

# Dion Fortune

## The Cosmic Doctrine

The First Manifestation

Part 3





- Knowledge = two divisions:

1. Record of facts.
2. The explanation thereof.

- Knowledge can only consist of that which is present in the mind (limitations).
- The Unmanifest = pure existence, the Source from which all arise, the only Reality, the only substance, stable and all else is an appearance and a becoming.
- The Great Negation = the Unmanifest, IT IS a state of pure 'being' without qualities and without history, IT IS the infinite potentiality which has not occurred.

Section I  
1  
THE FIRST MANIFESTATION

Knowledge falls into two divisions - the record of facts and the explanation thereof.

KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge can only consist of that which is present in the mind. That which does not enter the mind cannot be known. Therefore you can only know that which you have senses to interpret to you. As new senses open up, more planes of existence can be known. There is, however, a limit to the knowledge of the finite. Perception ceases at the barrier of manifestation. Of that which lies beyond we can only know by analogy.

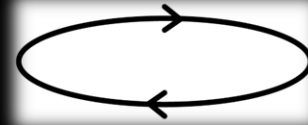
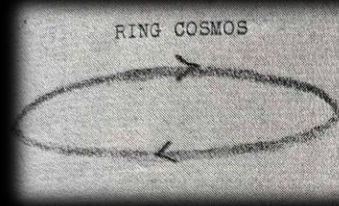
The Unmanifest is pure existence. We cannot say of It that it is Not. Although it is not manifest it IS. It is the source from which all arises. It is the only 'Reality'. It alone is substance. It alone is stable. All else is an appearance and a becoming. Of this Unmanifest we can only say IT IS. IT is the verb 'to be' turned back upon itself. IT is a state of pure 'being' without qualities and without history. All we can say of IT is that it is not anything that we know, for if we know anything it must be in manifestation for us to know it, and if it is in manifestation it is not unmanifest. Therefore the very fact that we can know it proves that it is not unmanifest. The Unmanifest is the Great Negation; at the same time it is the infinite potentiality which has not occurred. It is best conceived of under the image of inter-stellar space.

In the occult teachings you have been given certain images, under which you are instructed to think of certain things. These images are not descriptive but symbolic, and are designed to train the mind, not inform it. Therefore you may think of the Unmanifest as inter-stellar space; and of the Logos as a Sun surrounded by His Solar System of Planets and

19  
\*TO TRAIN THE MIND, NOT INFORM IT.



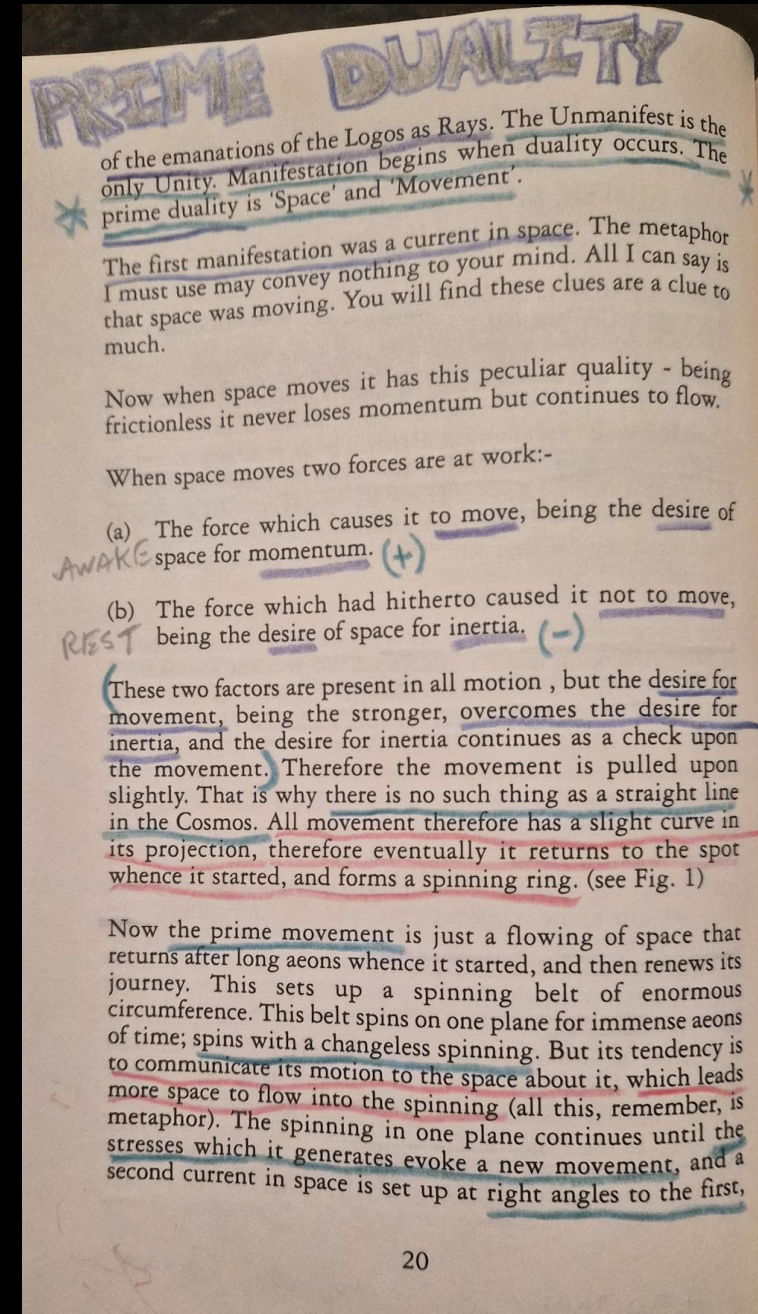
1. Unmanifest = Inter-stellar space.
2. Logos = Sun.
3. Rays = Planets, emanations.



- Prime Duality = Space and Movement.
- Desire for movement (momentum) and Desire for inertia (rest).
- No straight line in the Cosmos.
- Prime Movement = flowing in space that returns to where it started and renews its journey.

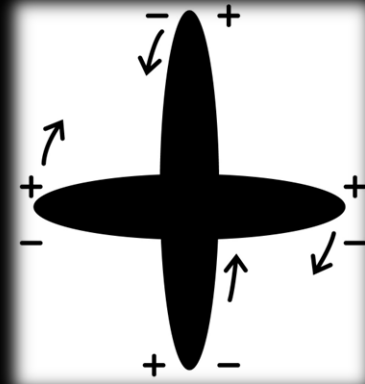
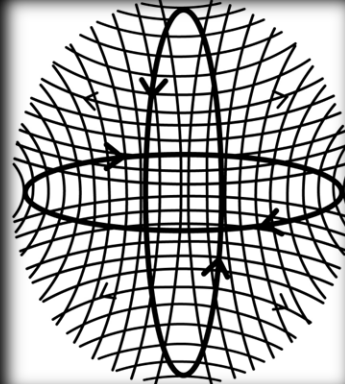
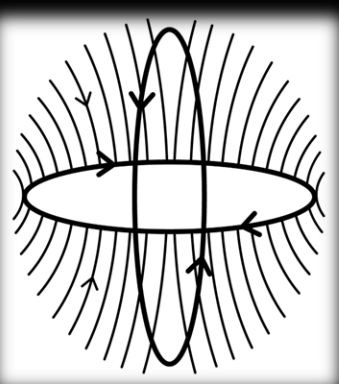
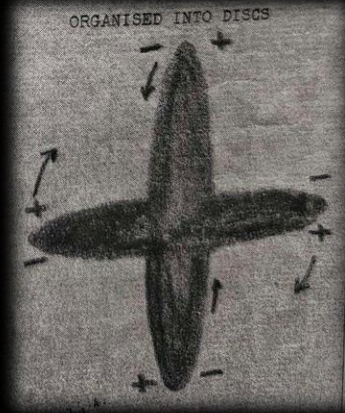
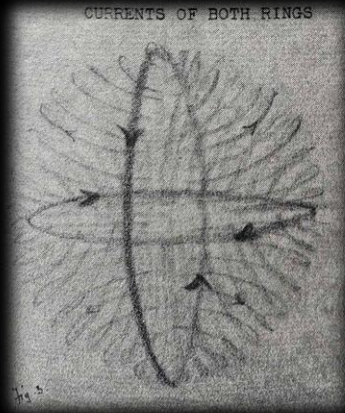
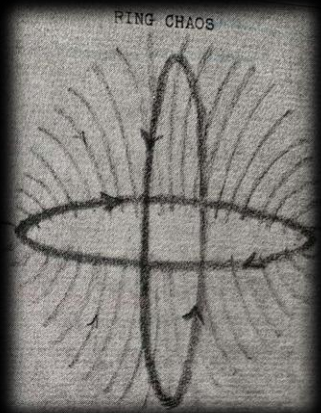
(sets up a spinning belt of enormous circumference.)

(to communicate its motion to the space about it.)





- Ring-Chaos (-) is larger than Ring-Cosmos (+).
- Ring-Cosmos upper surface outflowing arc is (+) and the lower as (-).
- Prime beginning of a Cosmos.



and the same process is repeated. These spinning planes of force may be conceived of as resembling the Rings of Saturn. (see Fig. 2)

We have now two spinning planes which, at two points cut each other, and it is worthy of note that the second plane forms outside the first and is therefore larger in diameter.

For countless aeons these planes spin at right angles to each other, and the whole of evolution turns upon the difference in size between the planes. When the larger has got up to the same speed as the smaller and older, it commences to attract one aspect of it, the consequence being that the older circle is drawn towards the newer. (see Fig. 3)

Now the first circle must be conceived of as having an upper and a lower surface. The upper surface of the outflowing arc may be conceived of as positive and the lower as negative. The reverse being the case in the inflowing arc. (see Fig. 4) Likewise with the second circle to arise.

These circles are mutually attracting and repelling each other; so that you conceive the upper surface of the outflowing arc of the first circle, being positive, rising up towards its corresponding aspect in the second circle, and the lower circle in the returning arc pressing downwards, so that you get a second movement imparted to the spinning disc. When this secondary movement has completed its first circuit and set up its steady revolution, the new Cosmos is in being. That is the prime beginning of a Cosmos expressed in the nearest approximate metaphor.

The secondary spin of the first circuit is the Ring-Pass-Not, and the circuit of the second formation is that sphere which sets a bound to Chaos. On the outer sphere there is a secondary derivation, and though a spinning circle of motion, represents for that Cosmos, the prime stillness, - the immobility in which it is rooted; - it is the thrust-block of the force of the Cosmos, that which resists, which alone enables momentum

+  
COSMOS

21

-  
CHAOS



1. Ring-Cosmos.
2. Ring-Chaos.
3. Ring-Pass-Not.

- Ring-Cosmos = evolution = thrust.
- Ring-Chaos = devolution = vacuum.
- Ring-Cosmos = desires toward sphere.
- Ring-Chaos = desires toward space.
- Ring-Cosmos = extend the center.
- Ring-Chaos = expand the circumference.

to be achieved and you may call it the Ring-Chaos the prime evil. It is evolved from the reaction of the prime force in order to take its thrust. It spins at right angles to the prime spin. It counteracts it. It was the attraction of the Ring-Chaos inducing a secondary spin in the Ring-Cosmos which forms the Ring-Pass-Not.

Now that movement in the Ring-Cosmos, spinning in one plane and rotating while it spins as if upon an axis, sets the bounds beyond which the creatures of that universe cannot pass, even in thought. But this universe is a sphere encircled by two lines of force - the Ring-Cosmos and the Ring Chaos - rotating at right angles to each other.

EVOLUTION  
The momentum of the Ring-Cosmos is the source of force from which evolution draws its momentum; and the rotation of the Ring-Chaos is the source of force from which dissolution draws its power.

DISSOLUTION  
Evolution is a thrust from the surface towards the centre.

Devolution, or Dissolution is a suction into outer space.

The Ring-Chaos does not belong to the universe it encircles, but to outer space. That is an important point in connection with it.

The Ring-Cosmos has its desires turned towards the sphere it encircles.

The Ring-Chaos has its desires turned towards the space that encircles it.

The Ring-Cosmos seeks to extend the centre.

The Ring-Chaos seeks to expand the circumference.

The Ring-Cosmos tends to solidify by contraction.



- An unchecked Ring-Chaos reduces to Nothingness.
- An unchecked Ring-Cosmos would be static in the immediate present.

### Ring-Cosmos

Concretes  
Growth  
Good  
Life  
Light  
Spirit  
Being  
God  
Evolution  
Thrust

### Ring-Chaos

Diffusion  
Not Growth  
Evil  
Death  
Darkness  
Matter  
Not-Being  
Devil  
Devolution  
Vacuum

- Evil = opposite direction to evolution and is attracted towards the Ring-Chaos.

The Ring-Chaos to return to the Unmanifest, whence it arose, and therefore, if its influence were unchecked, to reduce the universe it encircles to nothingness.

The Ring-Cosmos, if its influence were unchecked, would be static in the immediate present.

These two influences are the source of all the force in the Cosmos -

The Ring-Cosmos because it concretes - builds up.

The Ring-Chaos because it diffuses - never grows.

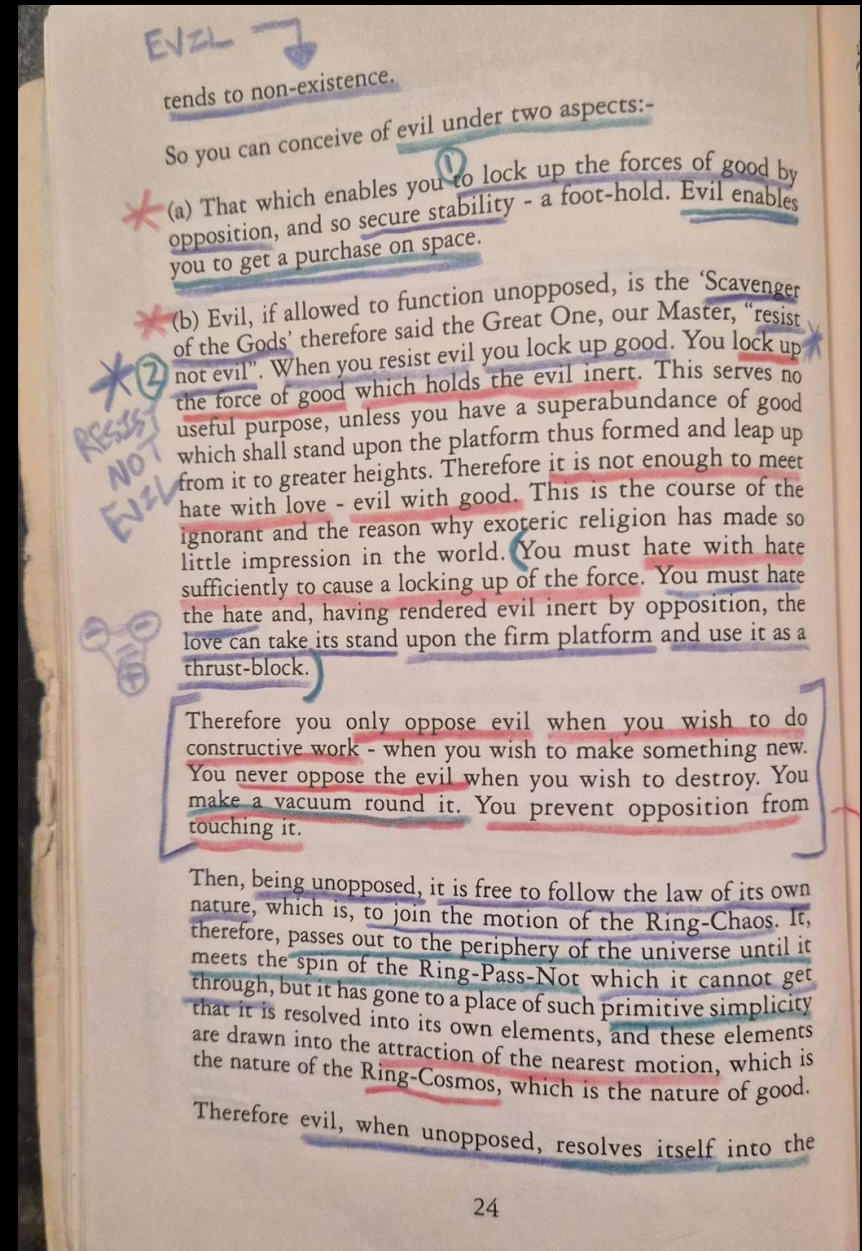
Now these two Rings we will call Good and Evil; Life and Death; Light and Darkness; Spirit and Matter; Being and Not-Being; God and Devil; because each of these potencies has its root in its respective Ring. But let it be clearly conceived that the Ring "Good" and the Ring "Evil" are not good and evil as you understand them, but merely spinning circles of force at right angles to each other, and therefore in opposition, and it is merely the angle of the first to arise which is called "good" and the angle in opposition to the prime plane is called "evil" and it might well be that in another Cosmos the first plane would begin to spin at another angle - the angle of your "evil", it would still be "good" to its Cosmos, because "good" and "evil" do not depend upon any plane or angle, but are simply relative to each other. The first force to arise is called "good" because, from it arises the line of force called evolution. All subsequent secondary forces are measured by that standard. In so far as they move in the same angle they are reckoned to be "good". In so far as they approach to a right angle they are reckoned to be in opposition and are called "evil". Evil is simply that which is moving in the opposite direction to evolution. Evil is that which approaches the plane of movement of the Ring-Chaos and therefore tends to revert to the Unmanifest. All evil that builds up with a universe is attracted towards the Ring-Chaos and is self-destroyed, because the very name "evil" means a force which

SELF DESTROYED  
23



- With Evil, we are able to:
  1. Lock up forces of Good by opposition, secure stability (purchase space).
  2. If unopposed = “Scavenger of the Gods”, “resist not Evil” because Evil locks up Good.

- Evil = opposite direction to evolution and is attracted towards the Ring-Chaos.
- Hate the Hate = Evil inert by opposition = Love takes its stand upon the firm platform and use it as a thrust-block.
- Evil resolves itself when unopposed, creates a vacuum and follows its own nature of Ring-Chaos, then meets Ring-Pass-Not and attracted to Ring-Cosmos.





- Evil will cease to be organized, transmuted through neutrality into Good.
- The usefulness and goodness of Evil (not negative qualities).
- Numbers = degrees of angles.

undifferentiated raw material of existence - the first form of manifestation. It ceases to be organized. It ceases to have qualities. It starts afresh at the beginning, transmuted through neutrality into good. It is the spin of these two Rings which give the influences that play upon creation.

You are now in a position to know why the mystery of evil is the secret of the initiates, because when you understand evil it is exceedingly useful. But the undisciplined man, if he knew the usefulness and goodness of evil, would use it dynamically on the positive side of its manifestation, not statically by availing himself of its negative qualities as does the Initiate.

NUMBERS = DEGREES OF ANGLES

You see, it is a matter of geometry. That is why numbers are so important, and remember, numbers in occultism refer to the degrees of angles. The degrees of the numbers of White occultism are marked in the Ring-Cosmos. The degrees of the numbers of evil are marked in the Ring-Chaos. Always think of the number in referring to the degree of an angle of two intersecting lines of force, and remember that when you operate on more than one plane you get the angles of the intersecting of the planes. You will have more instruction about that.

Every plane has three Rings, like the Cosmos. Also you can get intersections between different types of movement like Time and Space. These things will be studied later.

