

SOME NOTES ON STUDYING THE QABALAH

The study of the Qabalah, and more importantly, the study of the Art of Magick (Ritual and Ceremony) is an admirable pursuit. However, before anyone embarks on this path, they should be well aware of what the Qabalah is and isn't. It isn't a short-cut to initiation. While the roots of the Qabalah stem back to Hebrew mysticism, it encompassed much of what can only be called Christian. While it is not a religion, per se, it does acknowledge a Supreme Being and an immortal soul. It possesses practices and beliefs that are very Eastern in origin. Meditation and Reincarnation are two such philosophic concepts found in the Qabala. Moreover, unlike a course in, say, calculus, the study of the Qabalah has no end. It actually has no discernible beginning either, we only enter somewhere on the "Path". The point is, it behooves the individual to know what the Qabalah is and that it IS what he or she wants. Once started, anyone can quit, but as time passes, the many threads of the Qabalah lead everywhere and encompass a myriad recondite studies.

Group working is usually preferable to individual working since certain powers are built up and there is the development of what Jung calls the "Group Over-Soul". For this to take place, the group must act as a unit, an intact unit. Inherent in this statement is that if you want to study in a group and be part of that group, you must come to an agreement with yourself that you will attend ALL the meetings. If the lure of a nifty movie on the television set, or an evening of bowling or some other diversion is too alluring to resist (as opposed to attending the meeting) it could indicate nothing else than a lack of interest. Don't start if you cannot find within yourself a 100% conviction that this is what you want to do in deference to anything else that might come along. This, in a real sense, is the first testing of the will.

Be assured that this is going to be work. It is NOT a lecture series. It is not going to be a recitation of dry historic facts as to who wrote the Qabalistic treatises and who his ancestors were. True, there is some importance here but more to the scholar than the Magician. For magicians are what we are aiming to become. We will be memorizing rituals, the Hebrew alphabet, painting Tarot Cards, utilizing ceremonial, performing divinations, doing meditations and visualizations, constructing certain symbols, doing outside reading, group discussions, chanting, original thought, touching on allied disciplines, become familiar with archaic languages, doing original work, perhaps make magickal weapons and a host of other things.

Much of this will seem tedious and of no recognizable importance. At first. The day will come though, when a thirst for more and more knowledge arises and when the "work" turns into pleasure. This is the first sign of the neophyte being transformed into the Magician.

If this sounds a bit imposing and perhaps a bit frightening, good. The purpose is only to alert all to what is expected and what they can look forward to. On the other side of the coin however, there are definite benefits to be gained. Benefits that to some will be almost imperceptible and to others quite apparant. These benefits may, as they usually are, be very subtle or may arrive with a "bang". It doesn't matter how rapidly they come, we are not in a race. We are all, collectively, evolving ever upward and our journey along the path of the Qabalah serves only to hasten that upward spiral.

What is the goal on this path? To where does it lead? To some, it will seem that it leads nowhere, and that is only because the change in levels of consciousness and in development of the will is so very subtle. To others, it will be like standing on a lofty spire to observe the vistas reserved only for those who have dared to traverse the path to the very peaks. For the culmination of the Great Work is the Knowledge and Conversation of the Holy Guardian Angel. Put another way, we are lead to uniting our lower and higher selves, we will recognize the Divine part of every individual and will be ourselves awakened by the first stirrings of Divinity within.

Various disciplines have different names for this experience. The Bhuddist may call it Nirvana, the Zen practitioner seeks Samhadi or Satori, Illumination, Initiation, Cosmic Consciousness, these are all synonomous with the K and H of the H. G. A. Whatever the name, the experience itself is beyond description and worth any price to attain.

Along the way, milestones will appear such as increased intuitivity, psychic abilities, clairvoyance and so on. If nothing else, you will learn to really relax. To control the body and to increase the power of the will. You will learn to know yourself, who you are and where you are going. BUT it doesn't come by swallowing a pill. It has to be WORKED at, and this means much hard work. Your time and energy are needed. It is up to you however, if you are willing to put in the effort, we can go forward together. If not, perhaps your pursuit of the light is best acheived by another path.