

# CHILD OF EARTH

In today's world, naivety rules supreme in relation to religion, cults, modern pharmaceutical medicine, science, art, 'education', advertising etc. This is due to the incredible suggestibility of contemporary man in modern societies.

*'One half of the world does not know how the other half lies.'* Gurdjieff.

Let us take for example the ideas of some New Age movements versus esoteric teachings: in general, modern people cannot tell the difference!

## New Age versus Esoteric Teaching

There is a distinct disjunction between esoteric teaching and New Age ideas. When we examine both of these modalities ruthlessly, we find some surprising results. What we find is that esoteric teachings stand on a much higher level than New Age ideas, which are founded on the scattered debris of some gigantic whole. We find most New Age teachings are, in fact, belief systems in disguise! Most New Age teachings are based on esoteric ideas!!

It has been said that New Age ideas are 'like leaves that have fallen from the esoteric tree'. Gurdjieff tells us that all the scattered teachings we see today, all of the teachings of mini-cults, renegade religions, sects, New Age materials etc, are all fragmented elements from a greater whole: a core teaching which once existed upon the Earth...the true esoteric teachings of the ancients.

Now, esoteric teachings are not belief systems, unlike religions, cults and New Age teachings. However, it is almost impossible for the modern mind-set to grasp this. Many of the New Age teachings in the modern world have fragments of esoteric teachings at their core – such as the much-vaunted reincarnation and the 'transmigration of the soul'. Despite this, the truth about reincarnation has not been revealed in New Age teachings; they have become diluted and suffered the corrosive effects of the logical mind & generations of wrong thinking on the subject. Gurdjieff explains: "Everything we get spiritually must be earned" [ This earning, includes reincarnation! ]

This mode of adopting a fragment of genuine esoteric truth and setting it at the heart of a modern New Age teaching, lends a type of authenticity and veracity to those propagating such a teaching and, of course, as is always the case, many are taken in by this quaint technique. It is this use of a fragment of authentic teaching

which we find set amongst the fake ideas of a fertile imagination, that causes all the problems. We find that people will hold onto such teachings 'for grim death'! They become a type of psychological & emotional crutch; in reality a fabrication! Truth is thus sacrificed yet again!!

In reality, many New Age & religious teachings actually block inner-work in modern people!! Who will do spiritual work if they think that they are going to reincarnate free gratis and without any efforts on their part? The answer is, of course, nobody will do any real spiritual work but merely practice minor spiritual disciplines – practices which were originally used as preparatory items, in much larger & complete Spiritual Paths.

This false idea of reincarnation also stops many balanced and naturally gifted individuals, in spiritual sphere of life, from looking deeper into genuine esoteric teachings and authentic inner-work .... they remain on the pereferae.

*'Child of Earth, long hast thou dwelth in darkness; quit the night and seek the day'*  
[7]

*'Every real religion consists of two parts, the first part teaches what has to be done, this part becomes common knowledge, but in the course of time is distorted and departs from the original.*

*The second part teaches how to do what the first part teaches. This second part is preserved in secret in certain schools. With its help, it is always possible to rectify what has become distorted or to restore what has been forgotten! '*

*Quote from Gurdjieff: William Patrick Patterson.*