

# 1 ESOTERIC KNOWLEDGE ORDERS

## *1.1 Introduction*

<sup>1</sup>Historians, like philosophers, too, nowadays (being ignorant of the past), assume that the knowledge of reality is a result of natural research and that in prehistoric times people did not possess that knowledge. They are certainly right in saying that mankind has been profoundly ignorant of reality, even physical reality, has been the victim of the superstitions of its ignorant leaders. It is understandable that they reject everything old without examining it as though it were useless superstition.

<sup>2</sup>What historians cannot know, however, is that individuals possessed of knowledge have always existed, although they were obliged to keep what they knew to themselves. But they have always been able to teach something of their knowledge of the healing powers of plants, for instance. Ancient methods of medical treatment testify to such influences. Therefore, it is unwise to reject everything old without examining it.

<sup>3</sup>Historians do not know that at all times, for twenty million years, men were guided by individuals from the planetary hierarchy and, as soon as they were able to comprehend and understand, received as a free gift as much knowledge as they were able to grasp. For about forty-five thousand years, tuition has been given in secret knowledge orders to those who were able to grasp it, could be silent about what they had learnt, and could keep their pledge of not using the knowledge that confers power for their own good or without special permission. As has been pointed out many times before, the knowledge is always distorted by those not understanding it and abused by egoists.

<sup>4</sup>It is true that the knowledge has always been available to those who were willing to sacrifice all to find it. But it could not be given out to ignorance, injudiciousness, hatred, mania for persecution, and reckless abuse of power. The symbols protected the knowledge from discovery and were of course misinterpreted. The wise men whom we admire in history were all of them initiates, and the little they could tell still had such an effect.

<sup>5</sup>When, some time in the future, the esoteric history will be publicized, it will appear that all those whom the esoterician counts among the great ones in mankind, those who have furthered consciousness development and brought the educable closer to unity were once initiates of some esoteric knowledge order.

<sup>6</sup>It is only in our times that mankind has evolved so far that it has been able to acquire knowledge of physical reality on its own and, within certain limits, been able to realize that it is not in a position to solve the problems of superphysical reality. Thereby mankind has come to its senses and reached the possibility of self-determination, a triumph for the guides of mankind's development. Thereby mankind has gained solid ground beneath its feet and is able to take the next step in evolution, namely gratefully accept the superphysical knowledge that the planetary hierarchy is willing to give to mankind, and also to realize that this superphysical knowledge is the true one. This has hitherto been impossible.

<sup>7</sup>Thanks to esoterics, men have finally been given a world view and life view acceptable to common sense, clarifying the meaning and goal of life, a firm basis for further thought and action. The publication of esoterics marks a turning-point in the history of mankind. Henceforth nobody need to walk in the false world of illusions and fictions.

<sup>8</sup>The esoteric knowledge that was communicated in the secret knowledge orders (hermetics, gnostics, hylozoics, for instance) has never been allowed for publication and probably will not be made generally known until all mankind has reached the stage of ideality. That knowledge can be taught only to those who are unable to use the power for their own good. What has been made public thus is just a small part, the part that, so to speak, makes up the very

skeleton of the system with the most basic facts requisite to afford a vision of the meaning and goal of existence.

### *1.2 The Genesis of the Esoteric Knowledge Orders*

<sup>1</sup>Magic is the name of the method of using mental energies to control physical matter.

<sup>2</sup>The “lower priesthood” in Atlantis, the task of whom was to bring up and guide the masses, had in temple schools been trained by the “higher priesthood” (the planetary hierarchy) to become magicians.

<sup>3</sup>Since all power is abused, large or small factions of the lower priesthood had time and again rebelled against the higher priesthood, but it had been possible to bring the rebel priests back to order. In the end, however, the spirit of rebellion had grown so strong and become so wide-spread that the planetary hierarchy considered it meaningless to uphold its struggle. It therefore decided that the esoteric knowledge would be communicated solely to those who had reached the stage of culture and who had acquired the ability to keep the promises they had given, to be silent, and not to abuse power.

<sup>4</sup>By abusing the knowledge mankind has forfeited the right to it. The only remedy was to annihilate all traces of the Atlantean civilization. The tidal wave that washed over the other continents as Atlantis was submerged completed the destruction.

<sup>5</sup>The final ruin was foreseen already a million years ago. Those who had not abused power were warned in good time to emigrate and to resort to elevated countries (one thousand meters above the sea). A special colony had previously been developed in Tibet, the “Eden” of Israelite legend. Everything of significance was brought there as being the highest situated and therefore the most secure archives.

<sup>6</sup>In Tibet Vyasa (the first individual carrying this name) instituted about 45 000 years ago an esoteric knowledge order, the model of the ones that were subsequently instituted in all nations that had attained a sufficiently high development for cultural people to incarnate among them. The Chaldean, Iranian, Egyptian, Greek knowledge orders were established considerably later. Therefore, it was quite natural that individuals thirsting for knowledge repaired to the Orient and incarnated as Orientals. Out of this simple fact they have as usual made unnecessarily mystifying stories.

<sup>7</sup>Historians should note that the name of the founder of some certain philosophy or religious movement very often became a title that was taken over by his successors. For instance, there have been many Shankaracharyas, many Zoroasters, etc. One hesitates to use the name Zarathustra after the escapades of Nietzsche.

<sup>8</sup>Those were initiated into these esoteric knowledge orders who had in previous incarnations been magicians and not misused their knowledge (broken their promises), as well as those who had attained the stage of culture and whose consciousness development would be furthered if they were liberated from the ruling emotional illusions and mental fictions, so that they could gain that understanding of life, those qualities and abilities that make it possible to reach the stage of humanity. The highest degree of the orders corresponded to the stage of ideality.

<sup>9</sup>All the esoteric knowledge orders had several degrees (at least seven) corresponding to the possibilities of comprehension and understanding there were in the initiates. The knowledge was communicated by way of symbols. The seven degrees reflected seven different interpretations of the symbols. The writings contained only symbols incomprehensible to the uninitiated. The interpretation was made orally and changed from one degree to the next.

<sup>10</sup>The knowledge can be summarized in symbols, a fact that especially mathematicians understand. Actually, the entire knowledge of reality can be represented in mathematical symbols. The symbols were elaborated to be taught in the knowledge orders, first in Senzar and considerably later transcribed into Sanskrit.

<sup>11</sup>The initiates of lower degrees knew nothing of what was taught in the higher degrees. In most cases they did not even know that there were higher degrees or who were their initiates. Long before the Christian church with its mania for persecution came into power this unconditional reticence was necessary for several reasons, not least the psychological ones.

<sup>12</sup>The different degrees corresponded to different levels of development, and nobody received any knowledge that he could not rightly comprehend, rightly understand and rightly use when judging things. One risk involved with the publication of any knowledge is that books fall into the hands of those who are quite unable to profit by the knowledge in the right way, and they criticize such things as they cannot possibly grasp correctly. That was the original reason why everything “occult” fell into disrepute and degenerated into superstition. To see your own limitation you must possess a faculty of self-criticism that has always been rare and seems to become rarer still. The principle of democratic equality has contributed to stupidization. We all are beings of the fourth natural kingdom. We all are the children of god. But we are not equally old in the human kingdom. And those who are a couple of hundred million years old surely have learnt a wee bit more than those who are only 20 million years old.

<sup>13</sup>The true, genuine knowledge orders were instituted by members of the planetary hierarchy (essential selves) who were the only ones to be authorized by the planetary hierarchy, acting on its behalf. Such an individual remained the initiator of his own order in all his subsequent incarnations. When an essential self, a member of the fifth natural kingdom (the planetary hierarchy) offers to institute an esoteric knowledge orders, he thereby has bound himself always to be incarnated until that order will be closed and suspend further initiations. This was the case, for example, with the head of the Rosicrucian Order, who ever since the 14th century has always been in incarnation.

<sup>14</sup>The knowledge of reality could be taught to the initiates of higher degrees, since they had passed the tests of their strength of character. They could keep silent about what they knew. They had sufficient insight not to believe they could arrive at the truth by speculation; they neither misunderstood, nor distorted, or abused the knowledge. When mankind at large has come that far in its development, it will receive the true knowledge of reality, to the extent that it can be grasped at all, as a gift from the planetary hierarchy, just as the hierarchy and all higher kingdoms have received the knowledge from those in still higher kingdoms. One wonders for how long time yet mankind will suffer itself to be led astray and satanized.

<sup>15</sup>Not all orders that eventually were formed were instituted by members of the planetary hierarchy. The black lodge promptly imitated the genuine orders in the intention of traversing them, confusing and misleading people. It is typical that all such imitations always have had a comparatively large following, financial resources, and (of course imperceptible) social and political influence. They satisfied egoism and shelved consciousness development.

<sup>16</sup>The orders instituted by the planetary hierarchy are closed nowadays. They will not be reopened, since everything that was taught in them concerning the matter and consciousness aspects has already been publicized. This does not imply, however, that the former initiates now live in isolation. Even if they have not joined any societies, they make up a non-organized association of “serving brothers”, who are recognized by their “universal brotherhood”. It is planned that some central institution will record their names and addresses, and supply them within the group, so that these individuals will easily find each other.

<sup>17</sup>Three kinds of collaborators for human consciousness evolution may be distinguished (disciples of the planetary hierarchy disregarded): humanists (mentally active people), mystics (emotionally active), and “idealists” (physically active people), the latter category working for the betterment of human conditions in political, social, economic, cultural, etc. respect, counteracting dogmatism, intolerance, division, and hatred.

<sup>18</sup>The orders instituted by the black lodge are not dissolved, however, and their members celebrate their “black masses” in the most profound secrecy.

### ***1.3 What the Knowledge Orders Taught***

<sup>1</sup>Beginning in the lowest degree, the initiates were taught not to speculate, not to assume anything without sufficient grounds, to distinguish between what they knew and what they did not know (thus the difference between belief and knowledge, between knowing and believing you know).

<sup>2</sup>Most initiates never reached above the lowest degree, some 40 per cent reached the second degree, and about five per cent the third degree. Only the initiates of the highest degree knew everything about their order. Consequently, there were many “initiates” who never reached above those lowest degrees where esoterics remained esoteric. The interpretations of the symbols made in those degrees at the very most afforded a knowledge of rebirth and the law of reaping, the existence of the emotional and mental worlds, and the individual’s envelopes in those worlds.

<sup>3</sup>The initiates of the two lowest degrees of the knowledge orders did not have any clear ideas of higher worlds, of their matters and nature, and the same is true of those who were initiated into the Greek mysteries.

<sup>4</sup>Only in the third degree, difficult to attain, the initiates were given a somewhat detailed description of the conditions and phenomena previously mentioned. The knowledge of “magic”, the application of the laws of mental energy and the methods of affecting lower kinds of matter, was taught only in the highest (seventh) degree, which was attained by very few initiates, only those who had received the approval of the planetary hierarchy. However, even initiates of lower degrees were permitted to witness the pertaining experiments.

<sup>5</sup>It should therefore be noted that the mere fact that someone was an initiate of an esoteric knowledge order does not necessarily imply that he was particularly acquainted with esoterics. If you do not know the degree the initiate had attained it is impossible to determine the extent of his esoteric knowledge.

<sup>6</sup>The many different knowledge orders had certain symbols in common (those of the planetary hierarchy) but in addition their particular ones taken from the myths and explanations of reality current in various ages.

<sup>7</sup>The differences in the expositions of the knowledge were due to the different nations’ general conceptions in different ages, at different stages of development. For instance, it was impossible to speak of atoms and molecules, energies, evolution, etc. to people who could not possibly grasp what is meant by these terms. Moreover, the teaching had to be communicated in such a form that it would not afford the possibility of abuse. A mental system common to all was lacking due to the peoples’ ignorance of reality. To forestall a confusion of ideas, it was decided that no one could be a member of two orders simultaneously. The exception to this rule was the Gnostic Order, which had its own terminology, it is true, but was intended as a society common to all “initiates” and permitted everyone to use his own symbolism.

<sup>8</sup>In the knowledge orders, facts were given out about the worlds 45–49, man’s envelopes and envelope consciousnesses. The teaching on the involution and involution of matter was replaced with the “descent of spirit into matter”. The monad, or the self, was presented as though it were omniscient in higher worlds and incarnated into lower worlds to get to know them. (Nothing was mentioned of the fact that higher consciousness knows everything there is in lower consciousness.) In fact, all monads must begin their consciousness development in the lowest natural kingdom and work their way up from it through successively higher natural kingdoms.

<sup>9</sup>Initiates of esoteric knowledge orders were given a knowledge of reality not to fall victims to the dogmas of theology or to the speculations of philosophy. They were given a vision of

existence and a knowledge of the laws of life, so that they could lead purposive lives in the physical world, lives of service that automatically developed all the requisite qualities and abilities. They were taught to see both their own limitation and their latent possibilities. They were taught not to accept anything but what they realized to be right and true themselves, not to accept any authority (or “sacred writing”), but to develop their common sense. They were taught to “stand on their own feet” and not be dependent on external assistance, whether in the physical or in the superphysical worlds. They were taught that they were potential gods and that they received through their superconscious all they needed to attain ever higher stages, that according to the law of self-realization they should and also could realize their divinity, how ever long time and how ever much work this would take. They received the knowledge in order to realize the meaning of their physical lives, not in order to dream, and imagine, and theorize. Believers, being unable to comprehend, were not accepted in the esoteric knowledge orders.

<sup>10</sup>People of today have been given the knowledge for nothing, in a mental system that is wholly sufficient for them to know how they should live so that they can be received as disciples in some future incarnation. It wholly depends on themselves when this will be possible. By serving mankind, evolution, and unity they counteract lies and hatred and become even more skilful in the art of living, the only essential thing.

<sup>11</sup>The ceremonies of initiation in the esoteric knowledge orders always stimulated some envelope centre, so that the capacity of the initiate in some certain respect was tenfolded and the other centres, too, were stimulated into enhanced activity. The ritual was not, as it is now degraded, an empty ceremony. But the initiator (hierophant) was a member of the planetary hierarchy, and he could depend on the fact that its higher representatives made their higher energies reinforce his own, so that the initiate experienced a powerful stimulation that strengthened his faculties. No one could be received into any one of the orders of the planetary hierarchy without being approved by the chief of the third department of the planetary hierarchy. No one ran the risk of being disregarded. Everyone has his Augoeides, and he sees to it that his protégé receives his award when he has acquired the requisite qualities, balanced his reaping account, and is fit to be a tool of the planetary hierarchy. No one ever made an application. Those who in their self-sufficiency thought themselves ready for the “kingdom of the heavens” and pushed their way forward had to pass tests that taught them that no one of all those who believe they are called is fit to be chosen. At initiation, the neophyte was also made to realize that he did not possess the requisite capacity but had “experienced grace”, since he was needed for some certain purpose and they considered that with his new energies he would rapidly be able to defend his new status.

<sup>12</sup>In their presentation of the knowledge, the ancient orders started from the general ways of looking at things that were prevalent at the time of their institution. Since the ways of looking at things are nowadays totally different, the old formulations may be said to be unsuitable for modern people from psychological and educational points of view. It should be easy to see that the orders were necessary. Theologians have always known how to “liquidate” heretics. But the orders were necessary also for other reasons than intolerance. If you want to preserve the meanings of words (which are always idiotized by ignorance), you must protect the knowledge from misinterpretation and reserve it for those who are able to comprehend. This is especially necessary if the presentation is symbolic, for whenever incurable conceit, with its faith in its own power of judgment (the habitual presumption), picks up a symbol, it will idiotize it without fail.

<sup>13</sup>The esoteric knowledge orders are not disbanded, but they receive no new aspirants, only those who were members in previous incarnations. The ancient esoteric literature, which is thoroughly symbolic and incomprehensible to the uninitiated, has nowadays been permitted for partial publication and even interpretation (by Blavatsky, for instance), which was

necessary to allow former initiates having the knowledge latently to remember the essentials of the knowledge they had once acquired. Probably, they were the only ones to have “understood” what Blavatsky wrote.

<sup>14</sup>Blavatsky (in *The Secret Doctrine*) was the first one to give an account of symbols and locutions used in the esoteric knowledge orders while not giving any details on the knowledge content of those symbols.

<sup>15</sup>Laurency has taken pains to clear away all symbolism in his presentation of esoterics and, as far as possible, to start from the concepts and terms of natural science. Since the mathematical nomenclature is the only truly international one, he has used it consistently.

<sup>16</sup>Humanism is the life view that was proclaimed in the esoteric knowledge orders. Nobody who did not himself apply the principle of tolerance in his life could be initiated into any such order. Tolerance means that everyone has an absolute right to his own view in everything. “Everybody is the master of his own wisdom.” The fool has a right to be a fool. But he has absolutely no right to make himself an authority for anyone else. That is what he always does, however. And that is the reason for mankind’s total disorientation in reality and life.

<sup>17</sup>The word “humanism” has lost its true sense, of course, like all words entering into the vocabulary of the masses. Nowadays it means some sort of profane humanism which most demagogues flaunt when they like a Lenin, etc., preach the “dictatorship of the proletariat” and murder of dissidents.

#### **1.4 Why the Knowledge Orders Were Secret**

<sup>1</sup>It was characteristic of the ancient orders that nobody except the initiates knew of their existence. And no initiate witnessed to the existence of his order. Bulwer-Lytton is an example of how discreetly they proceeded. In the introduction to his *Zanoni* he feigns to ask an antiquarian bookseller whether he had any work concerning the Rosicrucians. He could not tell that he was an initiate himself. This mere mention of the order had a strange effect, however. All manner of charlatans had their attention called to the nice-sounding name and considered it suitable to found Rosicrucian orders.

<sup>2</sup>Everything that the scholastic world has said and will say about the esoteric knowledge orders is evident lie. No initiate has been able to tell outsiders or even commit to writing what was taught except in symbolic form, unintelligible to outsiders. Of course scholarly works on what was taught in the knowledge orders have been published. The least reflection should have told those learned ones that if it could be thus communicated, it would no longer be esoteric.

<sup>3</sup>Efraim Briem, professor of theology at the University of Lund, had a book, *Mysterier och mysterieförbund* (Mysteries and Mystical Societies), published by the Natur och Kultur publishing house in 1932. It is a piece of solid scholarship comprising 448 pages, a demonstration of a man’s meticulous research and his joy in doing it. He had thoroughly sifted through all extant historical material. It is pity, however, that this material is mostly made up of what people believed they knew about things of which they knew nothing. At all times there have been writers who publicly disclosed all manner of secrets, idle talk they had heard, and then improved upon it with their own additions.

<sup>4</sup>The only comment needed here is to say that before the year 1875 it was not permitted to publicize any facts about esoteric knowledge orders, and that everything publicized before that year is part of legend. For instance, no facts about the genuine Rosicrucian Order have been publicized. It is immaterial whether the learned have been able to pick up something through the stupidizing lingo of the occult sects. Nothing truly esoteric has ever leaked out to the public, however. The planetary hierarchy had efficient resources to prevent such things. The fact that there are numerous Rosicrucian sects, every one of which alleges to be the one true heir to the original one, only demonstrates that the various sect founders have fallen

victims to falsifications. Those who invoke such falsifications as trustworthy sources, regarding them as genuine historical documents, anyhow do not demonstrate esoteric insight.

<sup>5</sup>The secret knowledge orders of the planetary hierarchy were necessarily secret, since through the ages and still in our times the black ones have utilized all resources to increase their knowledge, especially with a view to counteracting evolution. The knowledge of the esoteric orders was kept so secret that the initiates were taught not merely to be silent but even not to think of it except under precautionary measures lest it should be picked up by the black lodge and expand its knowledge. Because all initiates are specially supervised by black ones in the mental world, such individuals as have acquired mental objective consciousness, for the black ones can reach that far.

<sup>6</sup>Those who were initiated into an esoteric knowledge order and in its higher degrees were given esoteric knowledge were put into contact with the planetary hierarchy through these ideas. If anyone of those initiates were to take it into his head to betray anything of what he had been taught, incredible as it is, then this would be instantly known in the planetary hierarchy, and the fool and traitor would be relieved of his knowledge so thoroughly that he would have forgotten that he had anything to betray. Esoteric facts, ideas, axioms are mental atoms (possibly involved into the mental molecules of the brain cells). They can, if necessary, be eliminated by a 45-self (possibly the individual's Augoeides) without the man noticing anything at all. Any such temptation would never have presented itself, however, since the initiate knew that in so doing he would not be given esoteric knowledge in future incarnations, as long as that knowledge was esoteric.

<sup>7</sup>The masses never learnt about the existence of the esoteric orders. The clergy certainly suspected that such orders must exist but conceived of them as "learned societies" for the exploration of nature. The admission to them was surrounded with many requirements and conditions that had a deterring effect on unworthy aspirants.

<sup>8</sup>As the Christian Church spread and eventually seized power, persecutions of dissidents set in, and so the members of the orders had to be protected in the most efficient way. After the year 530 no esoterician appeared in public as an esoterician. The secret knowledge orders lived on but from that time as truly secret organizations. The risk of discovery was great, and the martyr's death (torture and burning at the hands of the Christians) awaited the initiates as they were believed to be in compact with the devil. No outsider knew anything even of the existence of the orders. To the historians of our times they never existed.

<sup>9</sup>How efficiently the Church watched lest no "heresies" should be spread is seen in the fact that in the 18th century Saint Germain had to encourage dissidents to found secret orders where they could "think freely" in peace from theological persecution and the ruling bans on free thought and expression. Those orders had only that purpose and must not be confused with the Rosicrucian Order, whose head he was through all his incarnations. What was taught in those "social orders" had only a remote resemblance to esoterics in some respects. They possessed no esoteric knowledge, whereas some of them believed they did. Most of them were disbanded as the theological tyranny ceased thanks to the refutation of the absurdities of the Jewish world view (the so-called word of god) by natural research.

<sup>10</sup>When subsequently, under the influence of the ideas of liberalism, freedom of expression was established, those who were in opposition to the dogmas of the Church called themselves "freethinkers". They were generally regarded as "godless" and were ranked in the same category as criminals. An atheist could be suspected of anything whatever, which is a proof of the Christians' lack of judgment.

<sup>11</sup>Since esoterics has nowadays been permitted to be public property, the original purpose of esoteric orders has fallen. Only in such dictatorial states where free expression is banned there is still a justification for orders so secret that no outsider even suspects their existence.

In such cases, additional security is provided by the ancient rule that only members of the same degree know each other, sometimes not even that, if at meetings all are masked.

<sup>12</sup>That such measures have been found necessary demonstrates mankind's low stage of development, we could as well say barbarism. Nowadays they boast of culture and think they have reached far above barbarism. That is a great illusion, however. The condition of culture is universal brotherhood, and it is obvious that we have a long way to go before we are there. Civilization with technology is quite compatible with barbarism, which fact the 20th century clarified to everyone having a wee bit of judgment.

<sup>13</sup>Knowing that fanaticism systematically eradicates everything it does not approve of, the planetary hierarchy has since fifty thousand years been collecting the essential things from the history of mankind in its inaccessible museum. There the symbolic writings of the knowledge orders are preserved as well. That museum can be visited only by causal selves who have acquired objective causal consciousness. Good provisions have been made so that no barbarians will have any opportunity to destroy it, as they did with the Alexandrian Library.

### *1.5 Disciples*

<sup>1</sup>At the end of the 18th and in the beginning of the 19th century, several novels on occult themes saw the light of the day. Some of those books were written by people who had esoteric knowledge. Most of the other works were proofs that their authors had once been initiates but had not been in a position to study the knowledge anew. However, the vague reminiscences that in various ways appeared in their books demonstrated to the initiated that the knowledge existed in their subconscious, although it was very incompletely remembered.

<sup>2</sup>There are many people who in a new incarnation do not manage to reattain their latent level of development. There can be many reasons for this. Generally it depends on a bad sowing that is deemed to be preferably reaped to facilitate a more expedient development in the future. It may also be that some certain quality or ability needs to be particularly developed, and this makes one-sided specialization necessary. Perhaps a certain contribution shall be made that is best made if only the welfare and interests of mankind are considered.

<sup>3</sup>It may be assumed that all who were once initiates of some esoteric knowledge order (one instituted by an essential self, note this!) have attained the stage of culture, and are disciples of some member of the planetary hierarchy. That does not at all mean that they need to be aware of this in their present incarnation. Most often they are not. Neither Franklin Roosevelt, nor Winston Churchill, or Dag Hammarskjöld knew that they were disciples.

<sup>4</sup>Only causal selves are able to remember their esoteric knowledge in a new incarnation. That mental self who was once a disciple of a member of the planetary hierarchy need not know that at all in his new envelopes of incarnation. When contacting esoterics he has an immediate understanding of just as much as he once understood of esoterics. But this remembrance need not at all imply that he realizes that he was once a disciple and that he still belongs to a certain department as a disciple. It depends on many different factors how many incarnations he may still experience and yet be ignorant of his discipleship and without an interest in or thought of examining esoteric views. It is to be hoped that this information does not have the effect that those interested in esoterics imagine that they are disciples. You are wise if you learn to tell what you know from what you do not know.

<sup>5</sup>Lost knowledge is lost reality, since the individual no longer seeks, no longer finds, no longer discovers, no longer sees what he has lost. Goethe's saying that you see only what you already know is true in many respects.

<sup>6</sup>Man has "found his soul again" when he has accepted its existence as the only tenable working hypothesis. Without it he will never gain causal consciousness. Divination is the self's instinctive searchlight in the night of ignorance.



<sup>7</sup>Modern philosophy strives to renounce all claims of understanding of physical reality, and there is a risk that mankind does so also in respect of superphysical reality. It is perhaps not to be wondered at that serious seekers turn to Indian yoga philosophy, which asserts the existence of superphysical reality.

### *1.6 The Greek Mysteries*

<sup>1</sup>After the sinking of Poseidonis in the year 9564 BCE, an offshoot of the fourth subrace of the fifth rootrace began immigrating into ancient Greece, which was devastated by catastrophes. They built their capital in 8000 BCE not far from the latter Athens. (The present-day Athens was built around the year 1000 BCE, Parthenon in 480 BCE.)

<sup>2</sup>To this gifted nation with a realistic attitude to life came the world teacher (the head of the second department of the planetary hierarchy), Orpheus, about 7000 years BCE., founding the so-called Orphic mysteries. They had two degrees: the lower or lesser mysteries and the higher or greater ones. These were the Greek so-called mystery plays, symbolic and dramatic presentations, in popular form, of the simplest esoteric facts, which were communicated under a pledge of secrecy that was observed very strictly. In the lower mysteries, the initiates were taught about the condition in the “kingdom of the dead” (the emotional world) after death; and in the higher mysteries, about the “kingdom of heaven” (the mental world). They were also taught about the existence of the soul, rebirth, and the law of sowing and reaping. They were liberated from the fear of death.

<sup>3</sup>The fact that Platon was an initiate of the Orphic mysteries as well as of the Pythagorean esoteric knowledge order seems to conflict with the information that no one was permitted to belong to two orders. There was a very great difference between the mysteries and the knowledge orders, however, and they should not be confused with each other. Even if the mysteries were “secret” and it was forbidden on pain of death to disclose what was taught in them, the knowledge that was taught in them was utterly primitive and also a right that accrued to every blameless, free citizen, so that a great part of the population were initiates. The initiates of the mysteries were not taught anything on the meaning and goal of life, on consciousness development, on worlds higher than the mental, on the monad, the triad, causalization, etc. The mysteries were intended for the people, the orders for the élite, for those who had reached the stage of emotional attraction. It was only by Pythagoras (700 BCE) that the Greeks were given a knowledge order, complete with all the degrees.

<sup>4</sup>The mysteries decayed as the qualifications for initiation were continually lowered. Things came to such a pass that those who were not initiated were looked upon as a lower social class. The mysteries eventually and in their degeneracy became a means for the mystagogues to keep their grip of the masses, and the “hierophants” became “illusionists”.

### *1.7 Pythagoras*

<sup>1</sup>The Pythagorean Order was an esoteric knowledge order, which means that what was taught in it never became known to outsiders. Therefore, what the current text-books on the history of philosophy say about the Order is erroneous. Some non-esoteric data given by Aristoteles in his characteristic manner of reporting what suited him should also be taken with some caution.

<sup>2</sup>Pythagoras founded a small colony outside the town of Taormina in Sicily, and there he erected the buildings of his order. Later these buildings were totally destroyed by the mob, easily excited as usual, and Pythagoras was murdered. Of all this historians know nothing. This is typical of all kind of history, and especially the history of philosophy. Everything said in it about the time before the sophists is an imaginative construction of a few loose facts.

<sup>3</sup>Pythagoras called his colony Krotona, although there was a town by the name of Kroton (nowadays Crotona) on the Italian southern coast at the Gulf of Taranto. In the exoteric legends of Pythagoras these two places have generally been confused with each other.

<sup>4</sup>There should be reason to ponder why everything esoteric is so easily confused with exoteric things, and this all the way to seemingly insignificant details. At all events the knowledge of this peculiarity should restrain archaeologists and historians of other kinds from jumping to conclusions when coming upon finds and making historical discoveries.

<sup>5</sup>The esoteric orders had very good reasons to do everything to create confusions and mix-ups, if possible. This, too, tells us something about that mankind from which everything rational and noble had to be protected by all means.

### ***1.8 Gnostics, Alchemy, Yoga***

<sup>1</sup>The Gnostic Order was instituted in Alexandria about 300 BCE. The quasi-gnosticians arose in the second century CE and eventually split into 70 different sects that banned each other. Their writings were mainly some 50 quasi-gnostic gospels (of which four after re-writing were included in the New Testament). This quasi-gnosticism (the other gospels) is what the historians of religion call Gnosticism, something quite different from the knowledge that was called gnostics and which remained esoteric.

<sup>2</sup>The genesis of the Gospels has been described in other works by Laurency. Here it should just briefly be mentioned that they were authored by some fifty Gnosticians in Alexandria in the first century of the current era. They attempted to popularize the Gnostic symbols within the framework of the permissible. In times of general disorientation, skepticism, superstition, and lawlessness they wanted to inspire people with courage and confidence, give those who “hungered and thirsted for righteousness” an exhortatory example. Their tales have just the semblance of historicity. Only an esoterician is able to interpret these Gospels correctly, realize what they actually intended to convey. The choice of symbol, Christos, the son of god, was perhaps not very fortunate. But the dramatic tale with its harrowing tragedy was intended to make people reflect and give hope and courage to the enslaved.

<sup>3</sup>In the tale the esoterician finds allusions to the first five so-called initiations, and to the necessity of acquiring the twelve essential qualities (represented in the distorted legend of the twelve labours of Herakles).

<sup>4</sup>The Essene Order, the secret knowledge order of the Jews (also called the “school for prophets”), was not instituted by any member of the planetary hierarchy, nor did it receive any facts from the planetary hierarchy. It always rejected or distorted what was taught by initiates of the knowledge orders of the planetary hierarchy. It murdered the essential self Jeshu, who was a disciple in the second department of the planetary hierarchy.

<sup>5</sup>The medieval alchemists were no “manufacturers of gold”. As always, however, the symbolic language of the initiates was exploited by diverse charlatans and impostors. Because of the fanaticism and mania for persecution of the Church the esotericians had to invent a phraseology that was to lead the Christian barbarians astray.

<sup>6</sup>Thus the alchemists sought for the three basic chemical elements in “earth, water, and air”. If the alchemist discovered them, he could by means of the “philosopher’s stone” transmute lead into gold. Translated into intelligible language, this meant: earth = the physical envelopes, water = the emotional envelope, air = the mental envelope. When these envelopes had been integrated, wisdom could transfer the monad from the first to the second triad.

<sup>7</sup>It is a typical trait of the learned to have such a faith in their omniscience that in modern encyclopaedias ignorance goes on ridiculing things it never comprehended.

<sup>8</sup>The Upanishads and the other Vedic literature can be correctly interpreted by causal and higher selves only. Those writings were composed mainly by essential selves (46-selves) during the Atlantean epoch, as the planetary hierarchy realized the necessity of instituting

esoteric knowledge orders, since the knowledge, hitherto public, was being misinterpreted and abused with the intention of misleading people.

<sup>9</sup>What Indian yogis with their clairvoyance have been able to explore does not extend beyond the resources of the emotional world and emotional consciousness. Everything beyond that is speculation. Add to this the fact that the yogis kept their learning secret and taught it to a few select disciples under the strictest vow of secrecy. That learning was regarded as “sacred”, and it was not permitted to even mention it until modern times. The esoteric facts found in the Vedanta philosophy contain nothing of significance beyond what was taught in the Greek mysteries or the facts that were taught in the lower degrees of the orders.

### ***1.9 The Rosicrucians***

<sup>1</sup>In Bulwer-Lytton’s novel *Zanoni* there is a passage that many a reader has wondered at. It says that “the Arabians of Damus in 1378 taught to a wandering German the secrets which founded the Institution of the Rosicrucians.” It is a matter of course that the author, who was himself a member of that order, could not disclose anything either about the identity of the founder or the genesis of the order. But one may wonder at this mania for intentionally veiling everything concerning the Order by unnecessarily concurring in the legend of its origin. The founder was a 46-self, a member of the planetary hierarchy, and did not have to learn anything from “Arabians of Damus” or anybody else in the physical world. The founder of the Order was bound to appear sooner or later. And when you know how the enemies of truth try to ferret out all legends to cast suspicion on the great ones, you should not contribute with false “information”. Then it is another matter that the uninitiated can never understand how you could know something without having learnt it from other people. However, by moving the source of the knowledge as far back in time as possible you have not explained the origin of the knowledge.

<sup>2</sup>It is characteristic of the complete secrecy in which the Rosicrucian Order shrouded itself (on account of theological hatred, intolerance, and the mania for persecution of the Church) that all the initiates stood in a personal relationship to the Head of the Order but that none of them knew who else were initiates. No outsider even knew of the existence of the Order until Saint Germain had the symbols of the Rosicrucians publicized. After that, however, the charlatans had something to show off and idiotize people with. At initiation the neophyte had to make a simple vow of secrecy without any oaths with terrifying threats of punishment. And no initiate ever uttered a single word about the Order or put down anything in a manuscript. All writings purported to be such manuscripts are obvious falsifications. The initiates were permitted to borrow one of the three original manuscripts that Saint Germain composed, and their degrees were determined on the basis of their comprehension of those writings. The three manuscripts mentioned have never been publicized but are still unknown. It is uncertain whether the Head of the Order will ever have them publicized. Bulwer-Lytton was right when saying in his *Zanoni* that the Rosicrucians were the most silent of all secret orders.

<sup>3</sup>Cagliostro was a disciple of Saint Germain and was initiated by him into the highest degree of the Rosicrucian Order. Cagliostro was a reincarnation of Paracelsus and a causal self, but he was not conscious of his latent status until he had an opportunity to be causally conscious in his new brain. The knowledge must be remembered anew through a renewed contact with the old knowledge. This gives the causal self the opportunity to impregnate his brain with the causal ideas (mental atoms) himself. This is a work that the “brain” must do itself.

<sup>4</sup>Also Goethe was initiated into the Rosicrucian Order but did not go high in degrees (being too emotional). His statements about Cagliostro prove this. Since the initiates of lower degrees did not know those of higher degrees, such a mistake is understandable. By attacking

Cagliostro Goethe demonstrated his limitation and made two serious mistakes at the same time: having faith in gossip and the opinions of other people, and judging. In so doing he blocked his own path of advancement. The fact that Goethe nevertheless took an interest in the “notorious charlatan” indicates that he had a “hunch” that it was something “mysterious” about him. It is characteristic that the planetary hierarchy never does anything to defend its agents from the slander of the black ones. They did not stir a finger to refute the legends surrounding Rosencreutz, Bacon, or Saint Germain. It is no use refuting things that people want to believe. And what difference does it make? If people are not judicious enough to see through stupidities, then they are not able to grasp the truth either. Some day will come in evolution, when the children come of age. The knowledge of reality is for those who are able to comprehend and understand it. If given prematurely to others, the truth will anyhow only be turned into superstition of various kinds.

<sup>5</sup>Lessing did not go high in degrees either, which is clear from his statement that when unable to grasp the symbols he voluntarily desisted from trying to comprehend them and preferred to leave that matter to god.

<sup>6</sup>Goethe and several others were initiated because they had reached the perspective consciousness of the humanist stage and with the knowledge they had received they could make the contribution to development they actually made, a contribution that has not yet been appreciated at its full value and can be understood only by those who have reached the humanist stage.

<sup>7</sup>Some people are surprised that Rosicrucians like Lessing, Herder, and Goethe did not appreciate one another and even sharply criticized each other’s works. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, they did not go high in degrees. Secondly, a mere superficial, theoretical knowledge does not afford any appreciable understanding of individual formulations of the “ideas”. Thirdly, they differed too much in their views on what should be written and how it should be stated. It is not easy to cultivate barbarians, and opinions about how this should be done almost always diverge sharply. Neither was their sense of brotherhood very strong, and their sensitivity to what they perceived as infringements of their personal independence was acute, inflamed as it was by outer pressures and public opposition. Incidentally, one would think that their sense of almost total isolation should have had a more uniting effect. The knowledge they had received had set them free from the ruling primitive ideologies, but it had not united them in some life view that they had elaborated and shared.

<sup>8</sup>“Freedom, equality, and brotherhood” was originally a motto for the members of the Rosicrucian Order, and it had another meaning for them than the meaning life ignorance put into it.

<sup>9</sup>“Freedom” meant understanding of right human relations, freely adapted, willingly assumed, with a clear understanding of responsibility.

<sup>10</sup>“Equality” meant that everybody had once passed from the animal to the human kingdom and that everybody will some time reach the next higher kingdom, which does not in the least imply the abolishment of any one of the different stages of development to be passed in the process.

<sup>11</sup>“Brotherhood” was based on the insight that all have a divine origin (have a share in the cosmic total consciousness).

### ***1.10 The “Social Orders”***

<sup>1</sup>The “social orders” that were founded in the 18th century on the initiative of Saint Germain did not in the least come up to the esoteric knowledge orders that existed previously. Saint Germain, the representative of the seventh department of the planetary hierarchy, the master of ritual magic, made use of the interstellar energies that from the year 1675 on began

to penetrate the mental world of our planet and so have made it possible for those who have the seventh department in some one of their envelopes to understand ceremonial.

<sup>2</sup>Rituals with profound symbolic systems elaborated long ago, in past epochs where the seventh department had been ruling, were used anew. The original ritual was often changed by masters of orders who were unable to let things alone, an inevitable phenomenon at the present stage of mankind's development.

<sup>3</sup>All the initiates were "brothers". To be co-opted, the individual of course should have reached the degree of culture that could be reasonably demanded in the society and environment that felt the need of a the possibility of "thinking freely" and where there was a previous understanding of what was meant by freedom, by equality, by brotherhood. Freedom within the limits of the equal right (not rights) of all. Equality: the abolishment of privileges, judging people by their competence. Brotherhood: the unity of all life. The fact that this insight was lost as democracy had its break-through just demonstrates the stage of development of the clans incarnating. The enormous psychological authorities believed that capacity and qualifications of understanding were equally great in everybody and only a matter of education.

<sup>4</sup>During the 19th century, the demands were gradually lowered, so that nowadays the motto seems to hold for brethren of the same degree.

### ***1.11 The Closing of the Knowledge Orders and the Publication of Esoterics***

<sup>1</sup>In 1875, the esoteric knowledge orders were finally closed, so that nobody was initiated into any such order after that year. They are not needed any more, since certain parts of esoterics have been permitted for publication starting in the year 1875. In the 19th century, so-called educated people were sufficiently advanced to comprehend, if not understand, esoterics. That was why it was publicized. So many facts could be given out that people could see the meaning and goal of life. That is the essential thing. For mankind had become so disoriented at the hands of its spiritual leaders that it was not possible for it finds its way out of the labyrinth of all mutually contradicting ideologies. The deplorable feature of the publication of esoterics was the fact that it was taught in such an unintelligent way that people had the impression that it was a matter of some new fictitious ideology and not the true knowledge of reality.

<sup>2</sup>The new teaching was presented as being in full agreement with what was taught in the old esoteric knowledge orders, a misleading and incorrect standpoint. It will be very long before what was taught in the old orders will be made public, since it was a knowledge that could be abused. The knowledge that confers power will not be given out, but only as many facts as are needed for people to comprehend the meaning and goal of existence. All the rest will remain esoteric.

<sup>3</sup>The knowledge that was imparted in the three lower degrees of the knowledge orders has been permitted for publication, and the symbols have been made accessible to mental consciousness. The knowledge that was taught in the four higher degrees will remain esoteric and symbolic and will be imparted to disciples of the planetary hierarchy only. And so it is because mankind has not attained the requisite stage of development, but misunderstands, distorts, and abuses the knowledge. A great number of occult sects have already arisen, distorting what has been publicized hitherto. These closed societies are trying with their mumbo-jumbo to make new secrets of what has already been elucidated and clarified, and so contribute to leading those astray who are enticed by mystery into believing the assurances of "initiates" that they will be initiated into "secret knowledge"; that is to say, deception pure and simple. Such impostors will always succeed. The publicized knowledge is killed by silence, and charlatans exploit it for their own purposes.

<sup>4</sup>Esoterics will always remain a working hypothesis, because the final proofs that the esoteric knowledge agrees with reality (and they are to be found in the motion aspect) will never be made exoteric. When the planetary hierarchy decided that esoteric facts could be made exoteric, it elaborated a special plan for what could gradually be publicized and also determined ultimate limits to exoteric learning. Ignorant people, usually aggressive as well, ask scornfully “why this esoteric knowledge that has been publicized had to be kept secret? It certainly cannot be abused, at least not in any dangerous manner?” A Hitler and a Stalin were necessary to make people see that all knowledge affording power is abused at the present stage of mankind’s development. People were idiotized by the drivel about the equality of all and the nobleness of mankind to the extent that they could not possibly grasp that the true knowledge of reality has been and must remain secret. What mankind cannot be given to know are such things as cannot be directly misused to the detriment of all. Since nothing would please the hierarchy more than the prospect of sharing its knowledge with mankind, people should perhaps be able to comprehend that the hindrance to this does not lie with the hierarchy. Now the esoteric knowledge is available to the public. How many people care for it, how many take the pains to study it? People are stuck in the illusions of emotional thinking and in their cherished fiction systems. They have not even been able to see the truth of those two inevitable facts: reincarnation and the law of cause and effect connected with it.

### *1.12 Quasi-Occultism*

<sup>1</sup>If you confuse the old esoteric knowledge orders with the modern occult societies, you make a big mistake. The orders were finally closed in 1875. Occult sects have always existed, but increasingly more of them were founded after 1875; they largely serve to mislead people, the most recent ones being started for commercial reasons pure and simple.

<sup>2</sup>The recent societies do not pledge their members to silence on the things taught them but on the contrary make propaganda for themselves.

<sup>3</sup>After some facts about the ancient orders have been permitted for public knowledge, those facts have been exploited by unscrupulous mystagogues, who claim to be initiates and to have been authorized to initiate people in their turn and under the original name of the order. Such proceedings are impostures.

<sup>4</sup>What is taught in the occult societies and the new “orders” is, at best, just fragments of the esoteric knowledge. Those occultists who claim to possess esoteric knowledge in addition to what has been publicized on the initiative of the planetary hierarchy are the victims of illusions and fictions. In this connection it should be maintained once again that clairvoyance does not afford any knowledge of reality. The clairvoyant will inevitably fall prey to the illusoriness of his visions.

<sup>5</sup>Not even the members of the black lodge know more about reality than what has been publicized after the year 1875. Their personal experience never reached beyond the lower mentality (the resources of the first self).

<sup>6</sup>What makes all the occult sects attract lots of followers, whereas the only genuine esoteric knowledge from the ancient knowledge orders meets with a frantic opposition, is rejected without examination, is resisted by all manner of authorities? Do they feel they will lose their positions of power or of prophethood? Do they fear they will cease to be authorities? Do they fear the end of their imaginative speculations intoxicating them? One reason for the success of the sects might be the fact that they know how to adapt to prevalent fictionalism in religion and science. There are more reasons, however.

<sup>7</sup>Mankind is content with its illusions and fictions, so content that one wonders whether it even desires to learn the truth, for the truth has always (wherever it has appeared) been fanatically resisted. But if self-appointed prophets distorted the doctrine past recognition, it was quickly spread and could reckon on lavish financial contributions. The truth was always

poor and had financial worries. People should easily figure out the reasons for this, you might think.

<sup>8</sup>It seems as though all manner of occult phenomena should be the vogue. More and more of such quasi-esoterics is being produced: numerology, graphology, etc. The only thing to be said about this is that the very principles are correct in most cases but that their formulation evinces ignorance. There are individuals who in previous incarnations were initiated in those secrets and who subsequently possess the knowledge latently. They are able to grope their way forward using their instinct. What they teach, however, is too vague to be of any significance to “ordinary people” who have not acquired the “ability” previously.

<sup>9</sup>All knowledge is abused. That is why mankind will not be given such occult knowledge as can be abused until it has reached at least the stage of culture. The black lodge certainly does what it can to spread occult teachings, but then it does so only to lead people astray. To sum up it may be emphatically said that what is given out as “occult” is not exact. In any case no true esoterician receives any payment whatsoever for his work. There is no harm in pointing that out in this connection.

<sup>10</sup>“Occultism” was the name the ancients used for the secret knowledge, the learning of the initiates, what was taught in the Greek “mysteries” before they degenerated. The modern name is “esoterics”. There are probably reasons to keep the word “occultism” as a general term for theosophy, anthroposophy, and the teachings of the pseudo-orders (everything taught before 1920) and to reserve the term “esoterics” for the undogmatic teaching of facts from the planetary hierarchy only, and to call the Pythagorean teaching hylozoics. Otherwise there will soon be an irremediable confusion of ideas (as usual). It is about time people learnt not to use words until they knew their exact meaning.

<sup>11</sup>Theosophists are in error if they believe that their Society can nowadays claim to hold an exceptional position in relation to the planetary hierarchy. The contact was broken when the Society split in 1895 and openly set aside the principles of universal brotherhood.

<sup>12</sup>The followers of modern occultism (the members of the societies founded between the years 1875 and 1920) are an exceedingly motley crew. They were in too great a hurry to try and make systems out of all too few facts pressed into constructed and so erroneous contexts. They mixed up esoteric facts with scientific theories and hypotheses, Indian symbols they did not understand, and things they found in the thoroughly unreliable “Akashic records” of the emotional world, so making a hotchpotch that will for a long time discredit the cause they wanted to promote. The result was often grotesque. People with a scientific and philosophic education turned away with disgust from such pseudo-knowledge. Unfortunately, among those so disgusted there were many people who were not contented with merely leaving the matter at that but turned into unwarranted critics taking pains to distort and ridicule things that they either never examined or could not understand. When such things once is consigned to print, it will subsequently be repeated for generations and seems ineradicable. Utterly few people (only true seekers) bother about finding out the truth behind rumours. Actually, only those who thoroughly and systematically examine the validity of claims made by authorities and parroting public opinion learn eventually to never accept the verdicts of other people. Having gone through this process you are cured for ever from the worship of any authority.

<sup>13</sup>New esoteric schools, founded by disciples of 45-selves, appear without cease. Most of them base their teachings either on traditional religious views on existence or some previously existing life view (that of freemasonry, for instance). The religious schools overemphasize the “help from above”; the others, the individual’s own self-realization. It is certainly important that the role of the planetary hierarchy is made clear, that the true knowledge of reality is possible only in the fifth natural kingdom, that that kingdom is man’s next goal, that we owe it to the planetary hierarchy that essential atoms (46) in man’s envelope atoms are vitalized,

which is necessary to arouse that instinct of research which seeks something beyond the highest mentality. However, as long as there is still a lingering tendency to ask god to do all that you have to do, a tendency to trust something else than your own divine self and the law of life, your own striving after realization, so long will the most destructive tendency be strengthened, passed on through countless incarnations, that is: the tendency to dependence on another power. As long as the Christian religion is mainly a perverse sentimentality falsifying life, so long religious teachings of all kinds will have a strange power to vitalize the subconscious false tendencies.

<sup>14</sup>According to the planetary hierarchy, the occult orders and sects now in existence are the helpless victims of their illusions and fictions, which they believe to be facts. (True esotericians realize this as well.) This is evident from the constant question asked by occultists: “Who said that?” If you cannot decide for yourself whether new statements are correct or not, you are an injudicious believer.

<sup>15</sup>Many secret orders have existed down the ages. Even pseudo-occultists (like the Protestant sects) have certainly had some facts and correct ideas, but they have nonetheless had a largely disorienting effect. Individuals who have once ended up in such sects have been drawn into similar ones in a new incarnation due to “affinity”, of course also because they were never ripe to be admitted into the esoteric knowledge orders of the planetary hierarchy. Those born sectarians still go on spreading their misleading propaganda and misinterpretations of the esoteric knowledge. It is obvious that many of the pertaining prophets unwittingly (seldom consciously) have been the victims of the inspirations of the black lodge, because they always seek to disorient and to lead astray. It is strange that they have always attracted the largest numbers of followers.

<sup>16</sup>Secrecy has always stimulated curiosity. New “secret” social orders were continually created where secrecy was the power of attraction that enticed people to seek admittance. To entertain the adult children a little mumbo-jumbo was arranged and ancient symbols were presented along with mystifying hints at all manner of profundities. The members of the orders were encouraged to support each other and especially favour the brethren in various ways. Very few men realized that this could in many respects be tantamount to corruption.

<sup>17</sup>It is strange what people permit themselves whenever they are in a group. Their conception of right can go down to a criminal level. The old knowledge orders have been superseded by secret social orders. You run certain risks, if you are forced to be loyal or even to play the role of an unwitting, decorative figurehead.

<sup>18</sup>An organization may be of some value as a meeting place for like-minded people, giving direction to seekers in these times of universal disorientation. But before the leaders of the organization have reached the stage of unity, it will be little better than a sect excluding those who do not accept the “dogmas”.

<sup>19</sup>In the writings of occultists you often come across statements purporting that esoteric facts were publicly known before the year 1875. That is absolutely out of the question. Nothing pertaining to esoterics ever reached the public. The “esoterics” that existed prior to 1875 did not contain any true esoteric knowledge. Whatever existed were incomprehensible esoteric symbols along with the speculations of ignorance on them, and allegations of magic shrouded in a romantic haze. Much of what was called theosophy (that of Jakob Boehme, for instance) was the speculation of mystics. They certainly contained elements of truth, but that is another matter.

<sup>20</sup>All esoteric facts nowadays permitted for public knowledge have been received from the planetary hierarchy, directly or indirectly through its disciples. The occult sects of our times claiming to possess esoteric knowledge handed down from older orders are the victims of deception. Much mischief has been done with the Rosicrucian Order and its esoteric knowledge. Nothing of what was taught in that Order was publicly known before the year



1875. Those who pretend to have been initiated into the Rosicrucian Order after the year 1875 are misled. No disciple of that Order has ever revealed his affiliation to it or betrayed anything about the Order. The various Rosicrucian sects that have appeared after 1875, and all of them claim to be the only legitimate offshoot of the original Order, have no right whatsoever to the name. They have not been founded by members of the planetary hierarchy. They have never been recognized by the only one authorized to do so, that is, the original founder, the present supreme head of the third department of the planetary hierarchy, 43-self R. What those orders teach has never been approved of by an essential self, and no individuals of lower capacity can be entrusted with the mission of instituting esoteric knowledge orders.

<sup>21</sup>It should be emphatically stated once and for all that what was taught in esoteric knowledge orders down the ages has remained esoteric. Everything said on pertaining matters is the false statements of ignorance. The uninitiated have never been imparted the knowledge of the initiates. Nothing whatsoever of what Christos taught his disciples has ever been given out to outsiders. The knowledge was permitted for publication starting in 1875, and it was divulged in small portions in the years 1875–1950. Everything said before that time is non-esoteric. And what was taught in so-called occult orders after that time is mere occult quasi-knowledge. When the knowledge has been set free it cannot be made secret again. All attempts at doing so amount to deception.

<sup>22</sup>The knowledge is the esoteric knowledge and is taught by the planetary hierarchy. From this it follows that whatever is to be found in religion, philosophy (yoga philosophy included), and science is not knowledge except what is part of exclusively physical learning, and that is, as we know, very deficient as well. Increasingly more facts have been promised, and they will be given out when the hierarchy considers that the time is up, which largely depends on the state of the world and the need of the true seekers, manifesting itself in their service.

### *1.13 The Future*

<sup>1</sup>Esoteric history is divided into zodiacal epochs according to the precession of the vernal equinox, twelve zodiacal epochs of about 2500 years, 30 000 years in all.

<sup>2</sup>During the current Aquarian epoch (the years 1950–4450), the planetary hierarchy will found new esoteric knowledge orders to supersede the old ones. The new orders will have quite different functions than the old ones. The old knowledge orders taught facts about higher worlds, the envelopes and kinds of consciousness of man, consciousness development, reincarnation (not metempsychosis), the law of sowing and reaping, life between incarnations in the emotional and mental worlds.

<sup>3</sup>The old orders were intended for those who had not abused the knowledge and therefore had gained the right to be spared being idiotized by the ruling ideologies. The purpose of the new orders will be to give aspirants special training for discipleship. There is reason to use discrimination in the matter of new orders, for the black lodge will unfailingly launch its imitations to lead people astray. It already has two such orders.

<sup>4</sup>D.K.–Kleinias says that the two theosophical leaders, Besant and Leadbeater, gave the theosophists erroneous ideas of the initiations and of discipleship. The ceremony described is the confirmation by the planetary hierarchy of the fact that the individual has reached a certain stage of development, acquired certain kinds of subjective consciousness in some one of his envelopes. Besides, it was never made clear to the theosophists that the individuals who underwent initiation were members of esoteric knowledge orders and that their initiations were connected with the degrees they had attained in their order. Since the old knowledge orders have not admitted any new members after 1875, initiation nowadays is performed on quite different grounds. The requirements have been stiffened. The esoteric world view and life view has been publicized, so that anyone can gain much knowledge of the matter and consciousness aspects that was formerly strictly secret (even to initiates of lower degrees).

This has made it much easier to assimilate the knowledge and to understand the conditions of consciousness development. The pseudo-orders that pretend they are qualified to teach their members meditation as a training for discipleship are guides that lead people astray, according to what the planetary hierarchy has emphatically stated. The pseudo-orders serve no useful purpose. They work against the planetary hierarchy. Their teachings are false to the extent that they teach things that go beyond or against what has already been publicized by the planetary hierarchy.

<sup>5</sup>The different stages of development entail different abilities to understand ideas and to handle energies of ideas consciously or unconsciously. That was the reason why there was never any interchange of knowledge between the different degrees of the knowledge orders. Knowledge is to be given those who are able to understand it right. If knowledge is given to others, it will be distorted and its energy abused. In these democratic times when all knowledge is preached freely, all kinds of misconceptions are obtained, resulting in idiotization and a lowering of the level of “public opinion”. The results will prove so disastrous that a reaction against democratic “wisdom” is inevitable. Within five hundred years, a new differentiation has ensued, being a mental counterpart of the ancient physical caste system. This will not entail an external division of the community, just an attitude full of understanding to individuals at the different stages but nevertheless an instinctive respect for the “law of understanding”, something similar to “talking to peasants in the peasants’ way but to learned men in Latin”. The schools will be correspondingly differentiated. The present “comprehensive school” will soon enough demonstrate that it is unworkable. What is esoterically tenable in democracy is the recognition of every individual’s human dignity and of the function of the human kingdom in consciousness development. But this democracy does not imply that all people are “equal” in all respects, does not promote the belief that all people are found on the same level of development.

<sup>6</sup>When the majority of mankind has realized that hylozoics is the only tenable working hypothesis, it will be possible for those who have become causal selves to appear in the open and become teachers of esoterics. It will depend on the general stage of mankind’s development how much of their knowledge they will be allowed to teach. As long as it is possible to abuse the knowledge to the detriment of the consciousness development of all people, of course only those parts of the knowledge will be made exoteric which are deemed “safe”.

<sup>7</sup>It should be noted here that causal selves can teach only what they have been able ascertain themselves. The ideas of the world of Platonic ideas contain factual knowledge of the worlds of man (47–49). What goes beyond those worlds cannot be ascertained but remains even to causal selves a “working hypothesis” even if overwhelmingly plausible.

<sup>8</sup>The teaching to be given by the casual selves will not consist so much of theory, but rather of visual presentation, resembling television more than anything, so that students can both see and hear the processes of manifestation past as well as present. Chemists will then be able to follow the chemical processes in the molecular transformations of matter; physicists, the different energies interacting to achieve results; biologists, the organic processes down to the last detail.

<sup>9</sup>The intention is to give all mankind the same knowledge. Then it is the individual’s business whether he will accept or reject the knowledge, of course at his own “risk” (gaining or losing opportunities of consciousness development). Those who eagerly accept it thereby demonstrate their level of development and stand a chance of becoming initiates of the new knowledge orders that will be instituted for those who have qualified themselves for discipleship.

<sup>10</sup>Plans for these new esoteric knowledge orders have been elaborated in good time. The requirements for admission to them will be made considerably more stringent, since these

orders are intended to prepare their members for planetary initiation, resulting in full subjective and objective causal consciousness.

### ***Endnotes by the Translator***

To 9.1 The quotation is from Bulwer-Lytton's novel, *Zanoni*, Book The Fourth, Chapter II (page 217 in the Knebworth Edition). Damus is Damascus in Syria.

To 13.5: "talking to peasants in the peasants' way but to learned men in Latin", quotation from *Fridolins visor* (The Songs of Fridolin, 1898) by Swedish poet and Nobel prize laureate Erik Axel Karlfeldt (1864–1931). This capacity was a characteristic of the hero of the song cycle, Fridolin, who was Karlfeldt's ideal of the complete man.

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