

What is the Esoteric Teaching?

The Esoteric Teaching is not something new. Indeed, it is most ancient. The Esoteric Teaching is simply a convenient name in contemporary language. The same subject has been discussed in different places and at different times in history under various esoteric terms: The Word (*Logos*), the Way (*Tao*), the Absolute Truth (*satyam param*), the Life, the Path, the Gate, the Stairway to the Stars, the Way Home, the Kingdom of God, the Sacred River (*Ganga*), Heaven (*svarga*), the Land of no Anxiety (*Vaikuntha*), the Forest of Devotion (*Vrndavana*), the Ocean of Nectar (*Bhakti-rasamrta-sindhu*), Illumination (*Nirvana*), Liberation (*Moksha*), etc.

In and of itself, the Esoteric Teaching has no name. It is not really a thing or a place in the ordinary sense, but a process. Speaking literally, it does not exist, because it is beyond time and space. It exists only unto itself, outside of all universes yet connecting them all together. It is accessible only to those esoteric students to pass its tests, win the secret Keys to its invisible Gates, and learn the mysterious methods of operating its all-powerful, arcane spiritual technology.

For the Esoteric Teaching is an open secret. When mystic poet Ezra Pound wrote,

*If the red slayer thinks he slays,
Or the slain thinks he is slain,
They do not understand the Way I move,
And pass, and keep, and turn again ...*

he was referring to the Esoteric Teaching. Yet, many otherwise intelligent people deny the existence of the Esoteric Teaching simply because it cannot be measured with material scientific instruments or mapped out on a piece of paper. This is their great and tragic misfortune.

Recently, physicists have determined that at least ten spatial dimensions are required to model the quantum interactions of subatomic particles. Just because we cannot see or directly measure these dimensions does not mean that we deny the conclusions of modern physics. Similarly, just because we cannot see or measure the Esoteric Teaching, there is no reason to deny its existence, because it exists in a different dimension from our physical universe.

In our universe there are three dimensions of space: length, width and height. There are also three dimensions of time: past, present and future. Beyond the boundary of time lies eternity, which also consists of three dimensions: internal, marginal and external. Beyond eternity is the Esoteric Teaching. Consequently, the Esoteric Teaching can never be perceived or measured by physical means; nevertheless, it is accessible from anywhere by the esoteric student who possesses the secret Keys to its Gates. The purpose of this book is to empower the reader to understand and use the mystic Keys to satisfy their hearts' deepest desire.

The Esoteric Teaching is divided into three circles, regions or associations: the Exoteric Circle, the Mesoteric Circle and the Esoteric Circle. The Exoteric Circle is the association of Candidates, the Mesoteric Circle is the association of Initiates, and the Esoteric Circle is the association of Masters.

To move from ordinary life to the Exoteric Circle, from the Exoteric Circle to the Mesoteric Circle, and from the Mesoteric Circle to the Esoteric Circle, one must acquire the mystic Keys to open the secret Gates of the Esoteric Teaching. This is accomplished by learning the Esoteric Teaching, or the Absolute Truth, from one who knows. This is the inner structure and process of all authentic esoteric schools. The Esoteric Teaching is simply the contemporary manifestation of a long tradition of such schools.

The Exoteric Circle is the association of neophyte spiritual students, or Candidates. It is the exterior social organization of the esoteric

school, and its interface with the rest of human society. One enters the Exoteric Circle from ordinary life by using the Key of Desire to enter the Gate of Association. Practically, this is done by reading books or attending public seminars presented by those who are already students of the Esoteric Teaching. The members of the Exoteric Circle are most numerous compared to the other Circles, which are far more exclusive and difficult to attain.

The Mesoteric Circle is an esoteric school composed of full-time disciples, or Initiates. These intermediate students in the esoteric school withdraw from material activities to dedicate their lives to learning the intricacies of the spiritual technology of the Esoteric Teaching. They are in touch with the Absolute Truth and have access to highly confidential material. When their knowledge matures, they may teach the beginning subjects of the Esoteric Teaching to others.

One enters the Mesoteric Circle from the Exoteric Circle by attaining the Key of Wisdom and entering the Gate of Initiation. This is done by full participation in the work of the Esoteric Teaching as a student, helper or assistant teacher; demonstration of exemplary character, enthusiasm and trustworthiness; following the suggestions and instructions of the Master to his satisfaction; making a lifelong personal commitment to the mission of the Esoteric Teaching; and acceptance of spiritual community life in close cooperation and association with the Master. The Initiates are comparatively few because they are a select group.

The Esoteric Circle is composed of the realized souls, or Masters, who have received the Self-revelation of the Absolute Truth. These are the graduate students in the esoteric school. They have already mastered the subjects needed for their own spiritual perfection, so they dedicate their lives to teaching and helping others. It is not easy to become a Master; mastery of the Esoteric Teaching has to be earned. Mastery is the result of many lifetimes of difficult effort and arduous testing. Therefore Masters are the rarest of all human beings.

One enters the Esoteric Circle from the Mesoteric circle by attaining the Key of Devotion and entering the Gate of Realization. This is earned by pleasing one's Spiritual Master and the Lord by rendering significant service to the mission of the Esoteric Teaching, which is to uplift suffering humanity by spreading spiritual technology and knowledge all over the world.

Mastery is the most advanced stage of spiritual life. Masters of the Esoteric Teaching have attained complete spiritual freedom. They may, at their discretion, form new esoteric schools based upon the principles of the Esoteric Teaching. The title of Master is never awarded by the majority vote of a committee of fallible human beings, but is the natural result of attaining full spiritual perfection. It is very difficult, if not impossible, for an ordinary person to understand the true stature of a Master. It is the Master who extends the Esoteric Teaching into the material universe to make it accessible to ordinary humans. In this sense the Master *is* the Gate and the Way.

Understanding the Esoteric Teaching

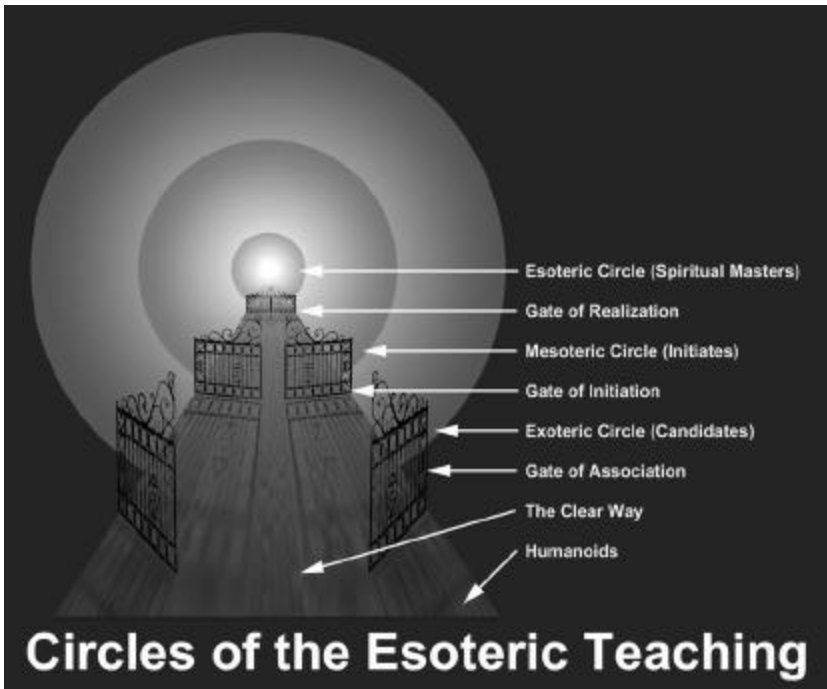
The Esoteric Teaching is eternal; yet, it is beyond eternity. It is timeless. It is the fundamental root of all existence, yet in itself does not exist in the same sense as physical objects. It is an illusion, yet it is the ultimate reality upon which all other realities are based. It is present everywhere and pervades everything, yet it cannot be seen or sensed. It is the abode of all possibility. Ultimately it is a person; a person we call God.

From time to time (if that means anything in the present context) in the vast unfathomable abyss beyond eternity, an emanation from the Supreme Personality of Godhead takes place. This is the external dimension of eternity, and it is the place of the creation of the material universes. Inside the material universes, of course, none of this is knowable. There is only darkness. Then the Esoteric Teaching extends into the universe, filling it with life, light and manifestation. This is the secondary creation.

Along with the secondary creation, complete transcendental knowledge, or the Absolute Truth, is injected into the material universe for the benefit of its inhabitants. This knowledge is passed down to the beings of that universe by the subsequent action of the Esoteric Teaching. The Absolute Truth issues from the Esoteric Teaching in the form of a person and manifests in the material world. This person is born among the inhabitants of a planet—apparently in the ordinary way—but his consciousness is saturated with Absolute Truth, therefore he can see and manipulate the Esoteric Teaching. When he attains maturity, he remembers his purpose and begins to teach. He then becomes a Master, and the Esoteric Teaching expands into the material world through his person. The Master *is* the Esoteric Circle.

When a Master awakens and starts an esoteric school, he typically has a handful of direct disciples. These are the beginning of the Mesoteric Circle of that particular esoteric school. Finally the disciples begin to teach a larger congregation, and the Exoteric Circle is born. Please note that this process describes the creation of every bona-fide religion in the world. Therefore, every religion comes from and is originally connected to the Esoteric Teaching.

However, each esoteric school has a lifetime fixed by the laws of spirituality. Like people, they are born, attain maturity and ultimately die. The school may thrive for a few years or a few centuries, but it inevitably becomes diseased or corrupted. Its esoteric functions then cease, leaving only an exoteric shell that keeps going on its built-in momentum. This is the common fate of all religions and esoteric schools. Therefore one must be careful to search for an esoteric school that is still alive, and whose esoteric functions remain active. One such living, active esoteric school is the Esoteric Teaching discussed in this book.



The path of spiritual freedom

Outside the Esoteric Teaching is spiritual ignorance. The material universe is populated by humanoids, or beings who resemble humans but have degraded consciousness, unaware of spiritual reality. Their consciousness is concentrated only on the material dimensions of light, width and height. They may have some foggy awareness of time, but no scientific knowledge of it. When they leave their bodies in dreams or at death, they travel up the Esoteric Teaching to the Gate of Association. But because they do not have the Key of Desire, they cannot enter. They must come back again to birth, struggle, suffering and death in the material world.

If a humanoid is very fortunate, he or she comes into contact with the Esoteric Teaching through a book, another medium or a personal

invitation. The only qualification required to enter the Exoteric Circle is a desire to know the truth. Therefore we say that the Gate of Association is opened with the Key of Desire.

Anyone can read the publications or attend the meetings and seminars of the Exoteric Circle. This training by association will gradually inject scientific knowledge of the three dimensions of time into the consciousness of the humanoid being, who then has the chance to become a human being in the full sense of the term, or a Candidate for spiritual initiation.

If a Candidate displays good progress in advancing spiritual knowledge and service, and avoids the numerous pitfalls on the spiritual path, he may be invited by the Master to accept initiation. Initiation, like marriage, is a lifetime commitment. But unlike marriage, there is no divorce court available. Therefore, one who is considering Initiation must be very careful to ascertain that he is serious before accepting it. And the Master has to approve the Candidate before he may become an Initiate.

An Initiate becomes a full-time student of the Master and joins the community of the esoteric school. He comes into contact with the actual Absolute Truth and learns about the three dimensions of eternity. He is also responsible to develop a specialty in transcendental technology and to perform original research. He gets personal, individualized instruction from the Master and has access to highly confidential sources of spiritual information.

Initiation is best for younger people who are still flexible and can adapt to the demanding lifestyle of an esoteric disciple. Older people who are set in their ways are better off remaining in the Exoteric Circle and developing their spiritual knowledge in that environment, where they will be more comfortable. After all, discipleship is a very difficult path. However, if one is determined to become a Master, it is the only way.

It is not unusual for a student to remain a Candidate for 10 years or more; similarly, it is not unusual for one to remain an Initiate for 25 years or more before becoming a Master. Many Initiates have to take birth again before becoming a Master. It is far better to err on the side of caution than to prematurely take on the responsibility for others' spiritual advancement. It is best if one waits until there is no other alternative before accepting the duties of a Master.

However, the overall aim of the entire organization of any school of the Esoteric Teaching is to create such Masters of spiritual wisdom. Only the Master is in a position to know the entire technology of the Esoteric Teaching, for it is his duty to guide the students to their ultimate destinations.

By use of the mystic Keys of the Esoteric Teaching, one can transfer his consciousness to any planet or dimension, either temporarily or permanently. In this way one can explore the different dimensions of the material and spiritual universes. Finally, once a Master has determined his preference, at the time of death he can transfer his primary embodiment through the Gates of the Esoteric Teaching to an eternal existence on the spiritual planet or dimension of his choice. This is the end of all suffering, and it is the ultimate aim of the spiritual technology of the Esoteric Teaching.