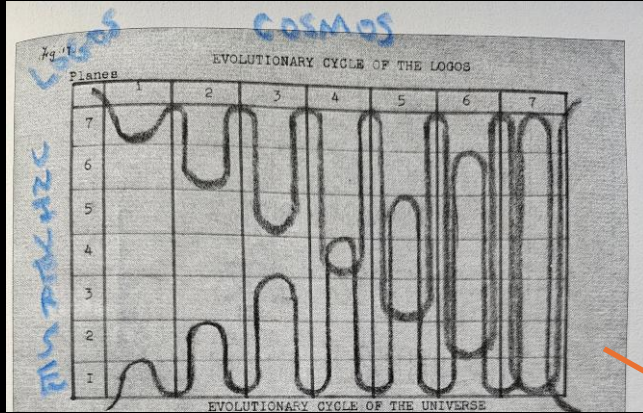




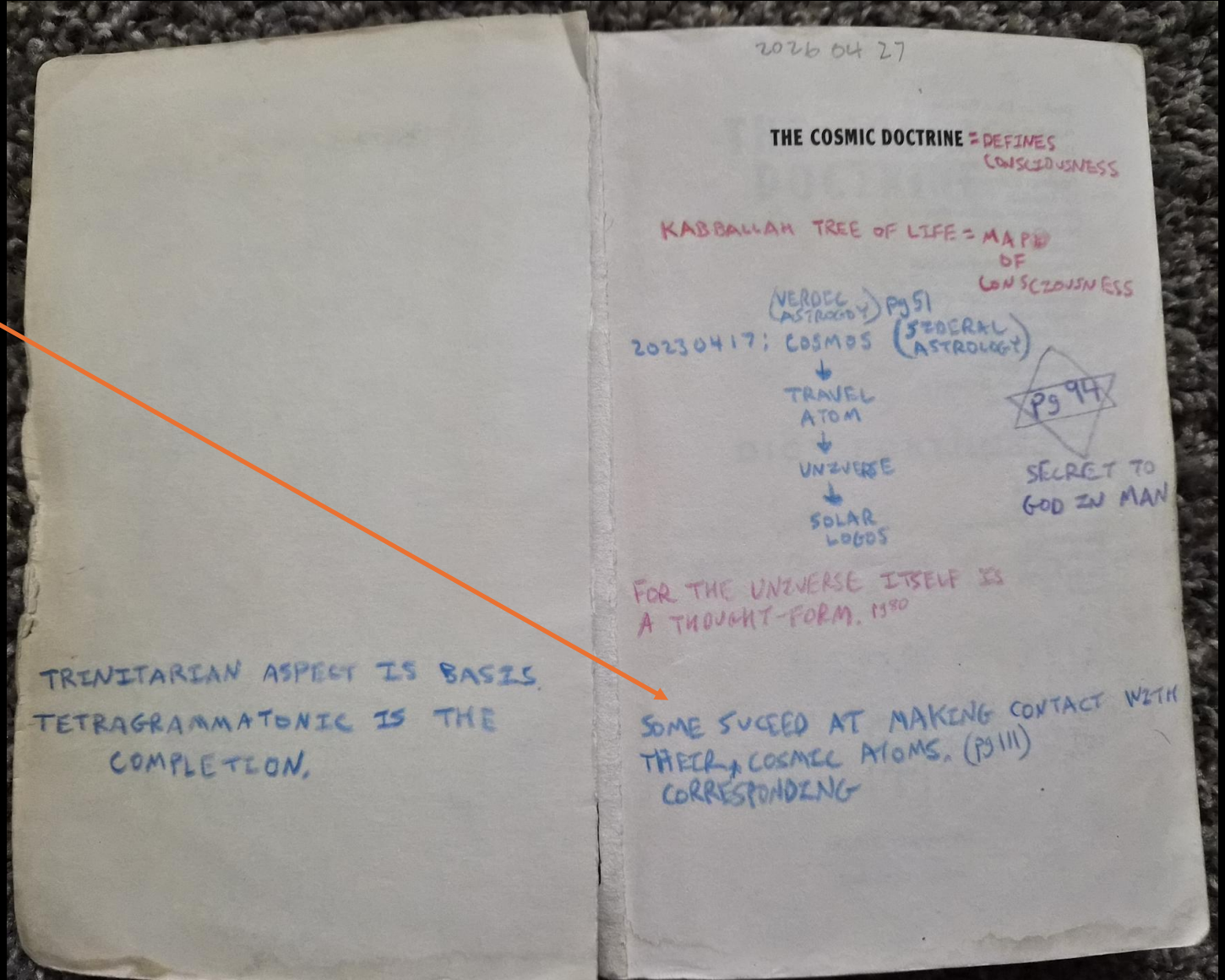
Dion Fortune

The Cosmic Doctrine

Introduction

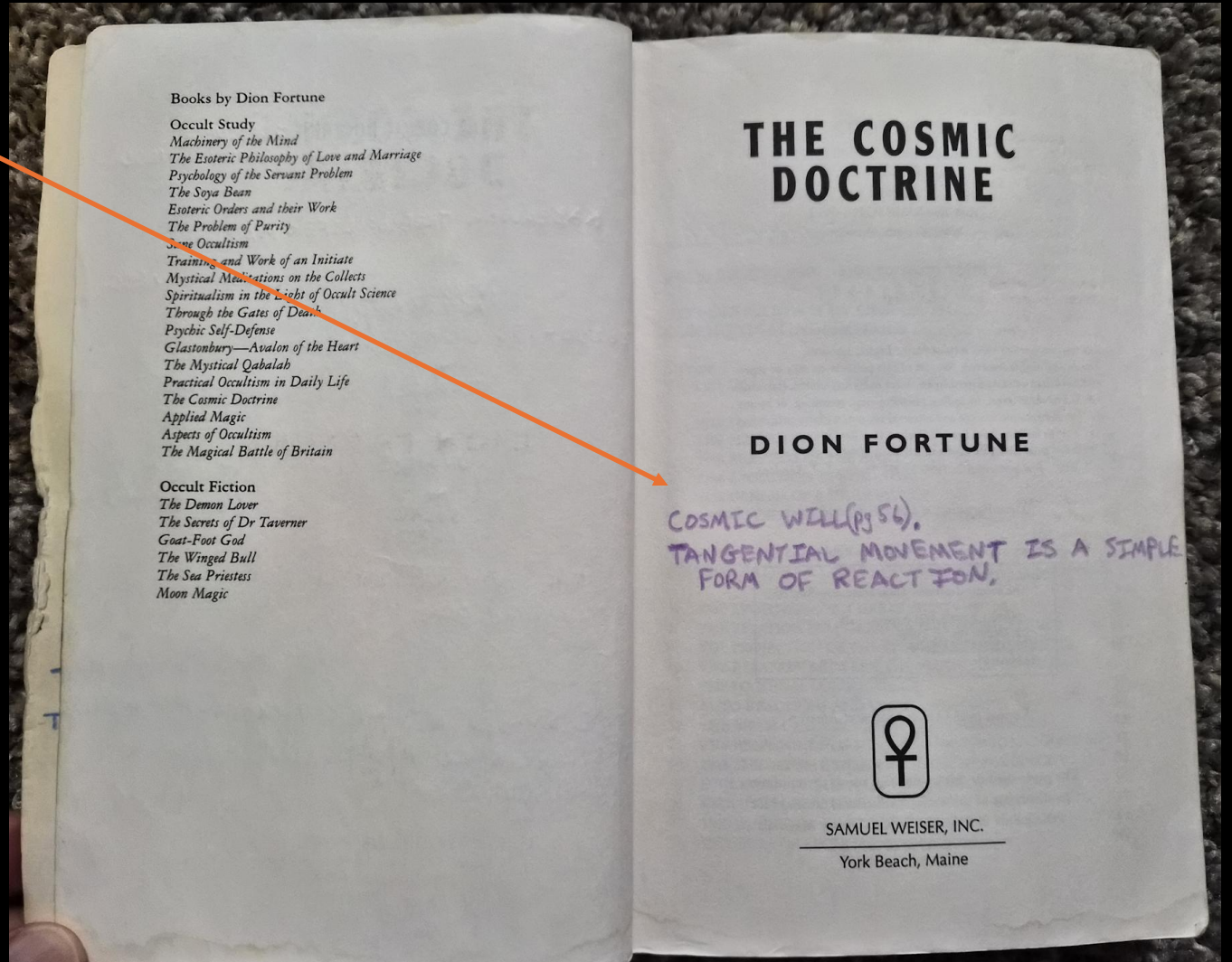
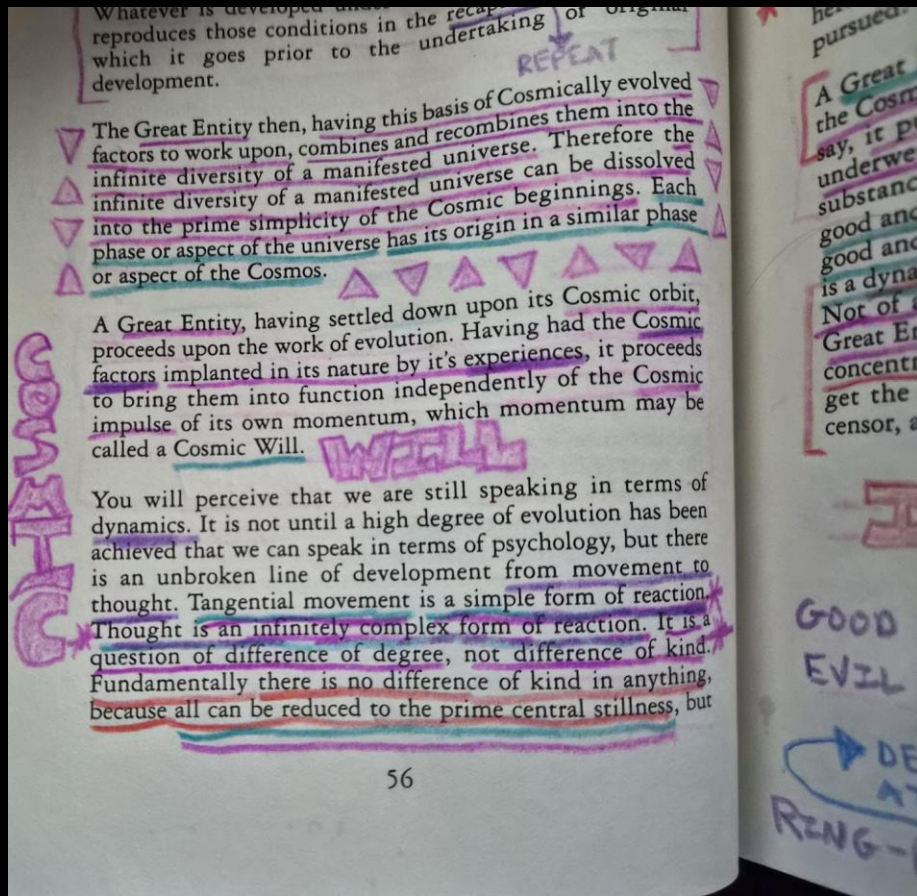


- Group Spirit.
- Travelling Atom.
- Lords of Flame.
- Life Swarm.
- Logoidal Consciousness.





- Difference of degree.





First published in 2000 by
Samuel Weiser, Inc.
Box 612
York Beach, ME 03910-0612
www.weiserbooks.com

07 06 05 04 03 02 01 00
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

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Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Fortune, Dion.
The cosmic doctrine / Dion Fortune.—Rev. ed.
p. cm.
ISBN 1-57863-160-2 (paper : alk. paper)
1. Occultism. I. Title.
BF1411.S53 .F56 2000
133—dc21 99-053445

Printed in the United States of America
BJ

The paper used in this publication meets the minimum requirements of the American National Standard for Permanence of Paper for Printed Library Materials Z39.48-1992 (R1997).

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- These images are designed to train the mind, not inform it.

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THESE IMAGES ARE DESIGNED
TO TRAIN THE MIND,
NOT INFORM IT.

This edition is the integral text recorded in 1924
by Dion Fortune. It has been neither edited nor amended.



- God's manifestation in this Creation.
- Higher the planes, much more complex, vibrant, vivid, bursting, and brimming with Life in incredible profusion.
- Bach fugue: begins with one voice and follows systematically by subsequent voices that enter the flow.

MILLENIUM PREFACE

The Cosmic Doctrine is a condensed blueprint outline of God's manifestation in this creation.

Complex indeed! But what has tended to bother some about the Cosmic Doctrine teaching has been the almost total emphasis in explaining evolution simply as being the psychic nuts and bolts of God. Leaving one with the impression that God may be reduced from a Great and Infinite Being to a kind of mechanical Newtonian clockwork.

However there is much more to it than that.

The higher up the planes you go, although esoteric theory tends to describe it as all more abstract, in actual fact things become so much more complex, vibrant, vivid, bursting, and brimming with life in incredible profusion. It is another form of experience however. The broadest, though simple, analogy would be to liken the existence on the higher levels as something after the order of a Bach fugue - which could indeed seem to some a rather dry abstraction, but which to the attuned and educated ear is a revelation of divinity, harmony and celestial order.

The reality is not easy to describe in concepts, let alone in words. How best to describe a rainbow to a blind man?

Since the works of the late Dion Fortune were written, more has been understood and realised. Psychism is simply one type of inner awareness and there are other types at least as valid and as common; in particular intuition .

Details of the aims and work of the Society of the Inner Light, founded by Dion Fortune, may be obtained by writing (with postage please) to the Secretariat at 38 Steele's Road, London NW3 4RG, England



- Communications, Communicators.
- Dion wrote/channeled each chapter in less than an hour.
- Cosmic Doctrine was not produced by the ordinary labor of the brain.

INTRODUCTION

by Dion Fortune

The following pages were not produced by the ordinary method of literary work, and we therefore feel that not only may some explanation of the means employed for their production be of interest to the reader, but is also his due.

Adequately to explain the method of their production would require an elaborate study in the psychology of the higher consciousness, an undertaking too extensive for inclusion in the introduction to this book, but enough may be said to indicate the methods employed.

I feel that I am the last person to be able to form an opinion as to the nature of the experiences here recorded. To determine whether they are what they purport to be, or whether they are dissociated complexes of my own subconscious mind, is not quite such a simple problem as either believers or scoffers might think. If these communications are not received from discarnate entities, then I must be utilising certain little-known capacities of the human mind. The communicators make statements on these points, and these are appended, but of course their statements cannot be regarded as evidence. I know, however, that I could not have written any work at the pace at which this was produced. When it is realised that each chapter took from three-quarters of an hour to an hour and a quarter to dictate, and that no other work whatsoever went to its production, I think it will be seen that this book was not produced by the ordinary labour of the brain. No notebooks or reference books were ever made use of, and though I have read and thought along these lines for some years, I made no special study of that branch of esoteric science which is herein dealt with, and have only the most elementary knowledge of physics and none whatever of mathematics. The ideas expressed in these teachings are quite unfamiliar to me when



- Dion accepts no credit for the works of Cosmic Doctrine for she was only a transmitter.
- The Brotherhood of the Great White Lodge, the Hierarchy of Adepts.

I come to read them, and I have to study them just as any one might who made their acquaintance for the first time. I hope my readers will believe that these pages are the result of honest experimentation and acquit me of charlatanry or attempted deception. I vouch for neither the completeness nor accuracy of the communications here recorded; in my opinion, no extra weight should be attached to any ideas or teachings because an unusual origin is claimed for them; any value which they possess as a contribution to speculative thought or scientific knowledge must depend on their intrinsic worth, not on their sphere of origin. The manner of their obtaining is a psychological question and has no bearing on the problem of their truth.

Nevertheless, I believe that the story of the way in which I obtained access to this teaching, and was trained to transmit it, is worth telling for the sake of its evidential value as firsthand experience.

My first introduction to this line of thought was through a random reading of "The Ancient Wisdom" by Annie Besant. When I came to the words, "The Brotherhood of the Great White Lodge, the Hierarchy of Adepts who watch over and guide the evolution of humanity", my higher self seemed suddenly to wake up, as if startled out of sleep by a loud noise. I read the pregnant words, "Still They teach eager pupils, showing the Path and guiding the disciples' steps; still They may be reached by all who seek Them, bearing in their hands the sacrificial fire of love, of devotion, of unselfish longing to know in order to serve; still They carry out the ancient discipline, still unveil the ancient Mysteries."



- One-pointed desire to find the Masters.
- The Masters had only to make known their conditions for me to comply with them. I moved in a dream and my body performing its duties automatically.
- The 10th day, Dion Fortune had a powerful dream.

Upon me the effect of this passage was mantric, it ran in my head like a tune, and my whole nature gathered itself up into a one-pointed desire to find the Masters. I say that my nature gathered itself up, for the conscious will was submerged in the tremendous uprush of the depths, the blind will of the primitive self that is usually expressed in savagery was in me turned to the desire for Light. Fierce as thwarted love and stronger than the fear of death was that desire, and there was no price I was not willing to pay. The Masters had only to make known their conditions for me to comply with them. All day long I moved in a dream, my body performing its duties automatically; my first waking thought was of the Masters, and my last thought as I fell asleep, and my dreams were coloured by my desire. I seemed to range over rocky deserts in a grey twilight, not upon toiling feet, but with powerful wing-beat and the speed of the wind; I had a sense of irresistible power, and always that tremendous desire drove me on, as if it were something outside myself. It was like the throb of the screw on board ship; awake or asleep, it was always there; one felt it under foot on deck, one heard it if one woke in the night; it never ceased to drive the ship towards the port for which her course was set, though it lay invisible as yet below the horizon.

I come from that part of Yorkshire which was the Dane-Law, and I suppose I reverted to type and "threw back" to some Viking ancestor. Mildest of people in the ordinary way, we are liable to go baresark upon occasion, and I went baresark in my quest of the Masters.

For ten days I continued in this state, and then I found that which I sought. Upon the tenth night I went to sleep in the ordinary way, and began to dream. I dreamt that I was going down a long passage with many doors opening on to it, and the end of the passage led into the reading room of the old library of the Theosophical Society in Tavistock Square.



- Most Holy, Master Jesus, Lord of Compassion.
(White Robe)
- Most Wise, Lords of Mind, Hermetic (Blue) Ray.
(Dark Indigo Blue Robe)
- The Most Wise had tremendous driving force,
dominant, intellectual.

The passage had been dark, but the reading room was full of sunshine. I stood for a moment in the ray of golden light that came through the window, and then the whole side of the room opened out and I seemed to be caught up through space and found myself upon a plateau among great snow mountains, which I knew to be the Himalayas, and I was kneeling at the feet of two of the Masters. I could not see Their faces, for They were lost in a blur of light; nor could I see the hands, for they were concealed in the loose sleeves of the robes They wore, but I knew that one was the Master Jesus; the other I did not know, save that I felt Him to be a tremendous intellectual force. I have since learnt to know Him as the Most Wise, one of the Lords of Mind, on the Hermetic Ray; to the Master Jesus was given the title of Most Holy, Lord of Compassion.

The Master Jesus was clad in a white robe, and the Most Wise in a robe of dark indigo blue. I was in Their presence for some time, but of what was said I can remember nothing save that I was bidden to have more reverence for that which was holy. I no longer had any sense of personal power such as had been with me upon my Journey, but was awed, almost cowed, by the tremendous presences before Whom I found myself. The Most Holy took no part in the interview, but stood a pace or two behind His companion, and seemed slightly remote, aloof, and very weary, as if some great strain rested upon Him; the weariness gave me the impression of physical exhaustion through which the spirit shone undimmed. The Most Wise, however, seemed to have tremendous driving force, dominant, intellectual; and while I feared Him, I adored, and asked nothing better than to enter upon His service. I have learnt since that He is one of the greatest Masters upon the Blue Ray, a Lord of Hermetic wisdom and ceremonial magic.

The Master Jesus gave me the impression of having an infinite patience with the weak, and pity for the lowly. Though He would lead by rough ways, He would lead gently and slowly, suiting His pace to the most foolish and footsore of His sheep. I have sometimes been asked why it is that I can work with



- After waking from the dream, Dion's inner consciousness and outer circumstances shifted.
- Dion's reaction to the Master of Wisdom.
- Master of Compassion guides Dion.

people who have neither intellect nor education, and I think it must be because I myself was trained by a Master who did not look for qualities of intellect in His pupils.

I must have been about half an hour in the presence of the Masters, and then I felt conditions change, and I seemed to re-enter the room in the library through the gap in the wall, which closed behind me. Vision changed to dream, and I awoke. But the memory of that transcendent experience remained with me, and has remained ever since. Was it a dream, or an actual experience? That is a matter of opinion; I only know that not only my inner consciousness, but the outer circumstances of my life were totally different thenceforth.

When in the morning I looked back upon that breathless adventure, seeking to recover every detail of its memory, I found in my consciousness the certain knowledge that I had been accepted as a pupil by the Masters. But here is a curious point, for although the whole bent of my temperament was towards the Master of Wisdom, I had been handed over to the Most Holy, the Master of Compassion, and I was not at all happy about it. I wanted the pace and driving power of the Most Wise; I felt myself to be strong and wished to be worked to my full capacity, I was impatient with the patience of the Master of Compassion; I thought it was a colourless service compared with that of the Master of Wisdom, and there were many struggles before I would submit to that gentle yet compelling force. I can see now why I was placed under His guidance and not given to the more intellectual type of Master Who was congenial to my temperament; it was in order that I might not develop the powers of the mind with the faults of my character uneradicated. Before I had gone very far with my training, however, I was very grateful that my Master was a Master of Compassion, Who would not quench smoking flax. I do not know how the pupils of the Masters of Wisdom fare; I am sure I could never have stood the training.



- Dion remembers her other life incarnations.
- Dion recovered her memory of occult teachings in other lifetimes.
- Begins and ends within the self.
- Objectivity must always be interpreted in terms of the subjectivity in order to be comprehensible.

During the next three days the memory of past incarnations returned to me, right back to my first initiation in Atlantis; it was a practically unbroken record of temple work, save my last incarnation, which was most lurid, and into which I seemed to pack all the experiences I had foregone during the rest of my evolution. Now it is quite a simple matter for any one to equip themselves with a series of egotistical phantasies by way of past lives, but in my case I got back not only the memory of initiations and temple lives, but also the memory of the teaching I had received during those lives. The Ancient Wisdom is a very intricate and elaborate philosophy and science, and I defy anyone to think it out for themselves in the course of a few days without any previous study on the subject. Therefore I regard the fact that I have never had to work for my knowledge of occultism, but have recovered it, not even piecemeal, but in the mass from memory, as strong evidence in favour of reincarnation.

Arriving at this experience without any previous study of the subject, I have been greatly interested to note the extent to which my experiences have been confirmed by subsequent reading. I was particularly interested in Dr Bucke's book on "Cosmic Consciousness", which was quite unknown to me at the time, and also in Dr Besant's writings on the Way to the Masters of Wisdom. It was very heartening to me to find that I, travelling alone and in ignorance, had struck and followed the well-beaten track, and this gave confirmation to my belief that my experiences, though subjective, had relation to objective fact, and were not of a purely arbitrary nature.

To distinguish between subjective and objective phenomena is a delicate task, especially when it is recalled that all experience, philosophically speaking, is subjective; we ought, more strictly speaking, to distinguish between that experience which begins and ends within the self, and that which receives its stimulus from the not-self; and we have also to remember that any given experience not only may, but is bound to have both elements in its composition, for the objective must always be interpreted in terms of the subjective in order to be



- “How can a consciousness, habituated to form, produce a simulacrum of That which has no form?”

* To rely on the images already stored in its memory to produce a symbolic equivalent.

- Mundane life was no more for Dion whereas circumstances began to change for her.
- Certain powers had awakened within Dion’s soul, certain capacities had been added to her consciousness.
- The Communicators did not possess physical bodies and were discarnate minds.

comprehensible. I have therefore refrained from attempting any explanation of my dream, vision, hallucination, or experience, whichever it may be, because I, being the subject, am the last person to be able to form a just estimate; I have merely recorded it as it appeared to me, though I ask my readers to believe that I am not so naive as to think that what I perceived was an actual representation of what occurred, for how can a consciousness, habituated to form, produce a simulacrum of That which has no form? It has to rely on the images already stored in its memory to produce a symbolic equivalent; it can approach no closer than this.

Had my experiences ended with this vision, I should have accounted them purely subjective, though I should not have valued them the less for that reason; but from that time onwards the circumstances of my life were entirely changed; I seemed to have passed within the veil and never to return again to mundane life.

To tell the full story of the training that led to the power to bring through the teaching contained in these pages would take too long, moreover, there are parts of it of which I am not at liberty to speak; I may say this, however, that after the experience I have narrated, I found that certain powers had awakened within my soul, certain capacities had been added to consciousness, and that, although I have never again had such a transcendent vision as the meeting with the Masters on the mountain, I found that I began to receive, or conceive, ideas such as had never come to me before, that formulated themselves in my mind as clearly as if a voice had spoken. At first I could only obtain fragments of teaching in this way, but with practice, the power increased, and it seemed as if information on any subject, even those with which I was quite unacquainted, could be obtained by this method. The process seemed to be exactly the same as that of telepathy, but the communicators gave me to understand that they did not possess physical bodies, but were discarnate minds which had advanced beyond the stage of evolution which is conducted in matter.



- Lesser Masters under the Jurisdiction of the Most Wise, Lord of the Blue Ray, Hermetic Wisdom.
- “intense focus on the plane of consciousness which we choose to function....”
- Images arise from our subconscious mind.

I have never again met face to face either of the two great Entities of Whom I had had the vision, those Who communicated gave me to understand that they were Lesser Masters under the Jurisdiction of the Most Wise, Lord of the Blue Ray, a ruler of Hermetic Wisdom. Whether they were what they purported to be, or whether they were dissociated complexes of my own subconscious mind I cannot tell; but I accept them as a working hypothesis because I find that by utilising them, I can get results which I can obtain in no other way.

These communications were not obtained by means of trance as that word is usually understood, my mind is not made a blank, nor is my will in abeyance, but by means of intense concentration on the plane of consciousness on which I wish to function, I shut out the sensations coming into consciousness through the five physical senses and become aware of nothing but the entity whose messages I undertake to bring through. After this intense concentration has been achieved, and I may say it took years of practice to do it for any length of time, I then still the conscious mind, so that no thoughts arise; meanwhile the entity that is going to communicate formulates his ideas point by point, and these ideas appear to cause images to rise in my subconscious mind in the same way as repressed emotions give rise to dream images; I myself, standing aside, as it were, watch them form and allow them to come through, and so long as I can maintain my mind without thoughts they continue to flow. The ideas are presented to consciousness as spoken words, and these spoken words seem to actuate the organs of speech and produce articulation in tones other than mine, though coming from my lips; that which is uttered is written down by the friends who assist me in this work, and is set forth in these pages just as it was received; not a word has been altered or added, only the punctuation has been inserted, and for what it is worth, we offer this teaching to our readers.

I have often asked myself whether there is anything in these pages which could not have been done by the conscious mind,



- “slightest fatigue” = open and flow.
- Dion’s impressions, “very qualified value”.
- “same ideas in another terminology”.
- To follow the track marked out through the Mysteries of all ages and races.

any information which it was impossible for me to have obtained through the normal avenues, and I must honestly say that I do not think there is anything that could not have been done, given the necessary time, labour and capacity; the only point which is of evidential value is the effortless speed with which the work was done; I have never had the slightest fatigue in connection with this work.

I must mention one point, however, which might be of interest; at one time I regularly analysed my dreams on the night preceding and the night following the reception of these messages; the dreams of the night preceding contained nothing of their content, but the dreams of the night following were full of it, though conscious memory is blank.

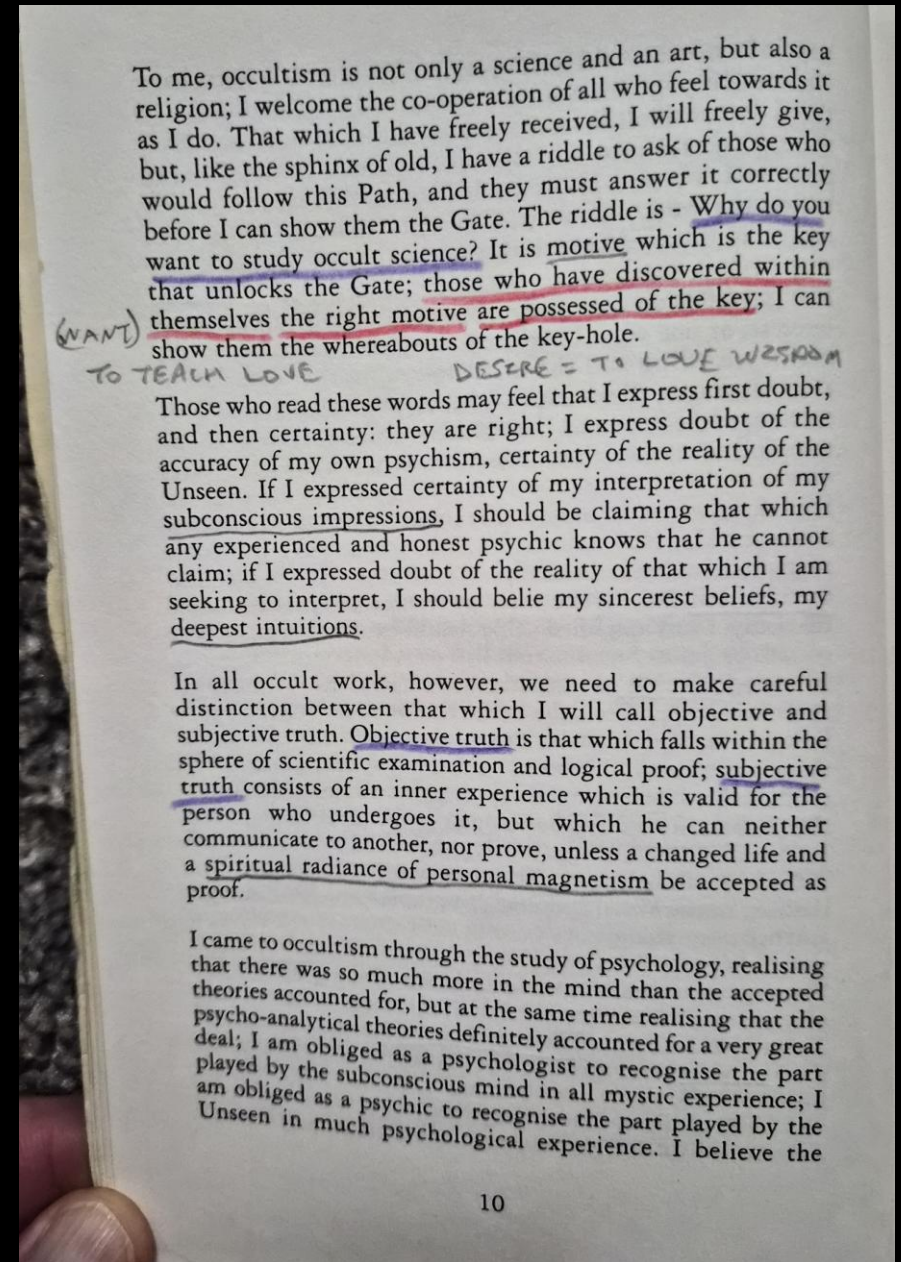
I vouch, however, for neither the completeness nor the accuracy of the teaching here contained; I have explained how it appears to me to have been obtained; but I can give no more than my impressions, and anyone who has studied psychology knows that only a very qualified value should be attached to these.

It is my intention to continue to work on these lines, taking as working hypothesis the belief that the teachings received in this way, together with many other experiences for which there is no place in this book, are, broadly speaking, what they claim to be, but bearing always in mind the possibility, nay, the probability, of self-deception. In the preceding pages I have written in terms of psychology, but those who are familiar with the teachings of occult science, whether in the schools of the East or the West, will be able to express the same ideas in another terminology

Those who trained me, take pupils. The way to Them is the old, old path of renunciation and initiation; I did not find Them by chance, but followed the track marked out through the Mysteries of all ages and races. By fulfilling the conditions I had to fulfil, others can experience what I have experienced, and I will gladly and freely help them to do so.



- “freely received”, “freely give”.
- Why do I want to study occult science? Motive is the key that unlocks the Gate.
- Objective and subjective truth.
- Spiritual radiance of personal magnetism.





- Psychoanalysis (modern era).
- “to trust my most cherished beliefs”
- We all face our truths sooner or later, better to now than to find out later.

Unseen to be as real and objective as the material universe; I believe the power of the Spirit to be a real and living power originating outside the subconscious, though working through it. These things, however, cannot be sproved by any scientific method at present known, but truth cannot contradict truth; upon whatever plane they be, the parts of truth must dovetail into each other as accurately as the stones of King Solomon's temple. If there is discrepancy, it is due to the imperfect apprehension and enunciation of truth, not to any incompatibility of antagonistic truths.

It is my belief that when psychology has advanced a little further, and has arrived at that maturity of judgment which comes to sciences, as well as individuals, when their early days are past, it will find a method which shall be as great an advance on psychoanalysis as psychoanalysis is upon introspection, and with that method it will bring the realm of psychic and religious experience within reach of scientific examination. It will burn away the dross of delusion and leave us with a residuum of the pure gold of truth. I, for one, am not afraid to trust my most cherished beliefs to such a test; if they are true, they will survive it and be all the purer for the ordeal; if they are false, the sooner I know it the better, so that I may adjust my life to reality rather than await the collapse of my fool's paradise about my ears. I know that, whatever the truth may be, I have got to face it sooner or later, and I would sooner do it at my leisure than when the sands are running out.

I must, however, ask pardon of both the psychics and the psychologists that I cannot accept either of them at their own valuation. I would say to the psychologists; Do not, in your investigations, start with the assumption that a superconscious experience must be either fraud or delusion; admit as a working hypothesis, that there may be more in heaven and earth than is dreamt of in your philosophy, and that evolution may now be bringing it within reach of human consciousness. There cannot be so much smoke without any fire. The fact that people of all ages and all races have believed in the occult



- Socrates, Plato, Jesus, Saul, Joan of Arc, Saint Teresa.
- “to learn the nature of the mind”.
- Discern spirit communication.

is proof that it has some foundation in human experience. The fact that super-normal experiences continue to be claimed in spite of the advance of science and the repeated exposure of frauds, proves that they have a profound significance for the human mind. Do not forget that the greatest of mankind have given them the weight of their testimony. Socrates and Plato, Jesus of Nazareth and Saul of Tarsus, Joan of Arc and Santa Teresa were neither fools nor knaves. The experiences of the seer are substantially the same, whether they be couched in terms of Western faith or Eastern wisdom. Such agreement of testimony gives a high degree of probability.

To the psychic, I would say, in the words that a great mystic used to a body of his fellow mystics who were certain of the accuracy of their vision, “I beseech you, in the bowels of Christ, think it possible that you may be mistaken”. No one walked by the light of the Spirit more than did Oliver Cromwell, but he addressed these sobering words to his fanatical co-religionists. I would not only advise, but implore anyone who concerns themselves with the Unseen to study psychology and learn the nature of the mind; they will not find that it disturbs their faith, but rather reveals its rationale. Do not think that because a piece of information is obtained in an abnormal way it is bound to be true, any more than a thing is bound to be true because it is printed in a book. Spirit communications seem to have the same authority for some people that the printed word has for the uneducated, who think that a commodity must be good because the advertisements speak well of it. A spirit communication may come from a perfectly genuine spirit, and yet be valueless. Even if a man survives bodily death, dying is not going to cure him of being a fool; if he had no sense on the physical plane, he will not have any more on the astral. Do not believe all that the spirits tell you, even if you are sure in your own mind that they are really spirits. Remember this, moreover, that if, on the strength of a certain sensitiveness, you “feel out” for contacts in the Unseen, you may strike anything. The kind of entities who will answer the random adjurations of an inexperienced experimenter are of much the same type as the



- We are all mirrors (physical and astral plane).
- The Masters choose Their pupils for other qualities rather than curiosity. We must pass through the Strait Gate and tread the Narrow Way.
- To be Receptive = to be trained.
- “still small Voice”.

persons who would answer you if you repeated the same tactics in the street. If you set your front door open, the kind of person who would come walking in would be more likely to steal the umbrellas from the hall than undertake to instruct you in profound spiritual truths; and so it is with psychism: if you merely set the door of consciousness ajar you are more likely to get unpleasant experiences than spiritual teaching.

Those great Entities Whom the Theosophical Society has made known to the general public under the name of the Masters, but Who, from time immemorial have been known in the West as well as the East, choose Their pupils for other qualities than curiosity. They are as different from the average “guide” or communicating spirit as is Michael Angelo from a pavement artist, and to find Them, we have to pass through the Strait Gate and tread the Narrow Way. If you desire to find the Masters Who will train you as They have trained me, for I am not a natural psychic, reach out to Them mentally with steady aspiration, being prepared to make whatever sacrifice is required of you, withholding nothing that you have or are, and you will receive, not mystic experience, but a long and arduous course of training by the difficulties and trials of life, and if you take all these as lessons and try to learn what they have to teach, remembering that Duty is the First Initiator, presently you will find that a new element is coming into your life; it does not come as the fire or the whirlwind, but as the still small voice, and it is this still small voice of spiritual intuition that gives the teaching. “Ask, and ye shall receive; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you”