

Thus is the initial circle built up from which much else may follow. We are creating a two-dimensional spatial model of the inner universe. A model on one plane of a reality that extends into many dimensions.

The average person never dreams of these realities. It is an ignorance that is sad and poignant in individual terms. They are like children who think they are orphans because they do not recognize their own birth-right. It is also dangerous to the world at large when this limited view becomes the accepted "reality," and a godless humanity, cut off from its own roots, runs mad in spiritual darkness and blindness. When, like Oedipus it has killed its own parent and rendered itself blind.

To such, humanity seems confined on a planetary penal colony, cut off light years away from its nearest starry neighbors. In truth the universe is a loving and close family. Only loveless illusion makes it seem as it does to the scientific instruments of men: vast and lifeless. Man projects his own inner condition upon the "vegetable" or cosmic glass about him. We hope and pray that he melts with love the confines of his prison; that he will not allow it to remain and become his cosmic condemned cell; that mankind will choose love, and live.

THE CROSS OF THE ELEMENTS

Let us learn the stations of the circle situated at the cardinal points. They are modes of reality and as such they are creatures of the imagination. Yet so, indeed, far more than many realize, is the structure of the universe. This too is the projection of human imagination. Change the imagining and you change the world. The demonstration of this concept demands faith. And if demonstration is sought then faith is insufficient. This is an instance of divine paradox upon which all fundamental reality is based.

We have already named the four cardinal points. Locate within your room the points of east and south and west and north. Align them with a compass if you will, although this is not of prime importance; we deal with inner directions beyond the confining illusions of space and time.

In general terms, however, if the configuration of your room seems generally to agree with it, it does no harm to consider East to be more or less the direction in which the sun rises. The other directions follow from this.

The following exercises should be performed slowly, with much imagi-

nation, and many times. Indeed, as this is done so will they cease to be exercises and become living experiences, as you develop the organs of perception that go beyond the limitation of physical sense.

Yet, all that follows is based upon sensual physical reality and this is of imperative importance. If you have not your ground base of physical experience then all is a shimmering mirage, the flickering of a lantern. Think well: the physical is the end result of spiritual forces. Therefore, to seek the source of those spiritual forces, the Ariadne's thread, to lead you through the psychic astral maze, must be anchored in the forms of earth. These physical forms are reflections of a spiritual reality. They are reflections of the ultimate truth beyond form. Look well into the mirror of nature to see the reflection of the spiritual stars.

Exercise: Becoming One with the Earth

No time is wasted in cultivating the world of sense and communing with nature rising early to walk out and see the dawn; lying in the noonday sun; walking in contemplation at eventide and going abroad at midnight gazing at the moon and the starry sky. Listen to the birds, feel the breeze, smell the scents of nature, lean against the trees and feel their vitality and strength. Walk through the brooks, the dewy grass, the oozing mud, the sharp frost and driven snow, the drifting fallen leaves, the driving rain, the gentle drizzle. Learn the alphabet of nature. It is also the alphabet of the core of your being, by which you can learn to speak the language of God and the gods, of angels, elementals and justified men.

With this fund of experience, much of which you gathered as a child, learn to become like a child again, and experience with equal vividness the stations of your circle. This is the sacred dance of life.

INVOCATIONS OF THE QUARTERS

When practice and proficiency are gained all the four quarters may be built in imagination at one session. To begin with, however, one quarter alone will be more than sufficient. When all are, in course of time, built with some reality in the manner described, they should be worked with in a balanced fashion, rotating from one to another, each day, or perhaps over a longer period of a week or, at most, a month. Remember that we are building a cross that is a model of the forces of life in which we live