

# The Path of Transformation

## *Voyage to the Silent Self*



*Blavatsky Lecture 2014*  
by Susan Bayliss



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## **Voyage to the Silent Self**



**by Susan Bayliss**

***Blavatsky Lecture 2014***

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# DEDICATION



## TO THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE CHAIN OF LOVE

With grateful thanks to those who have supported my efforts:  
My partner John for his never ending love and caring attention, and others  
who wish to remain silent, but who have nevertheless helped  
to sustain me throughout my journey.





# The Great Roar of Nature

Life is full of potentiality from “the circle of heaven”<sup>1</sup> to Mother Earth and all that live within her. The extent of this potential is hidden from us in our mundane world, concealed, according to the ‘Ancients’, behind a veil of illusion in which we live and experience our everyday lives.

Out of ‘nothingness’ came the “Great Illusion”<sup>2</sup> say the ancient Seers. All that ever was or ever can be rested in latency<sup>3</sup>. Energy contracted into a state of potentiality awaiting the impulse to become an expression of new life – a new universe. The same potentiality lies also within us and we too can awaken to a ‘new world’; a world in which we are transformed from a place of ignorance to a state of Knowledge and Wisdom. Our task is to find the keys which open the doorway to the higher life.

Notions of potentiality and latent energies may seem very obscure and hard to grasp. Yet our physical bodies, from planets to microscopic life, are full of such latent energy; pulsating forces which transform, grow and develop as Life evolves. The consciousness of our world, the Life of the planet, changes as we change and as our consciousness lifts, we creep forwards on our long journey of transformation.

H. P. Blavatsky (HPB) in the Secret Doctrine (SD) describes the process of Life awakening at cosmic level, from potential space to the abstract space of “divine immaculate Mother-Nature” – see Plate One. These diagrams represent condensed latent energy in a state of potentiality, not yet materialised. The point in the circle symbolises the First Cause: “not yet the Architect, but the cause of that Architect”<sup>4</sup>. As the Zohar says:

*“In the beginning was the Will of the King, prior to any other existence. . . . It [the Will] sketched the forms of all things that had been concealed but now came into view. And there went forth as a sealed secret from the head of Ain Soph<sup>5</sup>, a nebulous spark of matter, without shape or form.... Life is drawn from below, and from above the source renews itself; the sea is always full and spreads its waters everywhere.”<sup>6</sup>*

Another way of expressing this outward flow of energy from latency to potency is evoked in Pricilla P Wood’s vibrant video “Mother Earth Love and Energy Mandala”<sup>7</sup>. Ever renewing and withdrawing, these whirls of kinetic energy imply the dynamic ebb and flow of the universe. From its early flower-like burst into life, expanding “from within without like the bud of a lotus”<sup>8</sup>; to its emerging streams of complex forces. Scientific investigations indicate that the basic structure of the universe is a massive field of photon energy, filling the dark space of the cosmos and the so-called empty space between atomic particles. One cubic meter of this photon energised space has the power to boil every ocean on this planet. Scientific ideas vary from hypothesis to hypothesis and the NASA/WMAP Science Team have provided a diagram of the expansion of the cosmos in space and time, bringing together some of the latest concepts. See Plates Two and Three.

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<sup>1</sup> “Secret Doctrine” Volume 1, p426. H. P. Blavatsky, Collected Writings, Editor Boris De Zirkoff. TPH 1978.

<sup>2</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p71.

<sup>3</sup> Latent: concealed, dormant, undeveloped but capable of development.

<sup>4</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p426. 1979 Centenary Edition, Theosophical Publishing House.

<sup>5</sup> Ain Soph: Absolute Being, the One Absolute Reality, Parabrahman, the Causeless Cause.

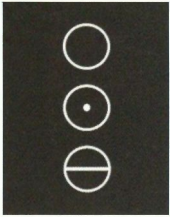
<sup>6</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p356: Zohar, I, 15a Brody ed.; Cremona ed., I, also Brody ed., I, fol. 60-70.

<sup>7</sup> Pricilla P Wood “Mother Earth Love and Energy Mandala”: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PLcCa4jIltQ>

<sup>8</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p62.

## PLATE ONE

### COSMIC CREATION

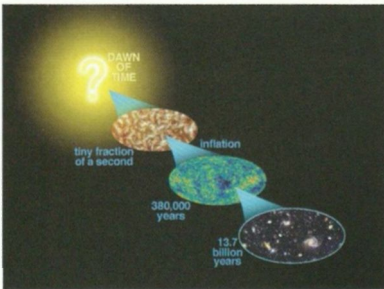


The circle or disc symbolises: “Boundless Space” or “Boundless Circle of the Unknown Time”. “Limitless Time and Eternity” from which Circle issues the Radiant Light – the Universal Sun”. The disc with a central point symbolises the first differentiation of Eternal Nature, the first Ray in the Ocean of Life. The diameter symbolizes a divine immaculate Mother-Nature, the all-embracing absolute Infinity<sup>9</sup>. These selected lines from Stanzas One, Two and Three, are translated in the Secret Doctrine from the Book of Dzyan<sup>10</sup> and provide a glimpse of the beginning of Cosmic Evolution:

- The Eternal Parent (Space), wrapped in her Ever-Invisible Robes, had slumbered once again for Seven Eternities.
- Time was not, for it lay asleep in the infinite bosom of duration.
- Universal Mind was not, for there were no Ah-Hi (celestial beings) to contain it (hence to manifest it).
- Darkness alone filled the Boundless All.
- The Causes of Existence had been done away with, the visible that was and the invisible that is, rested in Eternal Non-Being – the One Being.
- Alone the One form of Existence stretched boundless, infinite, causeless, in dreamless sleep and life pulsed unconscious in universal space, throughout that All-Presence which is sensed by the “Opened Eye” of the Dangma<sup>11</sup>
- Her heart had not yet opened for the One Ray to enter thence to fall, as three into four, into the lap of Maya<sup>12</sup>.
- The last Vibration of the Seventh Eternity thrills through infinitude. The mother swells, expanding from Within Without, like the bud of the lotus.
- Darkness radiates Light, and Light drops one Solitary Ray into the Mother Deep.

## PLATE TWO

### COSMIC HISTORY



WMAP observes the first light of the universe - the afterglow of the Big Bang. This light emerged 380,000 years after the Big Bang. Patterns imprinted on this light encode the events that happened only a tiny fraction of a second after the Big Bang. In turn, the patterns are the seeds of the development of the structures of galaxies we now see billions of years after the Big Bang<sup>13</sup>

<sup>9</sup> SD. Vol. 1, pp36-46.

<sup>10</sup> In-depth information can be found in the Proem, Volume One of the Secret Doctrine.

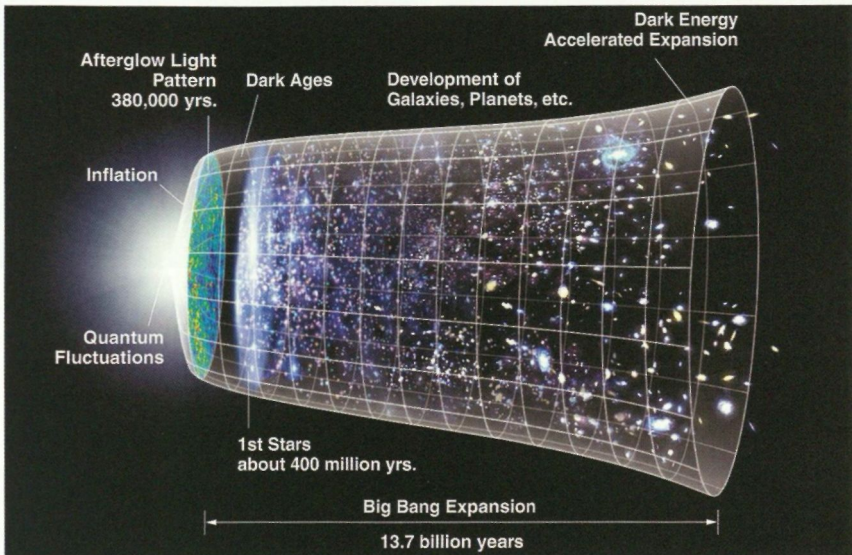
<sup>11</sup> The Eye of Siva, A purified Soul, the highest Adept or a Mahatma, the inner spiritual eye of a Seer. (SD, Vol 1, p46)

<sup>12</sup> Maya: illusion, material existence – the ‘unreal’ as opposed to the ‘Real’ Absolute Cause. The illusion of ignorance,

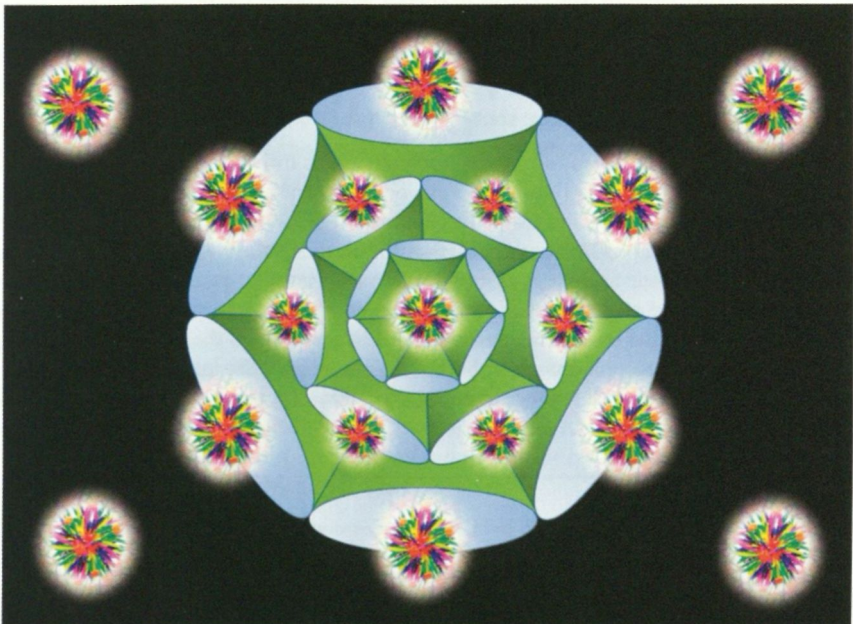
<sup>13</sup> Illustration. Cosmic History: <http://map.gsfc.nasa.gov/media/020622/index.html> Courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.



## PLATE THREE



Time Line of the Universe. NASA/WMAP Science Team. Courtesy Wikimedia Commons



Energy expands in all directions within cosmic space as matter unfolds in space and time. (SB)





As we see in Plate Two, energy bursts through into the realms of manifestation and the seeds of matter are formed. These are the structures of galaxies we now see from rays of light which have travelled over billions of years. The Occult teachings (*which the Secret Doctrine outlines*), say that “Cosmic Desire”<sup>14</sup> evolves into absolute Light, light without any shadow - in other words ‘absolute darkness’ or the ‘dazzling darkness’:

*“The first flutter of renascent life, Svabhavat<sup>15</sup>, “the mutable radiance of the Immutable Darkness unconscious in Eternity,” passes, at every new rebirth of Kosmos, from an inactive state into one of intense activity; that it differentiates... The one Cosmic atom becomes seven atoms on the plane of matter, and each is transformed into a centre of energy; that same atom becomes seven rays on the plane of spirit, and the seven creative forces of nature radiating from the root essence... The atoms emanated from the Central Point emanate in their turn new centres of energy, which under the potential breath of Fohat<sup>10</sup>, begin their work from within without, and multiply other minor centres. These in the course of evolution and involution, form in their turn the roots or developing causes of new effects, from worlds and “man-bearing” globes, down to the genera, species, and classes of all the seven kingdoms (of which we know only four).<sup>16</sup>*

During the 20<sup>th</sup> Century we began to receive stunning images from deep space, thanks to Hubble Space Telescope<sup>17</sup>, and other instruments employed by organisations such as the American and European Space Agencies (NASA and ESA). The Hubble images show the formation of galaxies and stars as they appeared countless billions of years ago<sup>18</sup>. These regions of space, millions and millions of light-years<sup>19</sup> across, are just a minute part of the cosmos. Starburst galaxies and nebulae produce trillions of newly formed stars and these images reveal the endless cycle of construction and destruction; a glimpse of the unfathomable life in the vast sea which is the cosmos. A cosmic world which physicists now know more than ever before. Scientists have the ingenuity to use every scrap of scientific technology and mathematics to analyse and interpret these findings with high levels of verifiable accuracy.

<sup>14</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p201.

<sup>15</sup> Svabhavat: the eternal cause or root cause (mulaprakriti). Fohat: Divine thought impressed on Cosmic Substance, the dynamic energy of the Cosmic Ideation, the guiding power of all manifestation.

<sup>16</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p635.

<sup>17</sup> Hubble - 15 Years of Discovery, documentary, 2005. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wGSNQfxEGds>

<sup>18</sup> These images captured space activity billions of years old because of the time it takes for light to travel across these limitless distances.

<sup>19</sup> A light year is 6 trillion miles, the distance covered in a year when travelling at the speed of light.

Illustration: Starburst Galaxy (M82). Hoag's Object, Ring Galaxy. Spiral galaxy NGC 4414. NASA, ESA and NASA-HQ-GRIN. Hubble Space Telescope. Courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

Some of the descriptions of modern space-science in documentaries about the Milky Way<sup>20</sup> and the Universe<sup>21</sup> appear to bear a startling similarity to some of the passages translated from ancient texts and set down in the Secret Doctrine; texts written thousands of years before science had the ability to take sophisticated instruments and highly refined telescopic lenses into outer space:

*The Central Sun causes Fohat to collect primordial dust in the form of balls, to impel them to move in converging lines and finally to approach each other and aggregate. Being scattered in Space, without order or system the world-germs come into frequent collision until their final aggregation after which they become wanderers [Comets]. Then the battles and struggles begin. The older [bodies] attract the younger, while others repel them. Many perish, devoured by their stronger companions. Those that escape become worlds.*<sup>22</sup>

In one of the less crowded regions between two of the outer arms of our spiral galaxy, the solar system sits like an infinitesimally small speck of dust. Described as a “cosmic star city”<sup>17</sup> our galaxy contains an infinitesimal number of stars and planets. It is 600,000 trillion miles across and in the cosmos there are a countless number – trillions and trillions – of galaxies which are far bigger.

Scientists have discovered an astonishing amount of information about the composition of galaxies and the chemical makeup of stars and star nebulas. They are able to determine the composition of the gases and minerals, the temperature and pressure inside, the level of nuclear reaction, and teams of scientists study how stars are born and die. All of this information comes only from the light. Rays of light born in the far distant past and conveyed across millions of light years over eons of time.

Our galaxy is a huge floating island in the cosmos in which the solar system was formed 4.6 billion years ago. Our sun holds titanic forces and is so gigantic that a million Earths would fit inside. Its surface bursts with electrical and magnetic activity and solar flares, each candescent loop releasing more energy than 10 million volcanos.<sup>17</sup> But at a varying distance from the Earth of between 91 million and 94.5 million miles during the course of a year, it provides an appropriate level of light and heat to sustain life in this sometimes fierce, but bountiful and beautiful garden - Earth.

Numerous television programmes and documentaries grant an opportunity to discover the exquisite array of life with whom we share this world. From giant creatures and distinctly weird life forms which live in what for us are highly hostile environments, to the delicately wistful and charmingly beautiful.<sup>23</sup> We live on a fragile, sparkling blue planet sailing in a magnificent Ocean of Life.

Through these avenues we can see for ourselves how far the scientific world has travelled, and how far the human mind has developed an ability to discover things about the world, the universe and cosmic space. Similarly medical science has discovered a huge amount about the human body and the human brain, but Knowledge of what consciousness is and where it comes from is as elusive as ever. As yet no one knows how anaesthetics work and consciousness remains one of THE big questions in science. Serailian’s painting ‘The Opening of The Third Eye’ illustrates an esoteric perspective on higher levels of consciousness. The head of Minerva represents Wisdom and depicts how the higher and lower natures are coordinated when the pineal and pituitary glands blend together to form the third or spiritual eye. See Plate Four.

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<sup>20</sup> “Explore the Milky Way”, documentary, February 2014. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aNV1Q—R7-A>

<sup>21</sup> “Life in the Universe, documentary”, January 2013. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=34sEX6VM9sU>

<sup>22</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p201.

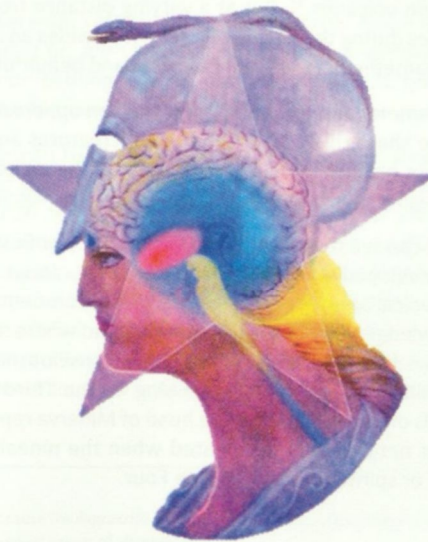
<sup>23</sup> “Earth”, February 2010. [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thuVixRd\\_](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=thuVixRd_)



## PLATE FOUR



Representation of consciousness from the seventeenth century.<sup>24</sup>



The Opening the Third Eye - The Head of Minerva.<sup>25</sup>

<sup>24</sup> Robert Fudd *Bewusstsein*, 1619. Courtesy Wikimedia Commons.

<sup>25</sup> M K Seralian 1867–1957. Estate of the Artist. Photo SB (adapted).

The search for this scientific knowledge continues and aspects of perceptual awareness and altered states of consciousness such as telepathy and remote viewing are being seriously studied. Many people have unexplained experiences and Science has yet to find answers as to how these things occur. Astronaut Edgar D. Mitchell founded the Noetic Society after experiencing a change of consciousness in space:

*"Something happened to me during the flight ..... it was an altered state of consciousness, a peak experience if you will ..... It occurred when looking at Earth and seeing this blue-and-white planet floating there ..... seeing - rather, knowing for sure - that there was a purposefulness of flow, of energy, of time, of space in the cosmos ..... There seems to be more to the universe than random, chaotic, purposeless movement of a collection of molecular particles. On the return trip home, gazing through 240,000 miles of space toward the stars and the planet from which I had come, I suddenly experienced the universe as intelligent, loving, harmonious".<sup>26</sup>*

He describes having a realization that the molecules of everything from his body to the spacecraft and the earth, came from ancient stars. Not an intellectual knowledge but a transformative experience accompanied by a feeling of ecstasy. Over the ages writers from many and varied spiritual traditions, and from no spiritual or religious background, have recorded experiences of higher levels of consciousness; from out of body and near-death experiences to Cosmic Consciousness. Esoteric Science has long since discovered much about the human mind and its great potentiality, and in time, humanity will understand far more about the nature of the universe and the life within it.

The Ancient Teachings tell us that from the largest galaxy to the smallest germ of life, atomic particle, or speck of dust, all life is ONE. There is no dead matter and ALL that IS has consciousness. From the super-consciousness of the highest Cosmic Beings, who bring the world into being, to the minerals of the Earth which appear to slumber unresponsively. ALL are alive.

All are on the path of return from the many to the One, from a period of cosmic activity to a period of cosmic rest, and everything is changing, unfolding, growing and evolving. From the almost insentient, to those higher beings who are Fully Awakened and in full Conscious Union with Nature. WE are each a small part of this universal process of Transformation, the 'cycle of necessity' which continues from aeon to aeon. Life provides the necessary conditions for the evolution of consciousness and our progression on the Path of Return.

Sperling says of Pythagoras: *"This great savant knew well that the philosophers and initiates of old veiled truth and prohibited access to their sciences, seeking to preserve their Mysteries so that the vulgar may not profane them". We will continue to do this until "... esoteric science, that is integral and religious science, comes to be rebuilt on its own indestructible foundations ... the philosophy and Initiate Science of the ancients at its best, leading as all true science must, to the Temple of the Mysteries".<sup>27</sup>*

Mankind is at the centre of the cycle of evolution on Earth, the balance of spiritual and material are equal, but it is up to each one of us to strive to develop so that the spiritual qualities outweigh the material; so that we reach a fully awakened condition of consciousness. This is the way of unfoldment, in this our sacred journey.

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<sup>26</sup> "The Sweet Dreamz of Ed Mitchell" May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2013 is a re-published interview Ed Mitchell gave East-West Journal in 1973.

<sup>27</sup> The Golden Verses of Pythagoras, Introduction. F D'Olivet. Thorsons Publishers Limited 1975.



# The Path of Transformation



We have already begun our own journey of discovery and our future voyage of transformation will take us into the spiritual dimensions of the human heart and mind. Just as a tiny acorn holds tightly within itself the potentiality of a great oak tree, we possess the potentiality to develop into a noble Being and realise what we truly are.

Our physical body is our boat on the sea of life, when we are anchored once again on this earthly plane. We are born into a world of mystery, one we must again learn to know and understand. As a baby we first slumber and then with the nurturing love of our parents, slowly awaken, grow and blossom.



As a child we emerge like a clown fish into a sea of the unknown. At first it is difficult to find our way and we stick to the secure environment of our home, until we grow strong enough to venture out into the broader world. From here on our life's journey begins in earnest. Just like a seedling we are *Alive*, full of potential, so vividly evoked by this song from Shakira:

*Take off all of your skin I'm brave when you're free,  
Shake off all of your sins and give them to me,  
Closer, let me back in, I wanna be your hero,  
And my heart beats,  
Like the empires of the world unite  
We are alive  
And the stars make love to the universe.....<sup>1</sup>*



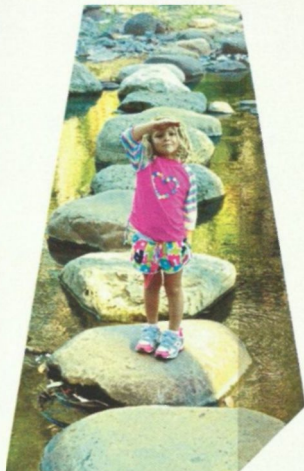
We face many hard lessons and the great teacher on this journey is Karma, the one ever present Law of balance and harmony, the ultimate Law of the Universe. It is the Law of Adjustment which turns the Great Wheel of Life. The whole of creation is subject to the collective karma of all that lives within her.<sup>2</sup> Karma teaches the consequences of our actions. We learn through the hard knocks and painful lessons we experience in life and will in time be thankful for the opportunity this afforded in lifting us to the next stage. There is always much to observe, to learn and do, and so we grow.

Everyone has their struggle with karma. Even those who we might imagine live easy lives also have burdens to carry, lessons to learn and struggles to overcome. No one person experiences the same, for each life is unique and we all evolve from diverse backgrounds and different past experiences. Apparent differences, quandaries and questions are the 'stuff of life' for each and every one of us. In human nature there is a universal tendency to condemn others for what they say or do, but we cannot

<sup>1</sup> Song by Shakira "Empire", lyrics by Ina Wroldsen. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHnQjFXkIQY>

<sup>2</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p634-5. "The whole visible Kosmos consists of "self-produced beings, the creatures of karma". p188, p643-4. Illustrations: Baby, SB 2009. Sprouting Acorn, Amphis 2012, and Clown fish (Amphiprion ocellaris), Nick Hobgood 2004. Courtesy Wikipedia Commons.





judge another country or another person, or their motivation and intentions. That is not our concern; we can each only look to our own actions and reactions. All these impulses and desires have a profound effect as they ripple across the world. Our brothers and sisters in life help us to grow and we can each be grateful for the lessons we share.

From time to time we will meet fellow travellers who offer us their hand or we may help them. The heart-warming feelings and love such a gift provides gives comfort and strength. Our helpers are there to greet us and may come from any walk of life, in bodies young or old, clothed in costumes familiar or strange, but come they do. Some we may recognise as souls who have passed our way to help and support, others may walk by our side as silent helpers. We may not understand for several years, or perhaps never recognise, the help we received. Either way, having such a helping hand or a companion to walk with us along the way offers valuable support and enables us to progress:

*"Give light and comfort to the toiling pilgrim, and seek out him who knows still less than thou; who in his wretched desolation sits starving for the bread of Wisdom and the bread which feeds the shadow, without a Teacher, hope or consolation, and – let him hear the Law".<sup>3</sup>*

The ways of Service are many. Some have been spiritual seekers and workers for humanity in past lives, and have come into this life drawn to the Ancient Wisdom, or Theosophy, some are coming to it for the first time. Either way there is no short cut. Through our own efforts, longing and searching, we must slough off old habits and foibles to find the path to our own Inner Light. This will be our guide to the extent we are able to follow it, slowly at first and later with more assured steps. We will find tests and trials on our thorny path towards self-development, and many are the pitfalls and false steps, but there is no disgrace in failure – sometimes this is our best teacher:

*Does the road wind up-hill all the way?*

*Yes, to the very end.*

*Does the journey take the whole long day?*

*From morn till night, my friend.<sup>4</sup>*

In her book *Chasm of Fire*, which is a detailed account of her spiritual journey and experience of enlightenment, Irina Tweedie puts it like this: *"You come naked into the world and you go naked. When you come to the Spiritual Teacher, you have to be naked!"<sup>5</sup>* Naked because we have to learn to let everything go, all our tendencies and attachments and stand as One with our Higher Self. We do not walk alone Mabel Collins says:

*"I am ready, without complaint, to be cast down from the place in which I stand, should I swerve or flinch under any trial falling on those next to me for I know that my strength can never be exhausted, since my comrades also stand unswervingly by my side; and while united we cannot fail.*

<sup>3</sup> The Voice of the Silence, H. P. Blavatsky, p47. A Quest Miniature, Theosophical Publishing House 1980.

<sup>4</sup> Christina Rossetti.

<sup>5</sup> Irina Tweedie, *Chasm of Fire*, p100. Element Books 1988.

Illustration: Stepping stones Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland, Australia. Courtesy © M R Art 2013.

Full page illustration: Grassy trail Carnarvon Gorge (adapted) and Lotus Pond. Courtesy © M R Art 2013.









*The nearness spoken of, the comradeship and union, are entirely spiritual, and have no reference to any nearness or association on the physical plane ..... The disciple, who has become a recognised unit in the great army, has entered upon that place where there are footprints solid as though cut in rock, because through the ages, and before Time was, each one who has entered upon the great path has of necessity stepped in the prints of the feet of the one who has gone before him. The steps of all are identical”<sup>6</sup>*

To reach toward the light and find the gateway to the higher life we inevitably have to walk through some dark and twisting pathways; and if we have the will we will find the strength to continue. Our way along the path will eventually bring us to our own doorway to inner knowledge.

From a higher perspective we are only actors on the stage of life, from which our Higher Selves draw experience. Ultimately we transform into the Shining Self of pure motive, pure thought and pure action. As our hands reach up to the heavens and down to the earth, we need to find a bridge between the two. Through self-observation, we will need to exercise will and intention to cleanse our habits; so that in the end we are purged of impurities of thought, word and action. We need to try, try and try again and what we learn will not be lost because the kernel of our experiences is preserved from life to life until we are fully awakened beings.

Through our journey we will discover how to open the door to this Great Teacher and awaken the Secret Path of True Knowledge and Wisdom. Each human being is ever, evolving, unfolding and progressing, until gradually we come to know that we are One with every other. As Clara Codd puts it *“The problem of the individual is the problem of the world, and in solving his own mystery man*

*solves the mystery of the universe, which is the field of his growth and evolution”<sup>7</sup>*. True Self-development is what happens when we make a conscious effort to change and turn our sights towards the spiritual life.

From time to time Lilian Storey, a former National President of the Theosophical Society in England, was fond of saying, in a philosophical tone of voice, *“may you live in interesting times”*. This was because we learn far more at times of difficulty and change. When there is no turbulence and everything is settled, when life is relatively easy, we can become complacent. One way or another we have to make a conscious and continual effort to make progress.

### **We are King and Queen of our own destinies.**

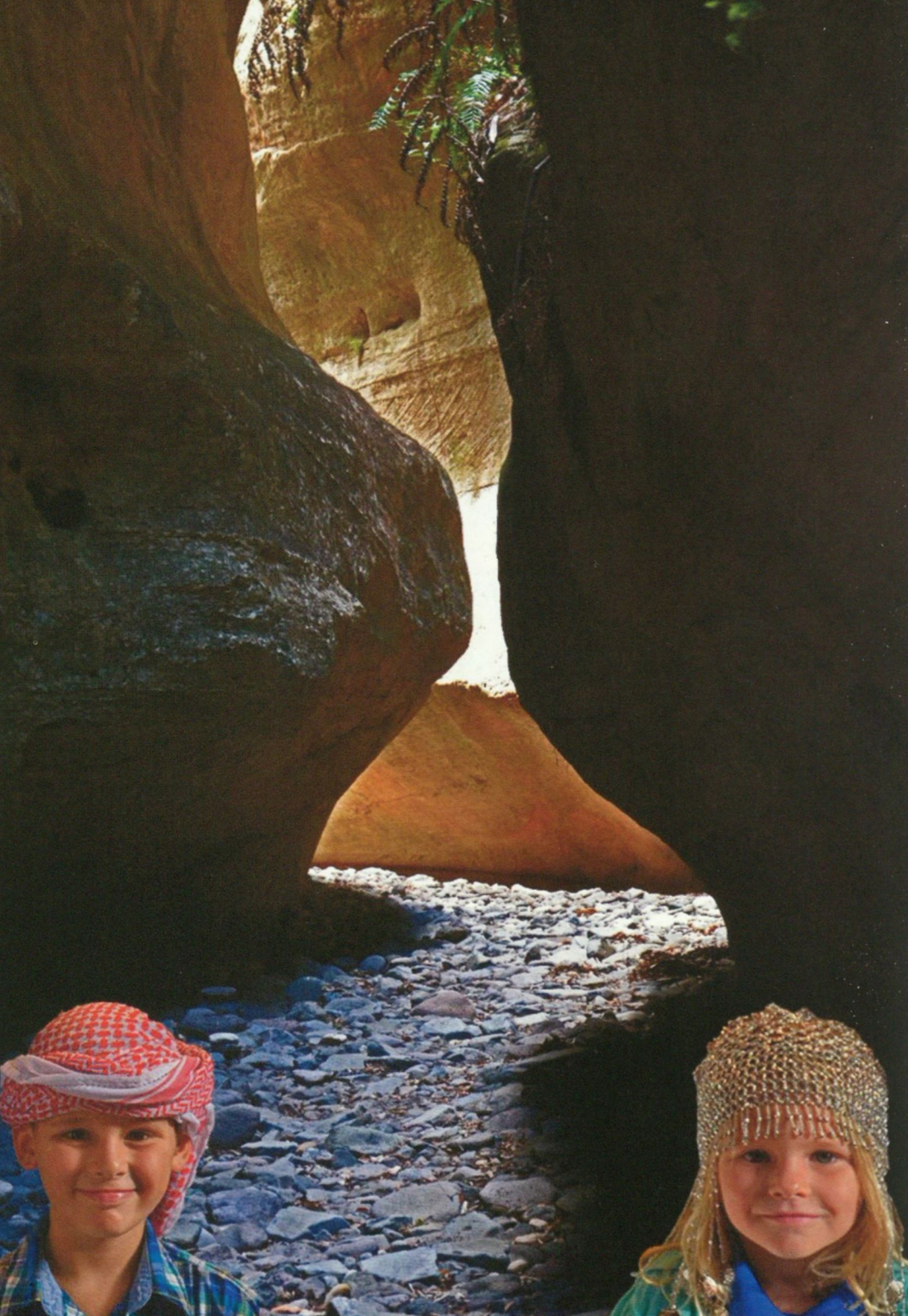
<sup>6</sup> When the Sun Moves Northwards – The Way of Initiation p29. Mabel Collins. Quest Books, Theosophical Pub. House.

<sup>7</sup> Trust Yourself to Life, p61. Clara Codd. Theosophical Publishing House.

Illustration: Woodland steps SB.

Full page illustration: Ancient Aboriginal Rock Art; Canyon, Carnarvon Gorge, Queensland, Australia, and ‘King’ and ‘Queen’.  
Courtesy © M R Art 2013.







# Dragon Tree of Wisdom



*"Bright space, Son of Dark Space who emerges from the depths of the Great Dark Waters, he shines forth as the Sun, he is the Blazing Dragon of Wisdom... He shuts out the above, and leaves the below to be seen as the great illusion. He marks the place for the shining ones, and turns the upper into a shoreless sea of fire, and the One manifested into the Great Waters".<sup>1</sup>*

The path of transformation is a living process - it is ALIVE – we experience this as changes in consciousness between fragments of time. To find our own spiritual Sun, our own Higher Self, we must climb the 'Dragon

Tree of Wisdom' and unite with the Dragon itself. But we have first to slay the twin dragons of our personal self, the lower mind and emotions. This is the heart of our spiritual journey. Referring to a Tibetan proverb, Master Koot Hoomi wrote: *"Everyone is master of his own wisdom", and he is at liberty either to honour or degrade his slave"*.<sup>2</sup>

The Spiritual Path or "The Path" is the road we consciously tread in search of knowledge about ourselves and life, to find what is called Truth or Enlightenment. Everybody and everything is on this Path of return, though some are still asleep and not awake to the journey they are travelling on. A study of Theosophy or the Ancient Teachings helps us to put our journey into perspective. It leads us towards the Truth which lies behind all genuine spiritual teachings. Spiritual Seekers are beginning on the path of return from ignorance to full spiritual knowledge of all that is.

We will encounter many things on our Path of Self-Discovery. One thing is sure, we will certainly find out much more about human frailties: those of others and especially our own. Self-discovery and Self-awareness comes with experience. It takes continual effort, focus and a willingness to seek and to learn. Sometimes we may appear to move forward and at other times seem to be standing still. It is all part of the ever-changing process and all of us – every single one – is here to learn.

The more serious we are in our spiritual search the greater karma will be unveiled. There may be heavy family responsibilities or we may find ourselves faced with extraordinary circumstances 'good' or 'bad'. Whatever circumstances unfold, these are our lessons and we are forced to deal with them. Our unfolding energies act as a centrifuge so that the effects of karma are thrown outwards for our attention, no longer concealed.

Each person's journey is different because we come into incarnation at different times and in different places to experience different things. We carry with us what we have brought forward from the past and we have the opportunity to make progress through the things which come to us in this life.

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<sup>1</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p71.

<sup>2</sup> The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett, No 22, p138. Compiled by A. T. Barker. Theosophical University Press 1992.

Two page illustrations: "Twin Dragons" Dragon statues, Sanggar Agung Temple, Okkisafire 2013 (Adapted) with horse courtesy © M R Art 2013; and "Antahkarana" comprising Dragon statues (ibid) and Stairs (double helix), Treasure Island, San Francisco, CA, US. Author Jef Poskanzer 2006 (Adapted). Dragons and stairs courtesy Wikimedia Commons.











Our mind is in some ways like a waterfall, ever flowing, darting here and there, never still. It needs time to rest in order to become a place of stillness and reflection. The ancient philosophy of yoga recognises three aspects of mind: subconscious mind or instinct, conscious mind or intellect and Higher Mind, the seat of intuition or super consciousness.

Concepts of super consciousness and cosmic mind are not restricted to ancient philosophies. David Bohm and Fritjof Capra, amongst others, have presented hypotheses about an essential unity of mind and matter. In his book "Implicate Order" Bohm put forward the idea that mind is related to the entire cosmos, a dynamic movement unfolding out of itself: mind-enfolding matter and "*Similarly the body enfolds not only the mind but also in some sense the whole universe... the constituent atoms of the body are actual structures that are enfolded in principles throughout all space.*"<sup>3</sup> Not a view one would ordinarily expect to come from a scientist. This was part of a new wave of scientific thought.

In the Bhagavad Gita and writings of Patanjali we are given guidance on how to work with ourselves to break the bounds of our personalities and the entwined twins of the lower mind and emotion. If we are observant, we can see for ourselves the truth of what these writings portray and appreciate more about the shortcomings of the human mind. Our lower mind swings from polarity to polarity, from happy to sad, from fear to contentment and so on. It is only when the pool of the mind is still that we experience a different form of consciousness. We learn to observe from the centre of consciousness within. As self-awareness develops our way of living changes and we perceive the world differently. The more we grow in our understanding and are able to act in kindness and altruism, the more we will succeed. As H. P. Blavatsky says:

*"It is an occult law, moreover, that no man can rise superior to his individual failings, without lifting, be it ever so little, the whole body of which he is an integral part. In the same way, no one can sin, nor suffer the effects of sin, alone. In reality there is no such thing as "Separateness"; and the nearest approach to that selfish state, which the laws of life permit, is the intent or motive".<sup>4</sup>*

It takes time and effort but can be made easier if we walk with fellow travellers at least for a while now and then. But in time we might outgrow a particular helper or we might establish a life-long bond, we cannot know at the start: *"The true order of going, or being led by another, to the things of love, is to begin from the beauties of Earth and mount upwards for the sake of that other beauty, using these as steps only, and from one going on to two, and from two to all fair forms, and from fair forms to fair practices, and from fair practices to fair notions, until from fair notions he arrives at the notion of absolute beauty, and at last knows what the essence of beauty is".<sup>5</sup>*

In the East, guru means a teacher or tutor. In the esoteric traditions a Guru is a spiritual mentor, who has the spiritual wisdom and knowledge to guide others. In Sanskrit Guru means teacher or spiritual master. The word comes from the syllables "Gu" darkness and "Ru" light, and Ru also means door or gate and denotes the birthplace from which the Sun is reborn. There is also a connection with the syllable "Gur" which means to raise or lift up or to make an effort: "The syllable Gu means shadow, the syllable Ru he who disperses them, because of the power to disperse darkness the guru is thus named".<sup>6</sup> So a Guru shows the Light and as the Teacher helps to dispels ignorance or darkness. However, an external guru, can only guide and cannot make the journey for another traveller.

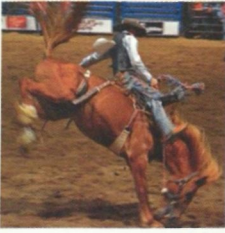
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<sup>3</sup> Wholeness and the Implicate Order, p265. D Bohm. Routledge 1980.

<sup>4</sup> Key to Theosophy, p203. H. P. Blavatsky. Theosophical Publishing House, 1987. (First Edition 1889).

<sup>5</sup> The teachings of the priestess Diotima to Socrates, quoted by Clara Codd in The Place of Beauty in Life.

<sup>6</sup> Advayataraka Upanishad, 14-18 V. 5.



Eastern texts use an ox or horse as a metaphor for the human condition. Sometimes our thoughts and emotions run off in their own direction and carry us along, and just like an unruly horse can become defiant or out of control. But a horse can only be considered disobedient if it has an owner – a rider, so we need to take the reins and learn to work in harmony with our Spiritual Ego. Our personality then becomes subordinate to spiritual Will and not its own. Alcyone (J. Krishnamurti) recognized this in the little book “At the Feet of the Master” and provides some helpful instructions:

*“When your body wishes something, stop and think whether you really wish it. .... Do not mistake your bodies for yourself – neither the physical body, nor the astral, nor the mental. Each one of them will pretend to be the Self, in order to gain what it wants. But you must know them all, and know yourself as their master. .... The body is your animal – the horse upon which you ride. Therefore you must treat it well, and take good care of it; you must not overwork it, you must feed it properly on pure food only, and keep it strictly clean always, even from the minutest speck of dirt.*

*For without a perfectly clean and healthy body you cannot do the arduous work of preparation. But it must always be you who control that body, not it that controls you. The astral body has desires – dozens of them; it wants you to be angry, to say sharp words, to feel jealous, to be greedy for money, to envy other people their possessions, to yield yourself to depression. All these things it wants and more, not because it wants to harm you but because it likes violent vibrations..... Your mental body wishes to think itself proudly separate, to think much of itself and little of others..... to make yourself think of your own progress, instead of thinking of the Master’s work and of helping others”.*<sup>7</sup>

To climb the stairs to the higher life, we have to conquer the Dweller on the Threshold - the personality and our desires. By keeping watch with the steely eyes of a tiger, slowly, we gradually build a bridge between the two, the Antahkarana. We must lift the veil and cross the abyss to build our ‘stairway’ to Divine Union. To kill the Dweller the Seeker must be watchful and alert like the mind of a Tiger. “For if the “Secret Path” is unattainable this “day,” it is within thy reach “to-morrow”<sup>8</sup>. Through our efforts we rise from the clouds of our imagination and begin to open out a pathway towards the Inner Light until the lunar and solar dragons unite.



The greatest of all journeys begins with a single step, we have but to begin: “*The mind is indeed restless, Arjuna: It is indeed hard to train. But by constant practice and by freedom from passions the mind in truth can be trained*”<sup>9</sup>. Taking it one step at a time we have but to consciously walk on until at One with Nuwa and Fuxi, the entwined Serpents or Dragons of the Cosmos: Queen of the Ocean, Star of the night, the mother and father of the universe., sister and brother. Solar and lunar unite in a marriage of heaven and earth.

<sup>7</sup> At the Feet of the Master, p19-23. Alcyone (Krishnamurti). Theosophical Publishing House 1974.

<sup>8</sup> Voice of the Silence, p44.

<sup>9</sup> The Bhagavad Gita, V35, p72. Juan Mascaro. Penguin Books 1962.

Illustrations: Horse and Tiger. Courtesy © M R Art 2013.

Full page illustration. Nuwa and Fuxi, 8th century. mid 8th century (Tang Dynasty). Hanging scroll - Color on silk, anonymous. Xinjiang Uighur Autonomous Region Museum. Courtesy Wikimedia Commons.







# The Seal of Truth



To come to a place of Self-Realisation we need to grow accustomed to our new journey and awaken to that Inner Light. Through the process of meditation and self-observance we must attune to the Spiritual Fire of the Sun, so that we become a vehicle for it. By stilling the emotions and quietening the mind, and by exercising tolerance and patience, we learn to take our first faltering steps on this journey to the Supreme: *"As the one Sun illumines all this world so He that abides in the body lights up the whole field. They, who with eye of Wisdom perceive the distinction between the field and the Knower of the field and the*

*liberation of being from nature, go to the Supreme"*.<sup>1</sup> As our awareness increases our consciousness will begin to merge into the Light of Life and into an experience of the One where Love dwells. Our aura will expand and our heart be filled with Spiritual Fire. When we come to that central place of peace our whole being is bathed in Light. HPB tells us:

*"Occultists believe in the Lords of Light ... Sun-flowers of a higher light ... They will be considered ... to be ignoramuses [by] the superficially judging public, itself ignorant of the great underlying truths in nature, [and be] accused of believing in medieval superstitions. Let it be so.... the Sun is matter and the Sun is Spirit... God of Spiritual and Terrestrial Light. ... It is the Spirit of Life ... the Great Life-Giver of the Spiritual and Psychic Realms."*<sup>2</sup>

This process of Self-awakening can also be symbolised by the Alchemical retort, which releases its spiritual essence when the dross of the personality has been burnt away. When the smoke arising from the impurities has cleared, the Seeker has transcended to become a bearer of Light. Through our own spiritual quest we can come to a place of inner knowing. Wisdom borne of the fruits of a deeper experience of life and real knowledge of inner things:

*"In Occultism the book of life is the one to which we turn our chief attention. We study other books merely in order that we may live. For study even of Occult works is only a means to spirituality if we are striving to live the Occult Life; it is the life and not the knowledge, the purified heart, not the well-filled head, that leads to our Master's feet."*<sup>3</sup>

The degree to which we are able to embrace Life and feel love for all is the key. All who search for Spiritual Truth and try to serve humanity will find that that the Ancient Wisdom will make itself known. This is the first Seal of Truth. White Eagle says: *"You will not realize your goal through mental pursuit, through your mind but only in the innermost sanctuary of your spirit, of your heart; and when you have reached that, you will find expansion of consciousness so that you will become aware of all spheres of life. You will realize your at-one-ment with the eternal Spirit, past, present and future will be one with you for you will be living in the eternity. You will comprehend the mysteries of the universe. You will have attained freedom of action, because even though your karma will continue to beset you during your physical life, you will at the same time have learned the secret of transmuting your karma. You will use the difficulties of your karma to lead you into greater and more beautiful service"*.<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Bhagavad Gita

<sup>2</sup> SD VI, p479-481.

<sup>3</sup> The Doctrine of the Heart, p13. A Besant. Theosophical Publishing Society 1914.

<sup>4</sup> White Eagle, 'Spiritual Unfoldment 3. P87—88.

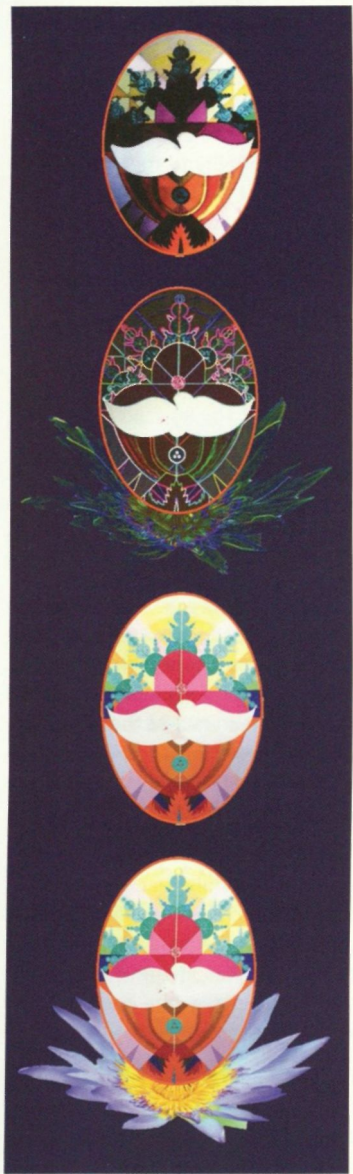
Illustration: 'Sun Star' 2013 © SB, all rights reserved.



"The souls of people, on their way to Earth, pass through a room full of lights; each takes a taper - often only a spark - to guide it in the dim country of this world. But some souls, by rare fortune, are detained longer — have time to grasp a handful of tapers, which they weave into a torch. These are the torch-bearers of humanity — its poets, seers, and saints, who lead and lift the race out of darkness, toward the light. They are the law-givers, the light-bringers, way-showers, and truth-tellers, and without them humanity would lose its way in the dark."

Plato





The mystical union of spirit and matter in the human heart can be depicted by the simplicity of a rose, from which stems the loving gift of service to our fellow human beings. An example of this can be found in Gordon Allen, who during a near death experience found himself in an inner space where a higher spiritual being was present. He experienced unconditional love, an overwhelming profound love and purposefulness. This changed his level of consciousness and when he came back to life, he found his heart was filled with an intense fire of love which hasn't changed or gone away. He became a totally different character and his transformation was profound.

We learn through the illumination of our mind and heart and this is one of the stepping stones along our journey - climbing the Tree of Life. When the heart centre starts to awaken, ordinary perceptions of the world begin to change and the physical plane temporarily fades into the distance. The lotus of the heart begins to open and there is an awareness of a different stream of life.

The adjacent images symbolise a part of this journey. From shadowy smoke and shifting perceptions, to the vibrant rhythms of change and transformation. If through our own effort we are able to stand (hold our consciousness) in this 'little light' at the centre of our own heart, the fire of love floods in and illuminates the chalice of our being:

I will follow you down wherever you go,  
Baby I am bound to you and you know,  
Closer pull me in tight I wanna be your hero  
And my heart beats<sup>5</sup> .....

Symbolically the Sun is coloured gold representing the transcendence of the lower to the higher, the lesser light merged into the Greater, or the transmutation of base metal into gold. The ultimate wholeness of man. It is the spiritual Sun which nurtures the inborn fire – the flame or spark of the Divine situated at the centre of our being. The Sun is also associated with the Hero, who is often shown holding a sword<sup>6</sup> - the Sword of Truth, the carrier of Fohat or Universal Intelligence. The Slayer of the dragon.

In opening the Lotus flower of the heart we awaken the Eye of Wisdom. This is the second Seal of Truth. HPB. tells us: *"The whole essence of truth cannot be transmitted from mouth to ear. Nor can any pen describe it, not even that of the recording Angel, unless man finds the answer in the sanctuary of his own heart, in the innermost depths of his divine intuitions".*<sup>7</sup>

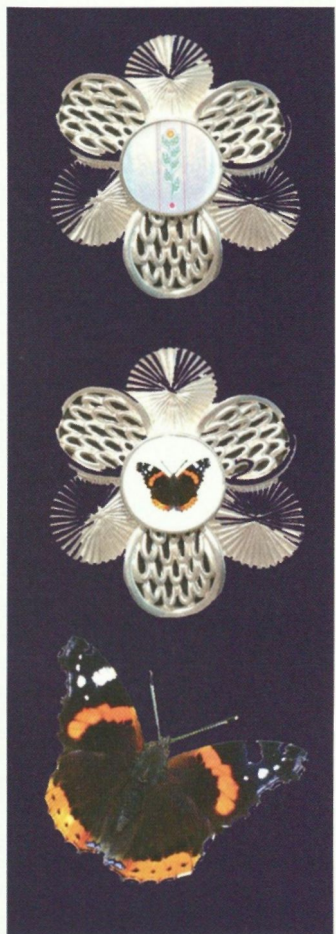
<sup>5</sup> Song by Shakira "Empire", lyrics by Ina Wroldsen. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHnQIFXklQY>

<sup>6</sup> Symbolically related to fire

<sup>7</sup> SD Vol 2, p516.

Illustrations: adapted from painting "Awakening" 1993 © SB, all rights reserved. Lotus (adapted) Courtesy © M R Art 2013.





Before transforming – like a butterfly - into its mature form, each plant seed grows a single shoot with two leaves. Each human embryo when it starts to develop in the womb progresses first through earlier evolutionary forms. Each new life evolves according to its own nature and potential, both in their maturity fulfil their potentiality to the degree that they are able. Be that on stony or fertile ground, in good circumstances or poor; or in the case of a human being, having the individual Will to reach the full degree of their potentiality for this lifetime.

Every seed must die in order to transform and during this process of transformation a new energy bursts forth from the unmanifest to the manifest. We travel out of darkness into light and out of weakness into the strength. From the delicate seedling of a small child into a fully grown individual. From a struggling neophyte to a mature Seeker of Truth.

Through our encounters on the spiritual journey we will in time find the 'secret stairway' to the "Gates of Gold" – the doorway to 'soul-wisdom'. Our Pathway to Wisdom we each must choose in our own time, when we are ready and when we are committed to it. To find Wisdom we need to learn about ourselves through the long process of self-observation and awareness. We can fill our heads with lofty ideas and fanciful notions, but not one of us can escape the hard work it takes to follow the path to Wisdom. Through perseverance, focus of attention and practice, we can begin to recognize why we do the things we do and why we find change so hard to achieve. We are all in the same boat!

We must make ourselves ready to climb the Dragon Tree of Wisdom to find the Seal of Truth concealed within. As we start to do so, the energy slowly rises and gradually activates

our chakras<sup>8</sup> which open like flowers in the sunshine, until the twin leaves of the first shoot of Spiritual Wisdom springs into being. The *Ājñā*<sup>9</sup> centre starts to open, glowing white like mother of pearl and the petals of our Crown centre (Sahasrara) gently unfold.

The bud of Wisdom has opened and our 'tree' has sprung into life. When fully open, Prajna - the Eye of Wisdom - has awakened: *"The divine self-perceived by the Self, the Atman or seventh principle merged with the Universal, perceived by Buddhi, the sixth principle or divine Soul in man"*.<sup>10</sup>

In other words from One consciousness it returns to One consciousness. *"In him was life; and the life was the light of men (John, I, 3,4) ..... The great Dragon of Wisdom is born of Fire and Water, and into Fire and Water will all be reabsorbed"*.<sup>11</sup>

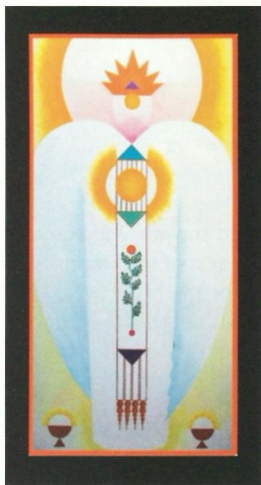
<sup>8</sup> The body's energy centres.

<sup>9</sup> *Ājñā*: the brow centre or the 'Third Eye'.

<sup>10</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p470.

<sup>11</sup> SD. Vol. 1, p471.

Illustrations: "Tree of Life", "Realisation" and butterfly, 2013 © SB, all rights reserved.



Wisdom occurs when: *“that spirit is touched and unfolds through the soul’s own aspiration and will. The mysteries remain secret until the spirit quickens and the soul rises into the halls of wisdom, to the place of divine illumination. In fact there are no secrets because all knowledge is within you. But that inner knowledge, that inner power, must remain covered and secret until the soul has attained to a degree of understanding of spiritual law so that it can use this development power wisely.”*<sup>12</sup>

In the mystical philosophy of the Kabbalah<sup>13</sup>, part of the esoteric teachings of Judaism, the Tree of Life and the Three Pillars of Wisdom play a central part. These teachings have many similarities with other esoteric traditions including Theosophy. Amongst other things, the Tree of Life is an archetype for spiritual growth. The Sephiroth symbolically placed on the Tree signify an archetypal idea. At different levels they signify the process of creation, and represent centres of consciousness. They relate to the cosmos and cosmic hierarchies as

much as to psychology and the consciousness of the human mind. Each of the Sephiroth has its own place on the Tree, and they co-exist and connect to each other in the World of Emanations, World of Creation, World of Form and World Action.

The Kabbalistic teachings consider numerous pathways on the human journey<sup>14</sup> and during the process of self-development this helps the student to develop different points of observation and understanding. However, pursuit of any Esoteric Teachings can be nothing more than an intellectual exercise if we do not use it for spiritual intentions: *“In the mystery schools, the method of development was imparted by slow degrees to those who were ready, and the candidate was helped to rise in consciousness through the guidance and love of the brothers in these schools”*.<sup>15</sup> The Sephirah Tiphereth, is the centre of the Tree of Life. It corresponds to the heart and relates to beauty, harmony and compassion. Here, when fully energised, the human spirit has reached a point of balance between the two pillars of judgement and mercy, where it rests in equilibrium. The Tree of Life has no balance without knowledge and the Seeker must unite through the Middle Pillar<sup>16</sup>. The Middle Pillar or Mildness, represents creation and the conscious experience.

If the Seeker is sincere and willing the gates to inner knowledge will open: *“To the Eastern Occultist the Tree of Knowledge, in the Paradise of man’s own heart, becomes the Tree of Life Eternal, and has nought to do with man’s animal senses. It is an absolute mystery that reveals itself only through the efforts of the imprisoned Manas and the Ego, to liberate themselves from the thralldom of sensuous perceptions, and see in the light of the one eternal present Reality.”*<sup>17</sup> The golden light which illuminates the heart of the awakened Soul provides the key to its final freedom, this is the Third Seal of Truth.

<sup>12</sup> White Eagle, Spiritual Unfoldment 3. p94.

<sup>13</sup> What is stated on this pages gives only a very superficial idea of the depth of Kabbalistic teachings. HPB touches on many aspects of the Kabbalah in the SD and two books are listed in the bibliography.

<sup>14</sup> The Thirty Two Paths of Wisdom.

<sup>15</sup> White Eagle, Spiritual Unfoldment 3. p94.

<sup>16</sup> In the Eastern teachings these Pillars relate to the Ida, Pingala and Susumna.

<sup>17</sup> SD. Vol. 2, p587.

Illustration: “Tiphereth”, painting 1996 © SB, all rights reserved.



# Voyage to the Silent Self



Truth is within ourselves  
It takes no rise from outward things  
What 'ere you may believe  
There is an inmost centre in us all  
Where truth abides in fullness  
And around wall upon wall the  
Gross flesh hems us in....  
'To know' rather consists in opening  
Out a way whence the imprisoned  
splendour may escape  
Than in effecting entry for light  
Supposed to be without

Paracelsus

The Flame of Life rests still and constant like a candle flame protected on its own plane of existence, neither faded nor fanned by matters of the world. It is present in the centre of the heart in each and every one of us, though we may not perceive it. This is the true seat of the 'imprisoned splendour', not the mind or the head (*which we mostly identify as 'ourselves'*), but the Heart. Those outer trappings are not what WE are at all.

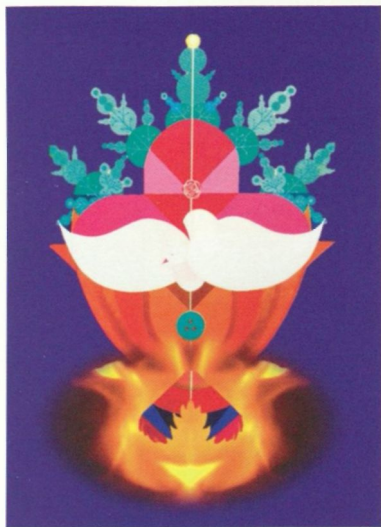
Once touched by the consciousness of the Seeker the body opens to the Soul and the wings of the Hidden Self open wide like the wings of a gentle dove. The Breath of Life fans the flame of the heart imperceptibly until, standing in it (*our consciousness stilled by it*), we are within the all-encompassing Fire of Pure Spirit. It is not perceived as heat, yet it blazes like a raging fire through the whole Being. The Golden Lotus has awakened and the inner fire flames itself as the chamber of the heart expands and glows like burnished gold; and the consciousness of the Seeker is flooded with fire, and the Light of Spirit, and the LOVE of the Universe. This Fiery Love is the Great Teacher which awakens our heart to its true purpose. It opens the eyes of the Seeker to the real meaning of Love.

Consider for a moment. We have love for our children, family and friends. Bring any one of them to mind and experience the energy which instantaneously fills our heart. We don't have to think about it, it just happens. This is not to be confused with emotional feelings, it is experienced in the chest like a glow around the heart. Choose another person, anyone, and another, and the same thing will follow. The Universe is filled with Love, a ceaseless reservoir that can NEVER be exhausted. The whole of space, the whole of existence, is filled with it: *"Spiritual life and love are not exhausted by being spent. Expenditure only adds to the store and makes it richer and intenser. Try and be as happy and contented as you can, because in joy is the real spiritual life, and sorrow is but the result of our ignorance and absence of clear vision"*.<sup>1</sup>

There are other descriptions of such 'peak experiences', from people in all walks of life and all circumstances, but such conditions seldom last for long even though their energies may stay in the heart and linger the mind and in the aura for a considerable time. The Seeker may have brushed off

<sup>1</sup> The Doctrine of the Heart, p27. A Besant. Theosophical Publishing Society 1914

Illustration: "The Silent Self" 2014 © SB, all rights reserved.



some 'dust' from their shoulders and may be changed in their outlook having gained a little insight, but they are still faced with a long journey ahead. Nothing has changed on that score. The personality still raises its head and the everyday task of trying to keep on the 'straight and narrow' path of our spiritual journey continues.

This journey will come to an end one day, but not so soon for most of us, but: *"Keep on regardless of everything, but with wisdom"*.<sup>2</sup> There are no short cuts, all of our experiences have to be processed and absorbed. So we must pull ourselves up by our 'boot straps' and walk on, day by day putting into action what we have learned, to the best of our ability:

*"The pupil in the mystery schools is taught that the key to understanding of these symbols is in the golden chamber; and the golden chamber is the heart, called by some the golden lotus; and within this golden flower lies the key which will unlock the door to the mysteries... everything... is*

*within himself; No school on the outer plane can give you this knowledge. The only school in which you will obtain this precious wisdom is in the school of life..., human relationship, outer action and the inward contemplation.... if the aspirant is seeking the lost secret, the divine magic."*<sup>3</sup>

All those subtle lives which make up our being are used to existing in certain vibrations, certain patterns, so it is up to us to train ourselves (and them) to live in a higher vibration. Though we have first to establish those vibrations and maintain them: *"If you had a plant or tree under your control, in time it would respond, and assume its highest form, on condition that you became at one with its hidden laws, and you are meant to become this"*.<sup>4</sup> Through mediation and self-observance we can learn to attune with the Inner Light, such that we become a vehicle for it. But we must first learn to awaken ourselves to it, we have to let go and embrace it:

We are alive .....  
 It's going to raise my head and walk up to the final edge  
 And I'm gonna fall  
 It's going to raise my head and hold you close  
 Like the empires of the world unite,  
 We are alive  
 And the stars make love to the universe  
 You're my wildfire every single night  
 We are alive  
 And the stars make love to the universe<sup>5</sup>

<sup>2</sup> The Yogic Ascent to Spiritual Heights, p210. G Hodson. Stellar Books, Manila Philippines 1991.

<sup>3</sup> Spiritual Unfoldment, p 63-64. White Eagle. White Eagle Publishing Trust 1987.

<sup>4</sup> Christ in You, p109. Watkins 1980.

<sup>5</sup> Song by Shakira "Empire", lyrics by Ina Wroldsen. <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHnQIFXkIQY> Viewing recommended.  
 Illustration: Adapted from painting "Awakening" 1993 © SB, all rights reserved.







For I have seen in lonely  
And in lonelier hours  
My vision of the  
Rainbow-aureoled face  
Of whom men call Beauty  
Proud austere  
Dim vision of the flawless  
perfect face  
Divinely fugitive, that haunts  
the world  
And lifts men's spiral thoughts to  
lovelier dream

Robert Browning

Ultimately, when our awareness shifts to the centre, where the Light of the Divine sits: *invisible and intangible save for the "still small voice" of our spiritual consciousness*<sup>6</sup>. Here resides our Solar Angel, a spark of the solar logos, our Silent Self. We have reached a new dawn on our journey and to paraphrase from Lea Super's lyrics:

Now I see a new light in the sky,  
Let the rain come down and wash away my tears  
Let it fill my soul and drown my fears  
Let it shatter the walls for a new sun  
A new day has come!<sup>7</sup>

The human body is a temple in which conditions are Self-created by the aspiration of the Seeker. The Flame of Life is manifest within that temple to the degree that the Seeker is able to Realise it. *You must be born of water and of spirit, the keys of the kingdom are in your hands*".<sup>8</sup> This 'Solar Star' is representative of the Higher Self, and of Solomon's Seal, Master KH says this: *"the dark and light interlaced triangles used in the seal of the Theosophical Society, the Sri Antara.... the "mystery of the mysteries", is a geometrical synthesis of the whole occult doctrine. They contain the "squaring of the circle" the "philosophical stone", the great problems of Life and Death.... The upper pointing one is Wisdom concealed, and the downward pointing one Wisdom revealed"*.<sup>9</sup>

As its energies unfold on the physical plane the seed becomes hidden, its potentiality is manifest from within. We must discover the seed of our spirituality so that our potentiality becomes manifest on the spiritual plane. Purucker ad-

vises: *"Lift your soul in quiet thought upward. Love will guide the wings of your soul to your spiritual sun. Strive not: nevertheless advance. Be not anxious to achieve; nevertheless work to achieve. Blind not yourself with anxiety nor enfeeble your steps with longing: nevertheless go ahead, move, advance. Be at peace"*.<sup>10</sup>

In the Key to Theosophy, HPB tells us that the final goal cannot be reached in any way but through life experiences, and because most of this consists of pain and suffering, this is how we learn. Many of us will have seen the photograph of Einstein sitting at his desk with a copy of the SD lying there along with other books. He famously said that *"The intellect has little to do on the road to discovery. There comes a leap in consciousness, call it intuition or what you will, and the solution comes to you and you don't know how or why. All great discoveries are made in this way"*.

<sup>6</sup> SD, Vol 1, p280.

<sup>7</sup> Celine Dion "A New Day has Come" lyrics by Lea Super.

<sup>8</sup> Christ in You, p120. Watkins 1980.

<sup>9</sup> Letter 54, p345, The Mahatma Letters to A. P. Sinnett, compiled A. T. Barker. Theosophical University Press 1992.

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<sup>10</sup> The Book of Golden Precepts, 97. G De Purucker.



HPB also tells us that every atom contains the whole: *"This cosmic dust is something more; for every atom in the Universe has the potentiality of self-consciousness in it, and is .... A Universe in itself, and for itself. It is an atom and an angel."*<sup>11</sup>

We are One with this 'sea of angels' and have a kinship with all things. It is the Shining Light of your Spiritual Self, the 'Jewel in the Lotus'. The Spiritual Phoenix lies within:

*"If the light rises in the sky of the heart ... and in the utterly pure inner man attains the brightness of the sun or of many suns ... then his heart is nothing but light, his subtle body is light, his material covering is light, his hearing, his sight, his hands, his exterior, his interior, are nothing but light."*

**Once found, be true to your Inner Light  
It will guide you unerringly towards the Truth.  
Once gained the inner wisdom is never lost  
It resides in the unsullied chamber of the heart**



<sup>11</sup> SD, Vol 1, p107.

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*These are a selection of books which have been useful on my journey and recent editions are available for most of them.*

*There may be other books more suited to you.*

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## SUSAN BAYLISS: Biographical Notes

Having been keenly interested in spirituality from a young age, finding the Esoteric Teachings in her late teens opened up a world of discovery and it was through this that in her twenties Susan came across the Theosophical Society. Being inspired by what the Society stood for she became a member in 1982.



Since then Susan has given many years to investigating the Wisdom Teachings of Theosophy, and connecting with these essential truths she has taken a practical approach to exploring the inner journey and uncovering the hidden keys to the Ancient Mysteries. Learning about the spiritual ideals of Theosophy as a practical way of living has been uppermost in her life alongside her esoteric work and study.

Susan lectures extensively around the UK, also providing talks and workshops for the annual Summer Schools and other conferences. In 1994 she was appointed to the Executive Committee of the TS and as a director for the Foundation for Theosophical Studies. She continues with those roles and has served in many other capacities, including as National Treasurer and National Secretary for the TS.

Susan trained as a designer, has a Master's degree in management and worked in various areas of business and in the voluntary sector, later qualifying as a holistic therapist.



## Acknowledgments

It is a privilege to be asked to deliver the Blavatsky Lecture and to honour the memory of Helena Petrovna Blavatsky who gave her all in order to lift a 'corner of the veil' and reveal some of these Teachings for the benefit of future generations.

The theme for the 2014 Summer School at which this Blavatsky Lecture will be given is "*The Search for Truth – The Rising of the Spiritual Phoenix*". My thanks go to the Summer School Committee for organising and running these Schools year on year and for inviting me to speak. Thanks are also due to the Foundation for Theosophical Studies which funds the Summer Schools and the National Speakers Scheme, many of whose speakers teach at the School.

The Summer Schools are a wonderful experience and if you are learning about this for the first time you are warmly invited to come along and see for yourself.

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