

# Contents

<b>1</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>I</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Traditional psychology</b>	<b>3</b>
2.1	Metaphysics and Philosophy . . . . .	3
2.2	View from the Primordial State . . . . .	7
2.3	Psychic Distortion . . . . .	13
2.4	The Creative Process . . . . .	22
2.5	The Spirit Soul . . . . .	27
2.6	Sex and Violence . . . . .	33
<b>3</b>	<b>Energetic Centres of Man</b>	<b>39</b>
3.1	The Man of Heart . . . . .	39
<b>4</b>	<b>Myths, rites and symbols</b>	<b>47</b>
4.1	The Symbolic World . . . . .	47
4.2	The Elite and the Gospels . . . . .	51

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<b>5</b>	<b>The Imaginal Realm</b>	<b>57</b>
5.1	The Soul after Death . . . . .	57
5.2	Evola on the Tibetan Book of the Dead . . . . .	68
5.3	Passing Through the Realms of the Jinn . . . . .	71
5.4	Complexes, Tulpas and Egregores . . . . .	73
<b>6</b>	<b>The Doctrine of Spiritual Races</b>	<b>81</b>
6.1	Matter and Form: The Dionysian Race . . . . .	81
<b>7</b>	<b>Modern psychology: The Unconscious Mind</b>	<b>87</b>
7.1	Entheogens . . . . .	87
7.2	Journey to the Center of the Mind . . . . .	93
7.3	The German New Thought Movement . . . . .	98
7.4	Emile Coue . . . . .	113
7.5	The Healing Power of the Mind . . . . .	132

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## **Introduction**



## Traditional psychology

### 2.1 Metaphysics and Philosophy

Because we write about topics such as being, religion, knowledge, history and the like — topics philosophers like to deal with — some readers of Gornahoor have the mistaken impression that we are also philosophers. Hence, they presume we are defending a particular philosophico-religious system, or trying to promote one; then they desire to engage in debate, for their own unfathomable purposes. Philosophy in our time involves speculative theories about the nature of the world and mind or else a tedious logical analysis of words. This is far from our task. Readers wishing to discuss topics are obliged to read the entire blog, or at least related material, prior to drawing any conclusions.

As we pointed out in *Metaphysical Positivism*<sup>1</sup>, we regard metaphysics as an exact science analogous to physics.

**Physics** The science of the natural, or external, world

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/?p=1189>

**Metaphysics** the science of the states of the inner world

When someone denies the possibility of such metaphysical knowledge, they are like the bishops who denied the existence of Jupiter's moons discovered by Galileo. In the latter case, the solution is simple: look through the telescope. Analogously, in the former case, the solution lies in meditation or other spiritual exercises that will unveil the inner world. The obstacle is, however, that in metaphysics, "to know is to be". That means that, in order to know a particular inner state, one's very being much change to be in that state. Few are willing to go through the trouble; perhaps it is not even an option for many.

Such a change in being is not required in order to look through the telescope, a task that is readily accomplished by anyone. Therefore, physics is universal, democratic and egalitarian. Metaphysics is necessarily just the opposite.

We relate this to the trichotomous structure of man<sup>2</sup> in Table 2.1.

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Spirit	Non-formal manifestation
Soul	Subtle manifestation
Body	Gross manifestation

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Table 2.1: The trichotomous structure of man

The body is part of gross manifestation, or nature. It is subject to the laws of physics. We may not be accustomed to regarding our soul life as part of manifestation, but it consists of our thought, desires, moods, feelings, daydreams, fantasies, likes, dislikes and so on. It is part of our human state. Physics is the science of gross manifestation, metaphysics of subtle manifestation or higher states. Hence, just as the physicist is detached when he studies the movements of the planets, so also must the

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<sup>2</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/?p=1029>

metaphysician be when he observes the movement of thoughts, fantasies, and so on in his consciousness.

In the Kali Yuga, man's identity is centered in his soul life<sup>3</sup>, so it is very unnatural to have that sense of detachment in regards to the events in one's own consciousness. The "analog I" is being asked to detach from the very objects of consciousness he is creating. That is why so many spiritual practices are aimed at destroying that identity of one's being with the analog I.

The Spirit refers to non-formal manifestation. Whereas the soul and body are part of the phenomenal world, that is, part of our experience, the spirit cannot be an object of consciousness. In other words, it is noumenal; we can't know it as an object, but rather as subject, a direct intuitive knowledge of oneself as subject. In most men, this awareness will be vague or even non-existent, that is, it is virtual. In the True Man, it is actualized as one's true will.

*Posted on 2011-01-23 by Cologero*

\* \* \*

Ted on 2011-01-23 at 17:52 said:

Good article. However, the positions of Soul and Spirit should be reversed As Evola shows in his book "The Hermetic Tradition", the attainment of the Soul is a stage in Alchemy which occurs after the attainment of the Spirit. The Spirit is feminine and represents the Moon and subtle while the Soul is masculine and represents the Sun and higher states of being above that of the subtle realm. This seems to be a common error in much esoteric writing.

Other than that, this article was excellent.

Cologero on 2011-01-23 at 22:51 said:

Unfortunately, Ted, there is merely a confusion of terminology. In the beginning of the chapter "Soul, Spirit, and Body" in Hermetic Tradition, Evola makes this clear: "It should be noted henceforth that soul and spirit do not possess the same meaning here that they do in our time."

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<sup>3</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/?p=1374>

To make it more confusing, in other parts of the book, Evola seems to reverse the meanings of soul and spirit again. That is why it is more important to understand principles, not vocabulary. English is not a very precise language when it comes to metaphysical topics.

It gets even worse. In the chapter “Sulfur, Mercury, and Salt” in Guenon’s “The Great Triad”, Guenon uses the word soul and spirit in our sense. So both Guenon and Evola make the equivalence between mercury and passivity. But Evola writes “Spirit is Mercury” (ch 13) and Guenon claims that Mercury corresponds to the soul. Nevertheless, they are not disagreeing with each other on this point, despite the seeming verbal contradiction.

Ismo Meinander on 2011-01-24 at 03:58 said:

I think the terminology should many times be looked from different angles depending on where one stands currently, something like the planetary archetypes in astrology, in which different archetypes reside in each other and affect each other while one remains the primary dominating one. For example, “mercury as spirit” would mean the spirit as a dissolving force that draws everything back into the “one life”, back into the liquid state without distinction, and “mercury as soul” would mean the higher intellect so. buddhi; and “sulphur as spirit” means the fiery, dry force of will that asserts itself and “sulphur as soul” would mean the fiery, passionate and timid forces of the individual. Salt seems to be the most stable symbol of the body, but we can also remember the gospel saying about “the salt of the earth”, in which it means people who can bring light of reason and meaning into peoples lives, and salt can be related also to the reasonable, logical faculties via its symbolical structure. And so on.

It can be confusing, that’s for certain. The alchemists and hermeticists didn’t hide their art behind apparently meaningless mumbo-jumbo without sufficient reason. Just as Cologero said: it is more important to understand principles, not vocabulary.

Cologero on 2011-01-24 at 20:08 said:

Thumos is not identical to the soul, it is one tendency. Eros is another. Get out of theory and observe your own consciousness.

You can experience a desire (eros) independent of thumos. The intelligence will decide whether or not to act on it, or how best to satisfy it. The desire may be strong, so some “will-power” (thumos) may have to be called up. In this case, thumos may be active in relation to eros, yet passive in relation to nous; so it is not absolutely masculine, just relatively.

Observe a moment of anger arising. Perhaps someone slighted you, a friend irritated you, a car cut you off on the highway. In this case, do you summon that anger or does it arise spontaneously in reaction to the event? I’m certain it is the latter. That is what makes it passive, or feminine. If the nous is not strong enough to channel it, you will act on that anger, probably in an ineffective way.



Say you are preparing for a sporting contest or some other competitive activity. In this case, you will “pump yourself up”, that is, use the energy of thumos to improve performance.

The point is that this is not really a matter for opinions or thoughts. One must learn to observe oneself over time in many different situations. Then one comes to understand himself, one’s nous is strengthened. One then sees the folly and futility of all the debates he used to participate in.

That is why we are taking Gornahoor “private”. There is only so much that can be shared via theoretical discussions. These need to be replaced with self-observation and spiritual exercises, at least for those able and willing to make the efforts.

Graham on 2011-01-24 at 21:47 said:

Ah, thumos is passion. I was mistranslating thumos as will.

## 2.2 View from the Primordial State

What heaven wishes  
Fortune ordains  
Reason demands  
and, above all, what my will desires.

DON QUIXOTE

In general, grace does two things. First, it remedies the defects in the natural order that have resulted from original sin, at least partially restoring what would have existed had the Fall not occurred. Second, it directs nature to an even higher, supernatural end — the beatific vision.

EDWARD FESER

**Human Stratification** The esoteric understanding of human differences is not horizontal, in the sense that people differ by races or nationality. Rather, the more important differences are in the vertical direction.

Thus the notion of castes is used to explain it. However, caste has the connotation of being hereditary, so it is misleading. Castes can also be defined by function, as in the trifunctional classification of Georges Dumézil. But even that distinction does not take into account that people may functionally be in a caste that is inappropriate to them. That is noticeably true in decadent epochs like the Kali Yuga. So “class” as used here has no other connotations. Hence, it is incumbent to understand the inner state appropriate to each caste. These are defined by how they relate to the three primary influences in the world: Providence, Will, Destiny.

- **First class:** they are guided by “what Heaven wishes”, or Providence. They are the spiritual leaders. Those in this class have realized a permanent sense of the transcendent Self. They live only for humanity and have come to help. These are in direct contact with the 1st angelic hierarchy. They have chosen their incarnation to accomplish a specific task.
- **Second class:** they are guided by their Will, which is aligned with the Will of God. They include the political leaders and warriors. People in this class consciously take part in the conflict between good and evil. They have developed, to an extent, a strong sense of Self-awareness and are led by the 2nd angelic hierarchy. They fight for causes that are larger than their own individuality, which they learn to recognize over time.
- **Third class:** they are subject to Destiny which they have been given by God. They have not yet developed a real sense of I and are victims of the curses resulting from the Fall. The people of the third class are all still experiencing their own karma and looking for their real purpose in life. They are under the leadership of the 3rd angelic hierarchy.

Since they don't have a true sense of Self, their psychic center is dominated by one of the three soul functions:

- **Thinking:** Those dominated by the Thinking function seek out rational knowledge and love to dispute and debate. They believe that the road to knowledge is paved by a selection of books.
  - **Emotions:** Those dominated by the Feeling function are moved by strong emotions. Since emotions are so fickle, it is difficult to establish a stable sense of Self.
  - **Sensations:** They seek out “experiences”, and are guided by what they like or dislike. They are dominated by the Will, but a will untrammelled by intellect or sound emotions.
- **Fourth class:** Those in this group do not have any type of center and rely on outside influences for stability. The Church has always held a preference for these people, protects them from arbitrary political and economic powers, and leads them to salvation.

The ideal distribution of power is from the first class downward, but deformations occur in history. The understanding of historical events needs to include the roles of the four classes at that time. This arrangement is not oppressive. Those of the First Class are called to serve the others, not to exploit them for their own benefit. Those of the Second Class take responsibility for administering the state, distributing justice, and protecting against enemies. The remaining classes are not conscious enough to take on those burdens.

**Human State** A human birth is rare and privileged. The principle of the human being is the Self, his center; a person is human to the extent that he participates in that center. Only then can he progress vertically. To

sum up: our task as human beings, in order to actualize our possibilities, i.e., achieve Salvation, is to move horizontally toward the center and then vertically to reach even higher states.

In the essay *Deliverance and Salvation*, Rene Guenon points out that there is a danger in failing to at least reach the center. His explanation needs to be quoted exactly:

When a being must pass to another individual state, nothing guarantees that there he will again occupy a central position relative to the possibilities of that state as he does in its present state.

On the contrary, there is even an incomparably greater probability that he will encounter one of the innumerable peripheral conditions comparable in our world to those of animals or even vegetables.

One can immediately understand how serious a disadvantage this would be, especially from the point of view of the possibilities for spiritual development.

Referring to the first part, those in the third class have not achieved the primordial state. Since the intellectual soul distinguishes the human from animals and vegetables, those dominated by the Thinking function still have the possibility of developing their possibilities. On the other hand, those dominated by Emotions and Sensations are in danger of remaining in a state of being comparable to animals or plant life.

**Diseased Souls** A fundamental metaphysical principle is that Knowing is Being. For example, in order to Know the Primordial State, one must be in, i.e., experience, the Primordial State. It is insufficient to just read and speculate about it.

Hence, the state of the soul determines what the being understands to be real and true. A disordered soul will not see reality, but only the projection of its disorder. 20% of adult Americans, or about 50 million

people, suffer from some degree of mental illness, including 10 million with a serious mental illness. One of the symptoms is a distorted understanding of reality.

For example, you wouldn't ask Sylvia Plath if life is worth living. Nor would you put a paranoid schizophrenic on the security council to identify the most serious threats facing a nation. Those with serious illnesses like personality disorders or psychopathy are similarly unable to relate to the world accurately. For example, the Mayo Clinic says:

you may not realize that you have a personality disorder because your way of thinking and behaving seems natural to you. And you may blame others for the challenges you face.

That describes a great deal of comments on social media and explains why communication can be so frustrating. This is not to belittle those who are in therapy, especially for conditions that may be situational or temporary. Nevertheless, such widespread mental illness reveals a deep flaw in the collective psyche of a nation.

Moreover, one's level of development also shapes a worldview and opens oneself up to various distortions.

- Those dominated by the Thinking function may fall victim to various ideologies or conspiracy theories.
- Others will react emotionally, rather than rationally, to events.
- At the lowest level, all that matters is pleasure vs pain, like vs dislike, attraction vs repulsion.

Anyone not making the horizontal journey to the center will be inconsistent. He or she will have little self-awareness.

**Lost in the Wilderness** So living in the fallen world is just as described in Genesis. You will encounter a jungle of vegetation of various types. You will always be on the lookout for animals, some of which are harmless, others dangerous. Some are cute and cuddly, others are repulsive.

You will encounter pockets of proto-humans, able to lead and organize the animals or cultivate the vegetation. The blather of competing opinions sound like the random sounds heard at a watering hole in an African savannah.

On the positive side, fully functional humans are working for things that transcend their own self-interest. They may be organizing for humanity, such as, building nations, administering justice, creating hospitals, churches, etc.

Further off in the distance, you may catch a glimpse of saints and initiates. They are in higher states, but from time to time you may reach that state and recognize them. There are even higher beings. For us, the influences of angels and demons are experienced directly.

**Note** *The State of Mental Health in America:*

<https://www.mhanational.org/issues/state-mental-health-america>

*National Institute of Mental Health:*

<https://www.nimh.nih.gov/health/statistics/mental-illness.shtml>

*Personality Disorders:*

<https://www.mayoclinic.org/diseases-conditions/personality-disorders/symptoms-causes/syc-20354463>

*Posted on 2021-01-10 by Cologero*

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Solphomeron on 2021-01-10 at 17:10 said:

Hi I'm a mentally ill man, have been diagnosed with Borderline personality disorder, Narcissism and most recently Dissociative identity disorder (this last one is self diagnosed).

Finding Gornahoor and esoteric knowledge has been a double-edged sword. On the one hand It gives me tools to deal with my diseased soul, for example: Living a chaste life, in obedience to the Catholic faith have helped me to develop self respect and boundaries between me and other people, being vigilant helps me to not identify myself with my intense emotions, praying the rosary constantly have made me grow a more healthy internal dialogue, instead of violent and lustful daydreaming I find myself repeating the Our Father or the Ave Maria.

but on the other hand, My delusion feeds itself with the information found here, and creates more intricate, labyrinthine alternate realities..

So it has become difficult to distinguish between a synchronicity and a delusion of grandeur. My mind is always looking for associations, deeper meanings, symbolism. I often feel many layers of meaning in a conversation or interaction, and the deeper it always have some archetypal/mythic feeling.

Can I trust myself? I find the only way out is to surrender completely To Christ. I'm a cup brimming with demonic goo and a few angelic sprinkles. But they are not me. Who am I? . I'm an interface. I'm a battleground.

Auld Wat on 2021-01-11 at 07:44 said:

A personal reflection:

I believe I was in the fourth class until I was about 22 years of age. I then entered into the Third Class, on the lowest rung, when I became aware of what I liked and disliked. I cannot remember being overly emotional but I do remember enjoying debates and discussions. The changes in my awareness were brought about by external factors, women, political events, recommendations.

I believe I moved from the Third to the Second Class only recently, despite being a practicing Catholic for the last 5 years, as it was only last week that I came to the realisation of what my purpose in life is. I had known what it was to some extent for over 2 years but I didn't recognise it fully until now.

Thank you for writing.

## 2.3 **Psychic Distortion**

Living in the consciousness soul, man experiences isolation, loneliness, materialism, loss of faith in the spiritual world, above all,

uncertainty. The soul has to make up its mind and to act in a positive way on its own unsupported initiative. And it finds great difficulty in doing so. For it is too much in the dark to be able to see any clear reason why it should, and it no longer feels the old (instinctive) promptings of the spirit within.

OWEN BARFIELD, *Romanticism Comes of Age*

We are now the sons of God; and it hath not yet appeared what we shall be. We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like to him: because we shall see him as he is.

1 JOHN 3:2

**Types of People** Plato identified three forces in the soul: eros, thumos, and nous. These correspond to the willing, feeling, and thinking functions of the soul, each of which has its own relatively independent centre. The once-born will be centred in one of the three centres:

1. Centre of gravity is sensations and movement
2. Centre of gravity is the feeling function
3. Centre of gravity is the thinking function

**The Psyche** Psyche, for our purposes, refers to the soul life and all its functions: thinking, feeling, willing. The Real I, or Self, transcends the psyche. A result of the Fall is that one's self-identification fell from the Self to the I of the Personality, or Ego. The Ego is the conscious part of the psyche, but it accounts for just a small part of the psyche, most of which is unconscious.

Self-observation reveals that the Ego is not unified, since there are multiple, potentially hundreds of I's, each claiming to be the Ego. Some



of them may work together, creating a psychological “complex” which takes on a life of its own.

The Ego falsely believes it is one, because of

- the unity of the body and
- a common name.

In extreme cases, like multiple personality disorder, the different complexes even take on their own names. The task is to integrate the various parts of the personality and move the centre of gravity up from the Ego to the Self. Integration means to make whole, which means to make holy. Thus, it is a spiritual task, not merely a psychological process. That is probably why **Carl Jung** could claim that most of his patients were non-religious.

**Resistance of the Ego** The Ego resists this process, which it regards as death. In a way it is, since the Real I then takes its rightful place, replacing the Ego. You often hear people say something like, “I need to contact my higher Self.” Of course, the Self is never an object, but always a subject. A claim like that shows the Ego’s resistance to the Self. In the Parable of the Coach, the Ego is like the coachman who refuses to take the orders of the Master in the cabin.

**Image and Likeness** We are born in the image of God, although the likeness has been lost or severely distorted. The image is beyond words and thoughts, so that our awareness of it is a mystical experience.

The likeness is the image as reflected in the soul or psyche. There are three stages:

- **Gnosis:** Gives form to the mystical experience
- **Magic:** Leads to action

- **Philosophy:** Makes the ideas communicable

The psyche is perturbed by negative emotions, obsessive thoughts, and insistent desires. Moreover, much of it is subconscious and not readily available to the conscious mind. That is why the likeness of God gets distorted in the psyche. Hence, it is necessary to purify the psyche so that it reflects God's likeness perfectly. We will briefly examine the distortions in the feeling and willing functions here; the intellectual function will be discussed later.

**Existence of Demons** As was mentioned in the previous post on Demonic Possession<sup>4</sup>, the feeling and willing functions are under the influence of demons. We are not referring to any Hollywood-style depictions. Rather, the demons are known by their effects, which can be described. This is actually an important teaching. That is because it shows that our psychic functions are not intrinsically evil, but are under the heavy influence of outside forces. This was recognized in the baptismal rite prior to 1968, which used to include an exorcism. In particular:

In the traditional Roman baptismal liturgy, we find a sequence of exorcisms that directly represent baptism's role as releasing us from the devil's possession.

See *The Significance of the Exorcisms before Baptism*<sup>5</sup> for more details. Unfortunately, the exorcism was subsequently removed, so anyone baptized after that year may experience more problems.

So this is hardly a novel teaching and is verified by experienced exorcists.

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<sup>4</sup><https://gornahoor.net/?p=10454>

<sup>5</sup><https://rorate-caeli.blogspot.com/2018/11/thomas-pink-on-significance-of.html>

There is a purpose to demonic possession: to provide the friction required to become more virtuous or conscious. Although they are part of God's plan, that does not make them somehow "good", as some false teachings assert.

I will use the terms *Luciferic* and *Ahrimanic* to refer to the demons affecting the emotional centre (astral body) and willing function (etheric body) respectively. Keep in mind **Valentin Tomberg**'s reservations about the cavalier use of those terms in certain anthro circles to account for all sorts of unrelated phenomena. Nevertheless, they are useful.

**Disordered Emotions** In sound functioning, the Intellect will determine what is good, just, noble, moral, rational, prudent, or loving. The Emotions and the Will then follows the intellect. This is not the case with psychic distortions. A person finds himself subject to the capriciousness of passions, particularly of negative emotions.

Work must be done on three levels:

- willpower,
- emotional life
- thought control

These must be ordered, educated, and shaped. By self-observation, the contradictions in one's psychic life become visible; in particular, one must learn to resist the outward expression of negative emotions.

**Disordered Will** The will is a force that manifests differently in the different levels:

- **Mineral:** electromagnetic forces

- **Vegetable:** Tropism <sup>6</sup>
- **Animal:** Desire
- **Human:** Will

In a disordered will, a being is motivated by desires, which then distort the thinking function to justify the desire and then to determine a way to act on it. On a more primal level, one simply follows impulses such as like/dislike, attraction/aversion, and so on, quite apart from any intelligence.

The human will is still a gnostic will, that is, it depends on deliberation. This leaves the will open to doubt, viz., it becomes double-minded, hearing the second voice. This often leads to confusion and distress rather than to liberation. This is the fate of the man who is awakening to his Real I. He then finds himself alone spiritually, without traditional support. Refer to the Barfield quote on the consciousness soul in the epigraph.

The True Will, on the other hand, means that a person is acting according to his real, unfallen nature. This is the purified will, because it will only one thing. In this case, what one believed through custom, habit, conditioning, and so on, no longer suffices. Such a person chooses his beliefs because he wills them.

**Imagery** The demon acts on the Will through imagery. However, it cannot manufacture images, but has to rely on pre-existing images. That is why it is so important to monitor the images the one pays heed to. Our contemporary world is full of manufactured images, designed to manipulate and control people. That is why the use of TV, movies, and related media should be reduced if not eliminated.

Although some may think this topic is off-colour, I am convinced that in this day and age, specific examples are necessary. Therefore, we

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<sup>6</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/?p=8349>

can provide a study of how the use of imagery works in distorting the Will.

Men and women are typically dominated by one main feature. A very common feature is Lust, since it is so tightly tied to pleasure. Take the case of Jim, for example, who is civilly divorced, although still married, morally. Having succumbed to temptation, he goes to the confessional. He starts by confessing erotic thoughts. The priest asks him if he willingly entertained them. That is because the spontaneous arising of such thoughts is not ipso facto sinful. This is completely unlike secular psychology which presumes that such thoughts are indicative of one's deepest nature. Not at all: our deeper nature is to be in the image and likeness of God, i.e., centred in our Real I or Self.

Therefore, we attribute the initial image to the Ahrimanic demon, not to some repressed desire within. The priest then asks Jim if he looks at pornography. That is because the demon cannot create the imagery, but only rearrange what is already there in one's mind. Hence, the priest is looking for the real source in external causes. Jim denies watching pornography, but explains that he has had many girlfriends, so that the memory of sexual activity with them provides ample imagery. Thus, the demon can use Jim's own life experience against him.

This is actually good news, since our faults can be forgiven. By understanding how these outer forces act on our inner psychic life, we can learn to be liberated from such forces.

**Postmortem Purification** This should make it clear why postmortem purification is usually necessary. Death does not by itself remove the psychic distortions, making the divine likeness impossible without further work. Then, in the Beatific Vision, one knows God as he is, in his essence, not just in his energies.

*Posted on 2018-11-25 by Cologero*

\* \* \*

jonh oliver on 2018-11-26 at 15:07 said:

I have a doubt regarding the nature of the true self, according to the conception given by Tomberg, and more specifically to the distinction that he makes of it from the vedic conception. The eastern conception affirms that atman=brahman, and thus, that by knowing our true self, we know god or the absolute. Tomberg goes against this, by stating that there are other transcendental immortal selves, that are higher than our own, that of the celestial hierarchies and the holy trinity, and that knowing them constitutes a higher level of spiritual experience.

My question is about the status of all of these different immortal selves, and whether are they really distinct, or are they just like the different qualities of god, that only have an analogical difference between them, but in the end being fundamentally the same. Everything at the highest level is indistinct in god, on what tomberg would call the world of emanation, but from a logical standpoint, i can't grasp how can there be more than one transcendental immortal and fully free self in existence, so as to allow an distinction between them. Because Tomberg affirms that in knowing our true self, we are only knowing the spiritual microcosm and not the macrocosm, which implies that these beings are separated from the human individuality. If i'm not misrepresenting what he's saying in some way, could you explain how this distinction is possible.

I know that this goes off on a bit of a tangent from the post, but i still think it's somewhat related.

Jack on 2018-11-26 at 21:53 said:

Thank you for this excellent post. The last line seems to reference, and contradict, the Eastern Orthodox doctrine of the distinction between the essence and energies of God; that we can know and participate in the latter, but not the former. Could you refer me to a good Catholic critique of this doctrine?

Xavier Galindo on 2018-11-27 at 09:34 said:

Jack: There is a disagreement between the EO's and the RC on whether God's "essence can be known" – more specifically between essence-energies and Augustinian-Thomistic divine simplicity. Good sources to read about this are 'Ground of Union' by Williams (very irenic), Aristotle East & West by Bradshaw (informative but polemic, blames Augustine a lot), and (Byzantine Catholic) Fr. Klappes works (available on Academia.edu). There's a part of the Summa (in the treatise on the Holy Trinity) where St. Thomas explicitly (but respectfully) says St. John Damascene was wrong about *energeia*, and the EO naturally don't concede this.

Truthfully there could be a whole new Council of Florence devoted to this issue alone.

John Oliver: I wonder how your question relates to the metaphysical principle that identifies knowledge with being?

Cologero on 2018-12-08 at 08:28 said:

In the future, Jonh, should you post another comment, please quote Tomberg (or whomever) directly; in other words, it is not helpful to tell me what you think that Tomberg said.

First of all, the vedas make reference to a multitude of Devas or immortal selves, so your first point is unclear.

Perhaps from a logical point of view, separate selves may not make sense. For example, F H Bradley in *Appearance and Reality* logically reaches the Absolute, which alone is “real”. Other selves, therefore, cannot “really” exist.

However, the Hermetic teaching is that God made a sacrifice, or withdrawal, thereby creating a void into which created things, including other selves, could reside.

Tomberg writes about two substances and one essence ... ultimately only God is “essence” or Being, and substances are part of the world of becoming. Nevertheless, when we know our True Self most deeply, we discover that we also know God. This is not a matter of logic, but rather of gnosis or direct experience.

Cologero on 2018-12-14 at 22:47 said:

@Jack, there is no intent to be polemical.

The “energies” is rendered as “acts” in the west, since *energeia* in Greek is translated as *actus* in Latin. So we do know God, in ordinary circumstances, through his acts (e.g., actual grace). However, there can be no real distinction between God’s essence and existence (or acts).

A critique is not a valid starting point, but rather direct knowledge or gnosis is the only guide. For starters, I would recommend *Christian Gnosis* by **Wolfgang Smith**, in which he writes:

Gnosis in the ultimate sense, if attainable in this life at all, will be the lot, here below, of exceedingly few.

The possibility of gnosis in this life (understood as knowing “*the essence of God*”) has indeed been recognized by the Church. St. Thomas Aquinas, for example, has this to say:

“As God works miracles in corporeal things, so also he does supernatural wonders above the natural order, raising the minds of some living in the flesh beyond the use of sens, even up to the vision of his own essence; as Augustine says of Moses, the teacher of the Jews, and of St. Paul, the teacher of the gentiles.”

And again, referring to the same exalted state of gnosis: "It is not incredible that this sublime revelation is vouchsafed certain saints without their departing this life so completely as to leave nothing but a corpse for burial."

We remind you of the epigraph:

We are now the sons of God; and it hath not yet appeared what we shall be. We know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like to him: because we shall see him as he is.

1 John 3:2

Vimana on 2019-06-05 at 12:17 said:

"In sound functioning, the Intellect will determine what is good, just, noble, moral, rational, prudent, or loving. The Emotions and the Will then follows the intellect. This is not the case with psychic distortions. A person finds himself subject to the capriciousness of passions, particularly of negative emotions."

It seems, then, that Schopenhauer was right that the vast majority of people have a blind and impulsive Will, but he was mistaken in his promotion of complete rejection of the Will rather than aligning it with the Intellect?

## 2.4 The Creative Process

Training in esoteric psychology not only enables us to understand our own inner natures, but also provides a key to understanding much about how the world works. In the books on *Gnosis*, **Boris Mouravieff** expresses traditional psychology in terms suitable for our contemporaries. So instead of speaking of the soul elements – viz., the vegetative, animal, and intellectual souls – he refers to various centers.

Animal life, in this scheme, has sexual, motor, and emotional (at least in higher animals) centers. Man has an intellectual center, actually two of them, a lower center for rational thinking and a higher center for intuitive thinking. In the Primordial State, represented by Eden, Adam had the lower centers, but his consciousness was dominated by the higher intellectual center, i.e., direct intuition of the spiritual realm. Nevertheless,



as part of his creative activity in the world, the lower intellectual center, or critical spirit, was necessary to formulate aims and to determine the means to achieve them. This formation of the critical mind is, according to Mouravieff, the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*. As the critical spirit becomes dominant, the intuitive center or divine spark recedes and is generally forgotten.

Now animal and plant life lacks the intellectual centers, hence they do not have any inner conflicts that arise from the over-development of the critical spirit. This is the attraction many people feel toward animals. Moreover, there are systems of thought, most famously that of Rousseau, that seek that animal state in some primeval “state of nature”. Of course, that is not possible, nor is it really a return to the Primordial State. That path is not a rejection of the critical spirit from below as a return to animal nature, but rather the transcendence of that spirit from above. The esoteric path seeks the regeneration of man through conscious efforts to become aware of the divine spark.

To illustrate esoteric psychology, I will use Mouravieff’s description of how the creative process functions. There are three stages from the idea, the thought, and the will.

The joint action of the creative energy of the sexual centre and the faculties of intuition and discernment of the lower intellectual centre caused imagination to arise in man. After this, his development, the fruit of his conscious efforts, takes on an epicyclic form:

1. Man explores the unknown: this operation, fruit of this creative imagination, is characteristic of every project;
2. Then, by the return path his ideas become concrete, he accumulates the necessary data to establish a plan of action and assembles the elements needed to put it into execution;

3. Lastly, thus enriched, he acts on this plan.

This is the scheme of every human enterprise which puts into play all the factors in this activity.

The first phase involves the action of sexual energy, or eros. It causes phantasms, or images unrelated to the external world, to spontaneously arise in consciousness. When it is sublimated by means of its interaction with the higher centers, there will be creative activity. Otherwise, left on its own, the eros will simply produce sexual phantasies of the type that **John of Ruysbroeck** warned us against. This is not the place to discuss the practice of “concentration” in which the formation of thoughts and images are consciously directed rather than spontaneously arisen.

If the higher powers are weak, then the power of the eros will be dissipated in sexual imagery. Moreover, *pace* the Rousseauists, the state of nature is not necessarily pure and healthy. For example, **Sigmund Freud** last century made a career out of documenting the unhealthiness of the unchecked libido. Although Freud distorted traditional psychology and was completely unaware of the higher centers, he recognized the decadence of modern man. Keep in mind that the “id” represents the lower centers, and the lower intellectual center he called the “reality principle”. Unfortunately, his system was unable to point the way to a cure.

Step (2) is not always so straight-forward. Of course, ideally the critical spirit should be able to judge rationally the ideas of the mental imagery. The spirit would determine if the plan is just and reasonable. It would then formulate the means to realize the plan. But at this point it is helpful to recall some of **Julius Evola**’s ideas. Of course, he agrees about new representations of the world spontaneously arising in consciousness.

Beyond that, Evola recognizes three stages:

1. **Spontaneity**. The self is not fully developed. Evola describes it as “immersed in an immediate, indistinct coalescence with nature and

the world, we can say that it is not so much he who thinks, speaks, and asserts himself, but rather that various forces and impulses think, speak and assert themselves in him.”

2. **Autonomy.** The self begins to separate from the world. Evola’s description is much like Mouravieff’s description of the lower intellect: “Consequently, what used to be familiar to the individual is made alien and impenetrable, what intuitive certainty used to reveal to him as indisputable fact is made dubious and problematic.”

In the attempt to discover some unity in the random fluctuations of phenomena, the self looks for solutions in adhering to some ideology, typically in the form of science or religious doctrines.

3. **Mastery.** By transcending phenomena and ideologies, the self gains the power of mastery and becomes a “deep centre of will and power”.

**Primal Traditions** As an example of the first stage, we can rely on **Julian Jaynes**’s study on the *Origin of Consciousness in the Breakdown of the Bicameral Mind*. In those early civilizations, there was a priesthood that still had an active and direct connection to transcendent reality. There was also a caste of aristocrats who knew how to wield political power, while maintaining the societal order determined by the spiritual authorities. The workers were still at stage one, living spontaneously. They were sub-rational, with a poorly developed lower intellectual center, and responded spontaneously to the images arising in consciousness. They were not plagued with the doubts that arise from the uncertainty of critical thinking. Hence, their primary mode of control and communication required the use of commands, poetry, songs, or other art. That is obvious from the perusal of ancient spiritual texts. Now Jaynes claims that those people were content in those roles, and that is probably true. Such civilizations were able to persist for extended periods.

**Ideologies** Step (2) of the creative process can be distorted or even thwarted by the adherence to ideologies that are at best partially true, if not completely false. That is Evola's second stage. When attempting to solve a difficult societal problem, ideologues will be blinded by their own worldviews. Since a worldview forms the foundation for their being in the world, there is a strong psychological need to adhere to it; the alternative is to fall back into the uncertainty of critical thinking and fluctuating phenomena.

Hence, the human race is prevented from achieving its creative potential. People get stuck at step (2) by debating worldviews without any possible resolutions. They become convinced that their own worldview is correct, so that it would be necessary to convince everyone else to adopt it. That is simply not possible because men have different capabilities and are of various spiritual races which prevent a common way of relating to the world.

**The Degeneration of Castes** Since the question of pseudo-traditions came up in the comments recently, this is a good moment to look at the question from the eternal perspective of Tradition. There is still this idea in certain circles that claim to be "traditional" that the goal is to formulate the perfect ideology. Hence, they usually blame "Christianity" for replacing the pure spontaneity of animal life with a critical attitude, especially its moral judgments. Since the identity of the self still resides in the lower centers or chakras, they come to experience the Christian teachings as "alien" and therefore resent its intrusion onto the spontaneity of the self-expression of the lower instincts or desires.

As we see, however, even Evola, who was no Christian, recognized that stage (2) is a necessary element in spiritual maturity. However, since the spirit is free, there is no compulsion or mechanical process to traverse the three stages. The Christian teaching therefore is the "way" to promote the movement into stage (3) or theosis. At that stage, there is a

second spontaneity as one lives in the intuitive awareness of the presence of God. Now, someone can try to make the case that Christendom has lost its power for that. Their burden, in that case, is to come up with a living and viable alternative, not to reject the teaching in toto.

Back to the point. According to **Rene Guenon** and Evola, the decline in the world process results from the degeneration of castes, not from the adoption of specific ideologies. In that decline, the spiritual authority and political power proper to the higher castes are transferred to lower castes who are incapable of maintaining the traditional structures. It would be impossible to convince them to adopt a different ideology that would deprive them of power; that is why logical arguments are beside the point in political discourse. It is a democratic illusion to believe that a single ideology can be grasped and adopted by the entire population. If a spiritual elite arises with demonstrable powers, then circumstances may change, otherwise people are satisfied with what they have.

*Posted on 2016-01-21 by Cologero*

## 2.5 The Spirit Soul

Everything belonging to the subtle state is very closely connected with the nature of life itself, which is inseparable from heat; and it may be recalled that on this point, as on many others, the conceptions of Aristotle are in complete agreement with those of the East.

RENE GUENON, *Man and his Becoming*

**Rene Guenon** often used **Aristotle** as the exemplar in the West of Indian metaphysics. Whether this is the result of a direct influence or from plumbing the same depths is open to debate. More likely, both the East

and pagan Antiquity were drawing on a common source, viz., the primordial tradition of the original Indo-European peoples.

We recently outlined the Western tradition on the corporeal soul<sup>7</sup>. Although the soul is the form of the body, it also transcends that function. Guenon mentions that the corporeal state belongs to the human individual. Moreover, there is the subtle state of the individual. Guenon makes clear that the subtle state is not totally coincident with the corporeal state:

The corporeal state [and the subtle state] are strictly and essentially states of the living man. This does not necessarily involve admitting that the subtle state comes to an end at the precise moment of bodily death and simply as a result thereof.

The Western Tradition has an analogous teaching. In his book, *Occult Phenomena*<sup>8</sup>, **Alois Wiesinger** describes this subtle state in some detail to explain the experience of preternatural and mystical phenomena. He gives the name spirit-soul to the subtle state to distinguish it from the corporeal soul; this corresponds to the Hermetic distinction between spirit, or *pneuma*, and soul, or *psyche*.

As interesting as Fr. Wiesinger's analysis of occult phenomena is, for our purposes we now restrict ourselves to his description of spirit. Here are some salient points, without further explanation.

- The existence of spirit is not a philosophical hypothesis. The knowledge of it comes from experience beyond the material.
- He points out that this doctrine was taught by the greatest philosophers of mankind, for thousands of years, hence predating Christianity. He points out that this doctrine is either unknown or ignored; the reader is free to offer his own explanation for this curious neglect.

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<sup>7</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/?p=3662>

<sup>8</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/library/occultPhenomena.pdf>

- The activity of spirit proceeds by means of thought and will. The two basic faculties of the spirit are, then, the acts of understanding and the will.
- Unlike the corporeal soul, whose knowing is mediated through the senses, spirit knows directly.
- To recognize an object the spirit must have the thing within itself, that is, the form without its matter. Said differently, the spirit is conscious of the Idea, which it knows directly rather than through a process of abstracting.
- Pure spirits communicate through thought transference. This has consequences for the Occult War. Men believe their thoughts are their own, even though they cannot predict what they will think of one minute from now, and seldom consider the source of thoughts. But thoughts come from the hierarchies of higher beings and angels and demons. That is why ideas can take hold of large populations at the same time. It also explains why certain thoughts tend to lump together in different individuals.

These qualities of spirit exist in man insofar as he is a spiritual being, but usually only virtually since his mind is most often split and concentrated on the body. Fr. Wiesinger criticizes the simplistic explanation that all spiritualist and occult phenomena are evil or attributable to the devil. To the contrary, he explains that these powers of the spirit-soul were part of the primordial state, but were then mostly lost after the Fall. While we cannot describe the powers of the spirit-soul and related phenomena at this time, we will conclude with a description of mystical states and what they reveal about the spirit-soul.

Fr. Wiesinger is a conventional priest and his area of concern is the

right hand path, or the way of ecstasy<sup>9</sup>. He first describes Mystical Sleep during which God brings leads the mystic to the Primordial State. It may be helpful to read this in conjunction with Chapter XI of *Man and his Becoming* where Guenon discusses the states of sleep. He mentions the state of ecstatic trance, which is a state between deep sleep and death, in which the living soul, *jivatma*, withdraws into the bosom of the Universal Spirit (*Atma*).

Fr. Wiesinger points out that at the end of a culture, when the mystical sense has been lost, there arise numerous attempts to recover it. Most are misguided, but sometimes they are recovered by “honest striving after a form of self-preparation that was far-seeing, scientific, and wholly in accord with nature.” He specifically mentions **Buddha**, at the decline of Indian culture, **Plotinus** at the end of Greek culture, and **Rudolf Steiner** at the end of Western culture.

Analogous to the three layers of the corporeal soul, there are also three layers of the spirit-soul, corresponding to the Trinity. Once again, theology is in conformance with Hermetic, esoteric, and to an extent, Anthroposophical, teaching. We summarize Fr. Wiesinger in Table 2.2.

Procession	Stage of Prayer	
Holy Spirit	The prayer of quiet	Imagination still retains its freedom.
Son	The prayer of union	Ecstasy
Father	The prayer of spiritual marriage	

Table 2.2: Layers of the subtle states of the spirit-soul

*Posted on 2012-01-26 by Cologero*

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<sup>9</sup><https://www.meditationsonthetarot.com/solar-and-lunar-initiation>



Caleb Cooper on 2012-01-26 at 00:35 said:

"Pure spirits communicate through thought transference."

One of the more frustrating things about going over to the other side is when I can tell an entity is communicating with me telepathically, but I have no idea what it's saying because I don't speak telepathese!

It gets really amusing when I realize my soul (spirit?) is communicate back, but I have absolutely no idea what I'm saying, it usually just sounds like a bunch of bird chirping. Need to take the wax out of my 'ears of the heart' I guess.

Charlotte Cowell on 2012-01-26 at 05:23 said:

I have also had this experience of communicating and knowing a two way conversation is going on but not 'hearing' the words. It's more like there is a 'question' in the form of a 'thought' and then as the answer is given it becomes an action before you even realise you've asked – this must be partly to do with the dissolution of time but also because one acts on pure will in that state, it's all instantaneous. Also impossible to lie. So for example once I was in a very deep guided meditation that took place in primarily an astral context. As I was being led through a particular building it occurred to me at a certain moment that there was no discernible decoration that I could use as a point of reference to recall later and try to look further into. As I was thinking this my guide 'told' me to look down at the floor, whereupon I saw we were following a row of tiles that all had identical swastika patterns on them. As soon as this was noticed we moved into the next tableau. All of it happened without words, almost without the thought being formed, so while I DID know what the conversation was about, there were no words spoken, I just wondered what I needed to wonder and was given the answer I sought. At other times I've been in situations where passwords were needed but I didn't realise this until a word just popped into my head. It's very seldom indeed I become aware of actual sound in the higher astral or etheric dimension (which is a rare occurrence for me anyway), but if I do it is always a sublime experience but difficult to describe the quality of the sound. So it is not like an outside sound coming in, it is an inner sound that seems to come from the very centre of your head that in turn seems to contain the whole universe, it's not like a vague inner voice, it is super-clear. Once I was taken to the Happy Hunting grounds and I heard their drums, beating very rhythmically, right in the middle of my mind just as I was coming back and becoming conscious. This was shortly followed by a sight of their campfire, which was incredibly bright, phosphorescent, and led me to say it was like 'magnesium burning'. Once I heard thousands of harps very loudly as I was waking up, which was truly amazing and I believe this to be the sound of the sun rising. Funnily enough a few days ago I was half in and out of sleep in the early hours of the morning (something woke me up), when I very distinctly heard the sound of running water in the same place, the inner kingdom. Immediately I knew it was a stream but it startled me as to hear things is very unusual for me. Just as I was nodding off again I was woken

up once more, this time by the sounds of a choir singing Gloria, which was really wonderful but mystifying also. It didn't seem to last very long. I have also had experiences of talking to birds but not hearing any sounds. It seems to me that communication is done telepathically, the will responds to questioning, but that sound is a very elevated sensation as far as spirituality goes, I would love to hear that music all the time, one can't describe the beauty and clarity of the tones....

Charlotte Cowell on 2012-01-26 at 05:58 said:

Regarding the (very interesting) main article, these points here from Fr Wiesinger's book ring very true (in fact most of it makes a lot of sense):

'The activity of spirit proceeds by means of thought and will' – this is very much my experience, the will is so much stronger and more active as it is not hampered by physical restraints for one thing, so can function as the pure agent of action. 'The two basic faculties of the spirit are, then, the acts of understanding and the will'. This seems to be a fair summary.

'spirit knows directly'. yes, it is this 'knowing' I was trying to describe, as it is so clear and direct, there are no doubts whatsoever, things just are what they are, there isn't a sense of judgement, although there are times one can be made aware of dangers, things not to do and so on.

Regarding these strange 'conversations'. Cologero (who I've pestered about the subject several times!) will remember my endless descriptions of a visit to Atlantis, which I embarked upon following a suggestion and nothing more, I had very little curiosity with regards to it and treated it as a 'necessary exercise' if that makes sense. In fact I could hardly be bothered at the time it seemed a chore. Nevertheless, I did as suggested and asked for angelic protection as I had been told to visit Atlantis. I did not expect anything whatsoever to happen after that but a moment later a VERY bizarre looking fish-headed being (I only saw his top half or top third) appeared very clearly in a semi-astral, etheric dimension in front of me. I was startled at the very strange appearance and also felt sheepish as he seemed really irritated. It all happened incredibly quickly and I had no time to think, but somehow he asked me why I wanted to go and before I knew what had happened he seemed to extract from me the details that led up to me asking angels about a visit to Atlantis – so I totally agree with the 'transference' description, it just happens and you can't do anything about it, these spiritual beings just know – you couldn't lie and pretend to have good intentions if really you wanted to spy on a secret book or something, as your will is 'read' by them. I don't think anything 'bad' would necessarily happen, you just wouldn't get further.

So in my case the actual situation was relayed – I had a study partner who himself, it seemed, was curious to know about Atlantis, and expecting I might manage to get there he had therefore planted the idea in my head. I did exactly as he suggested and asked for protection first, and it would also be true to say that I fully expected at that time to always have angelic

protection in any situation, so there wouldn't have been any doubt or fear in me (now there might, but that's another story!).

However where I ended up next is perhaps a warning note to us all, as I found myself at the very bottom of a very deep, murky green-grey ocean, hiding behind huge clumps of seaweed, staring absolutely boggle-eyed at the profile view of a gigantic being that had a man's torso and very, very long, corkscrew-curved tail. He was floating at a distance of around 30 ft away, with both arms stretched out in front of him with elbows at right angles. His form was dark but clear, as if a solid shadow, and it is impossible for me to describe the terror this struck in me – those who know how our emotions are far more easy to govern in the astral state will hopefully understand just how frightening this therefore was. For a start I have an intense phobia about deep water having nearly drowned several times and been on some scary boat journeys, so that was bad enough, but secondly this creature was so beyond anything I've ever even thought of, let alone comprehended, and so huge, so generally weird in every way I just couldn't imagine what might happen next. My main fear – beyond the fact I was underwater with 'time running out' – was, if I can see him, what if HE can see me?!

Things had just reached a crisis point when from out of nowhere this word just popped into my head, like Eureka – 'CAPRICORN!'. I was elated, triumphant even, and in that moment I came back into my body feeling immensely relieved. I was there for a second more before going back into another scene (long story this so I won't relate it all here).

Would I have embarked upon this journey if I'd known what was 'down there' – no, of course not! I'm rather ashamed to say that I'm not a particularly courageous person, although I am impulsive and can be rash at times. All the seemingly brave or exciting things I've done on earth have been kind of by accident or out of foolishness, and this Atlantis trip has given me cause to wonder, 'should I have gone' ever since. I guess the moral here is be careful what you ask for as you might get it! (the rest of the visit had a very different tone, by the way, and I subsequently identified the Fish-head being with Pisces).

## 2.6 Sex and Violence

The typological classification of people has always formed part of Hermetic teachings. This classification was often couched in astrological terms or as the four temperaments, among other schemes. Julius Evola has used the idea of spiritual races, which he claims to have found in ancient symbolisms, to the same end. Now these classification schemes

transcend psychological states or tendencies, and, a fortiori, biological or genetic factors. As such, they are metaphysical types of different spiritual natures.

The purpose of such classifications is not only to understand the world, but also one's own inner nature. By developing awareness and observing the inner workings of consciousness, a man learns to recognize his own type. In this way he can transcend his own limitations or restrictive points of view. In this way, he also learns to recognize the types of other people and thus can intuit their inner states.

Since these types are metaphysical, they are not amenable to scientific or psychological research. That is why so few people become aware of them. Since a man's type, or spiritual race, dominates his entire way of being and manner of thinking, he finds it impossible to conceive of a different way of seeing the world. Hence, these national "calls to dialogue" on fundamental existential issues are doomed to fail; there just is no common ground on which to base any such discussion. The ways of relating to the world are radically different.

A related concept, when passing beyond the merely individual perspective, is the idea of a national spirit as documented by the idealist philosophers, particularly Giovanni Gentile (which is why we will be discussing him more in the future). This spirit would be manifested in its religion, art, law, science, folklore, etc. However, that presumes a spiritual unity, even if only virtual, which is no longer present in most Western countries. It is striking, when reading books written some 75 years or so ago, to note how prescient they were; here we can point to Guenon, Evola, Berdyaev, Spengler, and a few others. From our perspective now, everything then seemed quite normal, as the decline was barely visible in



manifestation although it was quietly moving ahead in the invisible spiritual world. These men were able to discern those negative spiritual forces and anticipate their long term effects. For, it may take several generations for the full consequences of one age to become manifest. The iniquities of the father will affect the next three or four generations.

Evola, for example, points to the infiltration of the “telluric” spirit into western civilization. This telluric race is earthbound, unable to experience or even understand anything transcendent. The connection to life of the telluric being is marked by immediacy, instinctiveness, and irrationality. He is dominated by sexual impulse that is lacking in virile qualities. With a limited sense of personality or individual responsibility, he goes along with the crowd, which is often tied to his natural peer group, but in recent times seems to be groups of ideological affinity.

The positive law is supposed to reflect the cosmic law in concrete circumstances; when the leaders are guided by transcendent principles, then the positive law will act to restrict and restrain the worst impulses of telluric man. However, once such men themselves make the positive law, these restraints are one by one eliminated in a frenzy of liberation from them and the unleashing of primitive and instinctive forces. Evola points out that the final decomposition of a traditional civilization is marked by the appearance of the telluric spirit within it.

As intriguing as all that is, Gornahoor thinks that these types need to be understood from the “inside” as it were; here we are always guided by Augustine’s maxim that the truth lies in the interiority of man. This we shall do by following our earlier analysis of the various faculties of the soul. In a solar race, the forces of thymos and epithymia (or eros) channeled toward higher values, and are dominated by the rational or intellectual soul. Hence, from thymos he experiences the energy or force to strive for transcendence. Epithymia acts as the attractive force.

However, that is not how the telluric man experiences them. In their crudest form, these faculties are experienced as the urge to violence and

sex. That is why popular culture, whether it appears in movies, TV shows, “music”, and so on, is so often dominated by those two themes. That is why appeals to make movies, for example, with more sublime themes (e.g., spiritual elements, etc.) are so naïve. Not only are the consumers of pop culture dominated by the telluric element, but the producers themselves of the culture are themselves telluric and have no other understanding. Anything of an even slightly higher nature is portrayed in a sentimental and stereotypical way. However, Evola points out that there is a melancholic element associated with that, although it is not very deep. This is demonstrated, for example, in movies of the type created by a Woody Allen, which are dominated by a superficial type of spiritual angst; nevertheless, films of such a character are highly regarded by the “intellectuals” of the telluric type. A more recent example is the HBO series “Girls” which again is highly touted by the same elements.

This morning I heard a discussion about the “gun control” issue that is dominant today in the USA. One “journalist” suggested that Hollywood should be part of any so-called solution; in other words, it should be called to task for promoting so many movies with graphic violence. Of course, this generated the mechanical response about our alleged “hypocrisy”, in allowing graphic violence—assumed to be “bad”—while prohibiting graphic sex—presumed to be “good”. Readers, don’t you see how this exactly proves my fundamental point? Why the automatic, and probably mindless, contrast of sex to violence, instead of a hundred other possible qualities?

Naturally, this led to a further stereotype: viz., in Europe they ban violent depictions but allow the sexual. Now, don’t get me wrong, I am heartened when American men today recall their ancient European heritage. However, they always relate to the most recent and decadent elements of Europe today rather than the sane and normal era prior to the French Revolution.

Before moving on to the metaphysical understanding of sex and vi-

olence, we can point to some rather obvious empirical results. First of all, violence has always existed, prior to mass media, prior to video games, prior to the printing press, and it continues to exist even among peoples far removed from such influences. We recently pointed to the existence of primitive Brazilian tribes, with no access to the artifacts of western civilization, yet who are quite violent in their daily lives. Furthermore, rates of violent crime have actually decreased in the USA despite such movies and games; the factors for that are beyond the scope of this article.

The next empirical point is that graphic sex, aka pornography, has not led to happiness. As a matter of fact, the opposite has occurred. Rather than leading to better and more fulfilling relationships between men and women, it has instead resulted in widespread impotence among men. (See the article by Lasha Darkmoon in the January 2013 issue of *Culture Wars* in this regard). A case can be made that graphic sex is being used to control and subvert the population, whether deliberately or incidentally.

I will conclude, first, with the traditional understanding of sex and violence, followed by an explanation. The erotic impulse in traditional art is sublimated toward a higher end. That is reflected in the ideals of chivalry, troubadours, the Fedeli d'Amore, etc. That allows the power of sexual attraction to be transferred to the desire for superior values.

Similarly, violence is not gratuitous, but is ordered to heroic and noble ideals; such stories have always been portrayed in myths, legends, and scriptural stories. Hence, recent trends in not allowing boys to play with toy guns, or play as soldiers, or watch films depicting violence are fundamentally misguided. It makes them passive instead of training them to be active agents who understand that sometimes the higher good entails the proper use of power and coercion.

Even if you have understood nothing thus far, I will provide two simple concepts that summarize it all:

1. When boys role play as heroes, fighters, conquerors, etc., or even engage in sports, they are not incited to commit actual violence.

To the contrary, the urge for violence is mitigated by such play.

2. However, the very purpose of pornography and graphic sexuality is to excite erotic impulses, yet they do not provide any way to satisfy them.

Hence, sex and violence act in opposed ways, are directed by different psychic centers, and cannot at all be understood in the same way.

*Posted on 2013-04-04 by Cologero*

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Sparrow on 2016-01-20 at 16:25 said:

If one wants further proof about the tellurism of modern times, simply consider the obsession with sexlessness. Being a “virgin” or “single,” are both used as insults, and celibacy is almost blasphemous since the telluric man can’t conceive of any reason that someone would not indulge in sexual pleasures. The obsessive fear about sexual inadequacy that spawns numerous pills that seek to cure the problem is truly comical.



## Energetic Centres of Man

### 3.1 The Man of Heart

You might be saved — i.e., you might acquire spiritual equilibrium and live in the absolute center of being.

PAVEL FLORENSKY, *At the Crossroads of Science & Mysticism*

**Prayer of the Heart** The Prayer of the Heart was practiced by the early Egyptian Desert Fathers as a method of the purification of the Mind and the Heart. The Prayer of the Mind is the inner recitation of a prayer. When the prayer runs on its own, apart from the Mind, then it becomes the Prayer of the Heart. Ultimately, one can pray even during dreams.

The Prayer of the Heart is most often associated with the recitation of the Jesus Prayer. However, the unknown author of *The Cloud of Unknowing* recommends some simpler prayers like the repetition of “God” and “Love”. If it is difficult to bring attention from the Mind to the Heart, then attention can focus initially on the hands or another external body part. The Prayer of the Heart bring attention “in” the heart. In

other words, the heart becomes the center of awareness, not the object of awareness.

**The Law of the Heart** In the *Letter on the Hermit* from *Meditations on the Tarot*, we see that the heart is where contemplation and will are united, where knowledge becomes will and where will becomes knowledge. It is important to keep in mind that the “heart”, in this context, does not at all signify the centre of emotions and passions as it does in the popular imagination. Rather, it is the middle centre, or chakra, of man’s psychic and vital constitution. It does signify “love” however, making it the most human of the centers. “Knowledge” is what man knows, “Will” is what a man can do, but “Heart” is what he is.

The great work of the man of heart is the transmutation of the substance of other chakras into the substance of the heart. **Seyyed Nasr** wrote that the heart is the only organ that connects the human state to a transcendent state. This notion is confirmed by **Valentin Tomberg** when he explains that the heart, alone of all the centres, is not attached to the organism. Hence, it can go out of the organism and live.

**The Planets and the Chakras** The heart, as the central chakra, is therefore the “sun” of the microcosm. **Oscar Hinze**, in his book *Tantra Vidya*<sup>1</sup>, shows that in ancient esoteric astronomy, the traditional planets correspond to the chakras of Tantra Yoga; in short, the macrocosm corresponds to the microcosm. Moreover, he shows how similar ideas were part of the progress of initiation in Mithraism. But, even more interestingly, Hinze notes that the mystic **Johann Gichtel**, a student of **Jacob Boehme**, was aware of the same correspondence as revealed in his book *Theosophia Practica*<sup>2</sup>. The following table shows the correspondences. The table also includes the “I am” saying associated with the chakra, and

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/library/TantraVidya.pdf>

<sup>2</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/library/TheosophiaPractica.pdf>

the transformation that occurs with its awakening, as described in the *Letter on the Hermit*.

Remarkably, Gichtel claimed to have discovered the subtle centers in the body and their correspondence to the planets through his own contemplations and experience. In the Tantric system, each chakra is represented by a lotus with a unique set of petals. Hinze demonstrates that the number of petals corresponds to the “gestalt number” of each planet. These numbers are derived from the way the ancient astrologers experienced the sky. For example, the gestalt number of the Moon is 4, which represents its phases. Hence, the Muladhara chakra has four petals.

In the chart, the column labeled “Transformation” shows the changes that occur when the chakra is transformed by the heart. The column labeled “I am” shows Jesus’ “I am” saying that is associated with each chakra.

**Waking Up** When the chakras are asleep a man becomes dominated by instinctual life, motivated by fear (muladhara), sex (svadhisthana), and hunger (manipura), interspersed with random eruptions from higher chakras. Another way of saying this, following Gichtel’s diagram, is that the human being is under the influence of the planets, hence subjected to spontaneous forces beyond his knowledge and control.

So the obvious question is how to “awaken” the higher chakras. That puts us in a bind, since Hermetism rejects any mechanical process or technique to do so. By analogy, we can look at how you wake up from a night’s sleep. Who is doing the awakening? Commonly, it may be the result of an outside stimulation, or enough it comes about after a “crisis point” in a dream.

So, analogously, we could say that “waking up” into a higher state of consciousness are reaching certain “crises”, as described in the Letter on the Tower of Destruction. Such a crisis may result from either an internal or external event. Example, perhaps, are the boundary situations de-

scribed by **Karl Jaspers**, which often arise from chance, traumatic events. Of course, the Hermetist may choose boundary situations deliberately, by meditating on a particular topic. Perhaps, in this case, a meditation on one of the “I am” sayings would be helpful. I think it is a bit of a mystery for the “sleeping” person to try to wake up. All the forces that lead to that, need to be encouraged. Ultimately, it is a matter of grace from above.

### **The Christianisation of the Chakras**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17

Valentin Tomberg mentions the traditional Tantric method of awakening the chakras through their corresponding mantras: Om, Ham, Yam, and so on. That will awaken the chakras as they are. The Hermetist, however, has a different aim: the Christianisation of the centres, i.e., their transformation in conformity with their divine-human prototype. In other words, the aim is to make of oneself a new creation. The corresponding “I am” saying can be used as a mantra in the process of the Christianisation of the chakras.

The Christianisation of the inner organization is the transformation of the human being into a man of heart. The heart is the third, or neutralizing, force mediating “knowledge” and “will”. This leads to three transformational moments.

Note that there are two stages of subordination to the heart:

- Spontaneous arisings
- Directed mental activities

We have dealt with spontaneous arisings extensively in the past. We have noticed that, in our normal waking state — which is usually far from fully

conscious — thoughts, images, and impulses spontaneous arise, most often in a very negative way. We have used them as “crises” to lead to a moment of awareness, since they need to be brought under conscious control. In the past, we have used the exterior parts of the body, e.g., hands, feet, etc., as our objects of concentration and attention. Perhaps, now, we can begin to bring attention to the heart rather than a body part.

Next, there can be deliberate and consciously directed thoughts, images, and plans. Those are recognizably human activities since they are self-directed and self-willed. However, for them to be Christianised, then they, too, must be subordinated to the heart.

The goal of the Christianisation of the centres is to transform the human being into a *man or woman of heart*.

**Scientific Postscript** Although secular science is not the last word for us, it should not be surprising to learn that the heart has neurons. The HeartMath Solution, by Doc Childre and Howard Martin develops the idea of the heart as the central intelligence of the body. We do not consider this a “proof” for the man of heart, but an effect. Nevertheless, some of you, perhaps in the healing professions, may be interested in such topics. The downside is that, like all new age teachings, it sees the “knowledge of the heart” strictly in instrumental terms, as the means to an end, be it inner calm, physical health, treatment for psychological problems. We, on the other hand, consider becoming a man or woman of the heart is an end in itself.

*Posted on 2022-04-23 by Cologero*

Chakra	Petals	Planet	Transformation	I am
Sahasrara	8/1000	Saturn	Abstract and transcendent wisdom Full of warmth like the fire of Pentecost	The resurrection and the life
Ajna	2	Jupiter	Intellectual initiative Compassion-filled insight into the world	The light of the world
Visuddha	16	Mars	Creative word Magical: illuminating, consoling, healing	The good shepherd
Anahata	12	Sun	Love Exteriorisation of love	The bread of life
Manipura	10	Venus	Science Conscience	The door
Svadhithana	6	Mercury	Center of health Holiness, i.e., harmony of spirit, soul, body	The way, the truth, and the life
Muladhara	4	Moon	Creative force Source of energy and élan	The true vine

Table 3.1: Chakra and Planetary Correspondences

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<b>Intellectual intuition</b>	Feeling for truth	Subordinate spontaneous movements of thought as well as the directing intellectual initiative to the heart of thought
<b>Moral intuition</b>	Feeling for beauty	Subordinate both spontaneous imagination and actively directed imagination to the direction of the heart
<b>Practical intuition</b>	Feeling for good	Subordinate spontaneous impulses and designs directed from the will to the feeling of practical intuition

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## Myths, rites and symbols

### 4.1 The Symbolic World

Rational thinking, *dianoia*, does not, and cannot, lead to knowledge of God. Rather, there is a higher form of knowing, traditionally called “Intuition” which is a direct knowing or realization of metaphysical truths. Since it is based often on the Imagination, discursive reasoning is insufficient. Therefore, Symbols are used in Tradition to convey these higher truths.

The Scholastic principle is that all knowledge begins in the senses. Hence, symbolism is adapted to this need of human nature. Few people are able to begin with pure intellectuality, so the symbols serve as the sensory basis that gives rise to higher levels.

Symbols are both a boon and a bane. For those able to penetrate into the meaning of the symbol, it is a boon. But for the others, it is a bane, because they can only understand the symbols in a literal and material sense. The prime example is alchemy. The alchemical processes have a symbolic meaning which leads to higher states. Understood materially,

the “blowers” attempted to repeat the experiments as if they referred to profane chemistry.

**Law of Correspondence** The multiple states of the being are not isolated from each other. Whatever happens on one plane of existence corresponds to something on another plane. A fortiori, a symbol is not the “real” meaning of the thing symbolized; instead they are both valid within their own domains. In *Symbolism of the Cross*, **Rene Guenon** makes this clear:

The fact is that people too often tend to think that if a symbolical meaning is admitted, the literal or historical sense must be rejected; such a view can only result from unawareness of the law of correspondence which is the very foundation of all symbolism. ... For this reason the laws of a lower domain can always be taken to symbolize realities of a higher order.

This holds good for historical facts no less than for anything else: they likewise conform to the law of correspondence, and thereby translate higher realities, of which they are a human expression. We would add that it is this that gives to these facts the greater part of their significance.

Hence, the events of sacred history carry a higher meaning without annulling the historical facts. He explains:

This symbolical character, while common to all historical events, is bound to be particularly clear-cut in the case of events connected with what may be called “sacred history”; thus it is recognizable in a most striking way, in all the circumstances of the life of Christ. If the foregoing has been properly grasped, it will at once be apparent not only that there is no reason for denying the reality of these events and treating them as mere myths, but on the contrary that these events had to be such as they were, and could not have been otherwise.

**Documentary** The temptation when dealing with symbols, myths, legends, and the like is to think in the manner of a televised documentary. A documentary will choose all the variations of the symbols from various and divergent sources, with commentary by various scholars. At the end, one “knows” a lot of the who, what, where, and men, yet one is no closer to understanding the true meaning of the symbol.

**Transmission of Symbols** Esoteric teachings, when they are made public, are couched in terms of symbols of various types: art, stained glass, icons, legends, myths, fairy tales, and so on. Typically, these symbols are repeated even though they are not fully understood. At the appropriate time, the esoteric meanings of the symbols will be revealed to those ready to understand them.

Oftentimes, these legends are repeated and transmitted without being fully understood. Guenon gives as examples, Chrestien de Troyes and Robert de Boron, authors of poetry about the Holy Grail and King Arthur. They are unconscious transmitters, which, however, does not at all diminish their value. Nevertheless, he leaves open the possibility that they were aware of what they were transmitting.



On the other hand, Guenon mentions Dante and the authors of the Romance of the Rose as conscious transmitters of esoteric doctrines.

**Hiding the Bone** The real meaning of an esoteric text is often hidden and “sometimes they hide it too well,” as Guenon says. He lists various techniques to hide the true meaning from those not ready for it:

There is a mixture of insignificant and incoherent elements ... obscurities and even contradictions may be perfectly intentional and seemingly pointless details may have the express purpose of

leading astray the attention of the profane, just as a symbol can be hidden in a more or less complicated motif of ornamentation.

In other esoteric writings, those of Rabelais and Boccaccio, for example, humour and even sexual inuendo may be used to hide the true meaning.

**Multivocal Meanings** Symbols seldom have a univocal meaning, as there may be multiple interpretations. Guenon elaborates:

A consequence of this law of correspondence is the plurality of meanings contained in every symbol. Anything and everything can be regarded as representing not only the metaphysical principles, but also realities of all orders higher than its own ... These multiple and hierarchically superimposed symbolical meanings are not in any way mutually exclusive.

For the most part, we are interested in the metaphysical sense of the symbol, since it is the first and most important of all. That is because it is principal, i.e., based on metaphysical principles.

*Posted on 2021-04-03 by Cologero*

\* \* \*

Michael M on 2021-04-03 at 13:20 said:

“For the most part, we are interested in the metaphysical sense of the symbol, since it is the first and most important of all. That is because it is principal, i.e., based on metaphysical principles.”

This is a representation of Being and its descent, everything really, it is a law of all. From the first principal that the symbol can point to, certain manifestations come out of such a process and then are represented in the symbol. Descending further man gazes upon symbols and gives it existence in Creation through his consciousness, his participation as a form of manifestation and action. Thus the whole great chain of Being is not only manifested, it is also thought of and adored and created perpetually.

“the Divine Artificer still longed for some creature which might comprehend the meaning of so vast an achievement, which might be moved with love at its beauty and smitten with awe at its grandeur.”

So while the horizontal and vertical can seem at odds, especially with how the World is today, it is more accurate that Man chooses to descend, as much as he chooses to ascend. Let myself and let us all not throw away the myths and symbols, instead take them in a chew on them all the way to the marrow. The junk of modernity progresses only to death, instead of the bread of life.

“I will not walk with your progressive apes,  
erect and sapient. Before them gapes  
the dark abyss to which their progress tends  
if by God’s mercy progress ever ends,  
and does not ceaselessly revolve the same  
unfruitful course with changing of a name.  
I will not treat your dusty path and flat,  
denoting this and that by this and that,  
your world immutable wherein no part  
the little maker has with maker’s art.  
I bow not yet before the Iron Crown,  
nor cast my own small golden sceptre down.”

## 4.2 The Elite and the Gospels

From Pythagoras to Virgil to Dante, the chain of Tradition was never lost on Italian Soil.

RENE GUENON

**Professor Robyn Faith Walsh**<sup>1</sup> wrote an intriguing book asserting that the Gospels were written, not by members of the religious communities, but rather by a Greco-Roman cultural and intellectual class. She makes a good case, but does not understand the actual role of such an elite class. So that topic is well worth exploring.

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<sup>1</sup><https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XYqghYtia6k>

The “elite” does not refer to the ruling or oligarchic classes, who are content to maintain the public cult, but rather to a class with sufficient education and resources to compose complex symbolic texts. Hence, she bases her thesis on those two factors.

**Resources** The first point is that knowledge requires physical resources. Access to writing materials like ink, parchment, papyrus was costly. Writing books by hand must have been a tedious process. If you look at the sizes of ancient texts, you have to marvel at the effort involved. How were thoughts organized? How were corrections made? And so on. Only a class that had the wherewithal to purchase such materials and the leisure time, could possibly have written those texts. Such a class had to be small in number.

**Intellectual Training** Secondly, knowledge requires access to teachings. The intellectual elite had access to resources, and they probably studied at the Academy or various mystery schools. They had the ability to write well, which illiterate fishermen did not. The intellectual elite would have been trained in the liberal arts and therefore understood grammar, rhetoric, and logic.

The professor does not make clear why that class bothered with the effort, so here is where we must depart from her thesis. Today’s academic outlook is buried in historical consciousness and thus is limited by the “superstition of facts”. Such a worldview does not take into account that historical events are reflections of spiritual realities. The intellectual elite that she is describing is actually an esoteric elite. Their purpose, therefore, was to take the bare facts of the Gospel narratives and reveal their deeper symbolic meaning.

**Historical Meaning** Rene Guenon, in *The Symbolism of the Cross*, explains the how that would work. First of all, he makes the point that

the symbolic meaning has been largely forgotten.

Christianity, at any rate in its outward and generally known aspect, seems to have somewhat lost sight of the symbolic character of the cross and come to regard it as no longer anything but the sign of a historical event. Actually, these two viewpoints are in no wise mutually exclusive; indeed the second is in a sense a consequence of the first; but this way of looking at things is so strange to the great majority of people today that it deserves dwelling on for a moment in order to avoid possible misunderstandings.

*The Symbolism of the Cross*

**The Symbolic Meaning** The elite understand the law of correspondence. Therefore, they superadded the symbolic meaning of the events.

The fact is that people too often tend to think that if a symbolical meaning is admitted, the literal or historical sense must be rejected; such a view can only result from unawareness of the law of correspondence which is the very foundation of all symbolism. By virtue of this law, each thing, proceeding as it does from a metaphysical principle from which it derives all its reality, translates or expresses that principle in its own fashion and in accordance with its own order of existence, so that from one order to another all things are linked together and correspond in such a way as to contribute to the universal and total harmony, which, in the multiplicity of manifestation can be likened to a reflection of the principal unity itself.

*The Symbolism of the Cross*

We can interject here that throughout history, there have often been conflicts between the dogmatists and the esoterists. Dogmatists fear that

symbolic interpretations denigrate the historical record. And faux esoterists mistakenly believe that the “symbolic” meaning is the only true one, so that the historical meaning can be left behind. Rather, meaning must be grasped on multiple levels, from the physical to the soul, and to the spiritual levels. Only then can one understand the great unity of existence, with each level having its proper place in the whole.

**Symbolism and the Superconscious** Since psychoanalysis has been attempting to unravel the mysteries of the subconscious, spiritual symbols have, in our day, been mistakenly identified with eruptions of unconscious events into ordinary consciousness. This technique is particularly associated with Jungian analysis. It is certainly not obvious that esoteric knowledge is hidden away in some collective unconscious, accessible to all.

The best that such an approach can achieve is a psychological interpretation of symbols, which is gruel, not hearty food for the soul. But if you want millions of youtube likes, it seems to be a popular approach.

Jung failed to distinguish between the subconscious and the superconscious. The latter refers to realities that transcend the human state and are certainly hidden from most people. The subconscious, on the other hand, is accessible to everyone, including the insane. Special training in concentration and the purification of the soul is necessary to gain conscious access to the transcendent states.

The elite writers of the Gospels would have deliberately included the transcendent meaning in the text.

## **Gospel of John**

there are also many other things which Jesus did; which, if they were written every one, the world itself, I think, would not be able to contain the books that should be written.



JOHN 21:25

Although the professor refers to the synoptic Gospels, that is because John and Paul can be considered to be representatives of the elite she is describing. They are comfortable expressing themselves in metaphysical ideas. So we can justifiably use John's Gospel as an example.

Assume that John is correct and that it would take perhaps thousands of books to record the entire chronicle of Jesus's life on earth. Then why did John mention just seven of those thousands of miracles? Clearly, it is because those seven miracles have a special significance.

*Posted on 2022-06-19 by Cologero*

\* \* \*

Jupiter on 2022-06-20 at 14:12 said:  
Condescending

Cologero on 2022-06-20 at 16:50 said:  
Au contraire, Grasshopper. We are grateful for all the Apostles, Prophets, Saints, Fathers, Sages, Mystics, etc., who have organized, preserved, and made the material available to us.



## The Imaginal Realm

### 5.1 The Soul after Death

It is little known, even to many Orthodox, that there is a theology of post-mortem states that rivals in detail the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*<sup>1</sup>. Moreover, the Orthodox teaching is practical and based on experiences, not idle speculation. **Fr. Seraphim Rose** authored a book by the title *The Soul after Death* that gathered these teachings, while relating them to contemporary descriptions of near-death experiences, out-of-body experiences, not to mention the tales of Emmanuel Swedenborg and even the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*.

Although Fr. Rose is said to have been influenced by Rene Guenon at one point in his life, precious little of that shows through in this book, even when discussing the spirits, a topic to which Guenon dedicated a book-length treatment. There is possibly a faint echo when Fr. Rose decided not to use the *Egyptian Book of the Dead* because there is not a living tradition to explain its symbolism. That is unfortunate, since

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<sup>1</sup>See Section 5.2 in this book.

some basic metaphysics would have made some difficult points clearer. So before reviewing the book, it may be useful lay the groundwork.

**The Psychic Realm** The experiences Fr. Rose describes belong to the psychic realm, that is, soul experiences, between the material world and the spirit, properly speaking. This is the realm of images, visions, feelings, and so on. In other words, it is that part of our experience that cannot be explained by the five senses. Guenon and Fr Rose take it for granted that such a realm exists and pace the materialists, it is independent and not reducible to physics.

On the other hand, it is not the “spirit”, either, although moderns, following Descartes, tend to classify everything that is not material as spiritual. The spirit is transcendent, not only to the material world, but also to the psychic world. But is this psychic realm totally subjective or is there an objective reality to it, i.e., something that is not-I, yet participates in “my” psychic or soul experiences.

**The Dream World** Since we all have had experiences of dreams, it will be beneficial to analyze them first. Guenon explains that a dream is a creation of the I, which creates all the characters, places, and events; or put another way, it could be the projection onto the undifferentiated state of deep sleep. If post-mortem experiences are “like” these, we can ask the question of exactly where they occur.

This is the same as asking where a thought occurs. Thoughts have a temporal component, since we think one thought after another, which can all be related sequentially. However, there is no “where”; i.e., one thought is not to the left of another, or across from it, etc. Yet, images in a dream do have a spatial aspect; in the dream, we “go places”, there is different scenery for different places, and so on. Furthermore, since we “see” things, that brings up the question of a “body”; do the figures in a dream have an “astral body” that we then “see”?

Space and time are strange in that they are not metaphysical principles, yet they are not objects of sensory experience. That is why we can speak of God being beyond time and space. However, they are required in order to even have sensual experiences. Specifically, for example, I can see a tree or a desk among all the objects that are not those things; but I don't see space one place and not-space somewhere else. Space and time, then, are conditions of manifestation but not the principle of manifestation.

Now Guenon tells us that space and time may be quite different experiences in different states of being. In a dream, space can be traversed instantly just by thinking of or visualizing something else. Curiously, space is different in a dream, but time seems to be related to our earth time.

**Knowing and Seeing** Another issue to explore is to be clear about how we “know” something. According to metaphysical teachings, there are three ways: subject-object perceptions or sensations, discursive thought, and non-dual intuition. When I “see” something, how do I know what it is? In the hoary example, the sage and the ignorant man both have the experience of something in the grass. The latter is startled, since he sees a snake, but the sage is calm because he knows it is a rope. The ignorant man is projecting onto his experience, whereas the sage is intuiting the real nature of the thing. It is naïve realism to assume that we know what something is, just by looking at it. No, the external thing and our sensation are united in the intuition of the idea. That is why it is said that to know and to be are identical. When I see a squirrel, for example, I have the idea, or form, of it in my mind. To that extent I am a squirrel, although just in form, not in matter.

So that leads to a conundrum. When I experience a being in the psychic realm, how do I recognize it for what it is? With intelligent beings, this gets tricky. For example, if I see two men, one holding a gun pointed at the other, exactly what am I seeing? Is it a mugger accosting a tourist?

An FBI agent capturing a criminal? A scene from a movie being filmed? Here the senses are clearly lacking and I need to understand the interiority of the other beings in order to grasp the full nature of the situation.

This will come up in Fr. Rose's discussions. In an out-of-the-body experience, how do I really know what I am experiencing? That is why Tradition is so important. The Tibetans prepare the dying one to understand what he will be experiencing in the days after death. Likewise, Fr. Rose is offering the same type of preparation.

**Psychic Experience** Around the beginning of the 20th century, the attempt to prove life after death in a scientific way was being taken seriously. This attracted men of exceptional intelligence and erudition, including William James and Carl Jung. Of course, those they depended on were of lesser accomplishment, as Rene Guenon amply documented in his book *The Spiritist Fallacy*. Fr. Rose does not mention Guenon's book, although he dealt with the topic.

This brings up the notion of "scientific proof" which is different from just seeing. For example, from just looking, it appears that the earth is still and the sun is in motion. Yet that is not a scientific conclusion. Now, there may be cases where looking suffices. The existence of a black swan can be shown simply enough, but finding such a bird. We know what a swan is and what black is; the opinion of the swan is irrelevant.

The situation is not the same in regards to a dead soul. Usually, there is nothing more than a medium and her claim to be communicating with the spirit of a dead human, or perhaps a discarnate higher being. I have had the occasion more than once to witness a medium communicate with such a spirit. She was a pretty Swiss woman who would enter the trance state, close her eyes, alter her voice, and then ramble on for an hour or more in florid prose. I recommend it for its soporific properties.

Sometimes the spirits affect material things through rappings or breaking things. Guenon denies that discarnate spirits can affect physical ob-

jects, so I'll accept that for now. Sometimes they may make an appearance, but that is hardly a proof of anything. What does it mean for a spirit to "appear"? A non-material being cannot be experienced through the senses. Thus, it can never be as conclusive as finding the black swan.

So ultimately the only proof there is of the identity of such a being is his own claim. Fr. Rose then shows how to understand what is really going on based on the Traditional teachings of the Eastern Empire.

**Out of Body Experiences** Fr. Rose begins by discussing certain phenomena that have been gaining currency. These are near death experiences and deliberately induced out-of-body experiences. Although these reports are not new, they seem to be, probably because of the improvements in medical technology that have made it possible to resuscitate patients who were nearly dead. Fr. Rose summarizes such near death experiences. The person seems to have left his body while retaining consciousness of events around his body. Fr. Rose provides many such examples, whose veracity he does not deny, when he concludes:

None of this should sound very strange to an Orthodox Christian; the experience here described is what Christians know as the separation of the soul from the body at the moment of death.

To make his point, he quotes similar experiences from Orthodox sources. He then makes use of the cross-cultural study, using data from the USA and India. What is common is the apparition of dead relatives and friend, although in India there are also apparitions of Hindu gods around the time of death. Fr. Rose again makes the point that such studies are startling to the modern mind, but not at all to the Orthodox Christian. Interestingly, he quotes **Pope Gregory the Great**, who wrote extensively on this topic. Although Pope Gregory was quite influential in the Medieval west, this aspect of his teaching has not been effectively transmitted. He explains:

It frequently happens that a soul on the part of death recognizes those with whom it is to share the same eternal dwelling for equal blame or reward. . . . It often happens that the saints of heaven appear to the righteous at the hour of death in order to reassure them. And, with the vision of the heavenly company before their minds, they die without experiencing any fear or agony.

Fr. Rose draws attention to what this really means. At the time of death, ordinary sinners recognize people, but the saints of heaven appear to the righteous. That is because deceased sinners have no contact with the living, save in exceptional circumstances, but the saints actively intercede for the living.

We also have the authority of St. Augustine who asserts that the souls of the dead are in a place where they do not see the things which go on and transpire in this mortal life. I know this is contrary to the sentimental feelings of people today that their deceased relatives are somehow watching over them. It is not so simple, as there may be apparent manifestations of the dead, through the workings of the devil, as well as true manifestations of the saints through the workings of the angels.

There are two other experiences to draw attention to. One is the contact with the “Being of Light”, which rapidly increases in brightness. Since it is formless, it is described in different ways since the person will project his own interpretation onto it. Note that the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* describes the same experience.

The other one is the feeling of peacefulness that is experienced. This is accounted as the normal sensation of the soul separating from the body. Since the body is so heavy and tends to dominate the life of the soul, it should not be surprising to have that feeling of release. Since in most of these cases the person has been sick or physically hurt, it makes sense that the separation from such pains and agonies would bring such relief. However, such natural phenomena do not necessarily reflect a supernatural cause.



**Angels** In discussing angles, Fr. Rose makes an important point about the damaging influence of Descartes, who regarded everything that is not “matter” to be “spirit”. This would be the angels on the same level as God, since they are all spirit. This is a warning that everything spiritual is not the same, and may not even be good. Thus the demonic, the angelic, even human imagination are not material, yet are quite different. Hence, we understand the angelic orders as consisting of purely spiritual beings, i.e., they are beings but without a material form. This agrees with Guenon and Thomas Aquinas.

Yet, scripture and tradition say that angels can be “seen”, typically as “arrayed in white”. To speak of their form is a metaphor and “they have need to be clothed in a subtle body whenever God permits them to act on bodies,” and that “when God opens the spiritual eyes of a man, he is capable of seeing spirits in their own form.” Nevertheless, Fr. Rose goes to great lengths to make it clear that angels “look like” men. In support, he quotes St. Augustine, who said that the soul after death experiences himself as a body. Well, this makes some sense since the soul is indeed the “form” of the body.

In my opinion, one can go too far in that direction of assuming our only experience of angels (or demons) is in the outward form of a man. It encourages a craving for the unusual and the spectacular. Actually, our experience of such beings is through our intellect, since they are themselves pure intellect. That is, they will come as thoughts, or a constellation of ideas, an inspiration, or a temptation. It behooves us to pay close attention to our thoughts and how they affect us. We exist truly in a vast noosphere, although in more depth and complexity than its merely humanized form described by Teilhard de Chardin. Some, then, may even experience these thoughts as real beings.

That leads Fr. Rose to the teaching of the two angels, one of whom is the guardian angel, who meet the soul at the hour of his death. Of course, Fr. Rose backs this all up with extensive examples from tradition and the

experiences of sinners and saints alike. Since it was established that the soul has a human form, these angels grasp the soul's subtle body to lead him on his journey into the afterlife.

Hence, Fr. Rose dismisses the common experience of a formless being of light in near death experiences, suspecting that it is most likely satanic. He relates some stories of sinners on their deathbeds who experience great horrors, in a manner reminiscent of the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*. Fr. Rose makes an interesting point about the experience of Americans who seldom report such experiences. He attributes it to the unjustified optimism of Americans or the Protestant presumption that they are "saved". In these cases, the temptation is more like a seduction than terror. That is why the spirits must be "tested".

**Spirits of the Air** Fr. Rose describes man in the primordial state: his body was immortal, without infirmities, unbothered by heaviness or sinful and fleshly feelings. His senses are most subtle and totally free. Man was capable of the sensuous perception of spirits.

Man's soul and body were changed after the fall. The soul separated from the body, which is the definition of death. The body was subject to infirmities and subject to hostile influences. The body became like the bodies of the beasts. Where, previously, man was in communion with the angels, he is now more comfortable with the fallen spirits.

Fr. Rose points out that demons usually assume the appearance of bright angels in order to deceive men, typically by mixing truth with error. Of course, we would say they appear as lovely thoughts, thoughts that claim to be compassionate or progressive. They make the hearer "feel good about himself", or superior. Fr. Rose warns about engaging such spirits in conversation when they appear in human form. However, as this is quite unlikely, my opinion is that he should have spent more time on revealing how those spirits infiltrate the mind. He does quote **Bishop Ignatius** in this regard:

The fallen spirits act on men, bringing them sinful thoughts and feelings; but very few men attain to the sensuous perception of spirits.

We find ourselves in the realm of fallen spirits, surrounded by them, enslaved by them. Having no possibility to break in on us, they make themselves known to us from outside, causing various sinful thoughts and fantasies.

It is interesting that Fr. Rose places the demons in the “air”. In the Hermetic diagram of the spiritual hierarchy<sup>2</sup>, the air is the lowest level of subtle beings. The density of these fallen spirits in the air acts to block access to all the superior levels.

**Tollhouses** Finally, Fr. Rose brings us to the teaching of the toll houses. Again, there is a warning to avoid picturing the tollhouses in crude sensuous imagery, but to understand them in a spiritual sense. This does not mean that the tollhouses are not real, but rather that the experience of time and space in that realm is different from that of the physical world. The debate about whether the souls “see” these images or finds it necessary to “express” them in sensual terms is moot. The important thing is that the experience itself is real.

Although I am not bringing in all the details in this review, Fr. Rose backs up his account through the teachings of the major theologians. Christians, he points out, need to keep the fact of death always in mind; in this, they are like the Buddhists and even others. **St. Isaiah the Recluse** writes:

Christians should daily have death before our eyes and take care how to accomplish the departure from the body and how to pass by the powers of darkness who are to meet us in the air.

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<sup>2</sup><http://www.gornahoor.net/?p=1941>

There are other eerie similarities to the *Tibetan Book of the Dead*, which gives credence to the idea that this teaching is based on actual experience and not mere dogma. For example, **St. Cyril** writes:

What fear and trembling await you, O soul, in the day of death!  
You will see frightful, wild, cruel, unmerciful and shameful demons,  
like dark Ethiopians, standing before you. The very sight of them  
is worse than any torment. The soul, seeing them, becomes agi-  
tated, is disturbed, troubled, seeks to hid, hastens to the angels of  
God.

I cannot go into the complete teaching here, but can only briefly summarize it. The soul is guided by the tow angels past a series of up to twenty tollhouses. Each one is dedicated to a different test, and the demons test the soul in regard to the particular tollhouse. That is, they will point out how the soul was guilty of a particular sin at any point in this life. The guiding angels then would point out his repentance or good acts that outweighed those sins. If the soul passes the test, it moves on to the next tollhouse; otherwise, the guiding angels abandon him to the demons.

Once again, it needs to be emphasized that these tests are to be understood in a spiritual, not material, sense. I would also be remiss if I didn't point out that this is something you can try at home without waiting for death and the tollhouse tests. As a matter of fact, if you have the fact of your death always in mind, you would make it a high priority.

*The fact of death is certain, the time of death is unknown.*

*Posted on 2013-04-11 by Cologero*

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Cologero on 2020-09-27 at 16:14 said:  
From Multiple States:

The difficulty of this transposition or this passage from the manifested to the non-manifested, and the apparent obscurity that results) is the same as is encountered in trying to express, in the measure that they are expressible, the relations between time (or more generally duration in all its modes, that is to say, the whole condition of successive existence) and eternity.

So, yes, it is difficult to relate corporeal time to successive existence in other states, although I gave it a good shot.

I quoted Guenon re dreams: "Guenon explains that a dream is a creation of the I, which creates all the characters, places, and events", in other words, they are "extensions of us". As for the subtle body, see *Subtle Body*<sup>3</sup> on Wikipedia, for example. In Hinduism subtle body is a generic term referring to different bodies or sheaths. In English, etheric and astral bodies, etc. are more or less equivalent to the Sanskrit terms.

Mercurius on 2013-04-16 at 01:11 said:

It is curious to observe in these things the ongoing regression of scientism into materialism. At the time Rose wrote the book, for a number in science, psychology, and parapsychology, "NDE's" and "OBE's" were minimally, approached as indicative of either "another" reality, or aspect of reality—even if, from the metaphysical point of view, their interpretations were incorrect. So, the picture was sort of like this—spiritists viewed the phenomenon as "heaven", or some desirable realm. Metaphysics, not denying the claims or experiences, always pointed out that the realm experienced is the "intermediary" world, the "psychic" world, that "darkly-splendid world wherein continually lieth a faithless depth, Hades wrapped in clouds, delighting in unintelligible images", as the Chaldean Oracles describe it—and warn us to "not stoop" into it. Spiritists and the scientists who studied or followed their leads affirmed this world, and could not imagine anything beyond it; while metaphysics affirmed it, yet pointed beyond it still. Now, interestingly, not only does science deny the transcendent, but denies the validity of the intermediary world itself, as it had not in the past. This article is quite recent, although several similar have appeared in the past year or so:

<http://edition.cnn.com/2013/04/09/health/belgium-near-death-experiences/index.html>

Mihai on 2013-04-16 at 03:44 said:

Mercurius, could it be a sign that the scientific establishment intuits its bankruptcy and is attempting all it can to keep itself in power ?

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<sup>3</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subtle\\_body](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Subtle_body)

It is obvious that the dream-world of the scientific rationalist lies in tatters- the new-age and neo-spiritualist movements are getting a stronger grip on many levels of society, a fact which, for the materialist, is as equal a disaster as it is for the traditionalist, although the two have completely different motives.

scardanelli on 2013-04-16 at 09:47 said:

I'm currently reading Orthodoxy and the Religion of the Future, but will get to *The Soul After Death* next. For any others as ignorant of Eastern Orthodoxy as I am, there are useful podcasts offered by Ancient Faith Radio that detail the history, theology, and practical aspects of Orthodoxy. I am too new to this area of Christianity to make any claim to their ultimate reliability as a source, but they are useful as a broad overview. Much better "car listening" than the news.

## 5.2 Evola on the Tibetan Book of the Dead

This review by **Julius Evola** of the Evan-Wentz translation of *The Tibetan Book of the Dead* originally appeared in *Bilychnis*, volume XXXIII, November, 1929.

This volume contains an excellent, fully annotated, translation of a very interesting Tibetan text that can be considered as the companion of the Egyptian Book of the Dead, and that until now was available only as manuscript. It concerns the science of post-mortem activity, as they say, "between the two" (bardo), because the reference is actually to the intermediate period that consciousness passes through two forms of existence.

The doctrine, to which the text refers, is that of Mahayana Buddhism, although with the influences of elements of still older tradition, the lamaic, pre-Buddhist tradition of Bon. The interesting aspect is in the idea that in the post-mortem state, consciousness can remain active, so as to be able to determine its final destiny from itself with its own behavior. So the text warns of some experiences that gradually arrive, instructs on their meaning and on the attitude to take to victoriously overcome them.

Starting from the general Hindu teaching that the I, substantially, is the Supreme, except it does not know it (*avidya*), the text explains the apparitions of a dazzling and unbearable light that would strike the soul immediately after the separation from the body, with the experience of the real nature of the soul itself. Then one has a choice: either one has the strength and the intrepidity to identify with the Light and then the “liberation” and the escape from *samsara* will ensue; or else the illusion of believing oneself to be “other” is stronger, and then one passes through successive experiences, in which however one has to deal with the same reality that takes different forms in relation to different psychological states. The same inability of identifying oneself, so to speak, is projected and makes the undifferentiated state of the Light appear under the form of personal beings, of gods.

And even here the same dilemma arises: either the consciousness succeeds in identifying itself with them, on the basis of a corresponding practical worship in life; or else it cannot endure the vision of them and fears them; and then this same fear is projected and kaleidoscopically transforms the vision of a hierarchy of lucent and benevolent gods into a hierarchy of furious and flaming gods.

For the third time the dilemma is presented, except that the chances of identification, and therefore of liberation, in the person of the terrible gods, are much smaller, unless in mortal life one practiced the worship of the divinity of that type. But if even this test fails, it means that in the soul the will for a conditioned existence is stronger than that for a higher existence. By its very nature it is therefore brought back into the cycle of rebirth.

Now there are its same deep tendencies that, being unleashed with the inevitable violence of natural phenomena and being projected plably in visions of Furies and demons who pursue and chase, push the soul toward that form of existence to which it is the most conformed. Strange enough—and not deprived of reference to certain views of mod-

ern psychoanalysis—is the detail indicated from the text regarding the moment of the incarnation. The consciousness has the vision of those who will have to be the father and mother, in the moment of their sexual intercourse: then, if a female, she imagines a desire for the father, and if a male, for the mother, and making its own their craving and their sexual pleasure, the soul finds itself drawn into the womb.

Then instantaneously the metaphysical awareness is interrupted and so also the memory: in its place, the soul will gradually develop its own consciousness proper to the new being. Furthermore, formulas are given, so to speak, in extremis, with the goal of causing at the last moment the “closure of the womb”, like other formulas, oriented to a certain domain of deep tendencies, so as to reach to a power of direction in order to be led to forms of existence suitable to prepare a better outcome when, at the new separation from the body, they will make before the same experiences.

All the interest that the text presents appears even from this short review; this book belongs in the library of every student of these matters.

*Posted on 2013-03-31 by Cologero*

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David on 2013-03-31 at 22:13 said:

Evola insight on buddhism is always clear. He should have written more on the subject (i.e. The Doctrine of Awakening). Thank you for the translation.

X on 2013-03-31 at 23:53 said:

“The same inability of identifying oneself, so to speak, is projected and makes the undifferentiated state of the Light appear under the form of personal beings, of gods.”

Maybe for Evola those gods have Nordic features.

Saladin on 2013-04-03 at 21:25 said:

He won't encounter them! If we take the Tibetan Book of the Dead as our guide, after his “death” Evola would have identified with Atma (the very first stage of the “Postmortem activity”) and therefore would not have encountered “personal beings, gods.” Only men with less than perfect knowledge wait for this stage.



## 5.3 Passing Through the Realms of the Jinn

The jinns are beings that inhabit the world between the angels and men. They are ancient and were created even before the Earth was fully formed. They occupy the sublunary space, which is above the Earth but below the celestial realms inhabited by angels. That is why they are also known as the spirits of the air.

Jinns are made from fire while men are made from earth (clay), water, and fire. Hence the jinns have a subtle body like humans, but lack a gross, or physical body. Also, like men, they don't have a fully actualized intellectual soul like the angels, so they are subject to dualist thinking. That means that they are both good and evil, they have their own institutions and ways of life.

Normally, the worlds of the jinns and humankind do not interfere with each other, but that is not always the case. Some believe that the jinns invade our world just to trick us or frighten us. Actually, it is the other way around. We have invaded their world.

As subtle bodies, they can experience our thoughts, memories, fantasies, and desires directly, without relying on the intermediary of words. Hence, our subtle bodies merge into their environment. Our foibles pollute their world. We are not the innocent victims of their tricks since they are just responding to our provocations.

They frighten you with horrific appearances because they sense your hidden fears.

They tempt you because they see your secret fantasies.

They lead you astray because they know your unfulfilled desires.

Although they do not have real earthen bodies, they can nevertheless appear as physical bodies in various guises, such as animals, alluring



women, or even terrifying images. In that regard they are like rainbows, which appear to be “there” yet are not really there.

**Facing the Truth** The worse jinns are not those who frighten, deceive, trick, or tempt you. Rather, the worse Jinns are the ones who tell you the truth. We are each born with two angels assigned to us: one to guide us and the other to challenge us. Together they record our thoughts, words, deeds, and actions – both good and bad.

As we pointed out, to travel from the Earth to the Heavens, it is necessary to pass through the Realms of the jinns. Since there is no such thing as free passage, tolls must be paid along the way. The price is not in terms of money, but rather in terms of self-knowledge and purification of the soul.

At each tollhouse, the traveler is challenged. The two recording angels make the case for you, both pro and con. Since the jinn can read your soul, he will make the judgment. You will be allowed to pass on through or not.

Initiates understand this and undertake this journey while still alive and conscious. Since they begin the process of purification in this life, they are prepared for what they hear about themselves on the way. Everyone else puts it off until death when they no longer have a physical body help maintain balance. They are shocked about what they learn, especially those who pride themselves on being so spiritual and advanced in life.

**The Final Reveal** I can only speak from one side of this equation.

The jinn have often tempted you while disguised as women. That is because they can read your soul and know how your Anima image will respond. So if you think the women you meet are horrible, deceitful, etc. – as is not uncommon today in some circles—perhaps you need to look into your own heart.

Once past the Realm of the Jinns, you will need a new guide to lead you through the Spheres of the Planets. She is your Twin Soul, with whom your life is entangled and has always been. Some of you may know already who she is, but most probably not. So the truth telling Jinn will reveal your one true love to you. That can be the most frightening of all. That is the one opportunity that must be seized.

*Posted on 2021-07-03 by Cologero*

## 5.4 Complexes, Tulpas and Egregores

When the Prophet said, “People are asleep and when they die, they wake up,” he meant that everything that man sees in the life of this world is in the rank of the dreams of someone who is asleep, so it must be interpreted. Phenomenal being is imagination (khayal), but it is God in reality.

IBN ARABI, *Bezels of Wisdom*

Scientists often ponder the “mystery of sleep”, although “waking up” is the real mystery. Trees are asleep, indicating that sleep is the natural state of life. What we take to be the “real world” is to the awakened person as the dream is to the dreamer. Waking up, then, is understanding that the phenomenal world is an image and that God is ultimate reality.

Just as the dreamer creates all the characters and events in his dream, so too does the awake person. Julius Evola repeats the traditional teaching in his intellectual autobiography:

I have always subscribed to the traditional doctrine that we have wished all relevant events in our life before birth.

A deeper way to understand that is that God's Will and the personal will are fully aligned at the moment of conception.

You might suppose that everyone would wish for a happy life, but that does not take into account the perverse aspects of consciousness. Just as the dreamer may create a nightmare, the perverse will can do something similar. Esoteric teaching identifies three possible outcomes, in which the creative imagination creates an evil and then projects it onto the world as though it were an external being. These are:

- **Complexes.** These are subjective creations of the individual consciousness.
- **Tulpas.** These are projections usually of a group mind.
- **Egregores:** These are the creation of false doubles of collective entities.

**Valentin Tomberg**, in *Meditations on the Tarot*, treats these phenomena extensively, so I will be satisfied to quote him directly.

### Complexes

Autonomous philosophical systems separated from the living body of tradition are parasitic structures, which seize the thought, feeling and finally the will of human beings. In fact, they play a role comparable to the psycho-pathological complexes of neurosis or other psychic maladies of obsession.

Such systems are also called ideologies. Ideologies ignore Tradition, so they seem novel and attractive. Unfortunately, once a being is under the spell of an ideology, it is difficult to shake it off. The high level of psychological and emotional problems seen today are the result.

As a result, they take on an apparently objective life of their own.

Both Eliphas Levi and the Tibetan masters are in agreement not only with respect to the subjective and psychological origin of demons but also with respect to their objective existence. Engendered subjectively, they become forces independent of the subjective consciousness which engendered them. They are, in other words, magical creations, for magic is the objectification of that which takes its origin in subjective consciousness.

Demons, then, are engendered subjectively but experienced objectively. In that case, they appear in consciousness almost like a different being.

Demons that have not arrived at the stage of objectification, i.e., at that of an existence separate from the psychic life of their parents, have a semi-autonomous existence which is designated in modern psychology by the term “psychological complex”. . . . A psychopathological “complex” is therefore a demon, when it has not come from outside but is engendered by the patient himself.

**Tulpa** In Tibetan esoteric work, a Tulpa is created consciously and deliberately. The purpose is to learn to recognize and then overcome one’s fears.

With respect to Tibet, we find there the singular phenomenon of the conscious practice of the creation and destruction of demons. It appears that in Tibet, it is practised as one of the methods of occult training of the will and imagination. The training consists of three parts:

- the creation of tulpas (magical creatures) through concentrated and directed imagination,
- then their evocation and,
- lastly, the freeing of consciousness from their hold on it by an act of knowledge which destroys them

— through which it is realised that they are only a creation of the imagination, and therefore illusory. The aim of this training is therefore to arrive at disbelief in demons after having created them through the force of imagination and having confronted their terrifying apparitions with intrepidity.

**Alexandra David-Neel** in *Magic and Mystery in Tibet* explains that early scepticism offers no spiritual benefit. These Tulpas appear real to those not part of the experiment. Moreover, Tulpas exist through the creations of others.

The teachers do not approve of simple incredulity, they deem it contrary to truth. The disciple must understand that gods and demons do really exist for those who believe in their existence, and that they are possessed with the power of benefitting or harming those who worship or fear them. However, very few reach incredulity in the early part of their training. Most novices actually see frightful apparitions. Must we not also consider that we are not the only ones capable of creating such formations? And if such entities (tulpas, magical creatures) exist in the world, are we not liable to come into touch with them, either by the will of their maker or from some other cause? Could one of these causes not be that, through our mind or through our material deeds, we bring about the conditions in which these entities are capable of manifesting some kind of activity? ... One must know how to protect oneself against the tigers to which one has given birth, as well as against those that have been begotten by others.

**Egregore** An egregore is like a tulpa except that it is the creation of the perverse collective human will and imagination. “There are superhuman spiritual entities which are not artificially engendered, which manifest themselves and reveal themselves.” Egregores, then, are artificially created doubles of such genuine spiritual entities. They are created from below, not by God. Tomberg lists some examples of these doubles:

Although God, Christ, the Holy Virgin, the spiritual hierarchies, the saints, the Church (or the Mystical Body of Christ) are real entities, there still exists also a phantom or egregore of the Church, which is its “double”, just as every man, every nation, every religion, etc., have their “doubles”. But just as he who sees in Russia, for example, only the bear, in France only the cock and in Germany only the wolf, is being unfair towards the country of the Heart, the country of Intelligence and the country of Initiative — so is one being unjust towards the Catholic Church when one sees, instead of the Mystical Body of Christ, only its historical phantom, the fox. In order to see rightly one has to look rightly. And to look rightly means to endeavour to see through the mists of the phantoms of things.

Our age is fixated on egregores, at least in the West, so that only the worst aspects of a collective entity are noticed. Only by dissolving these fixations can one make spiritual progress, not just individually but collectively. Finally, Tomberg identifies the Anti-Christ as the egregore of the human race.

The antichrist is the phantom of the whole of mankind, engendered through the whole historical evolution of humanity. He is the “superman” who haunts the consciousness of all those who seek to elevate themselves through their own effort, without grace.

Tomberg singles out Nietzsche and Karl Marx as those who have fallen under the spell of the Anti-Christ.

*Posted on 2021-07-25 by Cologero*

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James on 2021-07-26 at 00:24 said:

The clamouring for “what is real” for many people, therefore, and what exists in the popular imagination is not a qualitatively different form of consciousness, but a quantitatively increased volume of lower consciousness.

I recently watched an episode of a comedy where a character is meant to ‘ascend’ to a higher state of being and this ascension merely grants him the maddening and lovecraftian horror of being able to ‘see everything’ and that the universe is balanced on the back of an animal (again, this was supposed to be comedy). In other words, one popular conception of ascension to a higher state of consciousness is to see more of this lower world as it pertains to its physicality. It is not a union with some(one)thing higher but a union with the physical universe as it is and the maddening result of returning to such a mineral-plasmic state.

Instead of working towards waking from the dream, we fall into the foolishness of demanding more sensual dreams. It is no wonder, therefore, that the author of *Meditations* also speaks about how if respiration is not achieved vertically, death can feel like a “sting”. We can feel that same analogous motion whenever we wake with a start from a “truly wonderful” dream to waking reality. The soul-body can even suffer a form of spiritual sleep apnea.

Nonetheless, waking up in the drudgery of purgatory must be preferable to the most pleasant sleep since despite the pain of waking life, we at least have ‘access’ to ourselves and our true(er) senses. We can build more and more authentic experiences and achieve a higher level of true agency. Just as the dreamer believes that there is no waking life, we continue on in this world believing that higher levels of consciousness either does not exist or, as most people now consider to be vogue, a form of highly pleasurable sense-experience. They’re not wrong in that it’s pleasurable, but they simply play around with gold chalices thinking it’s “shiny” rather than realizing it is a font of life. Even those who pursue the esoteric can be guilty of the same fetishism if not guarded carefully.

It is interesting, too, that one consequence of this analogy of memory-consciousness-life/forgetting-sleep-death is that one popular theory of dreams is that it is our own unconscious attempting to work through thoughts/emotions we neglected in the conscious life.

In some analogous way, perhaps life, then, is the phenomenon of our lower selves not having yet been reunited with our dreamer self. “The dreamer must awaken” as Frank Herbert put it. The process of individuation by Jung is the “below” to the “above” of reintegration of the soul with its archetype in Purgatory – in Purgatory where Dante poetically described as still having “day and night” and that all souls must rest from the climb up the mountain at night. Our lives, then, in some ultra-realistic way are the dreams of our souls in Purgatory – what has come ‘before’ and ‘after’ being more set in the vertical rather than temporal plane.

If we never awaken from the dream or refuse to wake and therefore continue this disconnect between our selves and our archetype – would this be our own choice to descend to Hell?

The fact that the cross demonstrated that Death was necessary for salvation (otherwise the Cup would have passed from the Master), we also recognize that sleep is necessary for the



human physical body . Agnosis is also necessary in some ways in order to advance forward to true knowledge . There is an interesting avenue to explore vis a vis whether or not this life we lead here on Earth is necessary . Obviously the Incarnation is one example of how “sleep is necessary” and that even “God rested” . Can we say that “God dreamed” ? I will take these callow thoughts to further meditation .



## The Doctrine of Spiritual Races

### 6.1 Matter and Form: The Dionysian Race

The new victories of the maternal principle over the revelation of purely spiritual paternity show how hard it has been for men, at all times and amid the most varied religious constellations, to overcome the inertia of material nature and to achieve the highest calling, the sublimation of earthly existence to the purity of the divine father principle.

J J BACHOFEN, *Mother Right*

Having traced the stages of history from the Telluric to the Demetrian to the Apollonian or solar periods, the latter peaking in the Roman Imperium, **J J Bachofen** then identifies the Dionysian period. **Julius Evola** calls this the Dionysian Race.

The Dionysian race represents the paternity of the Apollonian falling back into materiality. The Apollonian ideal was unable to withstand the assaults of baser doctrines. The Dionysian stage prepared the way for a

new victory of the feminine principle and the mother cult. The victory of Dionysus over Apollo was assured in the meeting of the Greek and Oriental worlds under Alexander. Bachofen points out the spiritual principle of the Delphic Apollo was powerless to overcome the lower material views of the sexual relation. He writes:

We see paternity falling back from Apollonian purity to Dionysian materiality, so preparing the way for a new victory of the feminine principle, for a new flowering of the mother cults. Although the intimate union which the two luminous powers concluded in Delphi seemed calculated to purify Dionysus' phallic exuberance through Apollo's immutable repose and clarity, and to lift it above itself, the consequence was the exact opposite: the greater sensuous appeal of the fecundating god outweighed his companion's more spiritual beauty, and increasingly usurped the power that should have been Apollo's. Instead of the Apollonian age, it was a Dionysian age that dawned.

This shows that the spiritual aspect alone is insufficient. Rome, instead, was able to maintain the Apollonian through its structure. Bachofen explains:

Mankind owes the enduring victory of paternity to the Roman political idea, which gave it a strict juridical form and consequently enabled it to develop in all spheres of existence; it made this principle the foundation of all life and safeguarded it against the decadence of religion, the corruption of manners, and a popular return to matriarchal views. Roman law maintained it traditional principle against all the assaults and threats of the Orient, against the spreading mother cult of Isis and Cybele, and even against the Dionysian mystery.

Evola's final point seems to be directed against a Hans Gunther or his followers. Gunther, more than 80 years ago, was concerned about the

“degradation” of the Nordic peoples, which resulted from factors like the decline in marriage and birth rates, particularly among the higher “more Nordic” classes. Obviously, that decline has continued in the ensuing decades. Evola attributed that decline to “processes of involution” on the spiritual plane among the Nordic people.

**The Dionysian Race** In his treatment of the various degrees of virility and solarly as types in the order of the ancient Mediterranean mystery traditions, Bachofen appropriately distinguishes the Apollonian and the Dionysian stages. Here again cosmic analogies will serve as the basis. There are in fact two characteristics of solarly. One is that of light as such, i.e., as an unchanging and heavenly luminous nature: such is the Apollonian or Olympic symbol, for example, of the Delphic cult considered as an inspiration of pure Hyperborean spirituality, which reached to the Mediterranean. As we saw, that is the stage which indicates the race of the solar man. The other characteristic of solarly is that of a light that rises and sets, that experiences death and resurrection and a new death and a new dawn, in other words, a law of growth and transformation.

This is Dionysian solarly in contrast to the Apollonian principle. It is a virility that aspires to the light through a passion that cannot free itself from the sensual and telluric element and even from the ecstatic-orgiastic element typical of the lowest forms of the Demetrian cycle. The association, in myth and symbol, of feminine and lunar figures with Dionysius is rather significant in this respect. Dionysius does not accomplish the transition, the transformation of his nature. It is a still earth-bound virility in spite of its luminous and ecstatic nature. The fact that the Dionysian and Bacchic mysteries were associated with the Demetrian mystery, instead of with the purely Apollonian mystery, clearly indicates to us the end point of the Dionysian experience: it is a “dying and becoming” in the sign not of the infinite which is above form and the finite, but of that infinite that is fulfilled and delights itself in the destruction of form and the finite,

harking back therefore to the forms of Telluric-Demetrian promiscuity.

The Dionysian man, however, also has traits in common with the Titanic man. He is the one who aspires to reconquer the lost level that is capable of surpassing, in part, the human condition by means of a radical incitement of all the forces connected to the senses, but who nevertheless cannot surpass the ecstasies, where the virile quality vacillates and cannot conserve itself, where the sensible is mixed with the supersensible and, fundamentally, where liberation ensues only at the price of the decline of the affirmative principle of the personality therefore, with a solution in a way of being quite different from the solar and Olympian.

With the right transpositions of the level, it would not be arbitrary to establish a correlation between the Dionysian man and the romantic man. Together they belong to the same race of the spirit, defined as opposition to the Olympian or solar spirit. And such a connection can spare us from providing further characterological details because the reader will see in it whatever is necessary to identify them. From the race theoretic point of view, one must not be surprised at the thought that the Dionysian man, acting as the romantic, is represented to a large extent in the Nordic races, the Germanic as well as the Anglo-Saxon. So this confirms the previously indicated point to clearly distinguish the primordial Nordic-Aryan race from the Nordic races of more recent times. Even in the latter the part that had the feminine, Demetrian, and gynocratic element in their appearance at the entrance of historic times is significant enough (even today, the German languages is unique among the Indo-European, or Aryan, languages in which the sun—*die Sonne*—is of the feminine gender while the moon—*der Mond*—is of the masculine). This leads us to think that, in this respect, it is a completely different question of imitators who “line up” and do not even pause to consider the simple race of the body: on the spiritual planes, certain processes of involution seem to have happened among the most recent Nordic peoples in no less degree than among the West Atlantic or Nordic-Atlantic Aryans, in the

Mediterranean traces of which many divergent forms of the pure solar tradition are likewise found.

*Posted on 2015-06-19 by Aeneas*

\* \* \*

Logres on 2015-06-22 at 20:29 said:

That last paragraph clarifies a whole two decades of my struggle to understand the Classical world: thank you. If I am remembering rightly, Evola dates the decline of the classical world from the 6-8th centuries BC, in *Revolt Against the Modern World*. Around the genesis of Rome, who was then the counterweight.





## Modern psychology: The Unconscious Mind

### 7.1 Entheogens

The use of mind-altering drugs has been associated with various mystical, magical, and shamanic rites. This is very appealing to the modern mind which is impressed by technological and materialistic explanations. Entheogens, or drug use for allegedly spiritual purposes, began to be widespread in the 1960s following the discovery of the psychedelic drug LSD and the ensuing publicity. The early adopters can be easily found, but we will focus on **Timothy Leary**, an erstwhile professor of psychology at Harvard University. He initially ran experiments with the drug as a form of therapy, but eventually began experimenting on himself and the group of acolytes who assembled around him.

Leary believed that psychedelics could open up the mind to greater spiritual experiences and encourage their use for explorers of the mind. The stars were aligned: the books of **Carlos Castaneda** came out shortly thereafter. Filled with wild tales of a Mexican shaman whose knowledge of plant-based drugs led to amazing powers, the books became the spiri-

tual nourishment for many. The Beats became users as well as high profile entertainers. Even **Alan Watts**, after allegedly years of Eastern practices, eventually resorted to LSD experiments to learn about the “mystical experience”. For anyone who has spent hours at a Zen center walking in circles while chanting Buddhist texts, or sitting still in Zazen, the idea of an instant pill could sound truly appealing.

At any given moment we are bombarded with external sensations, a “blooming buzzing confusion” (**William James**), from which we choose a world. Simultaneously, although few pay attention to it, we are the receivers of thoughts of all types from various sources, or levels of reality. Normally, they dissipate or recede into the memory. Sometimes, the thoughts are powerful enough to come into our attention, then related thoughts latch onto each other, often producing a strong sensation. This may be as simple as reviewing plans for the day.

But the most powerful arise from the internal forces of eros and thymos, which, at the most primeval, are experienced as sex and violence. Hence, a sexual fantasy will totally engage our minds for an extended period, even to the point of affecting the body as if an actual sexual encounter were taking place. Fantasies arising from thymos usually take the form of domination, anger, revenge, and the like. Hence, we envision ourselves as wildly successful in some realm. Or we may recall a past slight, which even agitates the body. We will envision the cutting phrase we should have used against someone, but didn’t. It goes on and on.

Most people, unfortunately, cannot shut these thought threads down. They may cause continuing anxiety and self-doubt. The neutralizing force, the nous, whose task is to dominate and channel the forces of eros and thymos, is too weak, or, in truth, is not even known. The nous must transcend these forces, fantasies, and thoughts, regarding them as arbitrary, contingent, and external to one’s true self. Instead, people regard these emotions, fantasies, and thoughts as their “own”, even though they are totally unaware of their true source.

Psychedelics work by slowing down the awareness of these impinging thoughts. Thus, a particular thought—that may be pushed aside by a stronger thought in the ordinary state of consciousness—instead can take hold in consciousness. Then, related thoughts can follow along in sequence producing an extended vision. This is called a “rush”, and is the pleasurable sensation associated with psychedelics. For artist and mystic types, these are regards as deep insights or creative inspirations. However, I have also seen those on a “bad trip”, during which the user experiences inconsolable anxiety, requiring an antidote such as thorazine.

It should be clear that the theory behind the use of entheogens for spiritual “enlightenment” is deeply flawed. It assumes that such enlightenment involves a particular experience, or set of experiences, that are somehow to be distinguished from all other experiences. This idea comes from the confusion of the psychic and the spiritual.

RENE GUENON, *The Reign of Quantity*

An intellectual conversion, the only thing that enlightenment can mean, involves the nous. The nous transcends the psychic, it transcends every experience whatsoever, whether a brilliant insight or a bad trip. Instead of moving from rush to rush, the mind becomes clear, thoughts separate from each other, are rarer, and seem heavier, or else are wispiest, evaporating as soon as they appear. Such a man is free; by definition, then, it cannot depend on some biochemical agent.

*Posted on 2012-06-20 by Cologero*

\* \* \*

Dominion on 2012-06-21 at 01:42 said:

"Instead of moving from rush to rush, the mind becomes clear, thoughts separate from each other, are rarer, and seem heavier, or else are wisper, evaporating as soon as they appear."

This sounds like an experience or change that the nous is undergoing, as far as I can tell. Now, that the brain, which creates the ego, is material is a self-obvious thing. However, since the brain and the ego it creates are physical, they are part of a metaphysical reality. Overcoming the ego, which is transient, and identifying with the metaphysical reality which is eternal, is how the true Self is discovered. Evola, in *Revolt*, uses the image of Krsna and Arjuna riding in the chariot in the Bhagavad-Gita; Arjuna represents the ego, involved in the world, doing battle, its vision obscured by ignorance and transience. Krsna, of course, is the true Self, who holds the reign of the chariot, who is aware and indeed a manifestation of the Supreme Reality, Brahman (through Vishnu).

Though I have not taken DMT or other entheogenic drugs, I understand that they (especially DMT, which was used by many shamanic tribes) have the biochemical effect of breaking down the ego that the brain has created. They are thus material substances having a material effect on a material brain which creates the ego. When this ego is broken down, reports I have read claim that the resulting effect is one where you appear to see reality in a new way and comprehend its nature in a way which the ego prevented one from doing so before. Now although this effect passes, I see no reason why it could not be a valuable aid to the mind in understanding intellectually the transcendent metaphysical reality of which the physical is but a part.

Logres on 2012-06-21 at 10:40 said:

A mind altering drug would only be useful to someone who didn't need it or else everyone would become a shaman.

Cologero on 2012-06-21 at 12:12 said:

That's the democratic way, Logres! That is why a few weeks ago I pointed out the essential egalitarian nature of drug and alcohol use, although it was met with incomprehensible opposition.

Nonamynous on 2012-06-22 at 06:18 said:

This article is a superb explication of drug use vis-à-vis the elements of intelligence.

It must, however, be faulted for not explicitly differentiating, in its criticism, between modern Western drug 'experimentation' and the use of psychoactive substances within the strict context of traditional ritual. The term 'entheogen' despite being an awkward neologism, is more applicable to the latter case; in the former, there is at best only an aspiration toward 'entheogeny'.

Nothing can really be said against Dominion's statement here, provided we accept the caveat that it only applies to the actual or potential 'l'uomo differenziato' with some preparatory

theoretical knowledge: "I see no reason why it could not be a valuable aid to the mind in understanding intellectually the transcendent metaphysical reality of which the physical is but a part." Yet this understanding will never be imposed by the effects of a drug, where transient (and basically illusory) insights are lost as regular consciousness is reinstated. Drugs are dissolutive agents; coagulation is the positive phase of the work.

Drug use is not entirely a 'democratic way' because the effects ultimately differ from one person to the next. But we understand what you mean.

Jupiter on 2012-06-23 at 08:17 said:

Unfortunately the simple fact is that the philosophical and spiritual oppositions the Traditionalist school, and thinkers influenced by them, have to the usage of mind-altering substances are entirely incongruous with the basic historical reality of the matter.

Cologero on 2012-06-23 at 10:12 said:

Best wishes on your spiritual quest, Jupiter. There are some exotic bath salts available in Miami, and I've heard rumours of spiritual enlightenment becoming a mass phenomenon there. There may even be cults like the Aghori<sup>1</sup>. Remind me to send you a link!

Avery on 2012-06-23 at 22:27 said:

Not just Miami – they're causing life-changing mystical experiences in California<sup>2</sup>, and transforming the way we see art criticism in Denver<sup>3</sup>. Yes, bath salts are the preferred method of experiencing modernity.

Jupiter on 2012-06-24 at 01:17 said:

Nice strawmen, fellows.

You explain the frequency of cannabis and other psychoactive herbs in archaeological digs associated with Indo-European, Indo-Iranian, and Indo-Aryan ethno-linguistic groups, if such things are so entirely outside the realm of orthodoxy, not to mention the frequent references in Vedic and Tantric texts.

Cologero on 2012-06-24 at 09:40 said:

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.gornahoor.net/?p=3161>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2163641/Robert-William-White-bashes-elderly-womans-head-shovel-high-bath-salts.html>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.nydailynews.com/news/woman-claims-bath-salts-fueled-destruction-30-million-painting-article-1.1100993>

Not a straw man, Jupiter, you made a claim about the usage of “mind altering substances”, and now you add in archaeological digs. What we pointed out is that the usage of mind altering substances is with us today and we don’t need any “digs” to prove it. What these examples do show is that drug use in itself is insufficient to lead to any sort of understanding of “orthodoxy”.

So, what we can’t see, and you have provided no justification yourself, is the alleged connection with “orthodoxy”. As for orthodoxy, we can point out the ultimate goal as Guenon describes it:

the summit of the initiatic hierarchy [is] the Supreme Identity, the absolutely permanent and unconditioned state beyond the limitations of all contingent and transitory existence

Clearly, this is not a description of an intoxicated state, which is necessarily conditioned by the “psychoactive herb”. So perhaps you mean they can be an “aid” at some stage of the initiatic path. Perhaps you have this statement from Guenon in mind:

The diversity of methods corresponds to the very diversity of individual natures for which they were made; there is a multiplicity of ways all leading to a unique goal.

The temptation, then, may be that psychoactive drugs may be appropriate for some “individual natures”. However, “orthodoxy” requires an active intellect, whereas the drug experience is entirely passive. Hence, it can have no place in any “method”. It can never be any more than a human, all-too-human, means, something exterior rather than interior. Guenon makes this all too clear:

degrees [of initiation] ... are not achieved by the outer and human means  
... but exclusively as a result of a completely interior work.

Although I have no interest in your personal life, Jupiter, if you came here for some sort of intellectual justification for your personal peccadilloes, you will be disappointed. The alleged finds of archaeology prove nothing about Tradition; only an understanding of principles can do so. Regretfully, I will have to put you under moderation unless you show you can grasp that distinction.

Paulo on 2014-09-02 at 22:15 said:

Entheogens have made a truly miracle in my life, they help me to find my will. It is funny, but it seems that there is really some entities in them. The awareness that you have during the experience

is something that goes on and on. Every gain that you have stays with you, so there is no "coming back" from the trip. The drawbacks are in most cases caused by the person itself, that cannot deal with some facets of himself. The sad thing is that the majority of people does not have the inner drive to transcendence, so the use of those substances will not help them too much!

F on 2019-06-20 at 02:56 said:

I think the right drugs can definitely act as a shortcut, but they are extremely dangerous at that.

Like anything from the LHP it's a double edged sword.

When you take a shortcut and skip the work that morally prepares you it just ends up turning on you and end up with more than you gambled for.

And you don't want to gamble with this.

Michael on 2020-06-20 at 18:32 said:

"Instead of moving from rush to rush, the mind becomes clear, thoughts separate from each other, are rarer, and seem heavier, or else are wispier, evaporating as soon as they appear."

On these types of thoughts that seem heavier, is it like a voice that is so quick and immediate yet seems like not of one's own individual mind, generally answering a question or directing a command that does not conflict with metaphysics?

For the wispier, are these like remembering in a dream? That sensation of words which you are barely holding onto, tightening a grip will let them loose but allowing them to come and go allows for a type of current?

Thanks!

## 7.2 Journey to the Center of the Mind

The spiritual adepts were inner-world adventurers of the highest daring, the Tibetan equivalent of our astronauts—I think it is worth coining the term 'psychonaut' to describe them. They personally voyaged to the furthest frontiers of that universe which their society deemed vital to explore: the inner frontiers of consciousness itself, in all its transformations in life and beyond death.

HUSTON SMITH, Introduction to *The Tibetan Book of the Dead*

It should be clear that the theory behind the use of entheogens for spiritual “enlightenment” is deeply flawed. It assumes that such enlightenment involves a particular experience, or set of experiences, that are somehow to be distinguished from all other experiences. This idea comes from the confusion of the psychic and the spiritual.

RENE GUENON, *The Reign of Quantity*

The idea that hallucinogens could produce a transcendental experience is shocking. The drug merely uncovers the normally unconscious functional layer of perceptual and emotional variants, which are psychologically transcendent, but by no means “transcendental”, i.e. — metaphysical.

CARL JUNG

Knowledge is a function of being. When there is a change in the being of the knower, there is a corresponding change in the nature and amount of knowing.

ALDOUS HUXLEY, *The Perennial Philosophy*

**The Doors of Perception** Aldous Huxley was a popularizer of the so-called Perennial Philosophy, a term first coined by Leibniz. In his book of that same title, he introduced several topics supported with extensive quotes from mystics and sages of several Traditions. This has two benefits to the reader:

- To pick out the highlights of the various traditions. At its best, the quotes should encourage readers to learn more about the topic. At its worst, it provides quotes to be repeated on social media to create the spectacle of wisdom.



- By pointing out similar notions from different traditions, it shows that these topics have some objective validity and are not matters of blind faith to specific religions.

Unfortunately for Huxley, the mere repetition of beautiful and enticing quotes does not a mystic make. He seems not to have followed a specific tradition. Moreover, there is a shadow side to the Perennial Philosophy. Bad things can happen and humans are subject to malevolent influences. As he points out, knowledge requires a change in being, and that change requires purifications of the mind, will, and emotions.

That sounds difficult, so Huxley looked for a shortcut. In *Doors of Perception*, he describes his experiences with psychedelic substances. It is impossible for chemicals to create a change in being that he is seeking. That is because consciousness and intellect transcend the material world and thus cannot be changed by any material cause. Quite the contrary, intellectual knowledge brackets out the world of the senses in a series of abstractions.

Nevertheless, he persisted on his own course. Even when he was suffering severely from cancer, on his deathbed he was administered large doses of LSD by his wife. She describes his death as very peaceful, something confirmed by the medical professionals standing by. However, it is not obvious that death should be easy nor that fear is unnatural. Certainly, on the other side, life is not necessarily butterflies and lollipops. Au contraire, had Huxley paid closer attention to his sources, he should have noticed that.



A very wise friend recently explained to me that fear and pain should not always be hidden with drugs. For example, professional musicians often use beta blockers to slow down their heart rates before a performance. For example, performing on stage is like confronting the fear of death; the solution is to recognize it as the illusion it is. Midwives discourage

the use of epidural anesthesia, claiming that the avoidance of pain turns the mother into a zombie.

**Exploring Inner Space** Timothy Leary was a psychology professor at Harvard, doing experiments with LSD. Apparently, things got out of hand. He and his colleague Richard Alpert, NKA Ram Dass, were dismissed from their positions.

Leary continued on as a prophet of some sort, encouraging seekers to explore the new frontier of Inner Space, rather than the more glamorous Outer Space. He used the *Tibetan Book of the Dead* as a guide to help those on LSD trips. His life took some rather colorful turns, as he got in trouble with the law once LSD was criminalized. You can look that up on your own. He was also a model for a resuscitated Order of the Golden Dawn.

Ram Dass, a graduate of my alma mater, went off on a more mystical direction. He embraced Oriental spiritual teachings and also those of Alice Bailey who claimed to have channeled advanced teachings from a Tibetan master. Since I was enamored by anything Tibetan at that time, I ate it all up.

**Better Living through Chemistry** Decades after Huxley and Leary, it has all come to naught. They left behind nothing but a set of aspirations. At that time, their chemically aided spiritual quest was intended for intellectuals competent to understand the truly valid traditional teachings that they knew. There was a genuine desire for spiritual enlightenment; entheogens were not used for pleasure nor to deaden pain, but rather, naively in retrospect, to bring enlightenment.

Since the world of experience is a sensual representation of it in consciousness, these psychedelic drugs distort that psychical process. Hence, the conclusion seems to be that our collective representations of the world are rather arbitrary. In a sense, that is perfectly true, although chem-

icals won't bring us to the correct representation. Better living through chemistry does not apply to metaphysical teachings.

Now that drug usage has become the sport of the masses, it has lost its allure. There is no pretense of seeking any sort of enlightenment. Rather than the boom for humanity that the early adopters assumed, drugs are a bane, causing addiction, misery, and premature death. Obviously, if drugs truly are the shortcut to mystical knowledge, then the USA would be the most enlightened country on Earth. The evidence is just the opposite.

**The Spiritual Quest** So that's how I started the journey to the center of the mind. I can tell you strange stories, but for now I'll keep them private. It turned into a lifelong project with some occasional interruptions due both to temptations and the years spent as a householder. In a short time, I embraced a more sold path, leaving the chemical brothers as an old memory. Only 3 knights who set out on the quest were able to reach the Holy Grail. So there is little reason to be hopeful about all the noisy parties posting useless advice on social media.

There is no Yellow Brick Road for the Knight to follow. Rather he has to start from wherever he is, not where he should be. Nor is the destination marked; it requires a process of trial and error.

A Knight does not choose his battles; rather he has to the fight the battles that come to him.

Art works: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1qNrAB-mNww>

*Posted on 2021-09-23 by Cologero*

\* \* \*

Ismo Meinander on 2021-09-24 at 05:57 said:

You too have been enamored by Bailey? I ingested her works in the past also. Channeling seems to be the new theosophy. I have no doubts about mental telepathy, but I very much doubt Bailey's advanced knowledge nowadays and stay out of it.

I have been addicted to cannabis since 16 years old. I left it behind for years only to find myself again ingesting the substance; despair and insomnia were two reasons for coming back to usage. Only lately I have been able to leave it behind, and I feel like born again. What a wretched being I was about to become.

veritycacciatrice on 2021-09-24 at 17:03 said:

I enjoyed Huxley's 'Door's'. it was colourful, but as synthetic as 'Fear and Loathing' and 'On the Road'.

About 15 years ago someone gifted me a signed copy of 'House of Leaves'. Not my usual taste but what the heck.

'Leaves' is literally a journey to the centre of the protagonists mind, with parallel tales of those who went mad in the same space using the metaphor of a strange black house, its shifting and dark internal space, and its exploration.

It's en par with Huxley, Thompson et al., not that it's a peer of those genres (nor generation), yet as far as 'journey to the centre of the mind' goes, it absolutely is.

What I took from it was that one must employ courage and will in driving thoughts to their logical destination at the farthest branch of an idea, because one may descend into black madness if one stops from fear, or leaps chemically from one 'twig' to the other without the benefit of pre-prepared, intellectual 'weight-bearing' branches. But if carried all the way one ought find a comfortable corner of Reality where sleep is healthy and sound.

Hell is a great way to flesh out the corridors of a mind to see where the 'house-owner' ends up. Mad? Addicted? Lonely? Smiling at God with the sun on their face?

I'm sleeping well these days.

## 7.3 The German New Thought Movement

This essay was originally published by **Julius Evola** in *Bilychnis* in June, 1928. It is a review of the *Neugeist* movement in Germany, which was derived from the **New Thought** movement in USA that had been developing previously. Now "Neugeist" is the German translation of "New Thought", but, following Evola, I have sometimes translated it as "New Spirit" ... Evola sometimes uses the German term, and others the Italian *Spirito Nuovo*, a convention which I have followed. The essay will be presented in two parts. This first part is a general introduction. The second

part will describe the actual exercises recommended by the New Thought Alliance.

These early articles from Evola that I have been posting demonstrate his spiritual quest, and are quite removed from the later preoccupations with politics, race, etc. It is clear, if readers will look back over the many reviews translated here, that Evola was willing to accept a form of Christianity that was “practical”, mystically inclined, and aligned more with Eastern teachings. Apparently, he was never able to find it, since he subsequently turned away from that quest. He even rejected what he, not incorrectly, called the “vedantized Christianity” of Guido De Giorgio.

The other failed quest was Evola’s search for “special” powers, whether in the Tibetan Buddhists, yogis, or even the “New Spirits”. It is clear, given the number of references to them, that he was obsessed with the idea. Once again, all the magical exercises probably did not create those powers in the expected way. His correspondence with **Rene Guenon**, which has now been made available, shows this.

As for the German New Spirits, they seem to have disappeared without a trace; I am only familiar with Driesch, but only in a different context. I am sure that they were more intellectually sophisticated than their American counterparts. Since New Thought owed a certain intellectual debt to German philosophy, the Neugeist movement probably found a point of contact in it.

Of course, in a sense, they were on the right track. Thoughts do control our lives, that is why we deem it so important to understand one’s own thought process. However, they seemed to have been inventing stuff on the fly without ties to a formal tradition. They retained the language of Christianity, but not its essence. As Guenon makes clear, the esoteric cannot be divorced from the exoteric, something that the New Spirits believed they could do. That is why the movement had to fail. On the other hand, a **Valentin Tomberg**, for example, managed to keep the

esoteric and the exoteric together. That is the path to the future, the worthwhile way to “change your life”; this path is immune to the petty criticisms of the dominant — and only — Western tradition that are heard in some circles.

In contemporary central Europe one of the spiritual currents that is gaining more ground, is that of the New Thought Alliance (*Neugeistbund*). In essence, it is an offshoot of that reaction against religious dogmatism and scientific materialism, that that had already given rise to other more or less spiritual and mystical movements, like New Thought [in English in original], neo-Rosicrucianism, Christian Science, Anglo-Indian Theosophy and even spiritism. In regards to Neugeist there is however a sense of seriousness and enthusiasm not very common in most of these sects.

Not that it represents actually something original and united: on the contrary, there are clearly found in it ideas from Hindu yoga, medieval mysticism, and even classic German thinkers like Herder, Lessing, Goethe, Schiller, while on the practical side, the influence of the studies on autosuggestion brought in vogue by Coué and Baudouin is very clear. In spite of all this syncretism, in Neugeist there is a certain impulse that in a good measure unifies such elements close to an experienced need to bring man to recapture the sense of interiority and spiritual force.

The movement has its center in Pfullingen (Württemberg), where the editor J. Baum publishes the review *Die Wiese Fahne* and a collection of small volumes among which in fact there are enough good ones (e.g., F. Eberspaecher, *Der Giest sie Führer*, K. O. Schmidt, *Selbst und Lebensbemesterung durch Gedankenkraft* and *Wie knonzentrirte ich mich?*, etc.). From Pfullingen, the movement extends especially toward Switzerland, Hungary, and Austria, where it has another organ: *Das Neue Licht*, edited by F. V. Schöffel. There are among the adherents some rather noted names, such as Prof Verweyen and the vitalist H. Driesch.

Neugeist intends to be essentially a practical spiritualism, an active

mysticism, with disdain for everything that is simple theory or belief. “Neugeist”, says Eberspacher, “as vision of the world proceeds from this principle: that no knowledge has value if it is not applied practically; that the best ideas serve no purpose, if they are not transformed into action. Men must instill practically every day in life the teachings of a vision of the world.”

The first opposition is naturally to materialism; in the second, to the ancient concept of faith and religion, which it wants precisely to replace with the New Spirit (*Neugeist*). According to this ancient concept, says the author cited above, “faith is nothing more than believing in undemonstrated propositions. Instead, for the New Spirit, faith is a force, by means of which the highest energies can be awakened.” Dogma and confession are enemies and lethal for the spirit. Neugeist wants to be an “*undogmatisches Tatchristentum*”, i.e., an active Christianity without dogmas.

At the center of its praxis, there is the concept of the sovereignty and power of thoughts. “First of all, the most powerful of all forces lies in the force of thought. The entire cosmos, all forms, and all phenomena, starting from the atom up to the solar system, are nothing if not materializations of the thought of God. Thoughts construct character, form bodies and faces, regulate health, determine our external relations, our destiny, happiness, or misfortune, the joy or sorrow of men. That which we form, shape, produce, is our creation from the inside—thoughts are the seeds, and the fruit is our fate, our good or our evil.” (*Schöffel in Das Neue Licht*).

That said, it is clear that attention is then brought to the techniques to make oneself master of thought in order to act, by means of it, in the direction of spirituality, elevation, and strength, on which it depends. Hence, the noted connection of Neugeist with the teaching of Yoga, with the modern practices of suggestion and autosuggestion, with the mystical disciplines of silence and meditation, purified however of their devotional

or moral coloration and undertaken only from the point of view of their practical efficacy.

The inner journey given by Schmidt (*Wie konz, ich mich?*) is divided into four major phases.

1. **Concentration.** This includes liberation, internal calm, “Silence” and the concentration of thinking, feeling, and willing into a single point.
2. **Meditation**, understood as the highest level of concentration in which man begins to direct thought onto a determined goal (concentrated meditation) and to make himself capable of keeping, this direction (pure meditation) fixed above everything,
3. **Contemplation**, or inner mystical absorption, where the ear is turned to the “inner voice” to which then one must try to identify oneself, proceeding then to the next level
4. **Realization**, or self-completion, the level that precedes “making oneself Christ” (*Durchchristung*), that is the highest stage of all the practices of the “new Spirit”. It is the same as “cosmic consciousness” and “being one with God” of all mysticisms.

We don’t think it is without interest to reproduce some samples of the exercises used in the New Thought Alliance. The following are found in *Die Giest sei Fuhrer*.

Upon awakening in the morning, get dressed quickly. Turn to the East, extending the arms toward the Sun, draw seven complete breaths, breathing with the formula: “Primordial creative force, fill me up.” Feel the force as it floods you. Then cross your arms on your chest and say, or think, intensely: “I am one with infinite life, its force fills me, today I will have full dominion over myself,



I have its force. I am, I will, I can.” Then say this formula in the same position: “I send thoughts of love, peace, and harmony to the entire world, may all beings be happy and blessed.”

Another formula that is concerned more with the breath is found in Schmidt. Here the ancient Hindu doctrine of prana is understood, i.e., the mystical energy of life carried by the air.

The air contains powerful forces that I introduce while breathing in. I draw these forces consciously. They flood my entire body and make me healthy, vital, free! They make me energetic and healthy! The forces restore me and animate me. I feel vital, energetic, healthy.

While exhaling, mentally and consciously chase away all the waste that has accumulated in your body, and at the same time, all the evil dispositions and impressions, negative and destructive thoughts. Think and feel: “I breathe, I am free ... free! I feel free — I am conscious, I breathe. Cosmic forces flood me and unite me to the Divine!”

The repetitions, naturally, are made with the aim of autosuggestion. And now a formula for calm and inner silence. It follows exercises by which the complete relaxation of the body and every tension, almost to the point of no longer feeling it, are first stimulated. Again, from Schmidt:

The external world has disappeared. I am alone, deeply in myself ... I am silent, I am calm. I think and I feel that I am completely calm. Tranquility and calm are in me. Everything is calm rhythmic proportion, cosmic harmony, infinite peace.

I am calm

Calm as though in a distant abandoned tomb.

Calm as though in the base to a clear transparent mountain lake.

Calm as though in a city underneath the heat of the summer sun, calm, tranquil, desolate, without noise, in anticipation of the freshness of the evening.

Finally we translate a collective formula used by the Stuttgart group which was published in *Die weisse Fahne*.

Om!

Rise up in me, you Conqueror of Death! Light of Christ!  
Infinite splendour of my soul!

You are! You dare! You burn up! In my soul. Light of Christ  
in me, I adore you!

In me was your Golgotha! In me is your Resurrection! Your  
eternal life lives in me! In me your paradise blooms! In me your  
liberation rejoices. In me your victory exults! In me your ancient  
flame shines.

The Victor rises again!

You bring me back to the lost Father. You gave back the Father  
in me, who is also the Father of your original generation.

Your Father is also in me! Om! I am!

You, Lord, have risen again in me! New Spirit!

Ardent Spirit, resplendent with the original Light! Holy Spirit!

You who secures everything. You who hears everything. You  
breathe the world. You, the generator of the new Spirit. You the  
adsorbing Principal, to be bursting, the wise end, you, again the  
only Principle. You, the Everything and the Nothing, you, the  
One in Everything.

You, the eternally active spiritual presence! Rising again!

Heaven jumps in me. The most sacred veil tears asunder in  
me. Your Light erupts from it. Your dawn Light of Eternity.

In front of me, in me, every night!

Ancient Light, jubilant victory of the resurrection in me!  
Om! Victory! Victory! Victory! Om! Christ, you are the new

spirit of Resurrection in me! Om! Peace! Peace! Peace is with us  
all! Om!

As you see, it is all rather well constructed in suggestive and intensely charged emotions in order to lead to a state of mystical exhilaration, not without certain character of virility.

What is interesting is to notice the scientific and, we would say, secular elements in the background, with which all the various means are syncretistically gathered in order to produce experiences, which are of value essentially from their practical efficacy. In other words, technique, in place of faith, and inner facts to acquire from pure individual experience, without dogmatic and profane “interpretations”, with an eye simply on their pragmatic “truth” for those who demand a sense of exaltation of liberation of vital energy. Reaching to the foundation in this direction, one can expect that one day religion, as well as theology itself, will become an experimental science, certainly an upheaval, not lacking interest, that leads us back to a proper view of mystical and traditional esoterism.

These and similar movements are therefore observed with curiosity, as signs of the times. To the critic, for now it is more opportune to replace the watchful gaze that deepens the new themes that could begin to speak out in them.

*Posted on 2013-12-04 by Aeneas*

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scardanelli on 2013-12-04 at 21:45 said:

“The first opposition is naturally to materialism; in the second, to the ancient concept of faith and religion, which it wants precisely to replace with the New Spirit (Neugeist)”

It seems that all such spiritual movements that are predicated on an opposition are doomed to failure. If the nature of this opposition is dualism then this dualism would make true transcendence impossible. This might also be applied to those traditionalists whose only rule for membership is being “against” the modern world.

Likewise for any attempt to strip Christianity of its dogmas or confession. It seems to me that the truly esoteric should grow like a tree from the ground of the exoteric. The way of most new age movements is an attempt to usurp or get around the law rather than to develop and gain freedom from the law.

Anna Kaiser-Swadling on 2013-12-06 at 12:15 said:

I've used something similar to the first "auto suggestion" for many years. I find it empowering. Evola also has some techniques for falling asleep that I've applied for years after the "I am alone, deeply in myself", i.e. visualising and moving toward a golden mountain peak, lying on your side and visualising you're looking from the back of your head, and another, lying on your back letting your eyes fall back then sense you're flipping back with them into the air above.

anon on 2013-12-07 at 04:37 said:

This stuff showed up on my radar when I stumbled across Lisiewski, who hated New Age, but liked New Thought (NT). I woke up early today, and have been trying to find (online) the succinct Lisiewski quote about NT that first impacted me, but to no avail. I guess these long ones will do.

"You are the first of my readers to acknowledge that they have looked into that form of Mysticism referred to as 'New Thought.' I am very happy you have indeed. You will find that—as I have written in the Magical Thought of the Week column weeks ago—Mysticism completes Magic: it is not the other way around, no matter how much this upsets people who are so entirely devoted to Magic. The entire matter of Spiritual 'Unfoldment' as I term it—not Spiritual 'growth' as the New Age insists—eventually leads to this end.

"Further, the amazing thing is that what the individual so desires; what he or she so sincerely wants or needs in their life, is all obtainable through this form of Mysticism, and ever so easily. Yet the paradox is that one cannot force one's self into accepting, working, and mastering New Thought simply because the results they require are so readily obtainable from it. Quite the contrary. One must 'unfold' into it. And when that glorious day dawns, then all is made perfectly clear and works almost effortlessly for the individual so blessed with this 'discovery.'

"People who are attracted to Magic must persist in it until the day comes when they 'step over the line' that leads from Magic to Mysticism. It cannot be hurried. It cannot be rushed. But it will come. This is what Percy Bullock, one of the original members of the Golden Dawn Society meant, when he said at the turn of the 20th century, 'In the end, we all become Mystics.'

"Congratulations on your being attracted to it so early on. Perhaps—as sometimes does happen—it is the right—and only—Path for you to follow, even from the beginning."

— Joseph C. Lisiewski

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"My Reply: again, these individuals neither understand the difference between the 'imaging' I teach, and the 'visualization' which their New Age calls for. Nor do they understand the difference between one of their so-called 'Invocations,' a 'Prayer,' and an 'Affirmation,' all of which I have thoroughly spelled out both in my books and on this website. And as the next reply will further show, New Thought has nothing whatsoever to do with 'visualization' (in fact, those methods of New Thought that truly do work to produce full results have very little to do with Imaging either. That is, they employ Imaging only in so far as one forming the most 'general thought template' of that which is desired.)"

– Joseph C. Lisiewski  
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"Always use a nine foot diameter Circle of Art for every ritual and ceremonial act. 'Nine' is the number of Yesod, of course, and corresponds to the subconscious (unconscious) mind, wherein all Magic truly occurs- we only 'see' the results of that 'occurrence' in the outer world (Malkuth.) That is, the subconscious mind should be thought of as the Causal Agent of the External Effect we wish to produce. There is a great deal of correlation between this concept and the central doctrine of New Thought. That is, with the extremely pragmatic philosophy and practice of the latter. But this is another matter for another time."

– Joseph C. Lisiewski  
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"It may help if I give you an example. As I stated in Ceremonial Magic, I was born into a Roman Catholic family and raised in that Faith. And while I cannot abide the Catholic church in its present form, I yet consider myself a Christian, and more exactly, a Catholic! How can this be? Quite simply, I found the philosophical teachings of Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, a Jesuit Priest, theologian, philosopher, and paleontologist-and whose complex writing unify certain aspects of Science and Religion-to have a profound impact upon me. Together with the New Thought Philosophy, the two enabled me to form my own eclectic system of thought; one which is in perfect agreement with my own subconscious state of subjective synthesis, and which allows my magical efforts to succeed splendidly."

– Joseph C. Lisiewski  
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"Apparently, they never heard of the work of Ralph Waldo Trine and his book, *In Tune With the Infinite*, which is regarded as the first independently published book on New Thought, and which is given credit for being one of the major works on the subject that sparked the New Thought Movement itself. And it was published in—1897! That is, his final manuscript, originally written in 1889, was published years before their famous *Golden Dawn* was being torn asunder by internal strife, and moving toward its ultimate 1900 collapse. Further, one has only to read Trine in the most cursory way to see if any 'Golden Dawn' material—even theoretical—is in it. The philosophy of the *Golden Dawn*—and the Mysticism of Trine—are as different in theory and

practice as are night and day.

"In the same vein, the people demanding I acknowledge the GD as having created the Mysticism of New Thought have no knowledge whatsoever of the existence and work of others in the field of mystical enquiry which has come to be termed 'New Thought.' For instance: they apparently are completely oblivious to the late 19th century writings and teachings of Emilie Cady and Charles Fillmore, cofounder, who began the Unity Movement of circa 1890, the very time at which the first Golden Dawn Temple was getting underway in England. Formally called the Unity School of Christianity, the groundbreaking works of Cady and Fillmore—along with Trine's and a number of others less well known—constituted the initial creative impulse that launched the New Thought Movement.

"Further, unlike the bickering and backstabbing of the famous London GD Temple 'elite' of the 1890's, enthusiastic collaboration between the schools of thought arising within the original New Thought Movement was the order of the day. Example: Emilie Cady—a staunch independent—published several of her most notable works in Unity Magazine, the official organ of the Unity School of Christianity in 1894-95 (these were then published as three paperbacks for the general public in 1896-1897.)"

— Joseph C. Lisiewski  
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"But the Golden Dawn did has its effect, or so I speculate it did. That is, I cannot prove it empirically, but my research suggests more than a casual connection exists between the New Thought Movement and the original Golden Dawn as operated in England in the 1890's. And that is, that after the Golden Breakup in 1900, a plethora of new books arose on the subject of New Thought, the great majority of which suddenly began teaching 'visualization' as part of their process. Not only that, but the visualization techniques they insisted upon are in every way exactly the same as can be found in any New Age book today—be it on Magick or on visualization techniques designed to bring about one's desires. For instance, the numerous works of Wattles (1902) Wilcox (1902) Towne (1904) Fritz (1906) Larson (1908) Sears (1919) Schubel (1922) and Van Resselaeler Day (1928) are only a few of the many that initiated this unfortunate trend, while the latter works of Fersen (1929) Landone (1937) and Collier (1943) continued it. And of course, these later efforts were seized upon by the New Age and 'expanded' into the non-functional miasma of so-called 'New Thought' that generally exists today.

"In short, as the GD history states, most members of the original London Temple were 'unknowns' who drifted away after the demise of the Temple. It may be that such people as Wattles—amidst dozens of others—were indeed members of the Order, or were acquainted with those who were. In either case, disillusioned due to the breakup of the GD, it is my opinion that they seized upon the New Thought Movement and added their 'visualization' techniques to it, thus destroying the genuine techniques behind this form of Mysticism; techniques that indeed do allow New Thought—or 'Higher Mysticism' as I term it—to work—fully, and without any

Slingshot Effect. So much then for the people who lay claim that the GD 'created' New Thought. As far as I am concerned, all that the (former) members of the original GD did to the New Thought Movement was contaminate it..."

– Joseph C. Lisiewski

anon on 2013-12-07 at 11:08 said:

Warning: long and perhaps self-indulgent post follows.

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Lisiewski's marriage of grimoires and New Thought reminds me, to some degree anyway, of those people who try to combine NLP with Crowley and/or with chaos magic. The whole Disinfo.com/RAW/Gen P-Orridge scene. Except that stuff is more modernist, I guess, whereas Lisiewski is relatively more traditional.

I read Jason Augustus Newcomb's "21st Century Mage: Bring the Divine Down to Earth", years ago, and absolutely loved it. So much so that I joined his online forum for a while. And gushed words of appreciation at him. I couldn't get into his other book that was available at the time, "New Hermetics". I had found a pdf copy of it, but couldn't force my way through it. It was NLP meets Leary meets Crowley meets RAW. Oh yeah, and hermetix too.

I remember when I first read an Anthony Robbins book, on the recommendation of someone I respected at the time, and thought to myself: "This is magic." I never would have thought that. I saw Robbins as crass infomercial huckster. A bullshit artist. And I guess in many ways he is. But his neuro-associative conditioning (NAC) techniques are basically a form of crude and uncontrolled magic. Or something akin to it. As I played around with that stuff, those many years ago, I remembered the Sorcerer's Apprentice segment of the Disney cartoon Fantasia. Where Mickey Mouse casts a spell over some brooms, and then loses control over them. It was like that. NAC would allow you to effect change on the world around you. But this was done by first affecting changes inside you. And some of these changes were damaging, blinding you. Perhaps good for taking someone from *tamas* to *rajas*, but blinding them to many important aspects of *sattva*. Anyway...

Newcomb's Mage book is basically about the K&C of the HGA, but in a sort of modernized and New Age-ified form. I neither know nor care if the practical suggestions that he offers in that book work. I already have my own practice. But the theoretical aspect of the book I found extremely and profoundly validating.

When you're navigating these meagerly-charted waters you need a compass. And the HGA provides that. Actually, I don't think of it as the HGA. As best as I can tell what people call the HGA and the K&C of the HGA are really fragments of something much larger. Much more beautiful. The Abramelin operation, I believe, allows one to access only some of what is there. Like seeing an iceberg, and knowing that more is there under water.

Newcomb's book goes deeper than the HGA, but I'm not even sure if that is conscious on his

part, or if his “HGA” slipped some things in there, between the lines, in the connections between what he says, never fully spelled out. It’s worth reading.

Before I read Newcomb, I read one of the best books that I have ever read in my life. A book whose concepts still deeply nourish me, nine years later. When I found it, it was like the culmination and synthesis of a bunch of stuff that I was studying. I could not believe that such a thing existed. It was as though it had been created just for me. Of course, none of us are all that special, and any thought that has occurred to us, has also occurred to someone else, somewhere else.

The book was like a synthesis and distillation of many aspects that I found most helpful and relevant in Jung, Tony Robbins, Crowley, Kabbalah, yoga, bhakti, chaos magic, psychology, New Age, religion and God knows what else. Plus I was physically chronically quite sick. And seriously worried about how the hell I the hell I was going to be able to support myself. I was working only part time. I was tired all the time. Low-grade fever almost all of the time. Heart-rate unnaturally high. All the time. Recovering from a very serious life-saving surgery. I did not seem to be getting better. I was afraid.

The crass and cheesy title of the book is “How to Get Lots of Money for Anything Fast”. I have shared the pdf with significant people in my life, but none have had the experience with it that I have. Maybe it really is suited to a particular temperament? Or to people looking for a particular thing? Some are turned off by the title. Understandably. But the book really isn’t about money. Or that is only the surface. It is about the K&C of the HGA, although the author doesn’t use those words. In practice, that is what it is.

The first time I did the exercises, it was profound. The strange chest pains I was having for some years, both before and after the surgery, were gone the next day. I kept expecting them to return. A week went by. Then weeks. Then months. Now years. The pains return only in periods of extreme stress. And that in very mild forms. Was it C.S. Lewis who said that pain was God’s megaphone? I listen more carefully now, so I guess maybe He feels less of a need to shout as loud.

The book is about navigating life, with the guidance of the HGA. Actually, something deeper, lusher and fuller than the HGA. Some will use that guidance to make money, but that is really like using a smartphone to hammer a nail.

But it can be used for that also. I remember an interview with Lichtman where he talks about something tho the effect that his idea was to provide a process whereby people could take care of their material needs simply and quickly, leaving time and energy for their spiritual pursuits.

My understanding is that there is a reality. Different people describe that reality, to varying degrees of accuracy. With varying degrees of clumsiness. Insofar as their gunas will allow them to perceive and describe it. Depending on what their goal is, reality can be sliced up in different ways, sub-divided into different categories. Some more misleading than others.



Lichtman calls his system Cybernetic Transposition (CT), being inspired in part, by Maxwell Maltz's Psycho-Cybernetics. But there is also a big dose of Lichtman's own spiritual beliefs intertwined in all of it. This troubled me somewhat, as his system goes deep into the unconscious, and I was worried about implanting some of Lichtman's own blind spots and perception-distortions into my own heart.

So for a while I was really interested in what his path was. Finally, I was able to piece together who his spiritual teacher was. The dude's name escapes me at the moment. I could do a CT exercise to get my memory to cough up his name, but the important thing is that I found him both underwhelming, and mostly non-threatening. Maybe Lichtman has eclipsed his teacher?

Is Lichtman's CT Traditional? No, I wouldn't say that. And some of his blind spots I find loathsome. But I think CT can (largely) be used whoever one chooses. There is always a spiritual price to be paid with this kind of stuff, but I think CT fairly neutral, like logic. But then again, don't take my word for it. For all you know, I might simply be a self-deluded cultist.

Some of Lichtman's CT reminds me of a highly-fine-tuned version of chaos magic's sigilization process. Except done with words, paragraphs, vivid imaginary experiences. Instead of the commonly-used pictogram method. His ideas about getting the different parts of the brain working together, in concert, working towards the same end, cannot help but remind me of Kabballah's description of different parts of the soul. And also the Gita's vyavasay-atmika-buddhi. I will resist the temptation here to discuss the parallels between the source of buddhi and the functions of the HGA. This post is already long enough.

CT has a bunch of controls built-in, to avoid having it blow up in your face, and for getting back on track. Since life is, in many ways, a moving target. You know now, things that you did not know then. And so on.

This is not meant as an infomercial, or endorsement of Lichtman. I'm not getting paid for this. It's a genuine outpouring. Lisiewski has his New Thought, the Disinfonauts have their NLP Bandlerism. I prefer CT.

Dig it.

IA on 2013-12-07 at 11:26 said:

I've used daoist stretching, breathing and visualizing techniques for over 18 years following recurring back pain from an injury. You face the sun every morning. It has worked very well for the back pain and may have some emotional effect as well.

pareidoliastic on 2014-08-11 at 11:48 said:

anon on 2013-12-07 at 04:37,

I have read all of Lisiewski's works and he helped open my eyes to Alchemy and Hermetics. After having a profound encounter with NLP in helping me literally evaporate an addiction I was

trapped in. I am now very hungry for more and how NLP/NewThought could help me grow and evolve and get past all the other blocks from brainwashing and false beliefs I am clouded by.

I found this very page on the Internet because I to have a vague recollection of him talking about NLP and it's relationship to 'magic/mysticism'

I have a great deal of trust in Lisiewski so his opinions and advice I give much more weight to than most.

From the quotes you gave he seems to indicate New Thought has been corrupted? Naturally because of the power these techniques have to modify the subconscious and influence ones subjective synthesis I am leery of just blindly following my natural instinct to read everything I can find on it. Other than his (apparent?) endorsement of Ralph Waldo Trine and his book, *In Tune With the Infinite* do you know of any of his recommendations on works for studying and working to find true liberation? I am also considering Hyatt's work in this area as I know he and Lisiewski were good friends.

Thank you, and anyone else who could perhaps aid me.

Cologero on 2014-08-12 at 07:51 said:

pareidoliastic,

You are referring to some of the comments on Lisiewski, which were motivated by the translate essay from the German New Thought movement.

"True liberation" is not found just from studying, but from "working" as you point out. It is not likely that much can be accomplished on one's own.

The danger is that before attempting to "modify the subconscious", you should have a very clear idea of what you are doing. In other words, don't tinker with the mechanisms until you understand the inner workings of the soul quite well.

Originally, NT was based on certain philosophical systems, mostly forgotten because of the low quality of the NT movement. We have been discussing the intellectual foundations of magical idealism, which would serve as a better foundation. After all, what does it mean that representations create reality? We plan to revisit this theme in the next week or two.

pareidoliastic on 2014-08-12 at 15:19 said:

Thank you for the reply Cologero. I guess the danger you mention is my trepidation about just 'jumping in'. I understand the power of it now firsthand by using aspects of these techniques crafted by another to help root out destructive beliefs I had held subconsciously which made changing something the typical world thinks is nearly impossible. But it was actually quite easy. It has been said this person's book uses NLP so that rang a bell in my memory from when I studied Lisiewski's work and writings.

So naturally I am excited and very interested in how far that rabbit hole goes (in a positive sense) in how much greater I can truly be with the right constellation in my subconscious.

I have not really studied this site yet and what it contains in this regard. Can you kindly point me in the direction of the right place or post to dive into the stream on exploring this 'magical foundation' theme you speak of?

And I look forward to your further posts on this theme you mentioned.  
Many many thanks!

## 7.4 Emile Coue

This is the promised translation of **Julius Evola**'s essay on **Emile Coué**. It originally appeared in *Bilychnis*, in the Jan-Feb issue of 1925 under the title *Emile Coué and "Acting without Acting"*. Here Evola goes well beyond Coué himself and provides metaphysical, philosophical, and psychological explanations for the phenomena described by Coué.

Along with New Thought, which itself has been heavily influenced by Coué, couism, or something like it, has been a part of Hermetic teachings when properly understood. In reading this essay, perhaps some of you will be intrigued by this seeming paradox:

1. Coué demonstrated almost "miraculous" results
2. Similar results have been very difficult to reproduce

If point 2 were not true, then everyone would be demonstrating miraculous powers today. That I have not witnessed, not even in the New Thought circles that I was formerly part of. Yet point 1 has some truth, and Evola himself was convinced of it. Following the translation, we will offer an explanation of why points 1 and 2 are both true ... unless someone else can explain it better.

The name of the Frenchman Emile Coué<sup>4</sup> has made quite a splash in recent times. There was a period in which, especially in France and in

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<sup>4</sup>[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89mile\\_Cou%C3%A9](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%89mile_Cou%C3%A9)

England, Couism had become the word of the day: a real interest and very lively discussion gathered little by little around the figure of this modern thaumaturge, his famous psychotherapeutic method of “conscious autosuggestion”, and the wake of almost miraculous healings left by his travels in the countries of central Europe and the New World. In these days, Coué has also come to Italy to hold a series of conferences that, if not of true enthusiasm—perhaps because of the rather skeptical nature of the greater Italian public—certainly has attracted much attention of the type which, among the observations of modern psychology of the supernatural, is always more inclined to believe that the power of man can in reality reach far beyond that which the small, humble, what everyday life shows us as possible in general. To tell the truth, the need that stands at the foundation of Coué’s doctrine is rather important; it will therefore not be useless to attempt a reconstruction of it and, at the same time, to investigate up to what point the methods of Coué can be sufficient to it.

## Section I

The starting point, undoubtedly, is this. Hypnotic phenomena are real. Recent studies in this regard—it is enough to cite Liebeault, Bernheim, De Rochas, Richet—have truly been conducted according to the principles of the strictest positivism, and put the matter beyond dispute. Now it is factual that the hypnotized person realizes a number of things of which, in the normal or awake state, he is not absolutely capable: concerning perceptions, the emotional element, or various organic functions, he has a power that touches the miraculous. How is that possible? Here we have the first position of couism, expressed in the principle—moreover already announced by Liebeault and Myers—that *every heterosuggestion (i.e., a suggestion made by another) is realized only through an autosuggestion*. That is, the theory that the power of the hypnotizer works directly on the hypnotized person is excluded. The hypnotizer only transmits a

command, he only suggests the idea of the thing to be accomplished: but in order for the suggestion to be effective, it is necessary that the subject assume it, transform it into an autosuggestion and thereby realize it with his own strength. Receptivity is in fact an essential condition for the success of the suggestion. It would follow from that that the operative power in the phenomenology of hypnosis must be pushed back not to another, but to the I itself: that, at least, in its material aspect of a force “that does”, aside from the principle of the impulse that causes it.

It must be placed back on the I, so far, so good. But which I? Clearly not the I of the conscious personality: the hypnotic sleep effectively entirely abolishes such an I. It therefore necessarily pertains to another, deep power of subjectivity beyond that which consciously thinks and wills, a much vaster and stronger power that Coué designated sometimes as the *imagination*, and at other times—following Jung—as the *subconscious*. Now in the phenomenon of heterosuggestion these two I’s fall into two distinct beings: in the hypnotized person, the unconscious principle and realizer; in the hypnotizer, the conscious and directing principle. The problem that couism poses is this: to substitute the I of wakefulness for the hypnotizer and to reunite the two principles in the same subject. Hence, the concept of a suggestion to be made by oneself to oneself, according to directives that the I of awakening should formulate and the subconscious carry out: hence, the theme of *conscious autosuggestion*.

Before going further, let us lay down a more precise understanding of what the subconscious is. Here Coué—keeping in mind what the subconscious shows us it is capable of in hypnotic phenomena—refers to an entity that presides over *all* organic functions, from the most humble of the vegetative life to those that govern the mental processes themselves, and, therefore, it corresponds to entelechy as described by Aristotle and Driesch, the “*logos*” of Sthal, the “physical personality” of Ribot. But this determination is still exterior: it does not tell us what such a principle is in and for the I. And that is must be something for the I, which it in one way

or another must emerge, must be put at the head of the luminous zone of consciousness, which is clearly presupposed by the problem of conscious autosuggestion: since if the two I's were such that they mutually excluded each other, or that when the subconscious emerges the consciousness is submerged and vice versa, it is clear that the action *ab intra* that couism proposes would not be possible.

Duality must therefore be in a certain way present in the very sphere of the life of awakening. To that we refer to Coué's other term, the *imagination*. He notes that in the same conscious life, two entirely distinct powers are in play: one relates to the plane of intellection, the clear consciousness and reflective will; the other to the murky reign of the instinct, emotion, passion, and deep and irrational convictions whose dominant principle is that of faith and imagination. The one is, to use Platonic terminology, the *logos*, the other, *eros*. Coué distinguishes rather cleanly between these two powers: they have individuality and absolutely heterogeneous modes of acting. Now while the *logos* falls outside that deep principle that rules the whole of organic functions, the *eros* communicates with it so that, in a certain way, it is identified with it. The corollary follows immediately from that—the key point for couism—that the problem of the control of one's own personality—and that not only with regard to the element of character, but also with regard to the physical being and, therefore in particular, the problem of eliminating psychic disturbances and maladies (psychotherapy)—it is mutual with that of the determination of the *eros* from part of the *logos*, for the “imagination” from part of the conscious I. This is the task of conscious autosuggestion: to succeed in making directives originating from the I from the imagination accepted, so that they moreover become directives for the organic subconscious which, blind and inert, cannot fail to obey them as it happens in hypnotic phenomena.

This is part 2 of **Julius Evola's** review of the movement ini-

tiated by **Emile Coué**. It would be curious that Coué discovered all these techniques himself, since they are part of Hermetic and magic training. Here are some of the salient points to notice:

- A monoidism is a state of focusing the mind on a single idea as in hypnosis. Negatively, it is related to the “*idée fixe*” described by **Valentin Tomberg**, or more colorfully, and not completely inaccurately, as “possession by a gnome”. Positively, it is an aspect of deliberate concentration exercises.
- Man, as he is, i.e., the man untrained in mental or spiritual development, is not as conscious as he believes himself to be. Rather, he is a “puppet” under the domination of myriads of suggestions, most of which do not emanate from himself.
- The so-called conscious mind, i.e., the discursive intellect is a mass of contradictory ideas which very often impede our lives.
- There is a deeper “I” or self, beyond that seemingly awake I, that is the true and real source of our lives.
- That deeper self responds to suggestions arising in the conscious mind or those entering the conscious mind from outside sources.
- To “reach” that deeper self, it is necessary to somehow suppress the incessant chatter of the conscious I. That is the real goal of meditation, concentration, and other so-called magical techniques. Even “sex magick” has nothing to do with sex, beyond using it as a means to bypass the conscious mind.
- Notice, for example, how Coué’s ideas track the notion of “concentration without effort” as described by Valentin Tomberg.

- It is clear that these techniques sound simple, but are quite difficult in practice. That would account for the seeming lack of success in most cases. The state of “conviction”, faith, or the ability to “will one thing” is elusive to those who think too much.
- Based on the examples that Evola provides, perhaps the purpose of these tests for *Qualifications for initiation*<sup>5</sup> may be clearer.

Since autosuggestion is possible in principle, Coué sees it confirmed by a thousand facts of daily life. Three fourths of our actions —as he claimed to one of his disciples— are, more or less directly, supported by autosuggestion: only that we habitually suggest to ourselves without either knowing or willing it and, in most cases, as though it were all our doing. Here Coué emphasized the opposition of *logos* to *eros*, he often loves to highlight how our conscious will and reason can do nothing against an autosuggestion, since what makes us act is always the imagination. He says,

When the will is in battle with the imagination, it is the will that, without exception, loses the game.

Not only that, but the efforts made by the will in similar cases succeed simply in reinforcing the power against which it faces. This is the *law of reversed effort*. Examples:

1. The novice bicyclist sees a stone in the middle of the road, he *imagines* that he is going to run over it, he *struggles* to avoid it; the harder he tries, the more likely he goes right over the rock.
2. A person notices he cannot fall sleep; he wants to sleep: the more he wants it, the more he does not succeed in falling sleep.

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<sup>5</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/?p=1161>



3. A sufficiently large plank is placed across an abyss; if the same plank were placed on the ground, a person would walk across it with the greatest nonchalance. But being placed over the abyss, he *imagines* he could fall; he does not then dare to traverse it: if, in spite of everything, by forcing an effort, he attempts it, in the great number of cases he is going to fall off. And so on.

These and numerous other examples show that the will can do nothing against a present suggestion. The secret of success is instead to oppose a suggestion not with an effort, but rather with another suggestion of the opposite meaning: it is necessary, i.e., to translate the will into a corresponding “imagination”. Without that, the effort succeeds only in precipitating the occurrence in the direction opposite to the one desired. Therefore Coué says:

We who are so proud of our will, we who believe we freely do what we do, we are in reality only poor puppets of which our imagination holds all the strings. We cease to be these puppets only when we have learned to guide the imagination.

Here we can make a rather important observation about the mode of action of the two principles. In apparent contrast with what at first view would let us think of the classifications of *logos* and *eros*, we see that the mode of the first is action properly called, or effort, tension; in contrast, the mode of the second is purely mental, it is an “imagining”, a sudden and inner, effortless, self-representation. This pure “imagining” realizes, and realizes it to the very depths of the one’s being: instead action or will, properly called, is condemned to the periphery, and can do nothing in respect to the deepest stratum of the physical and emotive personality, and when it intervenes, it succeeds only in leading to battles and disagreements with almost always detrimental consequences.

The problem therefore is centered in the question of provoking consciously and intentionally that autosuggestive process which, in the background, plays such an essential part in daily life: or, in other words, of discovering the method by which one can act on the “imagination” starting from the I of awakening. Coué’s principle in this:

every idea that engages the spirit exclusively becomes “true” for the imagination; the concentration of the mind on an idea transforms this into a belief.

In technical terms: it is about creating in oneself a “monoideism”. Faith and monideism, ultimately, would be equivalent to each other. That said, the technique of couism is the following:

The principles of the will and the imagination exclude each other; in the hypnotized person the power of the subconscious is so great because a free field is left to it, while everything that is related to the will and consciousness is put aside. The ideal would therefore be the ability to enter a hypnotic state: but since the hypnotic state suppresses the conscious I by hypothesis, it is necessary to find a compromise, viz., of the intermediate stages in which the surfacing of the subconscious has the maximum, compatibly with the minimum permanence of the conscious principle.

Such are the so-called “hypnoid states”, among which Coué emphasizes that of *détente* or relaxation. It is a matter of realizing a complete relaxation of the conscious faculties, of excluding every mental and muscular effort or tension, just as happens immediately before falling asleep and in so-called *reveries*. When the mood of *relaxation* ends up sufficiently incited, the conscious principle that up to that point was put aside—withdrawn almost to the extreme corner of oneself—it can intervene and make the idea slip into the mind, or better put, the *image* of

what one desires to realize. The mind must fixate on this image to the exclusion of all the rest, moreover without entering into the field of efforts, which would destroy the state of *relaxation* and, along with it, the state of receptivity and of suggestibility of the “imagination”. How then can one realize such concentration? Coué’s answer is:

By means of the very rapid repetition of a formulation which includes the idea in question; with the repetition, the mind is automatically and spontaneously brought to the idea, and its speed makes it such that other images are not inserted in the intervals. In particular: any counter-suggestions are not formed which would neutralize it and thereby render it ineffective. Through repetition, *monoideism* is formed: absorbing the whole spirit, the image strengthens itself slowly in the imagination until it becomes a dim and deep conviction; it is then employed by the power of the subconscious from which it certainly is turned into action.

If, e.g., in a hemorrhage, one succeeds in concentrating on the formula “the hemorrhage has stopped” —like a mood freed from conscious faculties—, to the point of rendering itself fully active, the related image lives in the mind—in a word: to the point of believing it, then this idea becomes a truth and a command for the subconscious that, as director of every organic function, makes the arterioles and venules contract naturally, just as would happen artificially with a tourniquet: and the hemorrhage is stopped.

This, in a few words, is Coué’s theory. In experiments, it seems to have been demonstrated as capable almost of a miracle. Limiting ourselves to the physio-pathological order, to which it particularly is oriented, not only functions but also organic paralyses, advanced stage consumption, generalized eczema, tubercular lesions, tumors, etc. have been cured, sometimes in very few sessions, by means of the autosuggestion developed from the illness itself under the guidance of Coué or his disciples.

In Section II, **Julius Evola** offers a critique of **Emile Coué**'s explanation for the successes of his method, and then provides his own explanation.

Making the connection between the “deep conviction of the subconscious” and “faith”, Evola then relates it to the “vexed question” of “grace”. In other words, why do some have faith and others do not? Or, in more practical terms, why are some healed by couism while most are not? However, Evola here is interested only in a psychological explanation, not a metaphysical one. So “grace” means only that its origin seems to come from outside rather than from one’s own powers. This is a different question from the metaphysical meaning of grace.

First of all, while faith is the belief in something unseen, it is more than that since it reaches deeper than our everyday I that we consider to be conscious. This I, however, is engaged embroiled in dualisms: subject-object, true-false, right-wrong. The deeper I, on the other hand, is non-dual: it simply is and it wills one thing. There is a certain seemingly “heroic” attitude that sees doubt as concomitant with faith. But that is to remain perpetually at the level of that “I of awakening” while never penetrating to depths.

Rather, the proper development of faith is gnosis, i.e., the direct realization that has been mentioned several times in Evola’s essay. In this regard, Valentin Tomberg is a more reliable guide as we have shown in *The Elements of Sacred Magic*<sup>6</sup>.

To his credit, Evola does not deny the numerous preternatural and miraculous accounts of the saints, and, growing up in Italy, he would have heard of many. Therefore, he rejects a glib positivism that rejects miracles out of hand. In contrast, he develops a “metaphysical positivism” that would account for the reality described in those stories. Nevertheless, in the final analysis even metaphysical positivism leaves out something essential.

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<sup>6</sup><https://www.meditationsonthetarot.com/the-elements-of-sacred-magic>

He rightly rejects the claim that the method of couism is sufficient in itself, apart from the person of the patient. Otherwise, if the method worked indifferently, there would be couism centers in every city instead of hospitals. At some point, it is up to the patient to develop faith or the image of his healing. Every suggestion, to be effective, eventually becomes an auto-suggestion. Not only the belief in couism, but also the belief in any ceremonial, ritualistic, sacramental, or symbolic forms have no power in themselves other than to motivate faith in those who need it.

Some, however, do not require any such aids. This would mean, fundamentally, that a man can do without a Tradition. Such a man, however, would not know what to have faith in, and hence would not find gnosis. Typically, he would actually be a secularist. The symbols cannot be discarded so readily. Yet, any psychological explanation can never be complete as long as something supernatural or transcendent remains unaccounted for (which it must, in psychology).

Nevertheless, Evola's emphasis that a personal realization is somehow always involved and that repetition for its own sake is useless is sound. Yet, there is one miracle that Evola's purely psychological explanation does not capture. That is Peter's raising Tabitha from the dead and the dead, presumably, are immune to a hetero- or auto- suggestion.

## Section II

The great problem that comes into play in couism is that of the construction of faith. In fact, it becomes clear to everyone that that deep conviction of the subconscious that Coué speaks of is nothing other than faith. Fundamentally, it comes back to the vexed theological question of grace. The principle that faith, once reached, is an irresistible power, which immediately realizes what it believes is true, has been known from the most remote times and, at least in a certain measure, has since been scientifi-

cally sanctioned by modern psychology. And the significance of faith is not only subjective, it is also objective. The accounts of the miraculous phenomena that envelopes the figures of saints and creators of religion — so lightly discarded by so-called positivism — in reality take inspiration from faith. Of the similar phenomena of yoga and magic, the principle, in the final analysis, is faith or, if one prefers, autosuggestion. Explanation:

- At the first level, I can have the simple, empty concept of a thing.
- Beyond that, I can bring it to life in the imagination.
- In the third place I can perceive it exteriorly as a subjective hallucination.
- In the fourth place, I can act on other consciousnesses in a way that they also perceive it (collective suggestion).
- The *same* power, continued in an ever more intense affirmation that invests the level of physical being, becomes objective and, as such, is a magical act.

As the mage can be defined as the one who knows how, so to speak, *to influence the same nature*, to communicate his faith to it, with which one is preliminarily put in relationship by means of an act of love or sympathy.

However beyond that, the great question is to know *if*, and in this case, *how*, faith can be constructed positively and consciously by the I, and, to tell the truth, beyond any suggestion whatsoever. In the great number of cases, it is to be noted that the I does not possess faith as much as it is instead possessed by it. I.e., in them, faith is realized to the extent it does not flow from an absolute sufficiency, from a pure self-assertion of the individual, but from the suggestion derived from some idea, close to which the I originally — in the moment in which it was triggered — is

passive and unconscious. So that if it is true that no suggestion (hetero-suggestion) succeeds if it does not make itself an autosuggestion, it is also true that, almost uniformly, no autosuggestion (with particular regard to those that can extend the power of the I beyond normal) is actuated if it does not have a preliminary suggestion as a basis for motivation. That is, the I does not succeed in being present, to assert itself at the moment of the initiative. So the person of faith at Lourdes, in as much as it heals, to that extent he believes that it is not he, but divinity, who works the healing; to the extent the hypnotized person carries out miracles, to that extent the initiative, the suggestion, comes to him not from himself, by from the hypnotizer. And that, to tell the truth, can extend to a great number of Coué's patients, who heal to the extent that they believe either in Coué, or in the efficacy of the "method", or, at least, in the existence of the "subconscious", that he, and not themselves in naked individual affirmation, will know how to heal them.

Actually, for example, one would like to see if the healing of so many persons —*after Coué's invitation*— as soon as they affirm that they are cured, would have likewise occurred if it were any of the readers who made that invitation to them. On the other hand, we must note that the various miracles of the saints, at least in Western mysticism, were experienced in the spirit of the intervention of a higher and transcendent power. The same magic is related to the whole of ceremonial, ritual, symbolic, etc., manifestations which are only the necessary substitute for those who do not know how to create the powers of the imagination by means of a positive central initiative, but attain them only indirectly by virtue of the suggestion emanating from a complex of extrinsic elements. Nothing other than this absence of oneself from the principle of a positive initiative, this incapacity to create faith *kath'auto* [in himself], gives the meaning to what is indicated as "grace" in Western theology. However, even if there is grace, conscious autosuggestion is a useless name: for the starting point, it has an unconscious autosuggestion (a hetero-suggestion)—a

mystery and a passivity; and then the I appears the instrument of faith, not its creator and the possessor.

Such therefore is the true light under which the requirement emerging from couism must be examined. Now the idea that for the construction of faith an automatic repetition of formula in a state of relaxation is sufficient, is rather ingenuous. First of all, we must note — as was done above — that a great number of persons who succeed with such a method are already hetero-suggested, directly or indirectly, by Coué or by those who tell them about him and his doctrines. In the second place is the fact that the *imagination* or faith is *invariably presumed in itself*; i.e., one does not achieve it starting from something different from it, but rather starting from an initiative that resides in it and not in the peripheral faculties of normal consciousness. So that it is said: “The blind man does not have any possibility of making himself a guide.” If the repetition is simply mechanical, if it is not already accompanied by a certain level of interior evidence, it results in nothing, and regarding that, anyone can perform the experiment whenever he wants.

In the East, where these things were studied at their foundation, they likewise recognize the importance of *japa* (repetition) through the “realization” of the so-called mantra (magical formula); however, it is explicitly said that one can do *japa* even a million times, but unless the mantra is “understood”, “awakened” (*sphota*), the *japa* remains a mere flapping of the lips. This “self-awakening” of the mantra is an illuminative moment; of pure inner evidence (so it is said in the texts that “awakening” the mantra means to realize it in one’s essence “made of light”, *Jyotirmaya*), which can be propitiated and intensified from repetition, but not generated, for that demands a true spiritual spontaneity, an effective passing of consciousness from one “dimension” to another.

It is a question of the same qualitative heterogeneity that intercedes between the concentration of the fire of a lens over a substance and its sudden burning up—naturally considering the phenomenon not from



the physical point of view, but from that of the psychological effect in a spectator. Therefore, it is not necessary to have any illusions of the efficacy of the “method”: one can be certain that wherever it succeeds without a true initiative or inner conversion coming into play to animate it — of which very few are capable — it succeeds not through its own power, but rather through some hetero-suggestion that unconsciously is insinuated into the process. And then, from the practical point of view, the result will be equally good: its spiritual value, in reference to the previously mentioned problem, is therefore nullified.

This is the final installment of **Julius Evola**’s essay on **Emile Coué**. Section I was an overview of couism, Section II dealt with it from the psychological point of view, and Section III analyzes it from a metaphysical or spiritual point of view.

The spiritual level overcomes all dualities, so force cannot be understood as working against an “outside” object. Rather, the unmoved mover “acts without acting” in the Taoist and Aristotelean sense. Therefore, in conceiving or imagining something, it brings this about “without effort”. Thus, Evola claims that couism needs to be raised up from the unconscious. The “imagination” is a higher faculty (it is one of the “wits” or internal senses. See, e.g., *The Phenomenology of the Medieval Mind*<sup>7</sup>).

In this state, Evola claims, one will have power not just over the body and its vegetal functions, but even over physical nature. Unfortunately, couism itself is just a tool and not a road to get to that state. For that, “faith” is necessary. But faith in what? Does the “I” simply believe whatever it wants, or is there really a transcendent revelation that is necessary? Here Evola seems to fall short. As long as the quicksand of the subconscious is full of “obscure and murky” ideas, the I cannot lift itself by its own bootstraps from that trap.

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<sup>7</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/?p=3559>

### Section III

In order to specify the meaning of that change of interior level, we can add the following observations. A rather profound truth stands behind the opposition of the will and imagination. We are accustomed to consider force as a near synonym to coercion, to reduce the will to mean *muscular*, but that however presumes an antithesis, a resistance (whether physical or moral), which the I faces and struggles against. All of so-called Western “activism” is based essentially on the concept of tension and effort. Now such a concept of action is fundamentally inferior. Referring precisely to this idea, Lao Tzu was compelled to indicate the mode of spiritual power as *wei-wu-wei*, or acting without acting. It is important to understand this point well.

It finds its best illustration in the Aristotelian concept of *akineton kinoun*, i.e., of the unmoved mover. The one, who is really the cause, does not move: he remains firm at the point of pure creative initiative. Movement takes place only in the effect, in what proceeds from him and of which he remains the master and calm director. In this sense he, properly speaking, does not act: he conceives—he only produces the movement, he causes action without being dragged into the movement and passion, without engaging himself, but *effecting* it and dominating it. Such is the meaning of *wei-wu-wei*.

The same idea is found in the Shakti Tantra. The moment of the permanent (Shiva) is in the positive or masculine power, and the negative, or feminine is that of the dynamic and active power (Shakti). This is in open contrast with the western views which, having lost at this point any trace of the higher mode of the spirit, consider action relating to the simple demiurgic force, passion, manias, mere actuality or spontaneity as positive and masculine, i.e., having its own principle outside itself (and such is the truth of the “evolutionistic” doctrines such as those of Bergson and Gentile). This is, actually, to be called passive and feminine. Hence, even the deep sense of the opposition, in Christian Gnosticism, of the

“pneumatic God” to Yaldabaoth, the demiurge God and creator.

The spiritual, by hypothesis, is superior to every antithesis or polarity; the material is instead formed in it and for this reason, its principle is struggle. The same concept of force—just as Guyau correctly noted—arises outside of the relationship to a resistance, so that it, in an absolute way, does not indicate potency, but impotency. Instead, the spiritual never needs to “struggle”, it unfolds in a calm way without fighting. Hence, the profound meaning of the paradoxical aphorism of Lao Tzu, that “truly victorious army is the one that has never fought.”

It is a matter of an inner and subtle action that is irresistible since it is part of the level of a principle, that has nothing against itself, that is entirely and hierarchically superior to every antithesis and polarity of the material or moral plane. This “creative indifference”—as Friedlander-Mynona calls it—that is pure, subtle conceiving, is referred to again, in the Kabbalistic tradition, and the eleventh Arcanum of Force in the Tarot, in which the symbol of a woman holds tight the jaws of a furious lion *without any effort*, exhibits, precisely the manner of spiritual causality, the mistress of every violent force and every physical determinism. On the other hand, the Lodge, it is in the curious words: “he walks with a stick; therefore rifles discharge with a wave of his hand.”

Now, it is precisely such acting without acting that it is necessary to refer to when Coué speaks of the “imagination”: the world of this imagination, just as we expressly mentioned, is indeed not an acting in the proper sense, but instead a self-representation, a pure, interior apperception — something that becomes, insensibly and subtly, almost from nothing. The will is, to tell the truth, a principle connected to the physical being and the environment, a product of biological contingencies: it therefore necessarily submits to the limits and the conditions of the life of relation and the material plane. In the “imagination”, the reflection of “acting without acting” is instead expressed, or acting without effort for higher spiritual spontaneity. In it, the I can therefore have a true mag-

ical organ, an organ by which it can assert itself over whatever eludes the willpower in the strict sense: over its emotivity and over its physiological being, and not only, but even— this affirmation does not seem too audacious—over physical nature.

The day will come in which one will realize that everything that man realizes by means of positive science over nature is only an illusion of power: in fact, it does not truly dominate in the various mechanisms devised by technology, but makes itself the slave and always more dependent on the various natural laws that it presupposes, recognizes, and exploits. And that is because the scientific attitude is essentially extroverted and separative and because its level is that of the I opposed to the non-I and not that of the principle that understands this duality and is interiorly superior to it. The secret of our impotency is precisely this: that we are preoccupied by things, that our action is almost magnetized by them, that it never truly draws its determination from its own interiority. We put ourselves on the same plane of phenomena or the outer world, although we are subject to its laws. Should one instead place himself for an inner conversion at the level of that which rules phenomena, what external thing could no longer be resisted? Now in “faith”, “imagination”, etc., there is precisely a suggestion of such a level. If we would know that we do not see or act relying only on a pure affirmation or inner certainty, then we would unlock the realm of the only real power. This is active faith: the popular saying that faith is blind is spot on. But such blindness is not a privation, it is instead a perfection; it symbolizes the pure freedom where the “seeing” here would signify it was tied, it was subject to the law and the principle of the “other”.

Coué’s merit is therefore to have brought to light the inferior, negative character of the will properly (or improperly) called, in general, that of violent and antithetical action against the subtle mode of a realization without effort that, to tell the truth, stops being “sensible”. His defect is not having understood “imagination” as a higher level of the spirit,

but of having substantialized it superstitiously in a type of distinct entity opposed to the conscious I, to be used via small expedients. His method acutally does not center on the I in the role of the “imagination”, but seeks instead to excite it from the outside through the technique of relaxation and repetition. Thus, in order to empower the conscious individuality, to elevate its pure energy to the luminous peak of a pure act, couism estranges the I from itself, doubles it in a type of hysterical dissociation. Then the imagination adopts the obscure murky power of the subconscious, studied by psychoanalysis that, in such cases, has this advantage over couism: it seeks to penetrate and resolve it in clear consciousness, where couism does not care about that, but only to make it work. And such a scission, admitted in principle, brings a serious consequence. If the subconscious then comes about as a distinct entity, man will also be able to dominate with it this or that element that previously eluded him, he will also be able to make his warts and his asthma disappear, but never will he be able to guarantee an autonomy to what he wants and that he can only be the effect of obscure subconscious processes, which he does not know, nor can he know anything about them.

The same reasons in the name of which he could use or subject the subconscious—given also that he succeeds in it — would be able in their turn to be just the symbols of subconscious impulses: every freedom could be only the peripheral appearance of the instrument of an irrational and impenetrable force.

This essay on couism and its problems that arise from it suffices for now. Everyone sees that it is a matter of passionate questions, which would merit being considered and amplified rather more than what has so far been done.

*Posted on 2013-12-16 by Aeneas*

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scardanelli on 2013-12-19 at 10:41 said:

Thank you for this translation Cologero. It has been extremely useful to me in clarifying Tomberg's third letter and the concept of sacred magic.

Here's wishing you and your family a Merry Christmas. I offer my prayers for health and wisdom for you and all of the readers of Gornahoor.

"Thou, chaste Moon, full of joy,  
Favour, since thy Apollo now reigns,  
The Child who was born this day.  
He alone will cast iron out of the world  
And populate both Poles with  
A most precious lineage of gold"

## 7.5 The Healing Power of the Mind

Although **Emile Coué**, who originated the affirmation, "Every day, in every way, I am getting better and better", may not be so well known today, his influence is nevertheless very great indeed. Anyone on facebook cannot help but notice the constant flow of "positive affirmations" in his feed, which is undoubtedly part of Coué's legacy. While I agree it is fine to think positively when appropriate, it often rises to the level of superstition. I knew a woman who refused to dance the tango with me because she felt the music was too sad.

It may even become delusional when the hard facts of life confront us. Prince Siddhartha's life was totally altered when he came to terms with illness, ageing, and death; positive thinking alone cannot prevent them. In the teaching of the dominant religion closer to home, the loss of the Primordial State brought death, toil, and pain to the human race. The solution to death has to come from the outside, not from nice thoughts.

Evola, however, was quite interested in Coué and devoted a longish essay about his teachings<sup>8</sup>. Evola related Couéism to the "acting without effort" of Taoism, using language not unlike **Valentin Tomberg's**

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<sup>8</sup>See Section 7.4 in this book.

description of the Juggler or Bateleur<sup>9</sup>. But before offering up the translation of that effort, I would like to provide a little background for comparison and contrast to Evola's views. On the one hand, we will use some concepts from German philosophy to make a plausible case and also Fr. **Alois Wiesinger**'s comments from his book *Occult Phenomena*<sup>10</sup>.

**The Soul Principles of Healing** Fr. Wiesinger devotes several pages to Couéism. First of all, he notes the well documented possibility of the healing disease through interior powers. This is not implausible when we recall that the body is the form of the soul, so that changes in the soul life can and will affect the body. As a trivial example, we can note how erotic thoughts effectuate bodily changes. Fr. Wiesinger notes that

there are in the subconscious those purely spiritual powers of the soul which are remains of preternatural gifts. Sometimes these can achieve wonderful results.

There two principles that account for Coué's success:

- Every thought strives towards its own realization
- The law of effort produces an opposite effect.

In the first law, the more a thought is entertained, the more the nervous system will seek to realize it. That is, the sense-stimulus nerve system will create a pathway for the motor nerve system. There are some drawbacks, the most obvious of which is that the vegetative soul is not very responsive to conscious control. (E.g., you don't digest your food by thinking through the process of digestion.) The other more subtle one is that every

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<sup>9</sup><https://www.meditationsonthetarot.com/personal-effort-and-spiritual-reality>

<sup>10</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/library/occultPhenomena.pdf>

thought engenders some doubt, which may negate the original positive thought. Hence, Coué turned to the subconscious for the second principle. Fr. Wiesinger explains:

When the will commands an act, then the reason judges whether such an act is possible, reasonable, useful, etc., and so by its doubts and reflections prevents the first law from being effective.

Hence, the positive suggestions need to take place in an altered state, i.e., a “half-sleep”, or “alpha state”, and so on. That is why so much operative magic relies on techniques to quiet the conscious mind in order to reach down into deeper states. These states are more receptive to auto-suggestion and don’t give rise to doubts. The modern Westerner is too dependent on reflection and the conclusions of science, so he finds it difficult to reach such states. Hence there results a self-fulfilling prophecy. This is unlike Jesus’ teaching recorded in Mark 11:23:

Amen I say to you, that whosoever shall say to this mountain, Be thou removed and be cast into the sea, and shall not stagger in his heart, but believe, that whatsoever he saith shall be done; it shall be done unto him.

Although Fr. Wiesinger devotes several pages of examples, including those from Christian Science (a close relative of New Thought), we can skip past them for our purposes. The main points of interest are these:

- To be effective the discursive mind must be repressed. Evola refers to this as the First Trial<sup>11</sup>. Valentin Tomberg also makes clear that the mind must be silenced.

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<sup>11</sup><https://www.gornahoor.net/?p=1902>



- The various techniques are of value only insofar as they manage to bypass the chattering mind to reach deeper into one's soul life. Hence, there are no absolute techniques, but only those that are most suitable to one's personal equation.
- Phenomena like healings, astral travel, etc., are not necessarily the result of miracles. Rather they are usually the result of the activities of the spirit-soul over the body, since some vestigial preternatural powers still remain if they can be reached and activated.

**Creativity in German Philosophy** As should be well known, Evola was heavily influenced by German philosophy, to which he incorporated some elements of Thomism in an interesting way. In particular, **Johann Fichte**, following Kant, came to the conclusion that what could be known with certainty was the I and the freedom of the moral will. That concerns the noumenal, or transcendent, will. As this I “posits” itself, it must also posit the non-I so that the moral will has a field of action. Hence, this non-I is a privation and a free creation of the I. As the I becomes more aware of what it has done, it develops, perhaps even up to the point of becoming the “Absolute I” or Absolute Self.

For **Friedrich Schelling**, this creation takes the form of Art. Art is the human equivalent of “*creatio ex nihilo*”, or we Hermetists would say, “As above, so below”. So the question then is to what extent is the creation of the non-I really due to the I. Here, we should rely on the distinction between natural and artificial kinds. Natural kinds are the ideas in the mind of God, the Infinite Possibilities in Guenon's language. Artificial kinds are the product of human design. It should be obvious, then, that a great deal of our personal and social life is actually the creation from artificial kinds, whether individually or as part of a group.

The course of our lives is to a greater or lesser extent the result of our decisions and our thinking about persons, places, things, and events encountered within it. The boundary between freedom and fate is not

always clear cut, but it may be wise to err on the side of freedom. Similarly, our social organizations are also products of the human will. A people arises when there is a common mind on these things. Again, there is a natural social organization, the Traditional one, but even within that framework, there is ample room for human creativity and, unfortunately, the anti-creativity resulting from weakness, ignorance, and malice.

Here we see the possibility for the clash of worldviews. In this scheme, to some extent the “best” worldview will prevail, the one that leads to survival and thriving and is best aligned to the natural kinds. Nevertheless, passion and strength of will also have a lot to do with it.

*Posted on 2013-12-09 by Cologero*

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scardanelli on 2013-12-10 at 09:33 said:

“Here, we should rely on the distinction between natural and artificial kinds.”

So, in other words, we must learn to discern the spirits- to recognize the demons and egregores engendered by humanity, and to differentiate between these and genuine spiritual impulses.

It’s interesting...since the first mention of New Thought on Gornahoor I have run into it in several places. Paul Foster Case mentions it in one of his books on the Tarot. Another commenter mentioned Lisiewski, who beleives that at the time of its inception, life was simpler and the techiques of New Thought were sufficient to gain the results that it promised. Since then, life has become mush more complex. In the words used here, there are many more artificial kinds of ideas that make it much more difficult for us to gain control. Thus the need to seperate from discursive thought, to acheive silence.

Michael on 2013-12-10 at 21:40 said:

What is the mechanism whereby thoughts affect the external environment? If I understand New Thought correctly, they believe that everything is made out of God (sorry for putting this so crudely) and that we are emanations of God. Because we are, in a sense, God, we can affect our external environment.

If the New Thought metaphysics are incorrect, how can we affect our external environment via pure thought? I accept that we exercise a degree of control over our bodies.

Scardanelli, what are your thoughts on Paul Foster Case? He has a lot of good insights into the Tarot but seems to come to a conclusion that is opposite of Tradition.

scardanelli on 2013-12-10 at 22:34 said:

My only knowledge of New Thought is derived from what Cologero has shared here, but in a general sense, if the subtle rules the dense, then changes in the soul effect changes in the body. New Thought seeks to use daily affirmations to effect change in the material world. However, since these daily affirmations are only a few of the legion of thoughts, feelings, etc that we experience each day, they are mostly ineffective. Thus, it's not necessarily that their metaphysics are incorrect, but that they misunderstand the nature of the problem and it's practical solution (concentration, silence, the quieting of the mind). This is why Tomberg states that it is first necessary to learn concentration without effort, lest you become a mere charlatan.

As far as Paul Foster Case is concerned, I don't know if I'd recommend him necessarily, but there were a few interesting bits of information that helped fill in some gaps for me in his *Introduction to the Study of the Tarot*. I really only read it because I found it available as a free PDF.

There seem to be two competing interpretations of the Tarot, a Golden Dawn interpretation which he seems to be involved with and the French Hermetic school of Papus, Levi, Tomberg, etc. He places The Fool before the Magician rather than between Judgement and The World. So his interpretation won't exactly line up with Tomberg's. The PDF, as well as some other interesting offerings, can be found at the *Ordre Martiniste Operatif au Quebec* website.

francismercuri on 2013-12-15 at 22:37 said:

"New Thought", or at least certain premises therein, deserve consideration. New Thought, and all of its repackagings err not so much in their interpretations of mechanisms of human consciousness, but in their evaluation that human consciousness operates in a vacuum—that it is the single force between "us" and all else. It has value—minimally in encouraging individuals to examine and remain attentive to their thoughts—to master thoughts, perceptions, and reactions to them—aka self-mastery, thus even if some of New Thought's premises and conclusions fall short, this is sound enough spiritual advice. But it roughly ends there.

New Thought often describes itself as a "metaphysical" system. It would be better if it regarded itself as a system (or science) of understanding and operating mind and consciousness in relation to matter, as it does not meet the muster of a "metaphysics". Metaphysics deals with "Total Possibility"—New Thought imposes the limit of consciousness and/or human consciousness in the process of "creating reality" ("we create our own reality" as the famous saying goes), and as such, can not be a true metaphysics (although perhaps more an epistemology, phenomenology, and "psychology").

Many more "traditional models" exist to contrast. In broad strokes there is the "Great Triad"

formula—three special “Qi” existing—Tian (Heaven), Ren (Human), and Ti (Earth). Each have numerous subdivisions, characteristics, and qualities. The “band” of human qi that New Thought works with isn’t even all of the human state, much less all states beyond human.

In more, and most radically “practical” terms, vis a vis producing “magical” results, New Thought, while only considering human qi, often “fails” when ignoring other streaming qis. “Heaven” in this context becomes astrological factors assessed by the cosmic observer before and during times of working. “Earth” becomes not only the concrete environmental conditions one finds oneself within (including their hereditary lot); but also the type of Telluric energies investigated by things like Classical Feng Shui, or otherwise handled under the guise of “local spirits”.

New Thought then, imo, is not a failure, it just requires reassessment, and its limitations need be noted.