*[Visconde de Figanière](#), 173 followers.

\*[The Fire and Light of Theosophical Literature](#), 1532 followers.

\*[The Aquarian Theosophist](#), 10,206 followers.

\*[Théosophie et Philosophie](#), 852 followers.

\*[Carlos Cardoso Aveline](#), 9496 followers.

\*[Independent Lodge of Theosophists](#), 743 followers.

\*[Logia Independiente de Teósofos](#), 484 followers.

\*[Helena Blavatsky](#), 5956 followers.

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# The New Items in Our Websites



On 15 October we had 2777 items in the associated websites, including texts, books, poems, audios and videos.

Of these, 03 items were in [Italian](#), 20 items were in [French](#), 200 in [Spanish](#), 1264 in [English](#) and 1290 in [Portuguese](#). [1]

The following items were published in English, French and Spanish between 11 September and 15 October 2020:

(The more recent titles above)

1. **El Respeto por los Animales, Durante las Comidas** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*
2. **Thoughts Along the Road - 49** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*
3. **La Rosa de Paracelso** - *Jorge Luis Borges* [a short story]
4. **Theosophy or the Medicine of the Soul** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*
5. **La Loi Naturiste des Trois Repos** - *Paul Carton*
6. **About the Ego and the Unmanifested Being** - *Visconde de Figanière*
7. **El Puente Entre el Cielo y la Tierra** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*
8. **Oración en Defensa de mi Alma** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*
9. **A Prayer to Defend My Soul** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*
10. **Guesto Ansures, Edición en Español** - *Visconde de Figanière* [a book]
11. **Préceptes Antiques de L'École Pythagoricienne** - *Paul Carton*
12. **The Lesson of the Sun in Virgo** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*
13. **Septiembre, Agrippa y las Lecciones del Cielo** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*
14. **Agrippa, September and the Lessons from Heaven** - *Carlos Cardoso Aveline*

15. *Las Máquinas y la Limitación de los Deseos - Paul Carton*

16. *The Aquarian Theosophist, September 2020*

NOTE:

[1] These are some of our associated websites: [www.HelenaBlavatsky.net](http://www.HelenaBlavatsky.net), [www.HelenaBlavatsky.org](http://www.HelenaBlavatsky.org), [www.TheosophyOnline.com](http://www.TheosophyOnline.com), [www.FilosofiaEsoterica.com](http://www.FilosofiaEsoterica.com), [www.CarlosCardosoAveline.com](http://www.CarlosCardosoAveline.com), and [www.TheAquarianTheosophist.com](http://www.TheAquarianTheosophist.com).

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## **Positive Thought in a Negative World**

**There Are Beings In All Walks of Life  
Who Are Actively Trying to Help Humanity**

**by The Theosophical Movement (Mumbai, India)**



Modern society is very much one of information. We seem to be obsessed with filling our heads with trivial facts. Now we have the Internet which gives us access to almost unlimited information on a wide range of topics. This is said to be a great leap forward for humanity in that we can acquire a great deal of knowledge with relative ease. It is a step forward, however, only for the lower aspects of the mind, which accumulates facts but shuts out the true light of the Higher Mind.

Human nature in general has not changed much over the last few thousand years. It has still not learned how to rely upon the Inner Self in contradistinction to the outer. We have built a civilization that is reliant upon externals, upon machines and devices. In England recently

