



Thoughts for the New Age

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There is a part of an immemorial body of knowledge known as the Western Esoteric Tradition; this knowledge represents the sum total of the spiritual experience of the Western races. It has come down to us through the ages in symbolic form via the sacred books of different races, and has been interpreted and taught by symbol and ritual in the Mystery Schools in an uninterrupted line to the present. If the ideas are new to you, you are asked only to consider them as working possibilities which may throw

light upon some of life's apparent inconsistencies.

A notable feature of all the religions of the past is that each had an inner and an outer aspect. The outer form became the race religion, whilst the inner form contained deeper teachings which offered a direct path to personal experience of the inner realities, and an opportunity to help in the spiritual evolution of the race.

One of these teachings is that the material universe which we perceive with the physical senses is the end-

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product of the activities of other, subtler, levels, and that we must look to these levels for the causes of physical phenomena.

The Tradition teaches that essential man evolves by experience, and assumes many earthly bodies in the course of his evolution. When a high degree of experience has been attained and the lessons of Earth learnt, progress can continue on non-physical levels. For man is essentially a spirit — a free being — and can adapt to life in many different conditions.

Any genuine School of the Mysteries gives out teaching with one end in mind, namely that the principles learnt are lived out in the day-to-day life of its members, and that, like yeast in a mass of dough, right thinking and a right ethic based on Cosmic Law are set to work in the national life. And it is surprising just how much even a single such archetypal 'pattern' can help to redress the chaos so prevalent in the world today. No special regimen is advocated, but methods of working increase the individual's self-awareness and self-confidence and, thus, his ability to cope with modern life.

The New Age seeks to exemplify the forces being brought in. The approach to the goal is in stages, and the path is divided into many steps. The first of these, and possibly the most vital, is personal regeneration. There has never been a greater need for sane, well-balanced men and women than there is today.

While living a physical life, the body and personality are vital vehicles for service. All the so-called occult powers

manifest only through the individual gifts and accomplishments of the seeker; there is no short cut or 'other way'. And for this reason, a sane and well-stocked mind and a healthy body are vital requirements for the journey. The New Age is the age of synthesis — there is room for many viewpoints.

Training methods cover a wide field. The seeker is taught about the forces of nature and learns to experience these consciously in his daily life. Another area of study is the Qabalah, which is one of the basic symbol-systems of the Western Esoteric Tradition. Since the aim is service to the race and to humanity, a high calibre is demanded.

The keynote is action. There is no room for arm-chair philosophers. Innovation is welcomed, and the use of many techniques to help individuals become truly 'themselves'. There are many ways of service and many groups seeking to put New Age ideals into action. There is no 'one way', but there *is* a best way for each one of us.

