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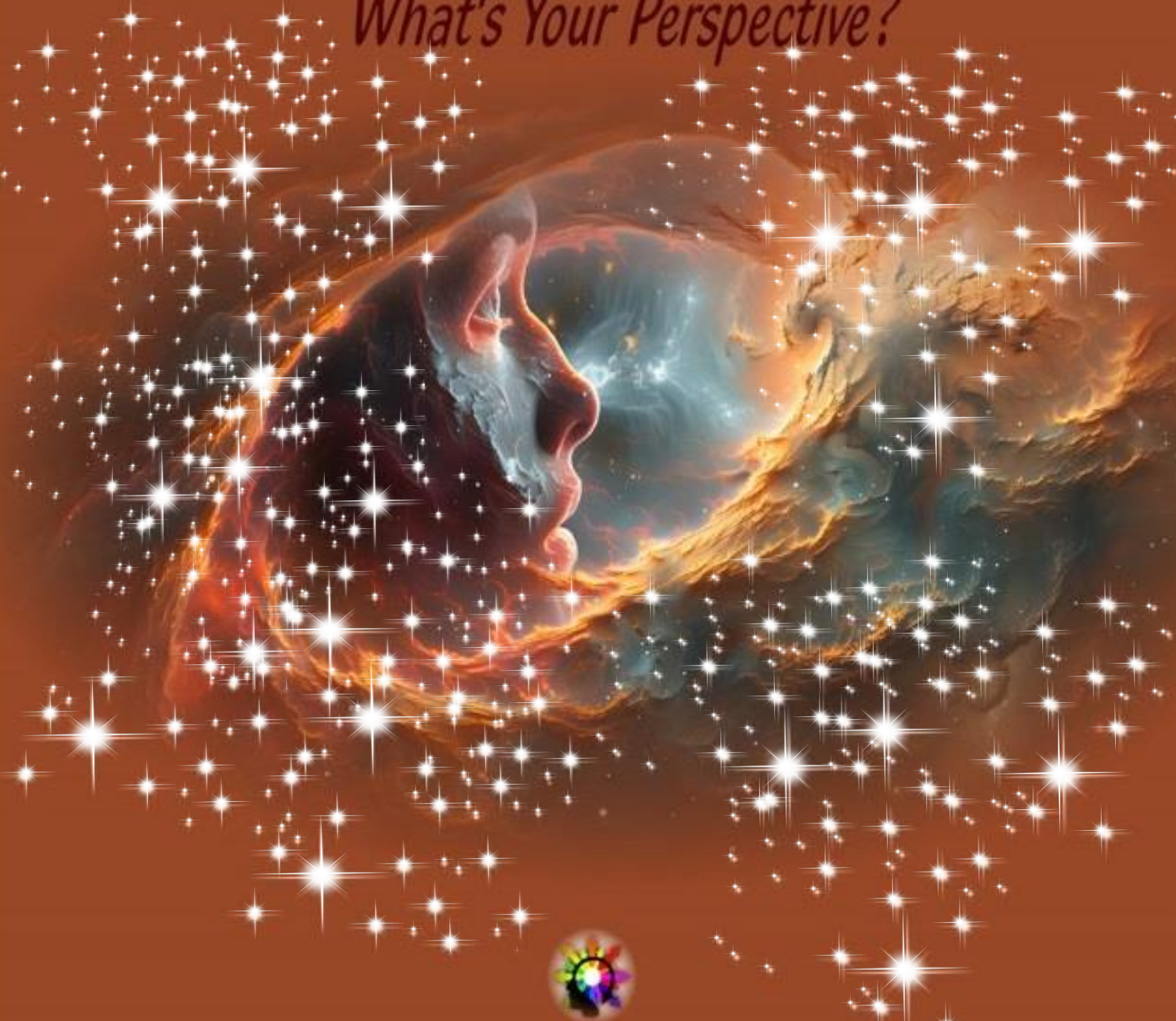
DISCERNING MINDS

FALL –
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Premiere Metaphysical Quarterly For The Abstract Enthusiast

SACRED SCIENCES · ESOTERICISM · ARCANA · CREATIVE THOUGHT · PHILOSOPHIC TRENDS

What's Your Perspective?



Page Design Kim Tsiang

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What's Your Perspective?

Don't judge a book by its cover, rather, by what you uncover.

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→ TAKING AIM ←

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Content contributors of Discerning Minds hail from all parts of the world with a desire to showcase and share their original thoughts, creativity, ideas, theories and speculations. If you would like to submit an article for possible publication please contact editor.discerningminds@gmail.com with your proposal. Include a brief one paragraph summary of your work and why you would like it published. Up to two articles may be submitted for publication in a single issue. **Only original** articles/art/photography that fall into section category subject matter are considered for publication. The age requirement is 21 years and older. Accepted submissions are published gratis. Discerning Minds does not offer remuneration for published content.

Content sections are:

The Human Condition – Serious or humorous narratives, or prose about life, emotions and empathy based in life experiences, psychology of being, dream analysis, synchronicity, reincarnation, personal musings.

A Matter of Spirit – Esotericism, Higher Mind, Karma/Dharma, miracles, reincarnation, meditation, symbolic or religious/spiritual metaphoric accounts.

Body Temple – Alternative health, holistics, ancient and new healing, mind methods, auras.

Phenomena Files – Paranormal, extranormal, ultra-normal and unexplained experiences, Parapsychology, cryptids, UFOs, curses.

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Sacred Sciences – Metaphysical, Mastership, Astrology, Cosmobiology, channeling, Numerology, Palmistry, Runes, prophecy, pendulum, crystals, animal totems, OBE, Qabalah, Tarot, quantum, psychism, codes and cyphers, conspiracy theories, meta-history, messengers.

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Odd-vant Guard – Atypical, curious, paradox, eccentric or uncanny chronicles, yarns cartoons. Quirk ology. Opinions.



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The Human Condition

This life will never be without storms...

Stop fearing the storm. Build your inner shelter.

Section Managing Editor – Dr. Daria Novicki

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It's in the morning, for most of us. It's that time, those few seconds when we're coming out of sleep but we're not really awake yet.

For those few seconds we're something more primitive than what we are about to become. We have just slept the sleep of our most distant ancestors, and something of them and their world still clings to us.

For those few moments we are unformed, uncivilized. We are not the people we know as ourselves, but creatures more in tune with a tree than a keyboard.

We are untitled, unnamed, and natural, suspended between was and will be, the tadpole before the frog, the worm before the butterfly.

We are for a few brief moments, anything and everything we could be.

And then...and then -- ah -- we open our eyes and the day is before us and ... we become ourselves.



The Disillusion Peddler

By Jenna Wade Shaugnessey

STRAIGHT FROM DISAPPOINTMENT CITY –

The Disillusion Peddler coming to a neighborhood near you!!! ...

It may seem like a dream but it's really a nightmare ... Disillusionment is basically defined as a feeling of disappointment that something is not as good as you believed it to be. This seems to sound as though it is referring to a situation but remember it is people who cause situations. It's not some mechanical issue that "just happens."

Disillusionment has a big grip on all facets of society today be it collective or personal. People seem to be handling the collective brand well now. They have put their foot down re world/political issues and are busy tearing the curtain down and taking a stand. The disillusionment peddlers are finding their sales pitches to be falling on death ears and eyes that will no longer look. Unfortunately, in one's personal relationships be they family, friend, or love, disillusionment still has a vice grip.

Disillusionment arises when life experiences strongly discredited positive assumptions or deeply held beliefs. Disillusionment can be a hard nut to crack because once it manifests, trust is broken. It's like a drug that permeates your body and can change your life course. Ultimately, disillusioned individuals struggle to maintain meaning and inhabit a state of existential concern ... did I misunderstand? ... Why was I so blinded? ... Why was I so stupid? In the worst case scenario an existential crisis evolves. An existential crisis is the feeling of unease people experience about meaning, choice, and freedom in life. This existential anxiety often causes people to feel that life is inherently pointless and that existence has no meaning.

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The minute one feels disillusioned the best thing to do is some self-search before the original issue blows up into something unnecessary. Instead of criticizing oneself - see if a pattern exists within the issue. Perhaps what you have been thinking isn't actually what was happening. ON the other hand if it was the culmination of a repeating pattern that hasn't changed imposed by someone or something else then you are probably justified in your disillusionment with that person or situation. Happiness and liberty are harsh prices to pay for staying in LA-LA Land. I think you should cancel your one-way ticket to that destination. Let's face it - It is a hard fact of life that some people cannot change. They are good at giving lip service that they will "try" but there are rarely results. If that is the case, the particular person is not supporting your growth as a human being and should probably be extricated from your life. There is no law that says you are obligated to live according to the rules they demand in that fairytale they have fabricated.

There is no half-way measure here. Either you tear the veil of disillusionment wide open and rip it to shreds or wrap yourself up in it, all cuddly and be miserable - because you will be miserable. The Disillusion Peddler simply doesn't care - there are plenty more out there he can dupe.

Only you have the freewill and power to change your life. Why don't you use it?



THE HOMUNCULUS

By Jonathan “Holmes” Corelli

Being the oldest of three boys, I grew up with a good deal of responsibility since both of our parents worked however I also was born into a family of practical jokers going back several generations. My favorite target was my middle brother who loved to argue and question everything. He was very much the rational type claiming to be scientific by nature and generally spent a lot of time trying to debunk anything and everything that could possibly be proven otherwise. This changed when he got older and faced the challenge of the teen-age years and today he is a fine spiritual and quite successful man. In the meantime, he made the perfect stooge for me.

Around age 9, he became very interested in chemistry and our dad with a bit of chagrin agreed to buy him a chemistry set. My brother was a book worm and devoured every single thing he deemed worth reading. On one fateful day however he came upon some material that was less than scientific and that was some information on the Homunculus.

According to the *Encyclopedia of the Occult* by John Michael Greer:

Homunculus comes from the Latin word meaning “little human.” In alchemy, a miniature but living human being created artificially by alchemical means. Recipes for creating a homunculus usually involved placing semen, alone with other substances in an alchemical vessel which was kept at very mild heat for forty days. At the end of this time, a small human half-transparent shape could be observed. The alchemist was then instructed to feed it each day with Arcanum (an alchemical preparation) of human blood, keeping it at the same low heat for, forty weeks. At the end of this time it would have matured into a miniature human child, which could be taken out of the vessel and raised like any other child.

My brother quickly decided that this was a noble quest and began making preparation but in a more scientific manner of course. Human semen was not to be had so he felt that his saliva would be a good substitute – plenty of DNA you see.

He prepped up a flask and filled in with saline (which he “borrowed” from our mom’s contact lense kit and other clear substances which he would not reveal and then wrapped the whole thing up in a heating pad which he kept on low. He was hell bent on playing modern Frankenstein.

Of course, my brain in the meantime was busy concocting a way to scare the bejesus out of him my making it look like he had actually created a little human. I rummaged through our youngest brother’s miniature soldier figures and at the bottom of the toy box found an old set of family figurines from his earlier childhood that were long forgotten and abandoned. Grasping the ‘little boy’ figure, I hurried quickly out into the garage for some flesh colored oil paint to coat it with and set it to dry where no one could see it.

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In the meantime my brother was getting pretty cocky about the whole affair especially as the time neared the first forty days. The early morning hours of the fortieth day I snuck into his room, uncovered the flask and popped by creation into the flask. Viola! Bro would have a nice surprise in the morning...

And he certainly did. The scream echoed mightily throughout the house and the family rushed from the breakfast table into his room. My brother was plastered up against the wall by his bed and was pointing shakily at the flask.

“I, I, I did it! I made a human!”

My dad caught on immediately but being a master trickster himself he was not about to say anything and went along with it.

“Well,” he said, “Great Job.” “When it is finished being incubated, I better call the local university science department and maybe even TIME magazine!”

My youngest brother was scared to death clinging to our mother’s leg. He kept insisting that it was monster that was going to kill everybody and that his brother was bad. Our mom just shook her head and ushered him out of the room.

Dad just patted my brother on the back and walked out. I am sure he went outside and roared with laughter. Now I went to work.

“You know,” I told the little scientist, “I’ve heard several stories about how these little humans become very evil and sometimes escape before full incubation and go after their creator.”

“SHUT UP!” screamed my brother, “That will not happen! You LIE!”

I just shrugged my shoulders and walked out smirking and all the time preparing my next move and it sure fell under perfect timing since my brother was going to spend the day at a buddy’s house. I went into his room, dumped the solution in the bathroom sink and removed the figure. Using a little cooking oil on my finger tip I made what looked like tiny footprints on the desk to the desk edge so it looked like tiny

feet had run to the edge and jumped off. The oil ensured that the footprints would still be there when my brother got home as the oil would not evaporate. I then proceeded to trash up his room and stick a tiny sword also retrieved from the toy box into his bed pillow. “That ought to do it,” I thought.

And it did. When my brother came home, once again the screaming started. I had been home all day baby-sitting our youngest brother as our parents were out for the day. The minute the little scientist went into his room and saw the chaos and the tiny sword stuck in his pillow he just lost it.

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Older brother hero that I am, I rushed into his room, looked around and showed some phony concern. Our youngest brother was hiding behind me but true to his nature, he stepped out in front of me, pointed a finger at the little scientist and yelled:

“YOU BIG DUMMY! The homunco (by his pronunciation) is going to kill you!!!!”

I told him everything was fine and to go back in his own room to play. No one would get killed.

I had some trouble peeling little scientist off the back wall, as he now truly believed the homunculus was coming for revenge. I told him I knew how to get rid of it but that he would have to join me in a special ritual. I went out of the room and came back with our family Bible, an old birthday party hat and a bell. Now mind you I was making this up as I was going along. I made little scientist put on the hat, sit on his bed, hold the Bible in one hand and the bell in the other. He was to ring the bell after each bogus phrase of pig Latin I uttered. It was extremely hard to stifle my laughter but I did.

Just as we were wrapping up, our parents came home. Little bro was busy breathlessly ratting us out to our Mom about the “homunco” and I could hear our father approaching the room. He opened the door, looked in and said:

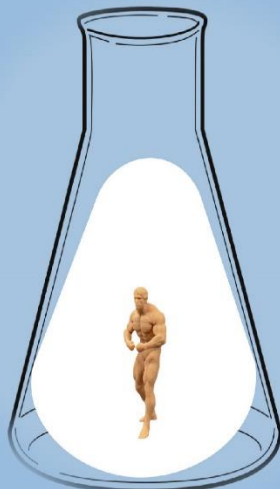
“So did it work? Is it gone?”

Little scientist was sitting on the bed, hat on head, Bible and bell in hands and looked at our father wide-eyed and sighed:

“I am afraid I have failed!”

At that point, my father and I burst out laughing and eventually little scientist did too.

Tipping my hat to ya’ folks! - Holmes



Life is what you make it – Or Is It?

By Jenna Wade Shaugnessey



"The Universe is under no obligation to make sense to you." - Neil DeGrasse Tyson

"Sometimes we go through life feeling really supported and that the Universe is on our side. Things flow, synchronicity happens, but other times this feeling couldn't be further away from the truth." - Tanaaz

Life doesn't always work out the way we expect. How can that be so when we have been told we are perpetually supported by the Universe and all will be well? The truth is what the Universe has actually supported was growth ... and THAT is rarely pleasant. This can manifest anywhere in life - a broken, painful relationship, losses of material gain and even death. These things affect self-value, but the important thing is maintaining your self-worth through these life episodes because they will happen time and time again.

You ask yourself, "What did I do wrong? I followed all the rules and I get totally slammed like this?" Look at it this way - whose rules were they to begin with? Ahhh and therein lies the rub. They were merely the rules you *thought* you should play by. This is your life script you are writing and the Universe isn't going to give you the answers or add any lines to it. You've heard this a million times and may shake your head in disgust and roll your eyes but *the answers really lie within yourself* and not in some omnipotent vast beyond the beyond entity. And when you actually do figure things out and move in new directions that's when that omnipotent vast beyond the beyond entity supports you and with a giant hand lifts you up. Somehow when that happens you feel better and do better and live better until the next upset. That's right, *it will happen* and you will handle it because you have figured out how to reinvent yourself and your circumstances. This could be large or it could be small and you probably won't even know you are doing it. The only thing you know is that it feels *right*. Even if that *right* doesn't quite go exactly as planned, a little rethink will help you trim those ragged edges.

"The Universe won't always have your back, but that's just because you no longer need someone to catch you." - Tanaaz

We all have a compass that guides us through the Universal vastness. Your Soul is your compass. It knows what you should do regardless of what anyone else thinks. People who are strong of soul have the greatest challenges - remember that. There is no such thing as a Lost Soul but there are lost humans who ignore their compass and may reincarnate to finally use that compass another time. So guess what? You really will finally get it right.

"It ain't over til it's over." - Lenny Kravitz

THIS WAS MEN'S MORAL CODE IN THE OUTER WORLD, A CODE THAT TOLD THEM TO ACT ON THE PREMISE OF ONE ANOTHER'S WEAKNESS, DECEIT AND STUPIDITY, AND THIS WAS THE PATTERN OF THEIR LIVES, THIS STRUGGLE THROUGH A FOG OF THE PRETENDED AND UNACKNOWLEDGED, THIS BELIEF THAT FACTS ARE NOT SOLID OR FINAL, THIS STATE WHERE, DENYING ANY FORM TO REALITY, MEN STUMBLE THROUGH LIFE, UNREAL AND UNFORMED, AND DIE HAVING NEVER BEEN BORN.





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THE HUMAN CONDITION

Jerry Spinelli, QUOTE (*Becoming*, pg. 2)

Jerry Spinelli began writing when he was 16. In most of his books, Spinelli writes about events and feelings from his own childhood. He also gets a lot of material from his seven adventurous kids! Spinelli and his wife, Eileen, also a children's book author, live in Pennsylvania. Quote is from Goodreads.com.

Jenna Wade Shaugnessey (*The Disillusionment Peddler*, pg. 3 and *Life is what you make it – Or is it?* pg. 8)

Jenna is a private energy healing practitioner who was born into a very psychic family. She inherited the ability to channel from her mother who was a highly gifted psychic. She lives on a ranch/estate in the southwest, USA with her Tabby cat Kinpa. Jenna has a head for “numbers” and has several degrees and dual degrees in accounting, business and administration and business law. She enjoys writing and cooking.

Jonathan H. Corelli (*The Homunculus* pg. 5)

Jonathan lives in New York and in Montana during the summer months. He is a freelance writer and part time comedian who loves to travel as much as possible (have pen, will travel!). He likes to say, “Writing is not perfection unless it has a humor injection” so even the most serious of topics are infused with a dose of the literary giggles. According to Jonathan it all makes “perfect sense in every sense of the term sense.”

Ayn Rand, QUOTE (*Men's Moral Code* pg. 9)

Polemical novels, such as *The Fountainhead* (1943), of primarily known Russian-American writer **Ayn Rand**, originally **Alisa Rosenbaum**, espouse the doctrines of objectivism and political libertarianism. Rand advocated reason and rejected faith and religion. She supported rational and ethical egoism as opposed to altruism. She condemned the immoral initiation of force and supported laissez-faire capitalism, which she defined as the system, based on recognizing individual rights, including private property. Often associated with the modern movement in the United States, Rand opposed and viewed anarchism. In art, she promoted romantic realism. She sharply criticized most philosophers and their traditions with few exceptions. Books of Rand sold more than 37 million copies. After her death, her ideas interested academics, but philosophers generally ignored or rejected her and argued that her approach and work lack methodological rigor. She influenced some right conservatives. The movement circulates her ideas to the public and in academic settings. QUOTE is from Goodreads.com.



A Matter Of Spirit

Section Managing Editor – John “Salaam” Solis

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Cover Design: Kim Tsiang

If you obsess over whether you are making the right decision, you are basically assuming that the universe will reward you for one thing and punish you for another.

The universe has no fixed agenda. Once you make any decision, it works around that decision. There is no right or wrong, only a series of possibilities that shift with each thought, feeling, and action that you experience.

If this sounds too mystical, refer again to the body. Every significant vital sign- body temperature, heart rate, oxygen consumption, hormone level, brain activity, and so on- alters the moment you decide to do anything... decisions are signals telling your body, mind, and environment to move in a certain direction.



Needlessly Acquiring Another's Karma

By Matt Sharpe



One potential concerning karma that every individual should take care to prevent, is the acquiring of another's karma. Basically speaking, we all have plenty of our own to work through making it a pointless roadblock to needlessly take on the debt of another. However, it is a thing that happens often, and being unaware of the conditions that cause this will never allow one to escape this burden if they have made the choice to become involved in another's karmic state. When one unknowingly takes on a part of another's karma, it will have to be worked off in the usual sense. The bright side of this is that it insures that the lesson will receive the necessary attention from the individual to learn and thus be able to avoid doing it further into the future. In Eckankar, among the Vairagi Masters, this action is frowned upon and is often warned against. However, it is always at the discretion of the individual to actively choose not to do it.

There are a number of ways, or personal choices made, that can cause this to happen. In a majority of cases this is brought about by the pride of an individual. This is the ego that refuses to allow the self to remain detached from the situations facing another, perhaps because they want to see that person pay the price for previous actions. However this motivation serves only the false ego, the lower mental and emotional states, that are seeking a personal satisfaction from seeing another receive that which they have earned for themselves. This is often done not out of an objective desire to see the other make their way forward, and this obviously is seeing the situation from a lower, less beneficial state of being.

While having such a desire is bad enough on its own, if that individual says or does things based on that motivation, they will have actually chosen to learn that same lesson, and usually in a rougher way than might have been necessary beforehand. Making unnecessary comments, whether in spoken or written form, is one way that this can be done. An individual may feel slighted by the words or actions of another, and while they have every right to feel this way, they are literally choosing to allow that feeling to be a set of virtual chains that will bind them to that situation. While one may have a "righteous" anger toward the other person that anger is not at all righteous, and is therefore more beneficial if it can be overcome rather than submitting to it.

At times there can be a situation where two opposing individuals carry out a lengthy attack process against one another. While one may have been attacked first, that does not mean that reciprocating in kind is the best process to resolve it, and doing so only serves to feed the situation and literally keep it going longer than it would have if left alone. Sometimes two such individuals will make verbal protests on websites, portraying themselves as being saintly, while portraying the other as being wicked or evil.

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In these cases that person is pretending to be the victim when in fact they are not at all. Choosing such a position is a choice, so there cannot be any degree of actual victim hood about it. In certain situations where the first offender has done a thing against the other, that of course creates a karmic imbalance that will have to be rebalanced. At that point it is best to surrender the situation to the Divine Will rather than to proceed making decisions as to how to act against that person. The surrender to detachment is a freeing from these potential chains.

Anytime one does not use a right discernment and detach from the situation, they tend to make poor choices that not only cause them to take on a portion of the other's already existing karmic debt, but is an example of one way where an individual can effectively choose to "stand in their own way." This, from Soul's point of view, is an action that is virtually without benefit, or at the least the benefit can only be gained after having gone through the rough rebalancing, that could have been much easier to work through before that karmic portion was acquired. This is an action that by choice, slows Soul's progress in development, making that process take longer than should have been necessary. I have witnessed a situation that occurs primarily online, where one person offended another, stealing that site's mailing list which was then spammed relentlessly by this person. Instead of remaining detached and allowing that individual's karma to proceed, the victim of this action decided to go out and try to make the offender pay.

This went on for several months, and in the end did nothing but hinder the first individual's payment of their karma. The person the original action was taken against, chose to promote themselves as a sort of hero against the other person. This intrusion of the second person's ego accomplished nothing other than drawing part of the first person's karmic state to the second person, which will now unavoidably have to be paid. The second person is unaware of it, but they are in fact the only reason the first person's karma has not yet manifested. They chose to interfere, as if to say "God? You have not done well enough for me, therefore I shall handle this matter myself because I can do better." That, in my opinion, is not a wise course of action to take, but that person made their choice and now things shall proceed exactly as the Eternal dictates, that lack of patience not having been ITS fault or limitation. This is the primary reason that the Living ECK Master, being a direct and unobstructed channel for the Divine Will, will seek to guide chelas from taking part in an action that would cause them to take on another's karma. This is a necessity of walking a direct path towards God Realization.

Some of the other general circumstance or actions that can cause such a thing would be making needless observations about, or judgmental comments to another, such as calling an overweight person fat, or some other term such as ugly, retarded, mentally or emotionally deficient in some manner as an insult. Also any comments based on sexual orientation, skin color, race, religion or creed or any other grouping would fall into this category, having not one thing to do with how true a comment or observation might be regarding a person from any group. One who remarks about a weight problem that another might have, can find themselves gaining disproportionate amounts of weight soon thereafter, as one example. In such cases these judgments or comments are ones that need not have been made, or that are particularly rude or offensive.

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When such an action takes place, the offender will undoubtedly acquire a portion of that other individual's state, whether it be occurring due to karma, or if it is because of a lapse of judgment or standards concerning themselves.

One who is unable to allow another the freedom of choice to be the way they want to be, will cause themselves the need of learning a necessary lesson in a more harsh fashion. It is always a choice, and thus the individual cannot avoid bearing the responsibility for the action they have taken. Some of the things that when observed, can avoid the needless acquiring of another's karma, include but are not limited exclusively to: Humility, which causes one to not comment needlessly on the state of another, which is an expression of the ego. Detachment, which allows one to remain free of an attached and judgmental state concerning another. Patience, which helps to avoid unnecessary angering towards another that could cause lashing out, as well as Right Discernment, which allows an individual to see accurately that certain words and actions can only cause one to stand in their own way from progressing. Forgiveness is another quality that enables one to remain free of grudges and other negative emotional and mental states that can come to be after one has done or said something unsavory towards you. All of these qualities are simply other names for the grandest of them all, Love, which when coupled with the quality of Grace, which is bestowed upon us by the Sugmad upon ITS own decision, are literally unlimited mechanisms that make it possible to propel Soul forward in Its spiritual development.



A professor at the university asked his students the following question:

“Everything that exists was created by God?”

One student bravely answered:

“Yes, it was created by God.”

The professor asked:

“If God created everything, then God created evil, since it exists. And according to the principle that our deeds define ourselves, then God is evil.”

The student became silent after hearing such an answer. The professor was very pleased with himself. He boasted to students for proving once again that faith in God is a myth.

Another student raised his hand and said:

“Can I ask you a question, professor?”

“Of course,” replied the professor.

“Professor, is cold a thing?”

“What kind of question is this? Of course it exists. Have you ever been cold?”

Students laughed at the young man's question.

The young man answered:

“Actually, sir, cold doesn't exist. According to the laws of physics, what we consider cold is actually the absence of heat. A person or object can be studied on whether it has or transmits energy.

Absolute zero (-460 degrees Fahrenheit) is a complete absence of heat. All matter becomes inert and unable to react at this temperature. Cold does not exist. We created this word to describe what we feel in the absence of heat.”

The student continued:

“Professor, does darkness exist?”

“Of course it exists.” said the professor.

“You're wrong again, sir. Darkness also does not exist. Darkness is actually the absence of light.

We can study the light but not the darkness. We can use Newton's prism to spread white light across multiple colors and explore the different wavelengths of each color. You can't measure darkness. A simple ray of light can break into the world of darkness and illuminate it. How can you tell how dark a certain space is? You measure how much light is presented. Isn't it so?

Darkness is a term man uses to describe what happens in the absence of light.”

In the end, the young man asked the professor:

“Sir, does evil exist?”

The professor answered:

“Of course, as I said before. We see him every day. Cruelty, numerous crimes and violence throughout the world. These examples are nothing but a manifestation of evil.”

To this, the student answered:

“Evil does not exist, sir, or at least it does not exist for itself. Evil is simply the absence of God. It is like darkness and cold—a man-made word to describe the absence of God. God did not create evil. Evil is not faith or love, which exist as light and warmth. Evil is the result of the absence of Divine love in the human heart. It's the kind of cold that comes when there is no heat, or the kind of darkness that comes when there's no light.

An identification occurs between oneself and the Universal Source so that one realizes in ever-increasing and expansive ways that he is the co-creator of his destiny.

This is a most important realization to make, as it allows a person freedom to “move” within the circle of the horoscope and releases him from an attachment to the biological karma of absolute predestination. A sense of inner freedom is achieved when the personal will is aligned to the Will of the Collective Source.

The path Of Soul alignment is the process through which such co-creation of personal destiny is achieved.



91 He that dwelleth in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.
2 I will say of the LORD, He is my refuge and my fortress: my God; in him will I trust.
3 Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.
4 He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust: his truth shall be thy shield and buckler.
5 Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;
6 Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noonday.
7 A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.
8 Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.
9 Because thou hast made the LORD, which is my refuge, even the most High, thy habitation;
10 There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.
11 For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways.
12 They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.
13 Thou shalt tread upon the lion and adder: the young lion and the dragon shalt thou trample under feet.
14 Because he hath set his love upon me, therefore will I deliver him: I will set him on high, because he hath known my name.
15 He shall call upon me, and I will answer him: I will be with him in trouble; I will deliver him, and honour him.
16 With long life will I satisfy him, and shew him my salvation.





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A MATTER OF SPIRIT

Deepak Chopra QUOTE (*Unlocking the Hidden Dimension of your Life, pg. 12*)

Deepak Chopra, MD serves as the Founder and Chairman of The Chopra Foundation, and Co-Founder of the Chopra Center for Wellbeing. As a global leader and pioneer in the field of mind-body medicine, Chopra transforms the way the world views physical, mental, emotional, spiritual, and social wellness. Known as a prolific author of eighty books with twenty-two New York Times best sellers in both fiction and non-fiction, his works have been published in more than forty-three languages. GlobelN acknowledges Chopra as "one of top ten most influential spiritual leaders around the world." TIME magazine has described Dr. Chopra as "one of the top 100 heroes and icons of the century and credits him as "the poet-prophet of alternative medicine."

Matt Sharpe (*Needlessly Acquiring Another's Karma, pg. 13*)

Matt Sharpe lives in the Southwest US and enjoys writing about spiritual topics of all kinds, using his personal experiences as a reference. While never referring to himself as a shaman, he does work inwardly with many from various traditions. He also is a guitarist and singer/songwriter. He is a lead administrator and teacher on the Light Force Network.

Unknown Author QUOTE (*Does Evil Exist? Pg. 16*)

This Unknown Author can be found in the Public Domain.

Alan Oken QUOTE (*Universal Source and Astrology pg.17*)

Alan Oken ((March 28 1944 – March 5, 2022) was the author of a dozen titles, including *Alan Oken's Complete Astrology* and *Soul-Centered Astrology*. He was a translator, teacher, global traveler, and international tour guide who lectured and spoke 30 languages. Alan was the director of The Wisdom School in Santa Fe, New Mexico, was co-founder of the Australian Institute for the Development of Consciousness, and was director of Esoteric Studies in Lisbon. He was a member of the New Group of World Servers and a lifelong student of the work and teachings of the Tibetan Master Djwhal Khul and legacy of the Ancient Wisdom.

Public Domain (*Psalms 91 – The Soldier's Psalm, pg. 18*)

Psalms 91 is a well-known psalm and can be found widely in the Public Domain.

BODY TEMPLE

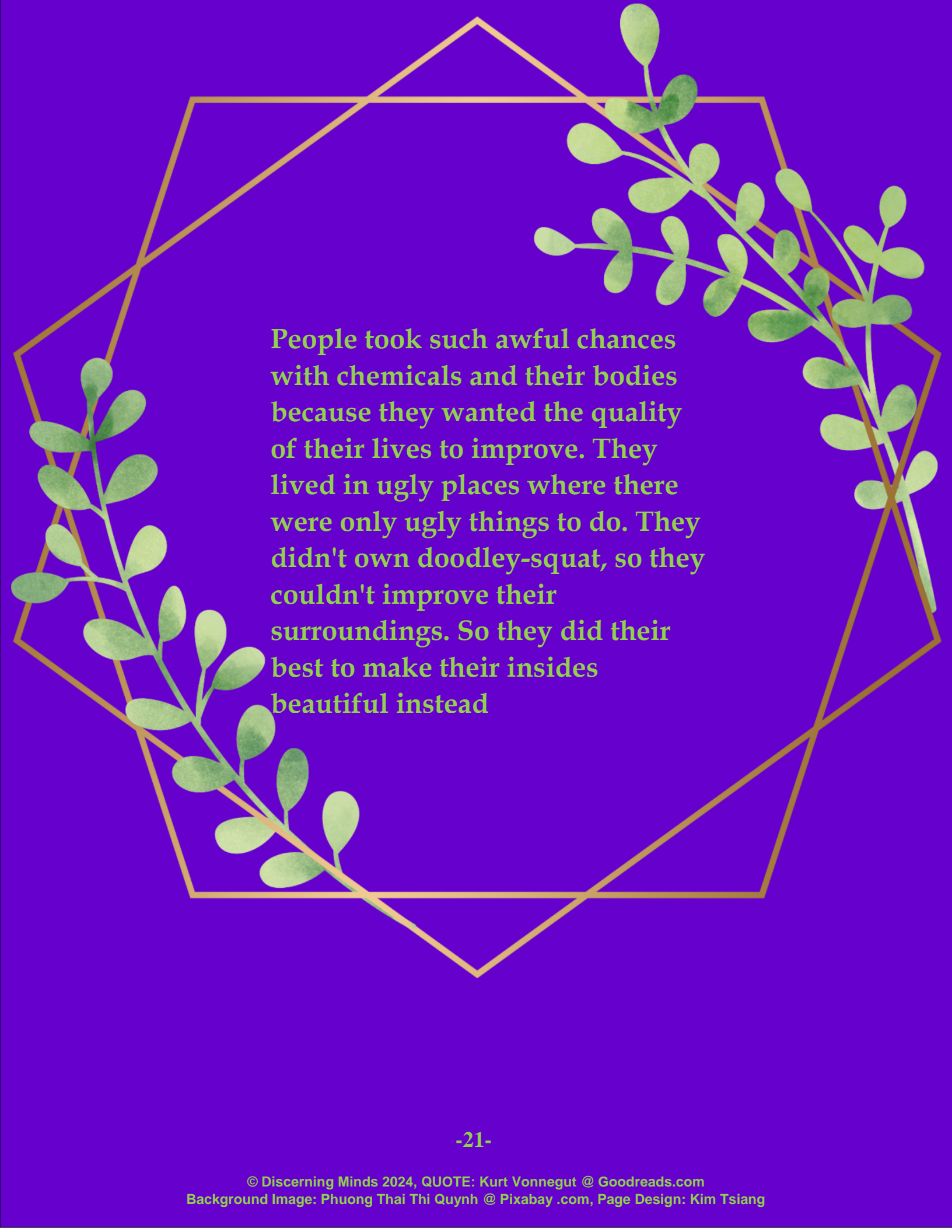
"The Human Body is the best picture of the Human Soul"



Section Managing Editor – Lynda Lidel Harley

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People took such awful chances
with chemicals and their bodies
because they wanted the quality
of their lives to improve. They
lived in ugly places where there
were only ugly things to do. They
didn't own doodley-squat, so they
couldn't improve their
surroundings. So they did their
best to make their insides
beautiful instead

Druid Ways -Telluric Nwyfre Exercise

By Karyn Katz

There are a couple of Nwyfre exercises. Nwyfre is everywhere but the two most intense concentrations within our reach come from the Sun and deep within the Earth. Nwyfre from the Sun fills the Earth's upper atmosphere and moves downward. It is strongest at dawn or noon but for those living in higher geographical elevations, it's even present at midnight. Nwyfre from the Earth moves upward through stone and soil. It's strongest around green plants, trees and around natural places of water like springs. It would be very energizing if an underground spring is located so you could stand above it. The Earth Nwyfre follows more complex cycles in time and space constituted by lunar phases and planetary and seasonal changes interplaying with stone, soil and earth. That current that is generated is called Telluric.

The solar Nwyfre current is considered "male" and is also known as the "current of wisdom" It stimulates the energy centers in the chest, throat and hands thus awakening intellect, abstraction and impersonal awareness. The telluric current is "feminine" and known as the current of power. It stimulates centers in the belly, pelvic basin and feet and enhances the vital force - life, love and passion. So you end up with absolute awareness and absolute energy. The solar and telluric currents are primary and always present and existed before any living things on Earth came into manifestation.

This particular exercise infuses and attunes the body to telluric current. This entire rehash is from *The Druidry Handbook* by John Michael Greer:

- Find a natural place where the land has suffered the least amount of damage by human hands.
- If possible be barefoot. The exercise is said to have different effects according to where one is standing such as grass, sand, soil or stone.
- Three deep breaths inhaled through the nose and exhaled out the mouth to assist relaxation and balance.
- Hold your arms in a downward arc, hands about a foot out from your sides at hip level. Palms should face the ground and fingers should be pointing forward. Relax the arms as much as possible and spread the fingers apart gently. Breathe slowly and deeply for one to three minutes. Those who are sensitive will feel the Earth energies flowing into the fingertips.
- Bring the fingertips inward toward the vital center two inches below the naval, stopping a few inches from the body - palms should be facing towards you with fingertips nearly touching. Focus on Earth current flowing from fingers into the midline of the body. Hold for a few minutes.
- Move the hands slowly upward while remaining aware of the telluric current flowing into the midline - from the vital center up to the throat. Separate your hands sweeping them up and out to your sides. Bow deeply and return to the first step.
People usually do three to nine cycles.



Starlight Vibrational Healing

By Jayne Wood

“Stardust fell from the sky and into my hands.

As it swept through my veins and became a part of my body it became a part of my soul. I am humble for I am made of earth and noble for I am made of stars.”

~ Jayne Wood

On October 21, 2000, in the light of the waning Moon, our Earth's orbit carried us into a stream of dusty debris from Halley's Comet. On that night, I was physically showered with Halley's stardust and received an intense, life changing attunement. The full story of this event is reserved for students of Starlight Vibrational Healing to preserve its sacredness but I can share with you what the attunements to this energy opens for recipients.

The Starlight Vibration Healing attunements bring in the energy of the stars as it energetically connects and switches on our own stardust to unite us as one with the Galaxy. The Starlight energy activates the Galactic Ray and opens the gate to our stellar evolution. Once the Starlight attunements have been activated, the **Gateway Chakras** are opened as fully as the level of a person's personal frequency will allow and the flow of energy begins.

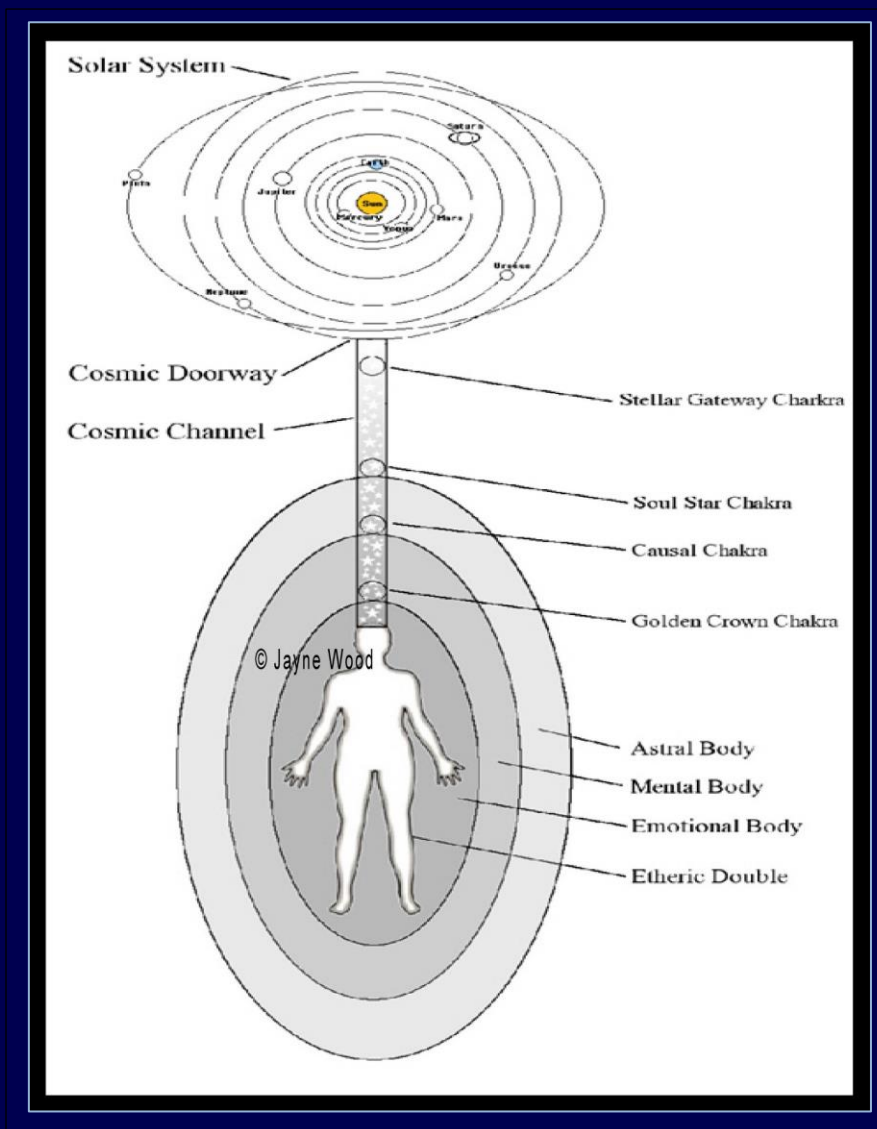
- The first of the Gateway Chakras is called the **Golden Crown Chakra** and is located just above the Crown Chakra. Once cleared and flowing, the memory of the Soul can be accessed through it.
- Above the Golden Crown Chakra is the **Causal Chakra**. It regulates the flow of energy from the Soul Star Chakra to the body which enables the physical body to attune itself to the increased energy of soul consciousness and higher frequencies of light.

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- Above the Causal Chakra is the **Soul Star Chakra**. It is through this chakra the Soul enters the physical body at the time of incarnation and leaves the physical body at death. Access to the Soul Star Chakra increases direct contact with the Soul.
- Above the Soul Star Chakra is the **Stellar Gateway Chakra** which opens a tunnel of pure light that connects the Soul to its Divine Source. This tunnel is called the **Cosmic Channel**. Activation and clearing of this chakra opens a **Cosmic Doorway** through which access is obtained to all of Light's resources. It also enhances communication with enlightened beings that exist beyond this physical world.



Healing with Blue Neon

By Therra Morris Burch

For many years at the onset of my spiritual path, I tended to make notes of the different types of alternative healing people were engaging. I heard about many versions of healing, some of which I discerned to be made-up by a few charlatans along the way, and others that were at the very least believable or actually useful.

One of the most unusual healing modalities I heard about came from my friend Georgeanne, a perfectly normal and reliable person who was also just initiating her spiritual path. Georgeanne is a natural channel and has been so as far back as she can remember although she never mentioned it much to family or friends for fear of being thought daft. Georgie, as we fondly call her, never seemed to be bothered much by whatever she received and took any etheric messaging meant to be for her personal use alone. On many occasions she believed the input to have “pulled her fat out of the fire.” This being said, she was not shook up at all when she began to channel “Alyah.”

For all intent and purpose, Alyah was an alien. Georgie described her as gentle and kind with a soothing vibe of communicado. Georgie told me about her meetings with Alyah on a weekly basis and there never seemed to be anything negative or off about them. In the late fall of 2002, I met Georgie for lunch and she told me that her last meeting with Alyah was very significant.

Evidently Alyah had taken a liking to Georgie and wanted to leave her with a parting gift since her time with Georgie was coming to an end. Alyah never gave Georgie a name for the gift so Georgie just referred to it as Blue Neon which was Georgie’s description of the type of light ray that was used.

Alyah instructed Georgie that the gift was one of healing that dated far back in time. It was quite simple to use as long as your intentions were pure and your thoughts clean. All one had to do was see a neon blue light surrounding the being who needed to be healed accompanied with a precisely worded or thought out intention for the healing to be accomplished. That was it. So fuss, no muss and no bother. I was very amused by all of this and at first thought Georgie was pulling my leg and making quite a jest but she was dead serious.

I asked her if she believed such a thing could work. She emphatically said yes and that she had “tried it twice.”

I thought about it for a bit and told Georgie maybe it had nothing to do with Alyah’s gift at all but that maybe she was a healer in her own right and was just coming to that understanding. Georgie argued that she had no such ability before then and was convinced that it worked. As a test, we decided that I would try it also to see if anything happened.

The next day I went to visit a friend whose cat had become sick that morning, unable to eat and that it had a temperature. She was understandably upset about her cat and apologized that she needed to take the cat to the vet.

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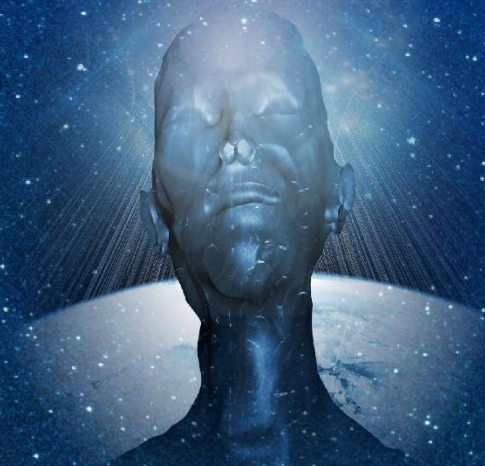
Her vet appointment was two hours away so we sat and had a chat for a while over some coffee. She also knew Georgie and for conversations sake I told her about Georgie's experience and the Blue Neon. She looked at me intently and then asked if I knew how to do it. I said yes as it didn't seem complicated but also that I had not tried. She rubbed her forehead with her hand and then asked me to try on the cat.

The cat was laying down rather listless and dull-eyed on her cat pillow in the corner. I gazed at the cat and did the Blue Neon just as Georgie had told me. When I was finished neither one of us saw anything happen ... until about 10 minutes went by. Suddenly, the cat got up and meowed, walked over to me and rubbed against my leg. She looked better and the dull cloud had lifted from her pretty eyes. My friend checked the cat's temp and it was normal. The cat walked over to her food bowl and began to chow down with gusto.

My friend and I of course attributed this to coincidence and some sort of fast moving cat malady but she told me later that night that the vet had given kitty a clean bill of health and had no explanation for why something would come and go so quickly.

Not satisfied, I tried out the Blue Neon a couple of times more with the same good results ... the most convincing being a prized tropical fish that was at death's door who sprang back miraculously to life. I cannot offer any good explanation for any of this.

Over time my capacity for Blue Neon faded away but Georgie still has full capacity of the gift and uses it as much as she can to assist others. Perhaps the gift was just on loan for me!



In this here place, we flesh; flesh that weeps, laughs; flesh that dances on bare feet in grass. Love it. Love it hard.

Yonder they do not love your flesh. They despise it. They don't love your eyes; they'd just as soon pick em out. No more do they love the skin on your back. Yonder they flay it. And O my people they do not love your hands. Those they only use, tie, bind, chop off and leave empty.

Love your hands! Love them. Raise them up and kiss them. Touch others with them, pat them together, stroke them on your face 'cause they don't love that either. You got to love it, you!

And no, they ain't in love with your mouth. Yonder, out there, they will see it broken and break it again. What you say out of it they will not heed. What you scream from it they do not hear. What you put into it to nourish your body they will snatch away and give you leavins instead. No, they don't love your mouth. You got to love it.

This is flesh I'm talking about here. Flesh that needs to be loved. Feet that need to rest and to dance; backs that need support; shoulders that need arms, strong arms I'm telling you. And O my people, out yonder, hear me, they do not love your neck unnoosed and straight. So love your neck; put a hand on it, grace it, stroke it and hold it up. and all your inside parts that they'd just as soon slop for hogs, you got to love them.

The dark, dark liver--love it, love it and the beat and beating heart, love that too. More than eyes or feet. More than lungs that have yet to draw free air. More than your life-holding womb and your life-giving private parts, hear me now, love your heart.





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BODY TEMPLE

Kurt Vonnegut Jr. QUOTE (*Breakfast of Champions*, pg. 21)

Kurt Vonnegut Jr. was an American novelist, satirist, and most recently, graphic artist. He was recognized as New York State Author for 2001-2003. His experiences as an advance scout in the Battle of the Bulge, and in particular his witnessing of the bombing of Dresden, Germany whilst a prisoner of war, would inform much of his work. This event would also form the core of his most famous work, *Slaughterhouse-Five*, the book which would make him a millionaire. This acerbic 200-page book is what most people mean when they describe a work as "Vonnegutian" in scope. Vonnegut was a self-proclaimed humanist and socialist (influenced by the style of Indiana's own Eugene V. Debs) and a lifelong supporter of the American Civil Liberties Union. Quote was found on Goodreads.com.

Karyn Katz (*Druid Ways*, pg. 22)

Karyn is a Druid, shamanic healer and a Reiki Master, and has been a Vipassana meditator for 10 years. She spends as much time as possible outdoors where she practices 'freedom to be oneself' while connecting with and interacting with the spirit of the land. Karyn loves to teach others how to create their own sacred space where they can more readily tap into universal consciousness. She has two cats, a dog and a parrot and lives in the upper mid north US.

Jayne Wood (*Starlight Vibrational Healing*, pg.23)

Jayne is a Master Healer and Teacher with vision and focus that goes beyond what most practitioners can offer having studied vibrational energy and alternative healing for over 20 years.

Therra Morris Burch (*Healing with Blue Neon*, pg. 25)

Therra is a naturalist and a metaphysician. She loves to spend as much time outside as much as possible communing with nature. She is also interested in the 'weirder side of life' and tends to make friends with those who are different like her friend Georgie as it tends to keep her healthy skepticism intact.

Toni Morrison QUOTE (*Passage from Beloved*, pg. 27)

Toni Morrison (born Chloe Ardelia Wofford) was an American author, editor, and professor who won the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature for being an author "who in novels characterized by visionary force and poetic import, gives life to an essential aspect of American reality." She won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction in 1988. In 2001 she was named one of "The 30 Most Powerful Women in America" by Ladies' Home Journal.


PHENOMENA FILES

Horror is like a serpent; always shedding its skin, always changing. And it will always come back. It can't be hidden away like the guilty secrets we try to keep in our subconscious.



SECTION MANAGING EDITOR - JOHN HOLBROOK PSI

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Background Image by Villus Kukanauskas from Pixabay.com Cover Design: Kim Tsiang

A close-up photograph of a hand with a prosthetic metal finger and a padlock on the wrist, symbolizing doubt and fear. The hand is gripping a metal rod, and the background is dark and textured.

The zombie looks like a man,
walks like a man, eats and
otherwise functions fully, yet is
devoid of the spark.

It represents the nagging doubt
that lays deep in the heart of
even the most zealous
believer: *behind all of your
pretty songs and stained glass,
this is what you really are.
Shambling meat.*

Our true fear of the zombie was
never that its bite would turn us
into one of them.

Our fear is that we are already
zombies.

STEPS INTO THE AFTERLIFE - *THE LEFT DOOR*

Observed by Mario Consalves

There are many theories and concepts religious and otherwise about the actual atmosphere of the Afterlife and if it exists at all. In her book *Phenomenon*, psychic author Sylvia Browne presented the premise of *The Left Door*.

The Left Door according to Browne is part of the Dark Side where those who have turned away from God are in residence. A departed person destined for the Dark Side in her premise does not experience going through a tunnel and finding a bright light but rather goes right through this *Left Door in the Dark Side*.

The only thing behind the *Left Door* according to Browne is a dark Godless area that is a whole lot of nothing or 'nothingness'. Further, a departed spirit has a very short residence behind this door and often passes straight through and into the womb of some hapless female in order to born again and reek more evil damage in the world.

This spirit when reincarnated is supposedly beyond any rehabilitation that the world might offer but rather continues in this negative cycle. There has been some thought given to this process manifesting as a serial killer when conditions are right.

All is not totally lost in this scenario for at some point in time, the angels catch them in transit and bring them back to God where they can reunite with the 'sanctity' of their soul.



Spirit Hitchhikers

By Holbrook PSI

Spiritual attachments happen. In fact, they happen more often than people realize until they become obvious or wreck some sort of havoc. It should always be remembered that spirit attachments are neither good nor bad in nature – they're all forms of lower energy that have hooked into a human aura. Some are benevolent and some have evil intent but in either case it is of the utmost importance to remove them.
– Ed.


The following is a real life case re-tell from the Q & A files of Holbrook PSI.

The Query:

My name is Ryan and I am 18 years old. Me and my friends were messing around and decided to go hang out in a graveyard after midnight about 12:30. The graveyard has a really old section that everyone says is haunted so we went there. We did not destroy or mess anything up and we did not do any drugs. My friend dared me to lie on a grave and I really didn't want to but I did. I laid down for about 30 seconds and then got up. It felt weird but everyone was laughing so I thought it was OK. We stayed in the graveyard for about an hour then left because we didn't want to get caught by the cops. When I went to bed, I could not sleep and was creeped out. After I went to sleep I woke up because it felt like something was poking me. I put on the light and saw a book get thrown off my dresser. It freaked me out but I ignored it and thought maybe it was my imagination and went back to sleep. I found out the next day that my friend who dared me had some weird stuff happen to him too. No one else had anything happen to them. This lasted for about four days and we think it is because of what we did. One night I just said out loud that I was sorry and all the weird stuff stopped. What was this and is it over? If you can help, thank-you.

The Response:

Ryan, the good news is you're not alone in your experience and in most of the cases of this type, it does not last very long. This would be different if there was desecration or disrespect for the graves or anything in the graveyard. Some would say that the act of lying on a grave is disrespectful but the way you described the event it sounds more like you had a "hitchhiker." Some spirits or entities are attracted to the energy or presence of some people and will "attach" to them for a short time. This is all according to the strength of the spirit or entity which dictates how long they stay with no action on the person's part to get rid of 31 them. The way you described what happened and your actions, I do not believe this to be an evil or malevolent spirit entity. You may be one of the people who attracts spirits or entities due to your energy and may have to take some steps to keep this or something worse from happening in the future. If you have future problems of this nature, feel free to request procedural information.



experience and in most of the cases This would be different if there was graves or anything in the the act of lying on a grave is described the event it "hitchhiker." Some spirits or or presence of some people short time. This is all spirit or entity which no action on the person's way you described what believe this to be an evil or one of the people who

The Glamor of the Darkside

By Holbrook PSI

There are those who become fascinated with the Darkside and make a decision to engage in the Black Arts. For some, this becomes a serious situation from which they want to extricate themselves but find it difficult especially if harm has been caused to another human being. It can be a very fine line that had been crossed and can affect a person who has practiced Black Arts emotionally, psychologically and physically. Some are able to untangle themselves from the web they have woven and others remain hopelessly trapped lacking the inner strength to turn away. There is also plenty of outside judgment from others who disapprove to such an extent that they do not even recognize that every person has the right to change, make amends and seek forgiveness.

There are many people that believe that an individual will reap what he/she has sown in his/her life. There are others who believe in Karma and the principles that our actions now will affect our next life and that our past life actions are affecting us in our current life. I believe it is a little of both and that a lot of an individual's problems come from the path they were on. I will not preach to such people or ask them to believe as I do ... it is up to each person to know what is right for them. This is how I see my life working. Life is like a long road that has many cross roads intersecting it and we each have our own journey to travel. Sometimes we are alone on our road and at other times we have many people on the road at the same time and same mile marker. We have choices to make all along the way and when a person takes a road to the Darkside and while on that road, actions or intent that hurt others. Some do see the error in their actions and decide to take another road as they turn away from this dark path. Once they do, they will need look at oneself and make sure that the new road is the right road for. If things are not going well for the person in life, there may be an uphill place in the road or it may be that the person may not have totally stepped off the dark side road.

If this has happened to you ask yourself - Has your road led you to help others and have you grown spiritually or does it seem that everything is against you and nothing is going right? These are questions you have to ask yourself and only you can truly know your own heart and soul.

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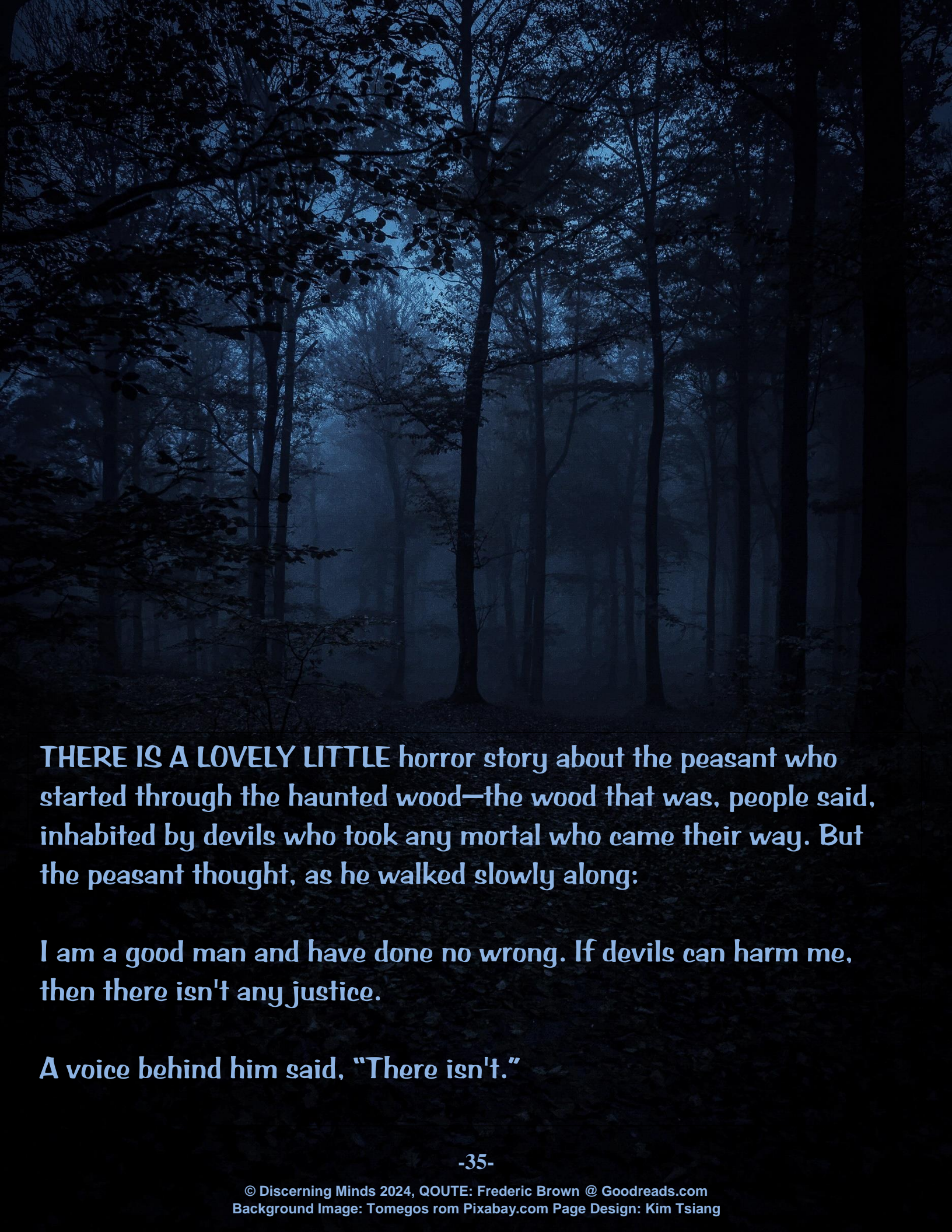


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We do sometimes have to go back and clean our house of all the things from our past to move on with our journey so that we do not have any thing holding us back. This would be touching on forgiveness - we have to forgive ourselves before we can expect others to forgive us. With this we can feel a weight lifted from us and we are able to see our part in things more clearly and what we will need to do to make amends.

In cleaning our house we need to see if we have any items from our past that are keeping us connected to that past. These items could be books, jewelry and friends that we need to let go so we move forward. If you still have any of the items you used in your black magic spells, they will need to go or at least be cleared. We have all outgrown friends in our lives and if you still have people in your life from that group that cast the spell you may still be unknowingly aiding them with your energy.

I know that letting go of friends can be hard but if they are into black magic and you are not, why take a chance that you could be drawn back in to the dark side. Those who have a good head on their shoulders and a heavy heart know that they don't want to be a part of hurting others. To you I say: You may have a tough time as part of your Karmic debt but as your deeds for the light grow you will erase that debt. If you want to be strong in your spiritual beliefs, read up on some psychic protection because when you start cleaning your house and your life, you may come under some spiritual attacks. Keep in the light and this will pass also as you cut the 38 strings that keep you connected to the past.



THERE IS A LOVELY LITTLE horror story about the peasant who started through the haunted wood—the wood that was, people said, inhabited by devils who took any mortal who came their way. But the peasant thought, as he walked slowly along:

I am a good man and have done no wrong. If devils can harm me, then there isn't any justice.

A voice behind him said, "There isn't."



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PHENOMENA FILES

David Wong QUOTE (*Zombie*, pg.30)

David Wong is the pseudonym of Jason Pargin. He is the former Executive Editor of Cracked.com, author of the bestselling *John Dies at the End* series and the award-winning Zoey Ashe novels. Jason has a new Goodreads profile under his real name, you can follow it here: <https://www.goodreads.com/author/show>

Mario Consalves (*Steps into the Afterlife – The Left Door*, pg. 31)

Mario Consalves lives in New Mexico, USA. He claims to have had an afterlife experience where he died and was revived. During his “death,” he relates that he saw the Left Door exactly as was described by Sylvia Browne in her book with the only exception that he also saw many lost souls behind it including two serial killers he whose names he will not reveal.

Holbrook PSI (*Spiritual Hitchhikers*. Pg. 32 AND *the Glamor of the Darkside*, pg. 33)

John Holbrook has been a paranormal investigator for over 25 years. He holds a MS in parapsychic science. He is a highly gifted intuit and experienced spiritual counselor who specializes in crisis intervention including current life paranormal dramas and past life residual traumas. He is always willing to help others overcome their fear of the darkness by showing them how to discern the truth of the matter.

Frederic Brown QUOTE, (*The Haunted Woods*, pg 34)

Fredric Brown (October 29, 1906 - March 11, 1992) was an American science fiction and mystery writer. He was one of the boldest early writers in genre fiction in his use of narrative experimentation. While never in the front rank of popularity in his lifetime, Brown has developed a considerable cult following in the almost half century since he last wrote. His works have been periodically reprinted and he has a worldwide fan base, most notably in the U.S. and Europe, and especially in France, where there have been several recent movie adaptations of his work. He also remains popular in Japan.

Arcanus Obscurum

He saw things he had no words for...



Section Managing Editors: Eliana Rosini Mascolo and Marco X. Mascolo

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"The best thing for being sad," replied Merlin, beginning to puff and blow, "is to learn something. That's the only thing that never fails. You may grow old and trembling in your anatomies, you may lie awake at night listening to the disorder of your veins, you may miss your only love,

You may see the world about you devastated by evil lunatics, or know your honour trampled in the sewers of baser minds. There is only one thing for it then — to learn. Learn why the world wags and what wags it.

That is the only thing which the mind can never exhaust, never alienate, never be tortured by, never fear or distrust, and never dream of regretting. Learning is the only thing for you. Look what a lot of things there are to learn."



Salt

By Alva Lennox

Salt rituals are some of the oldest forms of magic and are still used even today. In these contemporary times, salt is used for protection, visualization and manifestation of money making and in healing. Salt has been regarded as “precious” throughout history. It was the main means of preserving food throughout long winter months before the advent of refrigeration. It has been central to religious, spiritual and magical practices because it is a pure substance considered incorruptible.

The Westernized name *Salt* comes from *Salus* the Roman goddess of health who was also known to the Greeks as the goddess of health and wellness Hygeia. The Romans and Greeks mixed salt in their sacrificial cakes and they also threw salt on their sacrificial fires. The Jews also used salt in their sacrificial and magical ceremonies. The Christians believed that salt and water were necessary and potent in restoring health and aiding in exorcism. Throughout many centuries, salt was placed in coffins as protection against the Devil as was the case with the Ancient Celts who posited a plate holding a pinch of salt and a pinch of earth on the breast of the newly deceased to represent the mortal and corruptible body as well as the immortal incorruptible soul. In Buddhist tradition, salt is believed to repel evil spirits and that is why after a funeral it is required that a person throw salt over their shoulder before re-entering their home to get rid of any evil spirits that may be attached to their backs. In 1933, the Dali Lama was buried sitting upright in a bed of salt. In Leonardo Da Vinci’s famous painting of the Last Supper, Judas Iscariot upturns a salt cellar which represents the breaking of the trust of friendship and ensuing retribution. The Shinto religion uses salt to purify an area. Sumo wrestling which is actually an Ancient Shinto Rite requires that each wrestler throw a handful of salt into the ring before entering as to ward off any evil spirits. In India the tradition of a “gift of salt” is still practiced, as it is believed to be a symbol of good luck. Many times salt was used with holy water to ward off evil or to increase physical strength and boost fertility. It is still used today in the preparation of holy water. Salt was greatly valued by the medieval alchemists who regarded it as one of the three major *essences* that made up life together with mercury (quicksilver) and Sulphur.

In magic ritual, salt traditionally represents the Earth element and it is known to have a powerful “earthing” or “grounding” energy. In Ancient Pagan ritual and often today, salt is blessed in the name of a prevalent deity. Some of the widely used traditional Pagan deities are Brigid and Triple Goddess -

Maiden/Mother/Crone. Classical Roman goddess Diana is popular or if one prefers Egyptian deities, Isis the Mother Goddess is appropriate. Sea salt is preferable over table salt but either can be used in ritual and should be kept separate in a wide necked glass jar with a lid, a silver dish or some unglazed pottery. Whatever is used to house the salt should be a container that is in its natural state. The container should be kept in the sunlight and then alternatively the moonlight for twenty-four hours (usually on a window sill or table subject to these *lights*) surrounded by small quartz crystals for generation.

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In astrology, salt is ruled by the planet Saturn and the sign Capricorn. Saturn rules all crystalline forms and their symmetry and everyone knows that salt or sodium chloride (NaCl) is crystalline. Simply speaking salt has face-centered cubic symmetry. Defect free crystals have an optical transmittance of about 90% and they have been used in optical components such as windows and prisms operating in the infrared spectral range.

Sodium Chloride is also an essential element in the human body.

Today's popular salt lamps are made from Bio-energetic crystal salt that was created over millions of years ago, when the ocean waters dried up in various parts of the world. When lit by a small, energy efficient light bulb, crystal salt emits an electrical charge, enriching our environments with health promoting negative ions. Negative ions help purify the air of allergens, dust, smoke, bacteria and more. These lamps are natural air purifiers that can help people with various health conditions including asthma, allergies and other respiratory ailments.

CLEANSING YOUR SPACE

The following simple ritual can be used for one room or an entire house or apartment.

Mix a few pinches of sea salt (preferably) with pure spring water in a clean dish. Purchased spring water is fine but you can also use tap water that has been placed in a clear glass container which has been exposed to both sunlight and moonlight for twenty four hours.

Sprinkle a few drops of the prepared "saltwater" in the four corners of the room. Place a small "outward" facing mirror or outward facing quartz crystal at each window to reflect back any negativity from outside.

If you are cleansing the entire house or apartment, you do not need to do this in every room, rather, just locate the room you consider the "heart of the house." You will need to mix a larger quantity of saltwater in a large metal or pottery bowl and place it at the center of the room and leave it there for twelve hours with the mirrors or quartz crystals facing outward at each window of the chosen room.



DRUIDIC MAGIC

By Druid Niamh Ardgall de Danaan

According to ancient folklore, there were those who believed that a special order of High Druids were entrusted with some of the secrets of the Universe and that they held a magical responsibility to keep the balance between the powers of the Darkness and the Light.

There is very little factual information about the Druids mainly because they engaged an Oral Tradition where nothing was written down but rather passed down by the spoken word. For the Druids, recording via the written word corrupted and dishonored the information while weakening the mind. Any writings that have survived are those set down by the conquering factions of history such as is contained in Roman accounts. It is commonly known and accepted that among the Druidic orders were Master Astrologers who had vast knowledge not only of the Earth but also of the motion of the Universe. According to the eminent scholar Fergus Kelly, a Druid was, "priest, prophet, astrologer, and teacher of the sons of nobles." Julius Caesar acknowledged, "They also have much knowledge of the stars and their motion, of the size of the world and of the earth, of natural philosophy, and of the powers and spheres of action of the immortal gods, which they discuss and hand down to their young students."

Did the Druids practice magick? By all accounts, yes. How might the Druids have practiced Magick? The waxing and waning of the Moon was certainly most important. Throughout cultural history, the Moon has always played an integral role in determining the course of events.

According to Celtic lore, the Moon of October, called the Blood Moon, was particularly potent. It is strongly tied in with the element of Earth and the ideals of finishing things with practicality, paying attention to detail, and taking protective measures to guard what has been accomplished. Strong supernatural motivations are also connected to this Moon and those with the ability for clairvoyant prophecy can be strongly affected.

The Druids and the ancient Celts held a special affinity for 'triads' and the number '3' since they believed only numbers that had a 'middle' (in this case number 2; 1-2-3) had balance. The ancient magical number associated with the Moon is '369' which consists of the number '3' and its derivatives '6' and '9'. On a Divine level (but not numerological) for those of us on Earth, the Moon's influence via the number 369 equates with commitment to the Earth as part of one's Divine purpose.

The ancient Celt word for Magick is Dra/iocht which translates literally to "what Druids do." Druidic magick was the magick of nature. Contrary to popular opinion, there is no evidence that the Druids engaged in human sacrifice as part of the magical ritual. It is believed, however, that they did engage in animal sacrifice as part of the magical practice.

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The Druids did not believe in trying to control the great forces connected to nature but rather to work in harmony with them. There was a spiritual connection to nature and all of the gods and goddesses they believed were connected to nature. They sought assistance of these deities by presenting an offering with hopes that the intention would bring about favorable circumstances.

According to the ancient Celt loremasters, the Druids were capable of many magical powers such as divination and prophesy, weather control, healing, levitation, and shape-shifting (usually into the forms of animals or people). It is believed that a certain class of high Druids could walk in the "Otherworlds" where they gained information from entities on other planes of existence. Divination skills and magical insight were required for many essential social and practical political purposes. Druids advised tribal leaders about policy making, helped with solutions for disputes and legal settlements, and announced the beginning of important agricultural and hunting seasons which were basic to life. It is further speculated that they were able to magically oppose criminal activity. Magically induced dreams could be performed to reveal a culprit's identity or magical spells could be cast that guaranteed the return of goods or livestock. During wartime, a Druid's magical skills were needed to predict the enemy's movements in order to disrupt its political plans.

Warriors went to battle magically empowered and aided by environmental forces. The highly respected Druids could put an end to an unjust war by simply walking onto a battlefield and ordering everyone to go home.

According to Celt history, the Druids held certain magical concepts that applied to their beliefs:

- IMMARAM - This term refers to "astral travel." It was believed that one could journey to the realm of the gods or the "Otherworld."
- AISLING - Dreams or visions induced by altered states of consciousness.
- IMBAS - Known as "fire in the head" and referring to divinely inspired poetry also acquired through altered states of consciousness.
- FI/RINNE - The binding force or "way of nature." This term concerns itself with matters of Truth and Justice.
- ECHTRA - Warrior magick reserved for those who traveled on holy grounds while traversing the wilderness.



Black Arts, Possession and Psychism

By Juan Yves Corriero



A good psychic has the ability to tune in on someone anytime, anywhere, for any reason, just as a psychologist can probably spot and identify psychopathic behavior or someone who is really depressed. However, an **ethical psychic**, or **one who serves the light**, would not do such a thing without your express permission. **An unethical psychic, or one who serves the dark, would not seek permission, instead violating your privacy to serve their own ego needs or whims.**

Psychic harassment such as trying to read the Energy Signature of another individual, their aura, or their emotional MO without permission can carry a heavy price for the perpetrator in the Karma department. There is no accidental “read” ... no oops! It is a deliberate act. Someone’s energy does not come up and smack you in the face – it requires a calculated effort (btw- it is also a definitive tool used by psychic vampires). Any so called psychic person who tells you otherwise ... “it just happens” ... or ... “I cannot be fooled” ... is most likely a fraud or at the very least an egotist. The signature can also be easily misread – a woman who carries heavy masculine energy can be mistaken for a man and vice versa. Then there is the emotional factor. The Perception-Deception. We are all emotional beings and we have an emotional filter through which psychic input runs. Here is where many, many mistakes are made because one’s emotions and memory cells can produce an inaccurate read. A “familiar” energy may not be a familiar energy at all – it merely feels familiar because it has run through an emotional program like a mix and match game ... let’s match up what seems to be correct. People who suffer from psychological rejection based on early conditioning are at the top of the list for the mix and match game. They have a strong need to be right, noticed and even better applauded for their so-called accuracy. In some cases, even though a person may not be able to deliberately hide their signature, they can at times be so detached the signature cannot be read accurately if at all. Maybe that’s a good thing.

There is a lesser known psychic personality that is worse than all the others – that of a demonically controlled psychic. These people more often than not engage in black arts and magic but hide it expertly. Their dabbling has brought them to a sad state. The example is of a guru type who seemed to come out of nowhere and gained employment as a reader in a local metaphysical store. His alleged charm won over the employees and the owner who gave him top billing and allowed him to rule the roost. This was a mistake as he quickly began to ruin the business. His evil psychological tricks upset customers to a high degree one ending up needing a psychiatrist and hospitalization.

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The store began getting many complaints and threats of law suits until the owner decided to fire him. A week after his departure, the owner became deathly ill and was rushed to the hospital. Employees found items that they felt represented a spell strategically placed in hidden places around the store. They felt with certainty it was all linked to the owner's illness. The illness was serious enough that the doctors couldn't understand how she was still alive as her blood pressure was off the wall and her vitals "off." Fortunately the owner recovered almost as soon as the "items" were dispatched properly. On another occasion, an entity which had established residence in the store had to be removed and the entire place cleansed.

An individual should always protect themselves from someone they know or feel is trying to invade them. You can shield your energy from others using psychic self-defense techniques. Literally imagine a wall or shield between you and the psychic. Push out with your thoughts or energy and say, 'Keep your probe to yourself!'" You can also create your own combinations of energy that you project as you manifest through your emotions, your thoughts, your physical feelings, all of your senses, inner and outer. There are many working elements to you, and all of these are expressed through energy so go ahead and recalibrate yourself.

Fae Cuisine

By Alva Lennox

As an herbalist, I also like to incorporate my knowledge into various recipes. The following are some of my favorites from the World of Fae (with some human assistance of course.

Fairy water tea is a very nutritious and delicious thirst quencher. Here is what you'll need:

- Edible dried rose petals (Optional)
- Lemon and/or lime slices
- Rosemary
- Cucumber
- 3 cups quality ice water
- 3 cups brewed green tea

Directions:

1. Brew 3 cups of green tea and add to 3 cups ice water in a large pitcher.
2. Add your favorite healthful ingredients such as lemons, limes, and cucumber slices.
3. Sprinkle in edible flowers and herbs to taste.
4. Mix together, refrigerate.

The best part? Enjoy it all day!

Fairy Butter is an olde recipe dating back to the North American colonists who liked to serve it with gingerbread scones or other baked goods. I found my recipe in the *Farmer's Almanac*. The first published recipe appeared in 1747 in *The Art of Cookery Made Plain and Easy* by Hannah Glasse, It is best to do your blending with a mortar and pestle but a fork would do as well. The yield is ½ cup. You'll need:

- 2 hard-boiled eggs
- 1 teaspoon orange blossom or rose water
- 2 teaspoons superfine sugar
- ½ cup (1 stick butter softened)

Directions:

Mash together egg yolks and flower water. Add sugar and combine until smooth and then butter until smooth. Refrigerate for 1 hour until slightly firm. Push butter mix through a fine strainer using a wooden spoon onto a serving dish.

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Be sure to refrigerate left overs. It will stay fresh and edible for three days.

Now you certainly need something to accompany these two recipes so why not some **Fairy Bread**?

The origin of fairy bread is unknown but is widely recognized in Australia and New Zealand since the 1920s.

Ingredients

- 8 slices white bread
- 1/4 cup softened Fairy Butter
- 1/4 cup multicolored sprinkles

When shopping for the white bread, look for the fluffiest texture you can find with a firm crust.

Directions:

Use **1/4 cup softened salted butter** to lightly butter one side of **8 slices white bread**. Use **1/4 cup multicolored sprinkles** to coat the entire buttered side of each slice of bread. Cut each slice on an angle to form triangles. You can adjust the recipe to the quantity you need as it should be eaten the same day.





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ARCANUS OBSCURUM

T.H. White QUOTE (*Merlin*, pg. 38)

Born in Bombay to English parents, Terence Hanbury White was educated at Cambridge and taught for some time at Stowe before deciding to write full-time. White moved to Ireland in 1939 as a conscientious objector to WWII, and lived out his years there. White is best known for his sequence of Arthurian novels, *The Once and Future King*, first published together in 1958. Quote was found on Goodreads.com.

Alva Lennox (*Salt*, pg. 39 and *Fae Cuisine*, pg.45)

Alva is a retired primary care teacher who enjoys researching and using natural herbal remedies. She is president of a book club that meets once a week and enjoys nature walks and teaching crafts. She has a great fondness for water and lives by lake which she feels fulfills her Cancerian needs. She would tell you it's been a long time coming.

Niamh Ardgal de Dannan (*Druidic Magic*, pg.41)

Druid Ardgal prefers to remain anonymous as she believes "what is written is more important than the one who wrote it."

Juan Yves Corriero (*Black Arts, Possession and Psychism*, pg. 45)

Juan Yves Corriero is an occult writer who bases his work on his actual experiences. He travels extensively and like to socialize and meet people from all walks of life. He certainly has no issues with delving into and exploring the dark corners of life.

SACRED SCIENCES

If you want the answer—ask the question.




Section Managing Editor: Anne Drake Sydney

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It is a curious mystery that the exact same notions of the Seven Sages as the bringers of civilization in the remotest antiquity, and of the preservation and repromulgation of “writings on stones from before the flood,” turn up in the supposedly completely distinct and unrelated culture of Ancient Egypt. Of the greatest interest, at any rate, is the [Temple of Horus]’s idea of itself expressed in the acres of enigmatic inscriptions that cover its walls. These inscriptions, the so-called Edfu Building Texts, take us back to a very remote period called the “Early Primeval Age of the Gods”--and these gods, it transpired, were not originally Egyptian, but lived on a sacred island, the “Homeland of the Primeval Ones,” in the midst of a great ocean. Then, at some unspecified time in the past, a terrible disaster--a true cataclysm of flood and fire -- overtook this island, where “the earliest mansions of the gods” had been founded, destroying it utterly, inundating all its holy places and killing most of its divine inhabitants. Some survived, however, and we are told that this remnant set sail in their ships (for the texts leave us in no doubt that these gods of the early primeval age were navigators) to “wander” the world. Of particular interest is a passage at Edfu in which we read of a circular, water-filled “channel” surrounding the original sacred domain that lay at the heart of the island of the Primeval Ones--a ring of water that was intended to fortify and protect that domain. In this there is, of course, a direct parallel to Atlantis, where the sacred domain on which stood the temple and palace of the god, whom Plato names as “Poseidon,” was likewise surrounded by a ring of water, itself placed in the midst of further such concentric rings separated by rings of land, again with the purpose of fortification and protection.

Intriguingly, Plato also hints at the immediate cause of the earthquakes and floods that destroyed Atlantis. In the *Timaeus*, as a prelude to his account of the lost civilization and its demise, he reports that the Egyptian priests from whom Solon received the story began by speaking of a celestial cataclysm: “There have been and will be mankind, the greatest of them being by fire and means. Your own [i.e. the Greeks’] story of how father’s chariot, but was unable to guide it along things on earth and was himself destroyed by a truth that there is at long intervals a variation consequent widespread destruction by fire of



many different calamities to destroy water, lesser ones by countless other Phaeton, child of the sun, harnessed his his father’s course and so burned up thunderbolt, is a mythical version of the in the course of the heavenly bodies and a things on earth.

The Hermetic Doctrine of Karma

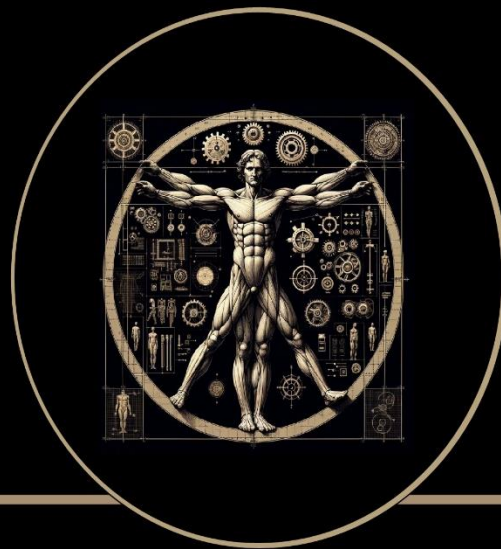
By Gestalt

There are no accidents in the universe. Everything in the universe is governed by laws. There are physical laws, emotional laws, mental laws, and spiritual laws. By understanding these laws we can learn to operate in grace instead of karma. - Vlad, thirdmonk.net

Hermetic Initiates assert that Karma is not the primary law of consequences and destiny. It is not an active principle always at work readjusting Nature's mistakes because nature simply does not make a mistake. Here are some basics of Hermetic thought regarding Karma I found while perusing some old texts:

- Karma is not an active principle; but on the contrary, it is a crystalized force. It is the picture gallery or cosmic play of Nature.
- Karma constitutes the scenery, essence and mental imagery of a person's total past existence.
- The Karmic spheres of an individual's existence exists as astral life currents along which the soul travelled and which became crystalized forms. These are expressive of the actions and motives which prompted them, therefore, our past Karma constitutes the Soul's past history in the Astral light. It can be deciphered by the properly trained lucid and even mediumistic clairvoyants.
- Karma is the offspring of everything, or everything that possesses pictorial records of its past evolutions. It is by means of this Karma that the psychometric sensitive can read the unwritten past. Without Karma, the powers of Psychometry would be totally useless. However, they can only deal with small Karmas. On a grander scale, the Karma of moons, planets, suns and systems exists. Races of men, species of animals, and classes of plants of plants also evolve special Karmas which constitute their astral world.
- The harmonies and discords of cosmic evolution generate their special Karma just as thoughts and emotions do.

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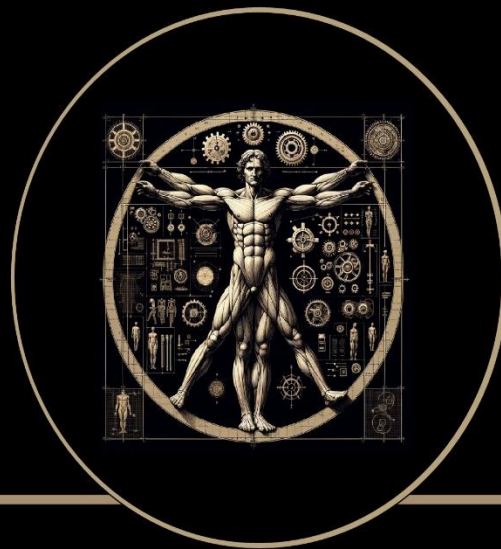


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- Karma is absolutely confined to the realms of the Astral light, and consequently is always subjective. Karma can only exist as long as the Soul which generates it is attached to the same planet. When the Soul leaves the planet, the Karma disintegrates. A Soul cannot carry its Karma around the Universe with it, since Astral light differs in quality and degree upon each orb.
- When the Soul enters the spiritual states of the Soul world (which the Buddhists term *Devachan*), the power of its earthy Karma can never re-attract it to earth. Its influence over the Soul is lost forever. The lower can never control the higher. To assert that the past fossilized Karma can re-attract the Soul from realms of spiritual happiness and re-project it into the mire of earth is to exalt matter to the throne of a Deity. This degrades pure Spirit to the level of a passive brute substance.

If Karma is the subjective outcome of innumerable laws and forces – is it utterly powerless to effect either good or evil?

Source: The Encyclopedia of Ancient and Forbidden Knowledge





The Wisdom of Self-Mastering

By Janette Molinsky

Be perfect even as your father in heaven is perfect. – Matthew 5:48, (KJV)

A Proposed Primer- Know This...

Masters exist -

It is thought that those who transcend the personality and the passions find the consciousness of the Higher Self. Could this be because even though man has been given reason he still does not know how to use it to achieve this?

He turns to the Sacred Scriptures. He believes them to correspond to the Four Initiations of Life and that he must absorb what he learns as he passes through the experiences of:

- The Physical (Earth)
- The Emotional (Water)
- The Mental (Air)
- The Higher Planes (Fire)

The teachings proposing this can be found in Kabbalistic texts and also in Sanskrit. One who has mastered these four ways is considered a Pure One – a Perfected One – a Mahatma - or Master.

For man, reaching Mastery does not mean that the ‘written’ Sacred Scriptures have been read and understood. There are the unspoken scriptures that do not appear on paper for they are the scriptures that can only be formed in the hearts of men and the Mind of God. The man who has passed through the flames of life has seen the emptiness of carnal things for these things are transitory in nature and now understands the higher complexities.

The Law of a Master is, “be perfect as your father in heaven is perfect.” When all the studying, contemplating and experiences are accomplished, man can rise above the necessity for earthly lessons and becoming free from bonds reaches Nirvana.

Within this state of consciousness, man becomes all there is and at one with all that exists.

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He is at one with God and has no earth lessons left to finish. He has attained the ultimate goal set before humanity and is eligible to pass into higher realms and enter a new order of beings OR he may remain on Earth in the service of his fellow man. He goes out in the world as a disciple doing the work of God, his Master, seeking to bring truth to the materialistic world. He has also learned the value of Sacred Silence the key of discernment.

In the most Ancient times, the world was not overburdened with literature and there was certainly no media. The Ancient Alchemists spoke of a mysterious substance that had no name. It was said to be the most inexpensive quantity on Earth yet it could not be bought. It was given for nothing. It was and is called Grace. Grace opens man to an even wider and broader field of consciousness and brings about the perfect unity known as *at-one-ment*. This condition or plane is known in the East as Buddhic and known in the West as Cosmic Consciousness.

Once exposed to this state, all doubts and fears are dispelled, the purpose of life is known as is the reason. There is no death, no destruction – only change and transformation.

These truths were known to all initiates in Ancient times and they come to us to renew a doubting world. They are real and they are true.

Be silent, listen, have faith and stand in grace.

Wait for the Master to call.

You are within the Mastering.

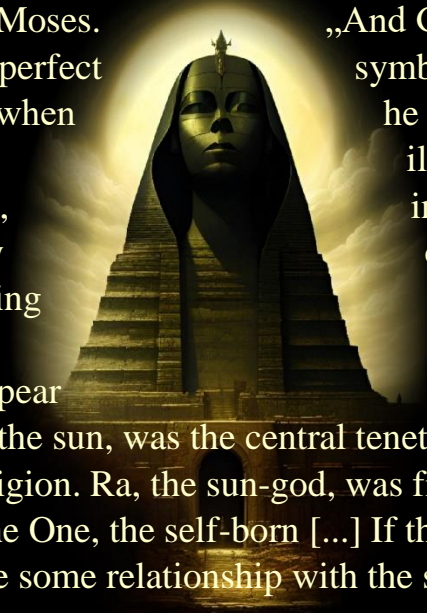
“You are your master. Only you have the master keys to open the inner locks.” - Amit Ray -



The men who had inhabited prehistoric Egypt, who had carved the Sphinx and founded the world's oldest civilization, were men who had made their exodus from Atlantis to settle on this strip of land that bordered the Nile. And they had left before their ill-fated continent sank to the bottom of the Atlantic Ocean, a catastrophe which had drained the Sahara and turned it into a desert. The shells which to-day litter the surface of the Sahara in places, as well as the fossil fish which are found among its sands, prove that it was once covered by the waters of a vast ocean. It was a tremendous and astonishing thought that the Sphinx provided a solid, visible and enduring link between the people of to-day and the people of a lost world, the unknown Atlanteans. This great symbol has lost its meaning for the modern world, for whom it is now but an object of local curiosity. What did it mean to the Atlanteans?

We must look for some hint of an answer in the few remnants of culture still surviving from peoples whose own histories claimed Atlantean origin. We must probe behind the degenerate rituals of races like the Incas and the Mayas, mounting to the purer worship of their distant ancestors, and we shall find that the loftiest object of their worship was Light, represented by the Sun. Hence they build pyramidal Temples of the Sun throughout ancient America. Such temples were either variants or slightly distorted copies of similar temples which had existed in Atlantis. After Plato went to Egypt and settled for a while in the ancient School of Heliopolis, where he lived and studied during thirteen years, the priest-teachers, usually very guarded with foreigners, favored the earnest young Greek enquirer with information drawn from their well-preserved secret records. Among other things they told him that a great flat-topped pyramid had stood in the Centre of the island of Atlantis, and that on this top there had been build the chief temple of the continent – a sun temple.

The Sphinx was the revered emblem in stone of a race which looked upon Light as the nearest thing to God in this dense material world. Light is the subtlest, most intangible of things which man can register by means of one of his five senses. It is the most ethereal kind of matter which he knows. It is the most ethereal element science can handle, and even the various kind of invisible rays are but variants of light which vibrate beyond the power of our retinas to grasp. So in the Book of Genesis the first created element was Light, without which nothing else could be created. „The Spirit of God moved upon the face of the Deep” wrote Egyptian-trained Moses. „And God said, Let there be Light: and there was Light.” Not only that, it is also a perfect symbol of that heavenly Light which dawns within the deep places of man's soul when he yields heart and mind to God; it is a magnificent memorial to that divine illumination which awaits him secretly even amid the blackest despairs. Man, in turning instinctively to the face and presence of the Sun, turns to the face of his Creator. And from the sun, light is born: from the sun it comes streaming into our world. Without the sun we should remain perpetually in horrible darkness; crops would not grow: mankind would starve, die, and disappear from the face of this planet. If this reverence for Light and for its agent, the sun, was the central tenet of Atlantean religion, so also was it the central tenet of early Egyptian religion. Ra, the sun-god, was first, the father and creator of all the other gods, the Maker of all things, the One, the self-born [...] If the Sphinx were connected with this religion of Light, it would surely have some relationship with the sun.



The Universe does this thing ... where it aligns you with people, things and situations that match the vibration you put out.

The more you improve yourself and raise your vibration, the more you will see things beneficial to your well-being.



AUTHOR BIOGRAPHIES



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SACRED SCIENCES

Graham Hancock QUOTE (*Magicians of the Gods*, pg.49)

Graham Hancock is a British writer and journalist. His books include *Lords of Poverty*, *The Sign and the Seal*, *Fingerprints of the Gods*, *Keeper of Genesis* (released in the US as *Message of the Sphinx*), *The Mars Mystery*, *Heaven's Mirror* (with wife Santha Faiia), *Underworld: The Mysterious Origins of Civilization*, *Talisman: Sacred Cities*, *Secret Faith* (with co-author Robert Bauval), *Supernatural: Meeting with the Ancient Teachers of Mankind* and *Magicians of the Gods*. He also wrote and presented the Channel 4 documentaries *Underworld: Flooded Kingdoms of the Ice Age* and *Quest for the Lost Civilization*. His first novel, *Entangled*, was published in 2010.

Gestalt (*The Hermetic Doctrine of Karma*, pg.50)

Gestalt is the pseudonym of Georges Gerapolis, a Greek Mystic and writer of arcane historic doctrine subjects. He is single and lives in the deep American South where he lives a quiet life of solitude. He does not get involved in what he terms low energy topics such as the geo-political or speculative arguments about climate and weather.

Janette Molinsky (*The Wisdom of Self-Mastering*, pg.52)

Janette loves a good mystery - especially the mystery of man. She also enjoys dream interpretation and is often sought out by others who are looking for help with the hidden meaning of their dreams. Janette likes to vacation in the mountains and enjoys camping and canoeing with her family.

Paul Brunton QUOTE (*Sphinx*, pg. 54)

Paul Brunton was a British philosopher, researcher, mystic, and adventurer. He left a journalistic career to live among yogis, mystics, and holy men, and studied a wide variety of Eastern and Western esoteric teachings. With his entire life dedicated to the spiritual quest, Brunton felt charged with the task of communicating his knowledge and experiences in layperson's terms. He was one of the first persons to write accounts of what he learned about spirituality in the East, and his works have had a major influence on the spread of Eastern philosophy and mysticism to the West.

QUOTE (*The Universe Does this Thing*, pg. 55)

The quote is from <https://themindsjournal.com/>. The Minds Journal Is A Mental And Emotional Wellness Platform Which Encourages Individuals To Improve Their Mental And Emotional Health By Offering A Wide Range Of High-Quality Resources.

CREATIVE MUSINGS

I am an artist you know – it is my right to be odd



Section Managing Editor: Mary 'Marique' Travis

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QUOTE: E. A. Bucchianeri @ Goodreads.com

Background Imagery: Nicholaas Boerson from Pixabay.com

Cover Design: Kim Tsiang



Dawn Hair Sculpture Gallery



SITTING NOSFERATU

Dawn Hair Sculpture Gallery



Witch's Cabinet

Dawn Hair Sculpture Gallery



Baba Yagus House

DAVID PIERCE ART GALLERY



Lost In Thought

DAVID PIERCE ART GALLERY



MINJA

DAVID PIERCE ART GALLERY



A STUDY IN GREEN

TRISTA MORRIS ART GALLERY



TRISTA MORRIS ART GALLERY



BRUISE THE FISH

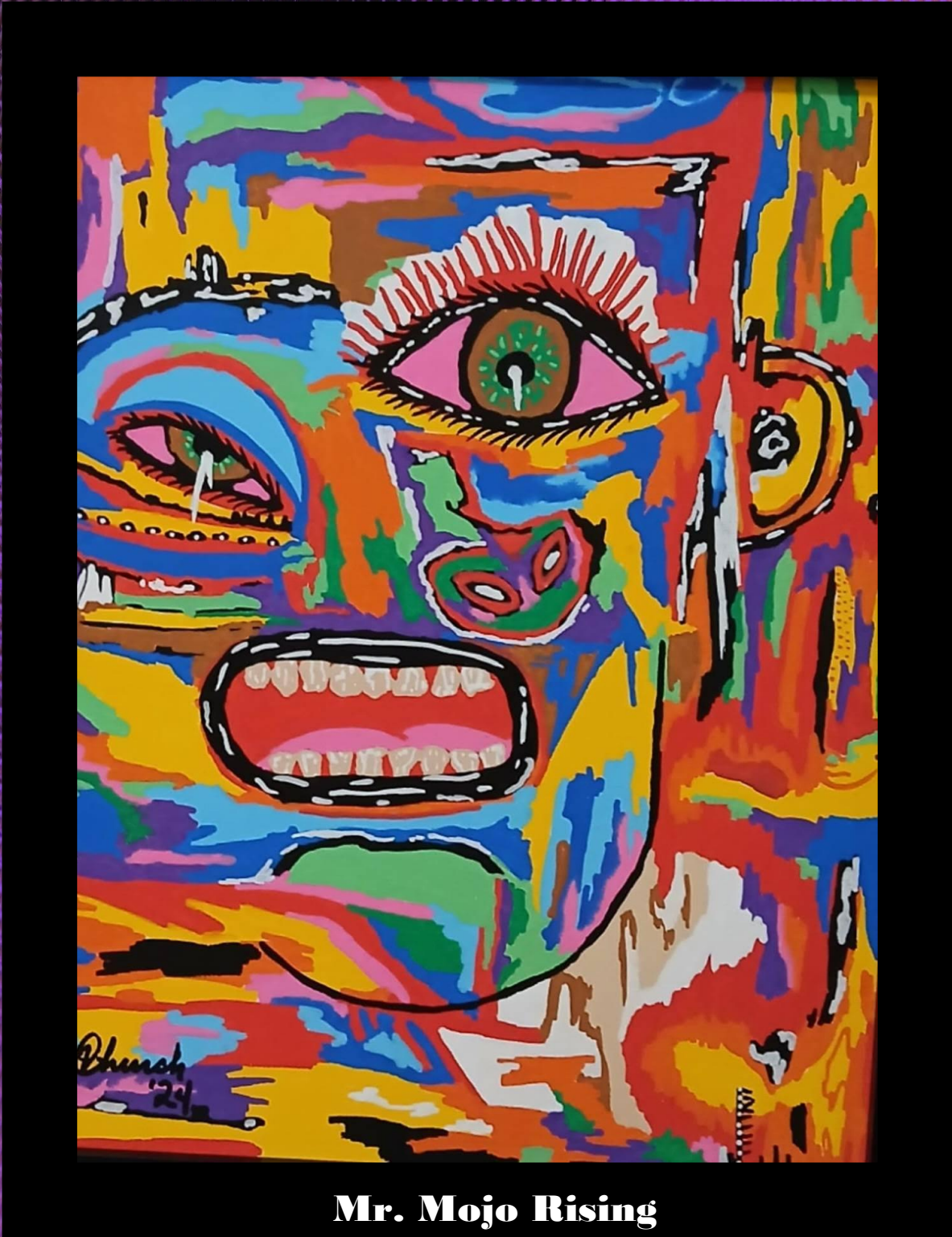


Jeff Church Art Gallery



Fractal Explosion

Jeff Church Art Gallery



Mr. Mojo Rising

Jeff Church Art Gallery



Skinwalker

John Bubier Photography Gallery



A Drink At Sunset

John Bubier Photography Gallery



Lake Cobboseecontee

John Bubier Photography Gallery



The Point



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CREATIVE MUSINGS

Dawn Hair (*Sculpture Gallery, pgs. 58-60*)

These little creatures are all created by me, Dawn Hair, in my Monster Factory at my home on the West Coast of Scotland. When the pandemic halted my usual work as a community artist and art I began to create these little monsters at my kitchen table. What was initially a fun way to fill my days & indulge my creativity soon became a full time obsession as I created my own little world ... safe from all the uncertainties of our current reality. These little creatures... and many more... are all available to view & adopt (if you're brave enough) by following these links.

[Etsy.com/uk/shop/pabloonadesigns](https://www.etsy.com/uk/shop/pabloonadesigns)

[Facebook.com/pabloonadesigns](https://www.facebook.com/pabloonadesigns)

David Pierce (*Art Gallery, pgs. 61-63*)

My name is David Pierce but have gone by the nickname Bo all my life. I was a heavy industrial diesel mechanic as a career until I hurt my neck and couldn't do that job anymore because of nerve damage. I always enjoyed art as a hobby but never did much with it because life got in the way. About 7 years ago I finally got disability and started putting everything I had into studying art. It became my passion. I am not good at the business side but I am getting pretty good at the creative side. I hope you enjoy my work.

My artwork can be found at <https://www.facebook.com/Art-By-Bo-240594223068233/>.

I do commissions and you can contact me at Bobosan43@gmail.com if you wish to have me do a commission.

Trista Morris (*Art Gallery, pgs.64-66*)

Art is incredibly important in this world. The truth is, without art, we would not have buildings to paint, cars to drive, or many of the modern day inventions we currently use to make our lives easier. Art is the foundation of the world around us. Everything began with a sketch, an idea, and a plan. I began creating simple pencil sketches when I was 6 years old to help me cope with the harshness of the world around me. The pencil sketches evolved into different concepts that required more color and depth. I began working with acrylic on canvas when I was 14 and quickly grew to enjoy experimenting with different mediums. I presently still use acrylic the most, but I alternate between acrylic, oil, spray paint, wall paint, watercolor, and gouache.

Continued...



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CREATIVE MUSINGS

Continued...

While I enjoy working on canvas, I consider myself to be a multifaceted multimedia artist. I can use any medium available to me to express my creative vision. I have been known to paint on canvas, wood, metal, stone, cars, tables, and walls. It has always been a dream of mine to make art my life and my living. During 2012 I began working for an art studio in Grapevine, Texas. Teaching became a passion for me then. I worked at this studio until the time of its closure in 2017. I have created work and shown art all over the dfw metroplex. I have completed a total of five murals during my career as an artist. My most recent mural is on the right wall of Josefina's Mex. Cafe over in River Oaks, Texas. This mural is well known in town and managed to make it on to NBC5dfw news. River Oak's Yellow Brick Road was also featured on the cover of the March 2022 issue of the Fort Worth Weekly. Art is a passion that I enjoy sharing with other people as I use painting to mend my own mental health. I enjoy the fact that my own creative healing process can help another human being through a difficult time and in turn heal them as well.

My artwork can be found at: <https://artoftristastudios.com>
<https://linktr.ee/artoftristastudios>

Jeff Church (*Art Gallery, pgs. 67-69*)

Acrylics is my medium as well as Mother Nature's canvas for my photography. My digital art is created from all from either my paintings or my photographs.

My artwork can be found and/or purchased at www.facebook.com/TheArtworkOfJeffChurch or at <https://www.instagram.com/theartofjeffchurch/>.

John Bubier (*Photography Gallery, pgs. 70-72*)

John Bubier graduated from University of Southern Maine in 1967, and received a BA in Government and Business. He had many jobs serving many communities including City Manager of Biddeford, Maine from 2005 to 2015, City of Auburn, Maine Interim City Manager, Principal Contractor Municipal Regional Assistance Place 2016 to present, Vinal Haven, Maine consultant for Town Planner. There were many consulting jobs as well. John also was on many Board of Directors and committees including Northern New England Passenger Rail Authority, Biddeford, Maine City Theater, Chairman of Board Maine Service Center Coalition, Maine Legislative Policy Committee, Maine Municipal Association, Committee member Climate Change, Committee member Portland Area Comprehensive Transportation Systems, and many other affiliations. John's lifelong passion is photography and has a photography business called Chasing the Light Photography. John has an artist's eye for nature's colors and how lights interact in nature, and finds beauty and intricacy in all things in nature. He photographs the artistry of God's creations and loves sepia photos for dramatic presentation.

His photography can be found at: <https://www.instagram.com/johnbubier/>

ODD VANT GUARDE

When the going gets weird, the weird turn pro...



Section Manager: Oscar 'Trashman' Corelli

© Discerning Minds 2024, QUOTE: Hunter S. Thompson @ BrainyQuotes.com

Background Image by from Pixabay.com Cover Design: Kim Tsiang

Idiots cannot be hypnotized.

It is something to be remembered, that animals can be hypnotized, but idiots cannot be hypnotized. Animals may not have our kind of intelligence, but they have their kind of intelligence, they are not idiots.

The idiot is one whose mind has not grown at all, who is zero.

He cannot understand what is being said, where it is going to lead him, and why he should do it. Intelligent conversation is impossible.

The idiot looks like man, but inside he is far behind even the animals.



An elementary school student asked me the NOT politically correct question, "Is an idiot smarter than a moron?" I had to Google it because I was afraid to respond in today's PC society and didn't want to offend him, his parents, or anyone else. Here's what I found.

Technically, a moron is smarter than an idiot. An imbecile is also smarter than an idiot. Although today the words are considered insulting and derogatory, prior to the 1960s they were widely used as actual psychology terms associated with intelligence on an IQ test.

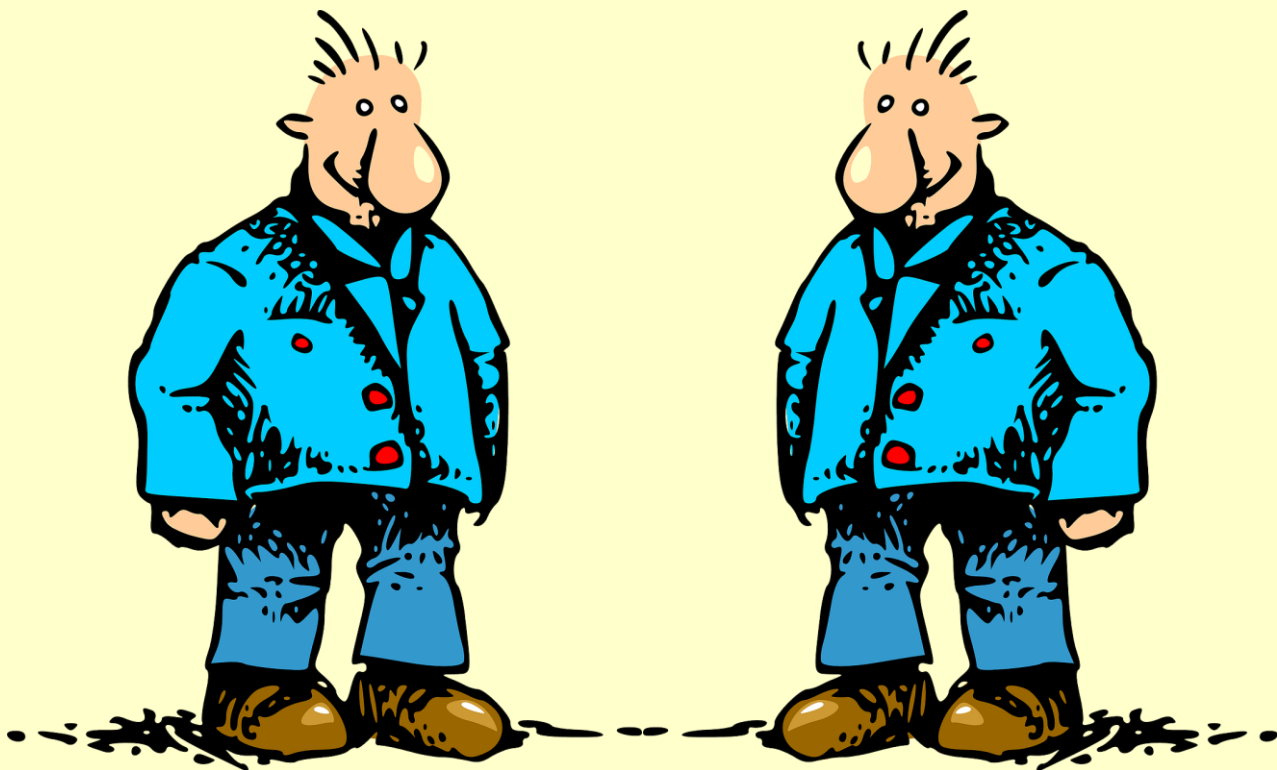
An IQ between:

00-25 = Idiot

26-50 = Imbecile

51-70 = Moron

Explaining all of this to a nine year old with an IQ of 130 made me feel like society has turned all adults into one of the above, myself included. When I told him that I'm afraid to openly say it, the nine year old said, "Adults are idiots!"



-77-

BagHEAD – CRITIQUE on CRITICAL THINKING

By Jonathan H. Corelli

It seems many people have forgotten how to think critically these days either by choice OR even though I hate to say it – ignorance. Some even weaponized the term and use it to drive their personal point of view if someone else disagrees with it as if the ‘disagrees’ were dolts. Ironic isn’t it? Sure sounds to me like those disagreeers were actually using critical thinking. I bet that rings familiar doesn’t it?

Going back to basics – Let’s define it:

Critical thinking is that mode of *thinking* — about any subject, content, or problem — in which the *thinker* improves the quality of his or her *thinking* by skillfully analyzing, assessing, and reconstructing it. *Critical thinking* is self-directed, self-disciplined, self-monitored, and self-corrective *thinking*. -

<https://en.wikipedia.org>

Weak critical thinking touches every part of life although lately it has been most prevalent and obvious in the political scene. Some of you are thinking (or think you are thinking), ‘What is the big deal?’ ‘Isn’t it just opinion?’ ‘Why should I care?’ Can we say “Idiots Anonymous”?

Here’s why:

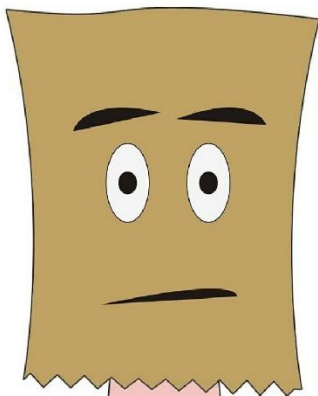
- dangerous and costly errors,
- repeated mistakes,
- bad decisions,
- failed systems,
- inaction when action is needed, the giving of bad advice,
- inaccurate assumptions, the poor design of training programs,
- the poor evaluation of educational curricula,
- the lack of anticipated action...

So basically, you lose if you snooze. Moving along ...

What was I thinking and why did I DECIDE to do that?

Ain’t that a loaded question!

The Basic Barriers – let’s see what the Pros say:



Egocentric Thinking

*Although egocentric behaviors are less prominent in adulthood, overcoming egocentrism can be a lifelong process. **Egocentric thinking is a natural tendency to view everything in relation to oneself.** This type of thinking leads to the inability to sympathize with others or analyze and evaluate various perspectives. Sadly, since most egocentric people are not willing or cannot see this character flaw within themselves, this increases the difficulty in overcoming the barrier.*

Groupthink

Continued...

Drone Mentality

*If you have a Drone Mentality, this means you don't pay attention to what is going on around you. A drone mentality can sneak up on anyone at any time. **Daily routines often lead to a drone mentality and can prevent or cause a loss of critical thinking skills.** This mentality is dangerous in a classroom because learners forget how to respond to new circumstances. It also causes them to shy away from challenges for the sake of ease and convenience or even fear. *This has become an unfortunate situation used in indoctrination manipulation from day 1 lasting K-12. Speaking of education here is an interesting aside:*

“According to a recent study by MindEdge, a Waltham, MA-based learning company founded in 1998 by Harvard and MIT educators, many millennials lack critical thinking skills. When young adults between the ages of 19 and 30 (both current college students and recent grads) were given a test designed to test their ability to detect fake news:

- Only 24 percent were able to correctly answer eight out of nine questions
- 44 percent could not correctly answer six out of nine questions

The inability of discern false information is problematic for more than one reason:

- 55 percent of millennials rely on social media for news
- 51 percent share social media content very or fairly often
- 36 percent have accidentally shared inaccurate information

These findings by MindEdge are consistent with a Stanford University survey that found middle school, high school, and college students were unable to distinguish between a news story, an ad, and an opinion piece, and college students actually fared worse than high school students. “- Terri Williams -

<https://www.goodcall.com>

Social Conditioning

*Unwanted assumptions and stereotyping leads to social conditioning. It does this by blinding us from the realization that we are even making assumptions and stereotyping in the first place. **The ability to think outside of the spectrum is a great asset because most learners do not realize they are being conditioned to think a certain way.***

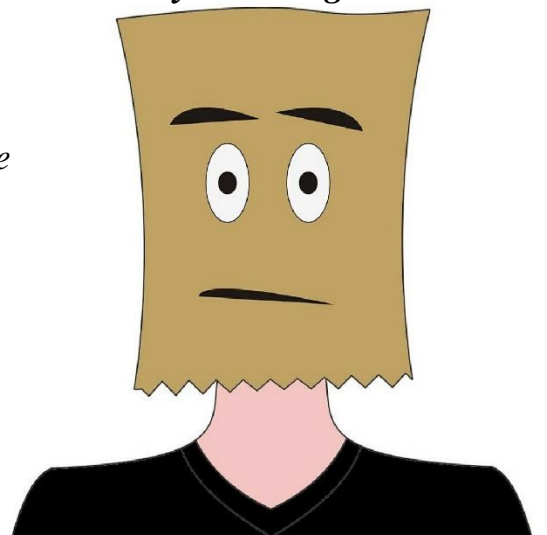
Biased Experiences

*Personal biases can prohibit critical thinking because they prevent the thinker from being fair, inquisitive and open-minded. **This kind of thinking can also prevent an individual from using experience, reasoning and common sense to make informed decisions.***

Arrogance and Intolerance

True critical thinkers do not welcome arrogance and intolerance into their minds.

Continued...



Continued...

It is nearly impossible to find the best solution to a problem with a close-minded mindset. Without critical thinking skills, individuals often react thoughtlessly and recklessly to situations. What they should do, however, is to assess and take responsibility for their choices while accepting the rewards or consequences that follow those choices. Arrogance and intolerance block creativity and this leaves no room for other suggestions for problem-solving.

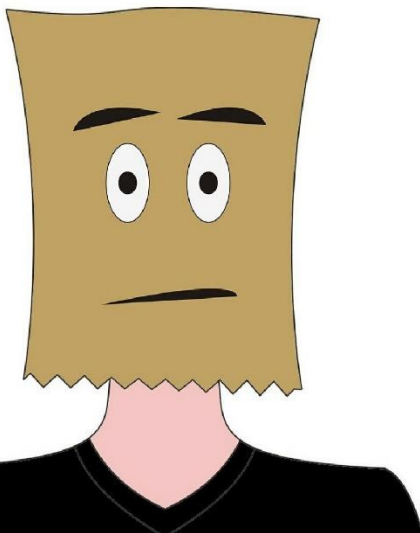
The Bottom line is we can no longer afford to accept poor critical thinking. The costs are too high. Difficult problems and decisions must be addressed reflectively. We cannot accept poor judgments that can lead to irreparable damage and even cost lives ... because that's where we are right now.

Think about it.

Resources:

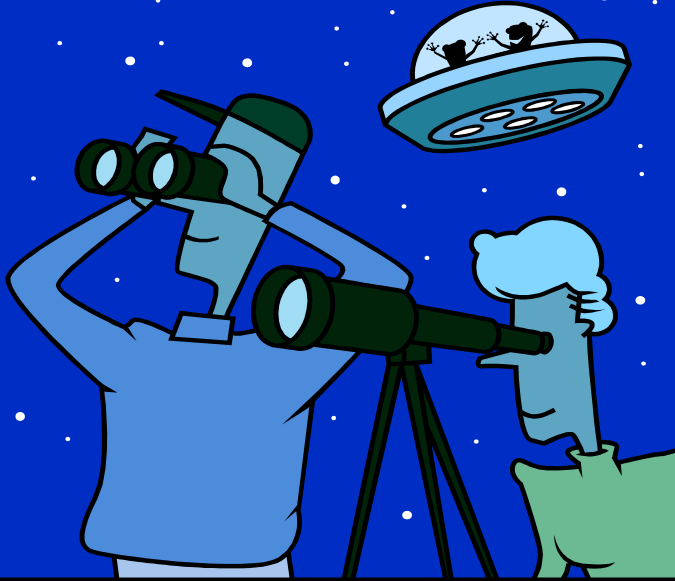
<https://wabisabilearning.com>

<https://www.insightassessment.com>



COSMIC CAPERS

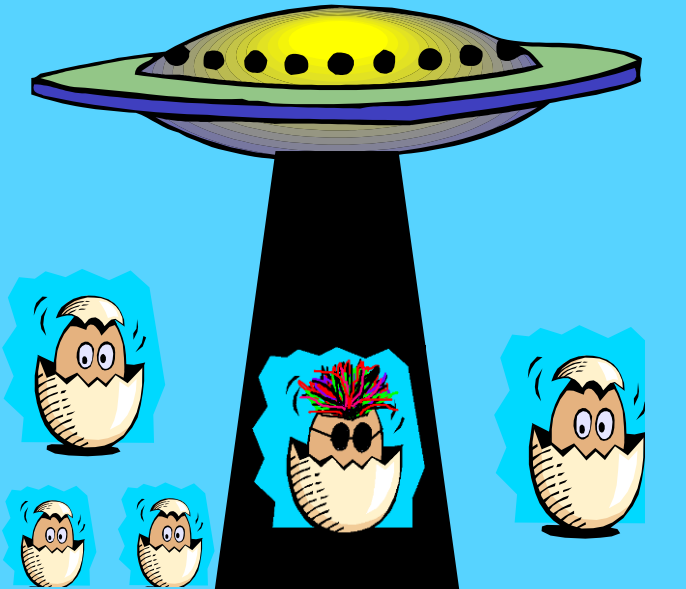
©Courtesy of the Galaxy Express



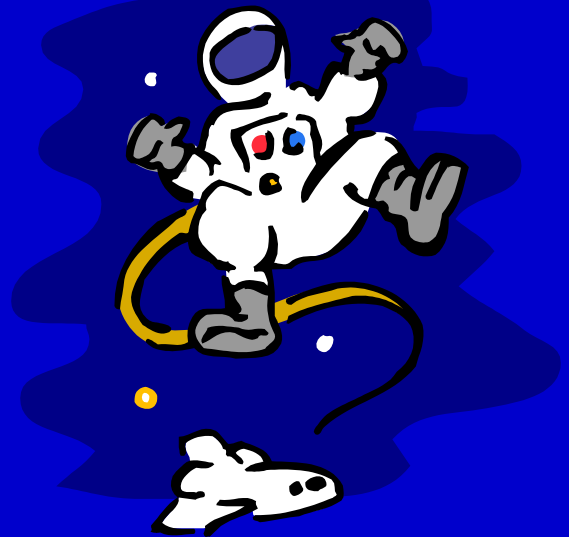
You ordered WHAT from E-Bay?



Humans – Commence with “Pull My Finger!”

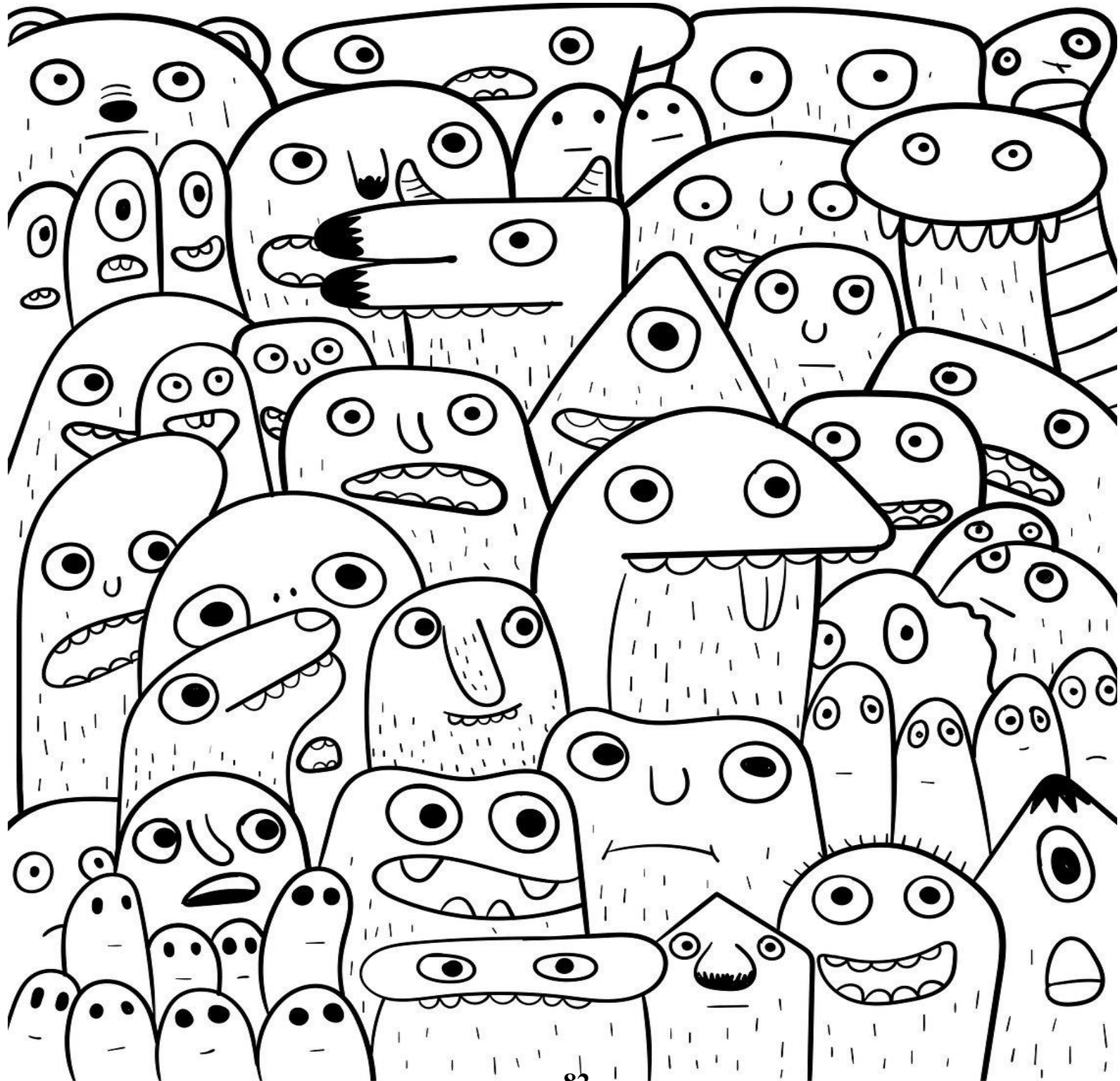


Born to be wild...



Bob’s continual flatulence led to total alienation of the crew.

Social media gives legions of idiots the right to speak when they once only spoke at a bar after a glass of wine, without harming the community ... but now they have the same right to speak as a Nobel Prize winner. It's the invasion of the idiots...





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ODD VANT GUARDE

OSHO QUOTE (*Idiots,, pg.76*)

Rajneesh (born Chandra Mohan Jain, 11 December 1931 – 19 January 1990) and latter rebranded as Osho was leader of the Rajneesh movement. During his lifetime he was viewed as a controversial new religious movement leader and mystic. Rajneesh's teachings have had a notable impact on Western New Age thought, and their popularity has increased markedly since his death. Quote was found on Goodreads.com.

Ray Palla (*Is an Idiot Smarter than a Moron? pg.77*)

Ray Palla put three decades into a commercial broadcast career. He anchored two top-rated Texas radio news desks. His books, KRILL AMERICA, SIMPLE TRIPLE STANDARD, and H have 5-Stars on Amazon. During his journalism career, Ray interviewed astronauts who walked on the moon like Edwin (Buzz) Aldrin and the late Neil A. Armstrong. He also interviewed U.S. Senators, Governors, Mayors, and a host of other influential notables. Quoted story is from Goodreads.com.

Jonathan H. Corelli (*Baghead – Critiquing Critical Thinking, pg. 81*)

Jonathan lives in New York and in Montana during the summer months. He is a freelance writer and part time comedian who loves to travel as much as possible (have pen, will travel!). He likes to say, "Writing is not perfection unless it has a humor injection" so even the most serious of topics are infused with a dose of the literary giggles. According to Jonathan it all makes "perfect sense in every sense of the term sense."

Cosmic Capers from The Galaxy Express (*Cartoons, pg.83*)

Illustrations courtesy of the Galaxy Express and Star Logic Astrodynamics.

Umberto Eco QUOTE (*Social Media, pg. 84*)

Umberto Eco (1932-2016) was an Italian medievalist, philosopher, semiotician, novelist, cultural critic, and political and social commentator. In English, he is best known for his popular 1980 novel *The Name of the Rose*, a historical mystery combining semiotics in fiction with biblical analysis, medieval studies and literary theory. Eco wrote prolifically throughout his life, with his output including children's books, translations from French and English, in addition to a twice-monthly newspaper column "La Bustina di Minerva" (Minerva's Matchbook) in the magazine *L'Espresso*. At the time of his death, he was an Emeritus professor at the University of Bologna, where he taught for much of his life.