

WHAT ARE ESOTERIC TEACHINGS?

It is necessary to begin this volume with a short introduction to esotericism – in order to facilitate those individuals who may pick up this written material, by accident or otherwise and possess very little prior knowledge of this subject.

Gurdjieff tells us that in ancient times, 2.500 BC, in the early Babylonian period of history, people knew the meaning of esotericism. They understood the basic principles involved, and the subject was spoken about openly & commonly on the streets of Babylon itself! They still possessed the requisite cognitive ability! [Awareness]

Today it is a different matter! These principles are now replaced by a vast array of false emotional-anchors and dubious modern day topics such as: football, Olympics, tennis, pornography, cinema, TV, fashion, 'my property', make-up, food, hobbies etc. People no longer possess the cognitive level to perceive the strata of esoteric teachings or, if you like – higher learning!

THE CORE TEACHING

G. tells us that behind orthodox religion, orthodox science & philosophy there is a hidden corpus of knowledge and wisdom on the Earth: a body of knowledge that has always existed in the background and which holds the keys to man's destiny & inner development. This wisdom lies just outside of modern man's cognitive-range - as he is today! What I mean by this, is that, without a definitive adjustment of his cognitive instrument, what one might call a certain cognitive training, he is unable to perceive it! He has now become hypnotized by the flow of material life and lost much cognitive range!

In the movie called 'The Matrix', Morpheus tells Neo: "Unfortunately nobody can tell you what the Matrix is; you must see it for yourself!" This is precisely the position of modern man in relation to esotericism. In other words – in order to see the existence of 'the Matrix', it is necessary to expand one's cognitive range.

This is the knowledge we will deal with in this volume and in future volumes! G. informs us that the realization that this hidden aspect of life exists; that is, this initial adjustment of one's cognitive range; is the first manifestation of

true intelligence in the individual. [‘The Matrix’ means a society without substance and a modus operandi without a dynamic harmonic structure!!]

THE ESOTERIC LEGACY

It is said that a special knowledge, a secret science or Alchemy has existed since the time of Atlantis or before, which has been passed down to contemporary times, through an unbroken chain of initiates; this knowledge, it is said, enables the individual to transcend the limitations of ordinary life and ordinary awareness, by developing a higher level of consciousness or cosmic intelligence.

Fragments of this wisdom may be found in certain types of ancient art, sacred dancing, medieval architecture, certain religious rituals, and ancient scriptures all over planet Earth. It is said that Leonardo Da Vinci had just begun decoding some of this ancient knowledge from objective geometry, hidden in the paintings of some of ‘the Old Persian Masters’, just before he died!

These are the influences, which can be found in a fragmented form in life; but there are also influences of a direct form to be found, where one is re-educated and indeed receive what esotericism terms ‘the second-education’.

However, to pursue this wisdom requires courage from the individual who is in search of it, since it demands that one goes directly against one’s life conditioning and programming from parents & ‘education’.

Man’s Obligation

‘Man’s obligation is to co-operate with the laws which operate the Universe. Because man has a unique place, the obligation goes with that. .. the awareness of your place is not a gift of nature. You must find it by conscious effort, not by hope. Man has a potentiality he knows nothing about. This forms the science of ancient times. We have lost all idea of these potentialities.’

Gurdjieff. [5]

For untold centuries, The Masters of Wisdom [Khawajan] have projected vestiges of this hidden knowledge into society, with the aim of providing a path to true knowledge and initiation; to provide a Core Teaching capable of healing and transforming individuals on a deep transcendent level. This inner

work has always been achieved through, firstly, achieving balance and integration in the physical, mental and emotional elements of a person. Although it must be understood that this work of balancing the individual remains, for esotericism, a first step in a long process of inner-development.

'There are a thousand things which prevent a man from awakening, which keep him in the power of his imagination and dreams. In order to act consciously with the intention of awakening, it is necessary to know the forces, which keep man in a state of sleep. First of all, it must be realized that the sleep in which man exists on this earth is not normal, but hypnotic sleep. Man is hypnotized, and this hypnotic state is continually maintained and strengthened in him. One would think that there are forces for whom it is useful and profitable to keep man in a hypnotic sleep state and prevent him from seeing the truth and understanding his position.'

Maurice Nicoll. [6]