

Eremiados Course Lesson Two



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Apostolic Guardian Church of Grace and Blessing
&
Templum de Octo Rosae Mysticus

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TECHNICAL MYSTICISM

The Synthesis of Magic, Science and Religion

Because Magic uses some of the terminology of religions, such as words like *god, goddess, god-names, angels and archangels*, etc., some people think of magic as a kind of religion. Furthermore, some religions, such as Wicca, use magic. Make no mistake, Magic, whether High Magic or Low Magic, is a lot closer to Science than it is to Religion. Some modern High Magicians describe themselves as Technical Mystics

Mysticism Defined

Mysticism implies the possession of the ability, or seeking for the ability, to transcend or go beyond the limits of human intellect and reason to achieve a direct, personal and experiential knowledge of higher or wider ranges of existence than we ordinarily know.

The ultimate goal of mysticism is the direct, personal knowledge of the One Most High, that which is the Source of all Being and Non-being, that which is called the One Supreme God by religious people, or simply the One by metaphysical philosophers.

Technical Mysticism

Technical Mysticism implies the use of specific techniques to achieve the goals of Mysticism rather than spending a lot of time on theological or metaphysical discussion. This attitude has been stated succinctly by the Chief of one of the Inner Orders:

What is important is Reality and your experience of it. What is less important is any explanation of Reality; or any explanation of your experience of Reality.

Religion involves surrender

Religion always involves surrender, to a greater or lesser degree. Religious people are bound by the creeds and commandments of the religion, because they have surrendered to the god of the religion.

This is most obvious in those religions, such as the fundamentalist sects within Judaism, Christianity and Islam, which do not recognise the validity of any other religion. To belong, you must surrender your entire being to the god who is the central focus of the religion. The eventual aim of every religion, even those which are tolerant of other religions, is total surrender to or total absorption by its Supreme God.

Politics is a kind of Religion

The secular or non-spiritual equivalent of Religion is Politics. People are usually required by a political party to surrender themselves to a greater or lesser extent to the cause and are bound by the philosophy of the Party.

This is most obvious in extremist political parties, such as Nazism or Communism. Political movements do not always recognise the existence of a god; and sometimes are in fact totally opposed to religion. Karl Marx described religion as the opium of the people, and condemned church and synagogue throughout his life.

Yet, Marxism itself became a monolithic religion, denying validity to any other philosophical or historical point of view, conducting crusades against heretics who did not cleave to whatever form of Marxism held power at any time within Communist nations.

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Technical Mysticism

Magic involves control

The Way of Magic involves being in control; firstly, of oneself and one's destiny; secondly of the universe around the magician to a greater or lesser degree. The ultimate aim of the magician is not to surrender to a god; but to become a god. This is also the Way of Science, which is also a way of prediction and control; and every so often, some archbishop will declare, "The scientists are trying to play God."

One of the fundamental principles of magic, as set out in the *XXXVII Axiomata Principes Magices*, affirms:

Do this and that will happen;

Do it again and that will happen again.

This basic principle of magic is also a basic principle of science and technology. It asserts that the universe is lawful and consistent. The universe is not subject to the whims and dictates of a capricious Deity prepared to set aside his own laws as a personal favour to those who offer him an acceptable bribe, as most religious people seem to assume.

There is no significant difference between the religious attitudes of uneducated, superstitious people in Hindu India or Buddhist Burma and those of uneducated, superstitious people in Catholic Italy or South America and the Protestant Bible belt of the U.S.A. Only the God-names change. Such unsophisticated sects and cults rarely, if ever understand or even know about the higher, nobler aspects of their own religions, let alone those of other religions.

Superstition

Let us face it, at its unsophisticated, superstitious level, magicians are no different from superstitious religious people.

Superstitious religious people try curry favour with the Saints or God, just as they might try to curry favour with local bureaucrats or the central government. Superstitious magicians look for levers with which they can force demons, angels or gods to do their will, just as crafty, politically savvy businessmen or scientists look for levers to control local bureaucrats or members of parliament and senators.

The point at which all these primitive, immature levels of magic and religion meet is the same principle: "If you do this, that will happen." In the case of science and higher magic, it is a matter of discovering under what conditions, certain effects can be achieved. In the case of the superstitious, it is usually a matter of faith.

The Highest Point

Whereas immature people, whether magical or religious, seek to set aside the laws of nature, the mature person seeks to control the laws of nature, by understanding them and working with them. Magic, science and religion also meet at their highest points. All three ultimately seek to know all the universe and its origins or source. Scientists seek to understand it all. The religious person seeks to be totally absorbed in It all. The magician seeks to be It all.

A Balanced Way - Technical Mysticism

The one who aspires to be a High Magician or Technical Mystic needs to learn a very subtle balancing act. Make no mistake, the basic principle of technology is always true: "Do this and that will happen." High Magic is essentially a Way of Action, doing things, not talking about them or reading about them. Magic is also a Way of Knowledge, in which we seek to understand the

Technical Mysticism

laws of nature so that we can use them in action. In addition, every High Magician needs to be both totally in control and totally surrendered simultaneously. This is not just a typical mystics' word-game of setting down two contradictory ideas side by side and leaving it at that. This is not something you can readily put into words, but if you have had certain ordinary experiences in life, your body can remember what it is like to be totally in control and totally surrendered simultaneously.

Have you ever been yachting ? or hang-gliding ? or surfing ? My own experience has been with body-surfing. When the surf is high and you are riding it, you must at all times be totally surrendered to the waves of the ocean or you will miss them. But, you must also be totally in control or you will be dumped. My body can remember, when surfing was at its best, what is what like to be totally poised: totally in control and yet totally surrendered to the waves.

This is how all living beings can live, fully aware, fully poised, totally in control of their lives, and yet totally surrendered, at ease within each situation as it comes and passes by. What we High Magicians say is:

Surf's up !"



Genuine and False Teachers of Magic

There is a simple test you can apply to find out whether any teacher or esoteric group is genuine or false, known as the Five Marks of a Black Magician. The more of these Marks any teacher or group has, the more likely it is that they are not genuine.

LEARN what are the Five Marks:

1. Demands for money;
2. Demands for secrecy;
3. Demands for obedience;
4. Requiring the use of intoxicating drugs;
5. The use of cruel or perverse practices.

UNDERSTAND that not every teacher of magic or occult group which has but ONE of these Five Marks is false. Even one Mark is enough to warn that they have but little understanding of the Great Work

KNOW that, if any teacher or group has TWO of these Five marks, be sure that they have little understanding of the Great Work; but, they might be innocent, puffed-up folk who have come across a little knowledge, and seek to make a little from it, by way of money or of esteem.

BE SURE that, if any teacher or group holds THREE of these Marks, they do not know the Ways of the Great Work; and they are most unlikely to be innocent. You will lose more than you will gain from them.

BEWARE of these who follow FIVE, or even FOUR, of these Five Marks, for they are surely false. They can lead you only into dark paths, where they can rob you of everything you hold dear, at their leisure.

"Blessed are thou, the One Most High, who grants Wisdom and Blessing to wise teachers and peace to them that love peace. Thou art the One who allows the destructive to destroy themselves, but restores those who, having suffered separation, return to Thee."

Technical Mysticism

Although the language of the Five Marks and the accompanying invocation are old-fashioned, the teachings they conveys are as up-to-the-minute and as needed now, as they have ever been. Learn them and use them.

The Five Secrets of the Way

The following comes from the same source as the Five Marks of a Black Magician.

THE FIRST SECRET is that there is a goal and the goal is the one source of all that is, of Light and Life and Love. This secret has been an open secret for thousands of years, but many can't believe it.

THE SECOND SECRET is that there are many ways to the One; and many Works that can fulfil the purpose of our lives. This secret was let out many hundreds of years ago, but many won't believe it.

THE THIRD SECRET has been long known, but often is ignored. This secret is that, from among the many Ways and many Works, each one of us must choose One Way to walk and One Work to do, if we are to reach our goal. Too many people say, while running round the rim, "There are many spokes to the Wheel and each leads to the Centre." But, do they ever go on one. Never! Well, hardly ever.

Many teachers have said, "I have found the Way." Each has spoken truth to those how listened to them. The time must come for everyone, when you must choose the One Way you will walk, the One Work you will do, if you would reach the Centre which is our goal.

THE FOURTH SECRET is no secret, but it has been made a Secret by greedy seekers after lesser goals. All the secret wisdom, all

esoteric knowledge, is openly available and free to all. Seek and you *will* find. Ask and you *will* receive. Knock and the doors *will* be opened to you.

Woe to those who hold the keys and do not open to everyone who knocks. They have built another way, a way of separation, pride and greed. What an empty, desolate way they walk, away from the One.

THE FIFTH SECRET is not an easy secret, for it takes away your pride. This secret tells you how to choose the one right Way to go, the one right Work to do. Like everyone before you, you choose the Way you like to walk, you choose the Work you like to do. If the Way you have chosen seems arduous and the Work you have chosen is difficult, it is because you like it tough and not that you are virtuous. Such a way is no better, nor is it any worse than the way of those who take it easy and take it as it comes. It's what you want to do; hard or easy, it's what you like to do.

There is a sixth secret, dare I tell it you, for this is the secret that all proud workers, those who work hard and long, or those who drive away the sinners, loathe and detest. This is the secret they will kill to keep it secret. "Everyone is going to get there."

What a wandering way we weave towards
the Centre of our Being!

All roads lead to Rome,
but to go from Naples via Alexandria
is a long way round to Rome.

Assignment P 1/1:

You need not learn anything by heart from this paper. Answer the following questions from the paper.

1. What are the Five Marks of a Black Magician?
2. Using one sentence for each, what are the Five Secrets of the Way of the Great Work?