



GLAMOUR

A WORLD PROBLEM

BY

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Section Two

The Causes of Glamour – Part 2

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CONTENTS 2

GLAMOUR: A WORLD PROBLEM

3. THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE HIGHER AND THE LOWER GLAMOURS

1. Glamours induced by the *planetary* life, inherent in substance itself
2. Glamours initiated by *humanity* as a whole, intensified throughout an aeonial past
3. Glamour engendered by the *individual* himself, either in the past, through participation in *world* glamour, or started this life

The developmental process reviewed, from a new angle

The partial subjugation of glamour and escape from the complete thralldom of illusion are indications to the watching Hierarchy that a man is ready for the processes of initiation

Until he is no longer completely deceived and until he is somewhat free mentally, it is not possible for him to face the waiting Angel and pass through the door

Note carefully: Gaining mastery of glamour, illusion an maya is a cyclical process and practised by recapitulation, many times

After passing through the door of initiation, the disciple returns each time again to take up anew his tasks in the three worlds of activity

He there re-enacts the former processes—briefly and with understanding—after which he proceeds to master the essentials of the next initiatory lesson

Once he grasps the relation of the lower major duality (that of the personality and the soul) he is then prepared to pass on to the higher reality, that of the integrated Self (personality and soul) and its relation to the PRESENCE

- There is naught but the Hierarchy
- Hierarchy is a term denoting the steady progress from lower states of being and consciousness to a higher
- These are in every case the STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS of some BEING, limited, confined and controlled by SUBSTANCE
- Note that I say "SUBSTANCE " and not "form," for it is in reality SUBSTANCE which controls SPIRIT for a long, a very long, cycle of expression
- It is not MATTER that controls, for the reason that gross MATTER *is always controlled by the forces which are esoterically regarded as etheric in nature* and, therefore, as SUBSTANCE, not form
- Summarising: Matter is controlled by substance; substance limits spirit in manifestation; it limits the state of consciousness of the indwelling being concerned (Ed.)

Intuition

A. ILLUSION AND INTUITION CONTRASTED

ILLUSION – a definition

Illusion is the power of a mental thought-form, of an ideal, and some concept (sensed, grasped and interpreted in mental form) to dominate the mental processes of the individual or race and consequently *to produce the limitation of the individual or group expression*

Three kinds of illusion

1. They could be ‘inherited ideas,’ as in the case of those who find it so difficult to adjust to new visions of world life and social order, as expressed in newer ideologies
2. They could be more modern ideas which are the reaction of modern thought to world conditions; to these many other aspirants are very prone (and most naturally so, especially if living in the vortex of force which we call modern Europe)
3. They could be the newer, dimly sensed ideas which have power to condition the future and lead the modern generation out of darkness into light

ILLUSION – a second definition

A mental illusion is an idea, embodied in an ideal form, which permits no room or scope for any other form of ideal

THE IDEA OF GOD for any specific point in time, is expressed in seven major ways, through seven major groups of ideas —all of them equally right and serving the sevenfold need of humanity

The Hierarchy is wide open to THESE SEVEN MAJOR GROUPS OF IDEAS which are the IDEA OF GOD for any specific point in time, *expressed in seven major ways—all of them equally right and serving the sevenfold need of humanity*

- Each of these SEVEN FORMULATIONS OF GOD'S IDEA has its specific contribution to make
- Each of them is a true IDEA which has its part to play in human or planetary service
- Each of them is so interrelated with the other six expressions of the same divine IDEA, working out as IDEALS on the mental plane, that there can be no narrowing down merely to just *ONE idea*, as happens among men

In the Hierarchy there is SENSITIVITY TO SEVEN GROUPS OF IDEAS AND THEIR RESULTANT IDEALS and (even if it were no more than that), the Hierarchy is also (so far) fluid and pliable

But it is far more than just this, for, to members of the Hierarchy, the IDEA and its effects are not *only* interpreted in terms of *human* thought-forms and *human* idealism, but they are *also* contacted and studied *in their relation to the Mind of God Himself and to the planetary kingdoms.*

ILLUSION – a third definition

An illusion can be defined as the consequence of an IDEA (translated into IDEAL) being regarded as the *entire* presentation, the *complete* story or solution; and as being separated from and visioned *independently of all other* IDEAS — both religious or secular in nature

It is a misuse of the divine faculty of touching the idea and transforming it into the ideal

In this statement lies the story of separation, and of man's inability to relate the various implications of a divine idea with each other

Where there is a real grasp of the WHOLE IDEA (a rare thing indeed) there can be no illusion

Such illusionary picturing of reality and such visionary showing forth of the idea has been both the pride and the curse of the world

The imposition of humanly and mentally interpreted IDEAS in the form of limited ideologies has had a very sorry effect on men

The trap man has set himself is that he *identifies with limited formulated ideals*, and fails to embody the true IDEA as it is in the mind of God (Ed.)

I would not have you think for a moment that the EMBODIED IDEA, which we call an *IDEAL*, is in itself an illusion

It only becomes so when it is regarded as an end in itself instead of being what it essentially is, A MEANS TO AN END

An IDEAL, rightly grasped and used, provides a temporary aid towards the attainment of immediate and imminent reality, which it is the goal of the man or the race, at any particular time, to reach

The IDEA before the race today is the re-establishing (*upon a higher turn of the spiral*) of that spiritual relationship which characterised the race in its child state, in its primitive condition

Then, under the wise guidance and paternalistic attitude of the Hierarchy, and of the initiate-priests of the time, men knew themselves to be one family—a family of brothers—and they achieved this through a feeling and a developed sensuous perception

Today, under the name of BROTHERHOOD

- The same IDEA is seeking mental form and
- The establishment of a renewed spiritual relationship (the IDEA)
- Through training in right human relations (the *IDEAL*)

This is the immediate goal of humanity

If a close study is made of the basic foundation of all ideologies without excepting any, it will be discovered that this IDEA

- Of integral relationships (albeit distorted and hidden in presentation through wrong methods)
- Of spiritual objectives
- Of definite positive brotherly activity

Lies behind every outer form

I have used the current situation as an illustration of an IDEA taking form as an *IDEAL* (and, alas, brother of mine, oft becoming an *IDOL* - the fanatical, misunderstood, and over-emphasised goal of the masses, under the guidance of some pronounced *IDEALIST*)

An *IDEAL* is a temporary expression of a basic IDEA

Current ideologies will give place (eventually), to

- A recognised spiritual relationship,
- A subjective fellowship, as
- A defined and expressed brotherhood

These will produce, when sufficiently developed and understood, a form of control and guidance and a species of government it is not possible for even advanced thinkers at this time to grasp

When ideals and mental concepts and formulated thought-forms *DOMINATE* the mind of any individual, a race or humanity in general, to the exclusion of all perspective or vision, and to the shutting out of the real, then they constitute an illusion for as long as they control the mind and method of life

Illusion imprisons a man on the mental plane

Illusion surrounds him entirely with man-made thought-forms

Illusion bars his escape into higher realms of awareness or into that loving service which must be given conscious, manifested effort in the lower worlds

The intuition, the opposite of illusion

Intuition is the source, or bestower, of revelation

Through the intuition...

Through the intuition, progressive understanding of the ways of God in the world and on behalf of humanity are revealed

The transcendence and immanence of God is sequentially grasped

Man can enter into that pure knowledge, that inspired reason, which will enable him to comprehend, not only the processes of nature in its fivefold divine expression, but also the underlying *causes* of these processes, proving them *effects* and not initiatory events

Man arrives at the experience of the kingdom of God, and

He discovers the nature, the type of lives and phenomena, and the characteristics of the Sons of God as They come into manifestation

Some of the plans and purposes working out through the manifested created worlds are brought to his attention

Man is shown in what way he and the rest of humanity can cooperate and hasten the divine purpose

The laws of the spiritual life, which are the laws governing God Himself, conditioning Shamballa, and guiding the Hierarchy, are brought to his notice progressively and as he proves capable of appreciating them and working them

Four types of people are subject to revelation through the awakening of the intuition:

Those on the lines of world saviours, prophets, true priests, practical mystics or occultists

1. Those on the line of the WORLD SAVIOURS

These touch and sense the divine plan; they are pledged to service, and to work for the salvation of humanity

2. Those who are on the line of the PROPHETS

These touch the Plan at high intuitive moments and know what the immediate future holds

They have a clear picture in their minds of what is possible to accomplish, and the power to point it out to the people of their time

3. Those who are the TRUE PRIESTS

The true priest is the friend and brother of all and, because he loves deeply, wisdom is his; and (if he is of a mental type and training), his INTUITION is awakened and REVELATION is his reward

Ponder on this.

4. Those who are the practical mystics or occultists

This, it is their function to interpret and to formulate into temporary systems of knowledge

These are the four groups who are ‘exchanging illusion for the intuition’

WORLD SAVIOURS

PROPHETS

TRUE PRIESTS

PRACTICAL MYSTICS OR OCCULTISTS

B. GLAMOUR AND ILLUMINATION CONTRASTED

On the condition of astral ‘Fog’

An apt symbol of the nature of glamour is to picture the astral plane on three of its levels (the second, third and fourth, counting from the top downwards) as ‘a land shrouded in a thick fog of varying densities’

The ‘ordinary light of the ordinary man,’ which is similar to the headlights of a car and their self-sufficient blaze, serves only to intensify the problem and fails to penetrate into the mists and the fog.

The only light that can dissipate the fogs of glamour and rid the life of its ill effects is that ‘of the soul’

We are here dealing with

ILLUMINATION as thrown down by the soul into the world of the astral plane

This involves the conscious use of ‘light’ and its employment,

1. First of all, as a ‘searchlight,’ scanning the astral horizon and localising the glamour causing the trouble, and
2. Secondly, as a ‘focussed distribution of light,’ turned with intention upon that area of the astral plane wherein it is proposed effort be made to dissipate the fog there concentrated

Certain basic premises in the dispelling of glamour

1. The quality and the major characteristic of the soul is light
2. The quality of the astral plane—its major characteristic—is glamour
3. A RELATION must be established between the soul and the astral plane, via the astral body of the disciple

He must learn to regard his astral body in two ways:

1. As his response apparatus to the world of sensation and
2. As the only instrument whereby his soul can contact that level of expression—temporary and non-lasting as it may be

The disciple must, therefore, establish contact with the soul

- He must do this consciously
- He must do this with the right emphasis and so carry soul light to his own astral body
- He must learn to focus it there in the solar plexus centre, and from that point of achievement
- He must then proceed to work upon the astral plane at the arduous task of dispelling glamour

4. When this line of contact has been made and the soul, the astral body and the astral plane have thus been intimately related, the disciple must carry the focussed light FROM THE SOLAR PLEXUS (where it has been temporarily localised) TO THE HEART CENTRE

"The disciple stands and, with his back to the glamorous fog, looks towards the East from whence the light must stream.

Within his HEART he gathers all the light available and from that point of power between the shoulder blades the light streams forth"

5. The disciple must relinquish all sense of tension or of strain; he must learn to work with pure faith and love

The less he 'feels' (*and reacts, Ed.*) and the less he is preoccupied with his own feelings or sense of achievement or non-achievement, the more probable it will be that the work will proceed with effectiveness and the glamour be slowly dispelled

In this work there is no haste

That which is very ancient cannot be immediately dispelled, no matter how good the intention or how accurate may be the grasp of the needed technique

basic steps for dispelling glamour

Caution: Possible dangers in this work

A Group Meditation for working with glamour

1. Link up with all your group brothers, and consciously carry out the hints given symbolically in the ancient writing
2. Link up consciously with your soul and realise this linking as a fact
3. Then, imaginatively, stand with your back to the world of glamour and with the eye of your mind focussed on the soul, whose nature is LOVE
4. Let a few minutes' INTERLUDE then take place wherein you stabilise yourself for the work, and definitely and consciously focus the light available, from all sources, within the HEART centre
5. Then see a shaft of pure white light, broad and brilliant, pouring out of the heart centre between the shoulder blades, on to the localised glamour with which you, as a group, are dealing
6. When this is clearly *defined* in your mind and *inspired* by your desire and force, and when you have the entire symbolic picture *clearly visualised*, then see your particular shaft of light *blended with the shafts of light your group brothers are projecting*
7. Do this work for five carefully sustained minutes and then proceed as indicated in Stage IV of your meditation outline

ILLUMINATION defined as the antithesis of glamour

ILLUMINATION and 'the light of knowledge' are synonymous

The problem is to induce an individual, race or nation that is acting under the influence of glamour to call in the mental power of assessing a situation and subject it to calm, cold scrutiny

ILLUMINATION and 'perception of truth' are also synonymous

Humility is one of the most potent factors in releasing the illuminating power of the mind, as it reflects and transmits 'the light of the soul'

Difficulty arises because few people care to face the actual truth, for it involves abandonment of their beloved glamour, and ability to recognise error, and to admit mistakes, and this the false pride of the mind will not permit

Determined facing of factual life and stern recognition of truth—coldly, calmly and dispassionately—will greatly facilitate calling in a sufficient flood of illumination to dispel glamour

Example: The glamour of separateness

Example: A sub-set of the glamour of separateness: Inter-group prejudice

The glamour of separateness is so very ancient and deeply rooted in the consciousness of the race that it is far bigger than the individual can possibly vision

The individual point of view is consequently so limited that constructive usefulness is noticeably impaired

On meditating to dispel glamour underlying inter-group prejudice and hatred

As you pour out the stream of pure white light (as Stage III instructs you), see to it that it pours through you with purity and clarity as one stream

ALL people are souls as you are; and identical in their origin, their goal and their life experience with yours

C. MAYA AND INSPIRATION CONTRASTED

MAYA is predominantly (for the individual) the aggregate of those FORCES which control his septenary force centres (to the exclusion of the controlling energy of the soul)

A man succumbs to *maya* when he is controlled by any other forces than those energies which come direct from the soul

When a man is under the control of physical, astral and mental forces, he is convinced at the time that they are, for him, right forces

Herein lies the problem of maya

Such forces, however, when they control a man, determine him in a separative attitude and produce an effect that feeds and stimulates the personality and does not bring in the energy of the soul, the true Individuality

This analysis should prove illuminating to you

If men and women would bring their lives under a closer scrutiny by the true inner or spiritual man and could thus determine what combination of energies conditions their life activity, they would not continue to function—as they do now—so blindly, inadequately and ineffectually

It is for this reason that *the study and understanding of MOTIVES* is of such value and importance, for such a study determines intellectually (if properly investigated) what factor or factors inspires the daily life.

This is a statement worth careful consideration

I would ask you: What is your major actuating motive?

For, whatever it may be, it conditions and determines your predominant life tendency

Maya in its emotional form

Material, physical (and temporary) forms of *DESIRE* are usually the main inspirational and motivating factors underlying the actions of most people (particularly the unintelligent masses)

- Animal *DESIRE* for the satisfaction of the animal appetites
- Material *DESIRE* for possession and for luxuries
- The *LONGING* for "things," comforts, and security (whether economic, social and religious)

These *DESIRES* control the majority

***ASPIRATION OR AMBITION* can be the main inspirational and motivating factors underlying the actions of others**

- Aspiration towards some *material heaven* (and most religions portray 'heaven' in this manner)
- Ambitions for *power*
- Desire for the *satisfaction of emotional or aesthetic appetites*
- Desire for the *possession of the more subtle realities*, and
- The longing for *emotional comfort*,
- The longing for *mental stability* and
- The longing for *assurance that the higher desires will meet with gratification*

All this is *MAYA IN ITS EMOTIONAL FORM*, and it is not quite the same thing as *GLAMOUR*

- In the case of *GLAMOUR*, the forces of a man's nature are seated in the SOLAR PLEXUS
- In the case of *MAYA*, they are seated in the SACRAL CENTRE
- *GLAMOUR* is subtle and emotional

- MAYA is tangible and etheric

Such are the forces of *maya* that actuate, motivate and energise the life of the ordinary man

Under their influence he is helpless, for they INSPIRE

- All his thinking
- All his aspirations and desires, and
- All his activity on the physical plane

His problem is twofold:

- 1. To bring all his centres under the inspiration of the soul**
- 2. To transfer or transmute the forces of the lower centres, which control the personality, into the energies of the centres above the diaphragm, which respond *automatically* to the inspiration of the soul**

It is in this thought that the potency and symbolic value of breathing exercises lie – (especially if the motive is to develop soul control)

A Mantram for those whose dharma it is to dissipate world glamour

Will you remember that the effort to free yourselves from irritation or from what is called in Agni Yoga "imperil" (a peculiar yet satisfying word, my brothers) is particularly essential for this group?

A Caution: On the disease of Irritation

- 1. IRRITATION is very prevalent in these days of nervous tension**
- 2. IRRITATION most definitely ‘imperils’ progress, retarding the steps of the disciple upon the Way**
- 3. IRRITATION can produce dangerous group tension if present in any of you, and this irritation-induced group tension can interfere with the free play of the power and light you are supposed to use (even when the other group members remain unconscious of the emanating source)**
- 4. IRRITATION definitely generates a ‘poison’ that locates itself in the region of the stomach and the solar plexus**
- 5. IRRITATION is a ‘disease’ of the solar plexus centre (if I might use that phrase)**
- 6. IRRITATION is definitely contagious - to an almost alarming extent**

So, my brothers, watch with care and remember that

- **Just in so far as you can live in the head and in the heart, you will end ‘the disease of imperil’**
- **Just in so far as you can live in the head and in the heart, you will aid in the transference of the forces of the solar plexus into the heart centre**

D. THE DWELLER AND ITS OPPOSITE, THE ANGEL OF THE PRESENCE, CONTRASTED

The entire subject of the Dweller and its relation to the Angel (a *symbolic* way of dealing with a great relationship and possibility, a great fact in manifestation) is only now possible of consideration.

1. Only when man is an integrated personality does the problem of the Dweller truly arise
2. Only when the mind is alert and the intelligence organised (as is becoming the case today on a fairly large scale) is it possible for man to sense—intelligently and not just mystically—the Angel, and so intuit the PRESENCE
3. Only then does the entire question of the hindrances the Dweller embodies, and the limitations which it provides to spiritual contact and realisation, assume potent proportions
4. Only then can they be usefully considered and steps taken to induce right action
5. Only when there is adequate fusion within *humanity as a whole* does the great *human Dweller on the Threshold* appear as an integrated entity, or the Dweller(s) in a *national or racial* sense makes its (*their*) appearance, as they spread and vitalise *national, racial and planetary* glamour, fostering and feeding *individual* glammers (and making the entire problem unmistakably apparent)
6. Only then can the relation between *the soul of humanity* and *the generated forces of its ancient and potent personality* assume proportions that call for drastic activity and intelligent cooperation

The sections on which we shall now be engaged are of prime importance to all who are in training for initiation

The Dweller on the Threshold

1. The Dweller on the Threshold is essentially the ‘personality’
2. The Dweller takes form when a re-orientation of man's life has taken place consciously and under soul impression; the whole personality is then theoretically directed towards liberation into service
3. For a great length of time the forces of the personality do not constitute a Dweller
4. There are three main stages wherein the Dweller on the Threshold is recognised, subjected to a discriminating discipline, and finally controlled and mastered:
5. When the final stage is reached (and many are now reaching it today) the disciple strives with more or less success to *STEADY* the Dweller (by learning to "hold the mind steady in the light" and thus controlling the lower nature)
6. In the earlier stages of effort and of attempted control, the Dweller is ‘positive’ and the Soul is ‘negative’ in their effects in the three worlds of human endeavour
7. The astrological influences can potently affect these situations and—speaking generally and within certain esoteric limits—it might be noted that:
8. The SOUL RAY controls and conditions the activity of the Angel and its type of influence upon the Dweller
9. The PERSONALITY RAY controls the Dweller in all the earlier states and up to the time when the SOUL RAY begins to produce a steadily increasing effect
10. Therefore, the five types of energy I indicated to you as being of importance in your own lives (when I gave you indications as to the nature of your five controlling rays), govern also the relation between the Dweller and the Angel, both in the individual and in humanity as a whole
11. The rays which ‘govern’ humanity, and which condition humanity and the present world problem are as follows:
12. In the *AQUARIAN* Age, which is rapidly coming upon us, the Dweller will present slightly different personality forces:
13. Each great cycle in the zodiac is in the nature of an ‘incarnation’ of the human family, and each great ‘race’ is a somewhat similar happening; the latter (each racial phase) is, however, of more importance where *the human understanding and consciousness* is concerned
14. Each ‘race’ produced its own type of Dweller on the Threshold, who was faced when maturity was achieved and a certain initiation became possible for its advanced humanity
15. Whenever a racial incarnation and a zodiacal cycle synchronise (which is not always the case) there comes about a significant and important focussing of the attention of the Dweller on the Angel and vice versa
16. The development of sensitivity in both the individual and in the race indicates the imminence of the recognition of the Angel from both angles of vision, and the immediacy of the opportunity
17. The lines of demarcation between the recognised areas of influence of the Dweller and the Angel are clearer than ever before in the history of the race

Study the above ideas: -

- In the light of the present world crisis, and
- In the light of your own soul-personality problem

Advanced humanity stands, as ‘the Dweller,’ on the very threshold of divinity

The consciousness of humanity from the higher and spiritual standpoint functions today through the steadily growing band of world servers, world aspirants and world disciples, and their name is Legion

Humanity today is the ‘Dweller’ whilst the Hierarchy of Souls is the ‘Angel’

Behind the Hierarchy stands the PRESENCE of Divinity Itself, intuited by the Hierarchy and dimly sensed by humanity - but providing in this manner that threefold synthesis which is divine manifestation in form

It is this powerful HUMAN EMANATION that constitutes the major glamour in the life of humanity and of the individual disciple

And so they stand — Humanity and the Hierarchy

And so you stand, my brother, **personality** and **soul**, with freedom to go forward into the light if you so determine or to remain static, progressing not, learning nothing and getting nowhere
You are equally free to return to identification with the Dweller, negating thus the influence of the Angel, refusing imminent opportunity and postponing—until a much later cycle—your determining choice

This is true of you and of Humanity as a whole

Will humanity's third ray materialistic personality dominate the present situation?

Or...

Will its soul of love prove the most powerful factor, taking hold of the personality and its little issues, leading it to discriminate rightly and to recognise the true values, and thus bring in the age of soul or hierarchical control?

Time alone will show.

I am anxious for these few essential statements to be *mastered* by all of you, prior to our taking up Section III.

- I am anxious too for the general group instructions, which you have lately received, to take *much* of your time, interest and attention
- Inner group adjustments and more firmly established group relations are urgently needed and upon these I ask you to work
- I remind you also that—as in all else in manifestation—there is a ‘group personality’ and a ‘group soul’
- You must learn clearly to distinguish between the two, and to throw the entire weight of your influence, desire and pressure on the side of ‘the Group Angel’
- In this way there might occur that stupendous recognition for which all initiation prepares the applicant—the revelation of the PRESENCE

3. THE CONTRASTS BETWEEN THE HIGHER AND THE LOWER GLAMOURS

In the preceding section we considered (but briefly) some causes of the dense glamour which surrounds humanity.

That this glamour is very ancient, powerfully organised, and the dominant characteristic of the astral plane emerged clearly, as did the three major predisposing subsidiary causes:

1. Glamours induced by the *planetary* life, inherent in substance itself
2. Glamours initiated by *humanity* as a whole, intensified throughout an aeonial past
3. Glamour engendered by the *individual* himself, either in the past, through participation in *world* glamour, or started this life

To all of these, every human being is prone

The developmental process reviewed, from a new angle

1. For many lives he proves himself the helpless victim of what he later discovers to be erroneous, false and deceiving.
2. He learns then that he need not fall supinely under the domination of the past—astral, emotional and glamorous—but that he is adequately equipped to handle it, did he but know it
3. He then discovers there are techniques whereby he can emerge a conqueror of illusion, dissipator of glamour, and master of maya. This is the initial revelation.
4. When he has realised the implication of this and set out to dominate the undesirable condition he arrives later at a recognition of an *essential duality*. [Page 126]
5. This is, for the time being, in *no* case an illusion.
6. He discovers the relationship between himself as a personality, the Dweller on the Threshold, and the Angel of the PRESENCE—guarding the door of initiation.
7. This marks a critical moment or milestone in the life of the disciple.
8. It indicates he can begin to tread the Path of Initiation, if he so desires and possesses the required fortitude.

The partial subjugation of glamour and escape from the complete thralldom of illusion are indications to the watching Hierarchy that a man is ready for the processes of initiation

Until he is no longer completely deceived and until he is somewhat free mentally, it is not possible for him to face the waiting Angel and pass through the door

Note carefully: Gaining mastery of glamour, illusion an maya is a cyclical process and practised by recapitulation, many times

After passing through the door of initiation, the disciple returns each time again to take up anew his tasks in the three worlds of activity

He there re-enacts the former processes—briefly and with understanding—after which he proceeds to master the essentials of the next initiatory lesson

I am here putting a great deal of information in a very condensed form, but that is all that is possible at this time

9. For a long time, the sense of dualism pervades the disciple's being and makes his life *appear* to be a ceaseless conflict between 'the pairs of opposites'
10. The 'battle of the contraries' is taking place *consciously* in the disciple's life.
11. He *alternates* between the experiences of the past and a recollection of the experience of initiation through which he has passed
12. First of all, with the emphasis in the earlier experiences; later, in the final great experience which is so deeply colouring his inner life.
13. He has prolonged moments wherein he is the 'baffled disciple,' struggling with glamour, and brief moments wherein he is the 'triumphant initiate'
14. He discovers *in himself* the sources of glamour and illusion, and the lure of maya, until the moment arrives when again he stands before the portal and faces the major dualities in his own particular little cosmos—the Dweller and the Angel. [Page 127]
15. At first he *fears* the Angel and *dreads* the light streaming from that Angel's countenance, because it throws into vivid reality the nature of the Dweller who is himself
16. He senses, as never before, the formidable task ahead of him and the true significance of the undertaking to which he has pledged himself.
17. Little by little, two things emerge with startling clarity in his mind:
 - A. The significance of his own nature, with its essential dualism
 - B. The recognition of the relationship between the pairs of opposites with which he, as a disciple, has to work

Once he grasps the relation of the lower major duality (that of the personality and the soul) he is then prepared to pass on to the higher reality, that of the integrated Self (personality and soul) and its relation to the PRESENCE

In this statement, you have expressed concisely the result of the first three initiations and the two final

Ponder on this.

It will be of real value, I believe, if I relate for your benefit the various contrasting characteristics of the intelligent man and the disciple, using the word "disciple" to cover all stages of development from that of accepted disciple to that of the Master.

- **There is naught but the Hierarchy**
- **Hierarchy is a term denoting the steady progress from lower states of being and consciousness to a higher**
- **These are in every case the STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS of some BEING, limited, confined and controlled by SUBSTANCE**
- **Note that I say "SUBSTANCE " and not "form," for it is in reality SUBSTANCE which controls SPIRIT for a long, a very long, cycle of expression**
- **It is not MATTER that controls, for the reason that gross MATTER *is always controlled by the forces which are esoterically regarded as etheric in nature* and, therefore, as SUBSTANCE, not form**
- **SUMMARISING: MATTER is controlled by SUBSTANCE; SUBSTANCE limits SPIRIT IN MANIFESTATION; it limits the STATE OF CONSCIOUSNESS of the indwelling BEING concerned (Ed.)**

REMEMBER THIS AT ALL TIMES FOR IT HOLDS THE CLUE TO THE TRUE UNDERSTANDING OF THE LOWER NATURE

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We will study, therefore, the essential contrasts the disciple must *intuitively* grasp and with which he must familiarise himself.

We will divide what we have to say into four parts, dealing briefly, but I trust helpfully, with each:

The contrast between Illusion and its opposite	Intuition
The contrast between Glamour and its opposite	Illumination
The contrast between Maya and its opposite	Inspiration
The contrast between the Dweller on the Threshold and its opposite	The Angel of the PRESENCE

This, you realise, is a large subject and deals with the *MAJOR* problem of the disciple.

I refer you again to what I have already said anent these four aspects of glamour

I ask you to refer with care to the various charts and tabulations given to you from time to time

A. ILLUSION AND INTUITION CONTRASTED

I have chosen this as the first contrast with which to deal as it should (even though it probably may not) constitute the major glamour of the members of this group

Unfortunately the emotional glamour dominates still and, for the majority of you, the second contrast, that between glamour and illumination, may prove the most useful and the most constructive

ILLUSION – a definition

Illusion is the power of a mental thought-form, of an ideal, and some concept (sensed, grasped and interpreted in mental form) to dominate the mental processes of the individual or race and consequently to produce the limitation of the individual or group expression

[This probably has correspondence to 'belief systems' in Psychosynthesis, though the concept may go even deeper than that. Ed.]

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Three kinds of illusion

Such ideas and concepts can be of three kinds, as I realise you should know:

- 1. They could be 'inherited ideas,' as in the case of those who find it so difficult to adjust to new visions of world life and social order, as expressed in newer ideologies**

They are powerfully conditioned by their caste, tradition and background

- 2. They could be more modern ideas which are the reaction of modern thought to world conditions; to these many other aspirants are very prone (and most naturally so, especially if living in the vortex of force which we call modern Europe)**

Such modern ideas are construed today into major currents and dominating ideologies, and to these, every intelligent person must *inevitably* react (though they forget that their reaction is based on tradition, or upon national or international predisposition)

- 3. They could be the newer, dimly sensed ideas which have power to condition the future and lead the modern generation out of darkness into light**

None of you as yet *really* sense these new ideas, though in moments of high meditation and spiritual achievement, you may vaguely and briefly react to them.

That reaction may be real just in so far that it conditions, with definiteness, your service to your fellowmen.

You can react correctly and *can do so increasingly if you preserve your soul's integrity and are not overcome by the battle and the fever of your surroundings within your chosen field of service.*

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ILLUSION – a second definition

A mental illusion is an idea, embodied in an ideal form, which permits no room or scope for any other form of ideal

It precludes an ability, therefore, to contact IDEAS.

The man is tied to the world of IDEALS and of IDEALISM.

He cannot move away from it.

This mental illusion ties, limits and imprisons the man.

A GOOD IDEA *may consequently become an ILLUSION* with great facility, and prove a disastrous conditioning factor in the life of the man who registers it

You might ask: Might not the Hierarchy itself be conditioned by an IDEA and, therefore victim of ILLUSION?

Apart from the fact that the Directors of the Hierarchy and Custodians of the Plan are never permitted to become such *until they are free from the incentive of illusion*, I remind you that:

All IDEAS stream into the planetary consciousness along the channel of the seven rays (*from the Buddhic plane, Ed.*)

THE IDEA OF GOD for any specific point in time, is expressed in seven major ways, through seven major groups of ideas –all of them equally right and serving the sevenfold need of humanity

The Hierarchy is wide open to THESE SEVEN MAJOR GROUPS OF IDEAS which are the IDEA OF GOD for any specific point in time, expressed in seven major ways—all of them equally right and serving the sevenfold need of humanity

- Each of these SEVEN FORMULATIONS OF GOD'S IDEA has its specific contribution to make
- Each of them is a true IDEA which has its part to play in human or planetary service
- Each of them is so interrelated with the other six expressions of the same divine IDEA, working out as IDEALS on the mental plane, that there can be no narrowing down merely to just *ONE idea*, as happens among men

In the Hierarchy there is SENSITIVITY TO SEVEN GROUPS OF IDEAS AND THEIR RESULTANT IDEALS and (even if it were no more than that), the Hierarchy is also (so far) fluid and pliable

But it is far more than just this, for, to members of the Hierarchy, the IDEA and its effects are not *only* interpreted in terms of *human* thought-forms and *human* idealism, but they are *also* contacted and studied in their relation to the Mind of God Himself and to the planetary kingdoms.

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IDEAS emanate from THE BUDDHIC PLANE, which is seldom open to the consciousness of the average disciple, and certainly is not open to the contact of the average *IDEALIST*

Few *IDEALISTS* are ever personally in touch with the IDEA which gave birth to the *IDEALISM*

They are only in touch with *THE HUMAN INTERPRETATION OF THE IDEA*, as formulated by some disciple or intuitive — a very different thing...

ILLUSION – a third definition

An illusion can be defined as the consequence of an IDEA (translated into IDEAL) being regarded as the *entire* presentation, the *complete* story or solution; and as being separated from and visioned *independently of all other IDEAS* — both religious or secular in nature

It is a misuse of the divine faculty of touching the idea and transforming it into the ideal

In this statement lies the story of separation, and of man's inability to relate the various implications of a divine idea with each other

1. When visioned and grasped in a narrow and separative manner, there is *necessarily* a distortion of the truth
2. The disciple or aspirant *inevitably* pledges himself to a *partial* aspect of reality or of the Plan - not to the truth as far as it *can* be revealed, nor to the Plan as Members of the Hierarchy know it.
3. This illusion evokes in the disciple or idealist an *emotional* reaction which immediately *feeds desire* and consequently *shifts off the mental plane on to the astral*

4. A desire is thus evoked for a *partial and inadequate* ideal and thus the IDEA cannot arrive at full expression, because its exponent sees only this *partial* ideal as ‘the whole truth’ and *cannot*, therefore, grasp its social and planetary and its cosmic implications

Where there is a real grasp of the WHOLE IDEA (a rare thing indeed) there can be no illusion

The idea is so much bigger than the idealist that humility saves him from narrowness.

Where there is ILLUSION (which is usual and commonplace) and a VAGUE INTERPRETIVE REACTION to an IDEA, we find emerging

- Fanatics
- Vague idealist
- Sadistic enforcers of the idea as grasped
- One-pointed and narrow men and women, seeking to express their interpretation of God's idea, and
- Limited, cramped visionaries. [Page 132]

Such illusionary picturing of reality and such visionary showing forth of the idea has been both the pride and the curse of the world

It has brought our world to a sorry pass

It is from this misuse of the divine faculty of touching the idea and transforming it into the ideal that the world is today suffering — probably inevitably

The imposition of humanly and mentally interpreted IDEAS in the form of limited ideologies has had a very sorry effect on men

Men need to learn: -

- To penetrate to the TRUE IDEA WHICH LIES BEHIND THEIR IDEAL and
- To INTERPRET IT WITH ACCURACY IN THE LIGHT OF THEIR SOUL, and
- To employ methods which have the warrant and sanction of LOVE

Example 1:

It is not an illusion that the IDEA that finds expression in the statement: "all men are equal," is a fact needing emphasis

This has been seized upon by the democratically inclined

It is indeed a statement of fact (from a certain point of view), but when no allowance is made for the *equally important* ideas and effects of

- Evolution
- Racial attributes
- National and Religious characteristics

Then the basic IDEA receives only limited application

Hence the *enforced* ideological systems of modern times, and the rapid growth of *ideological illusions*, which are nevertheless *originally* based on a true IDEA—each and all without any exception.

Example 2:

It is again no illusion that “the development of the Christ consciousness is the goal of the human family,” but when this is *interpreted in terms of authoritative religion* and *by those in whom the Christ consciousness is as yet undeveloped*, it becomes simply a ‘nice concept’ or...

It can often become a sadistic incentive and thus it enters immediately into the realm of ILLUSION

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I cite these two illustrations (out of many possible ones), so you may realise

- How illusions come
- How they develop
- How they must eventually disappear

Thus you can achieve a standard of comparison whereby to grasp the relative value

- Of the true and the false
- Of the immediately temporal and the basic eternity of the real

The trap man has set himself is that he *identifies with limited formulated ideals*, and fails to embody the true IDEA as it is in the mind of God (Ed.)

It becomes apparent that the lower levels of the mental plane have accumulated down the ages a *vast* number of IDEAS that have been

- Formulated as *IDEALS, clothed in mental matter*
- Nourished by the vitality of those who recognised as much of the truth of the IDEA as they were capable of expressing, and who gave to these *IDEALS* the emphasis of their thought-form-making faculty and their directed attention...
- This necessarily implies the energising of *THE LIMITED FORMULATED IDEAL* because—as you know—energy follows thought

These ‘forms of thought’ become OBJECTIVES towards which ‘the subjective reality, man,’ reaches and with which he IDENTIFIES HIMSELF for long periods of time

Into them, he PROJECTS HIMSELF, thus *vitalising* them and giving them *life and persistence*

- They become part of ‘him’
- They condition his reactions and activities
- They feed his desire nature and consequently
- They assume undue importance

- They create a barrier (of varying density, according to the extent of the identification) between the man in incarnation and the reality which is his true Being

There is no need for me here to itemise all these prevailing thought-forms and aspects of intellectual and mental illusion.

I would not have you think for a moment that the EMBODIED IDEA, which we call an *IDEAL*, is in itself an illusion

It only becomes so when it is regarded as an end in itself instead of being what it essentially is, A MEANS TO AN END

An IDEAL, rightly grasped and used, provides a temporary aid towards the attainment of immediate and imminent reality, which it is the goal of the man or the race, at any particular time, to reach

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The IDEA before the race today is the re-establishing (upon a higher turn of the spiral) of that spiritual relationship which characterised the race in its child state, in its primitive condition

Then, under the wise guidance and paternalistic attitude of the Hierarchy, and of the initiate-priests of the time, men knew themselves to be one family—a family of brothers—and they achieved this through a feeling and a developed sensuous perception

Today, under the name of BROTHERHOOD

- **The same IDEA is seeking mental form and**
- **The establishment of a renewed spiritual relationship (the IDEA)**
- **Through training in right human relations (the IDEAL)**

This is the immediate goal of humanity

This result will be inevitably brought about by means of ‘the cycle of necessity’ through which we are now passing and the dimly sensed IDEA will—as a result of dire necessity—impose its rhythm upon the race and *thus force the realisation of true Being upon all men.*

If a close study is made of the basic foundation of all ideologies without excepting any, it will be discovered that this IDEA

- Of integral relationships (albeit distorted and hidden in presentation through wrong methods)
- Of spiritual objectives
- Of definite positive brotherly activity

Lies behind every outer form

I have used the current situation as an illustration of an **IDEA** taking form as an **IDEAL** (and, alas, brother of mine, oft becoming an **IDOL** - the fanatical, misunderstood, and over-emphasised goal of the masses, under the guidance of some pronounced **IDEALIST**)

An IDEAL is a temporary expression of a basic IDEA

An *IDEAL* is *not intended to be permanent* but simply to serve a need and indicate a way out of the past into a more adequate future (*a 'bridge between past and future.'* Ed.)

All the present *IDEALS*, expressing themselves through the current *IDEOLOGIES*, will serve their purpose and eventually pass away, as all else has passed in the history of the race

Current ideologies will give place (eventually), to

- **A recognised spiritual relationship,**
- **A subjective fellowship, as**
- **A defined and expressed brotherhood**

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These will produce, when sufficiently developed and understood, a form of control and guidance and a species of government it is not possible for even advanced thinkers at this time to grasp

When ideals and mental concepts and formulated thought-forms *DOMINATE* the mind of any individual, a race or humanity in general, to the exclusion of all perspective or vision, and to the shutting out of the real, then they constitute an illusion for as long as they control the mind and method of life

- They *prevent* the free play of the intuition, with its real power to reveal the immediate future
- They frequently *exclude* in their expression the basic principle of the solar system, Love, through the imposed control of some secondary and temporary principle

- They can thus constitute a "forbidding dark cloud of rain" which *serves to hide* from view the "raincloud of knowable things" (to which Patanjali refers in his final book—that cloud of wisdom which hovers over the lower mental plane and which can be tapped and used by students and aspirants only through the free play of the intuition)

Illusion imprisons a man on the mental plane

Illusion surrounds him entirely with man-made thought-forms

Illusion bars his escape into higher realms of awareness or into that loving service which must be given conscious, manifested effort in the lower worlds

Now let us turn to

THE INTUITION, THE OPPOSITE OF ILLUSION

Intuition is the source, or bestower, of revelation

The major point I would seek to make here is that the intuition is the source or the bestower of revelation. [Page 136]

THROUGH THE INTUITION...

Through the intuition, progressive understanding of the ways of God in the world and on behalf of humanity are revealed

The transcendence and immanence of God is sequentially grasped

Man can enter into that pure knowledge, that inspired reason, which will enable him to comprehend, not only the processes of nature in its fivefold divine expression, but also the underlying *causes* of these processes, proving them *effects* and not initiatory events

Man arrives at the experience of the kingdom of God, and

He discovers the nature, the type of lives and phenomena, and the characteristics of the Sons of God as They come into manifestation

Some of the plans and purposes working out through the manifested created worlds are brought to his attention

Man is shown in what way he and the rest of humanity can cooperate and hasten the divine purpose

The laws of the spiritual life, which are the laws governing God Himself, conditioning Shamballa, and guiding the Hierarchy, are brought to his notice progressively and as he proves capable of appreciating them and working them

Four types of people are subject to revelation through the awakening of the intuition:

Those on the lines of world saviours, prophets, true priests, practical mystics or occultists

1. Those on the line of the WORLD SAVIOURS

These touch and sense the divine plan; they are pledged to service, and to work for the salvation of humanity

They are found expressing different and varying degrees of realisation

They stretch all the way from the man who seeks to reveal divinity in his own life and to his immediate small circle (through the medium of the changes and effects wrought in his personal life), to the great Intuitives and world Saviours, such as the Christ

The former is motivated in all probability by some one 'intuitive crisis' that entirely remade him and gave him a new sense of values

The latter can, *at will*, rise into the world of intuitive perception and values and there ascertain the will of God and a wide vision of the Plan. [Page 137]

Such great Representatives of Deity have the freedom of 'the Holy City' (Shamballa) and of the 'New Jerusalem' (the Hierarchy)

They are thus unique in their contacts

There have been relatively few of Them as yet.

2. Those who are on the line of the PROPHETS

These touch the Plan at high intuitive moments and know what the immediate future holds

I do not refer here to the Hebrew prophets, so familiar to the West, but to *all* who see clearly what should be done to lead humanity out of darkness into light, beginning with the situation as it is and looking forward into a future of divine consummation

They have a clear picture in their minds of what is possible to accomplish, and the power to point it out to the people of their time

They range all the way from those who have a relatively clear vision of the cosmic picture and objectives to those who simply see the next step ahead for the race or the nation.

Isaiah and Ezekiel are the only two of the Hebrew prophets who had true prophetic and *cosmic* vision

The others were small, but intelligent men who, from analysis and deduction, assessed the immediate future and indicated immediate possibilities.

They had no *direct* revealing intuition.

In the New Testament, John, the 'beloved disciple,' was privileged to gain a *cosmic* picture and a true prophetic vision, which he embodied in the Apocalypse, but he is the only one who so achieved, and he achieved because he loved so deeply, so wisely and so inclusively.

His intuition was evoked through the depth and intensity of his love—as it was in his Master, the Christ.

3. Those who are the **TRUE PRIESTS**

They are priests by spiritual calling and not by choice

It is the misunderstanding of the province and duties of a priest that has led all the Churches (in the East and in the West) to their disastrous [Page 138] authoritarian position

The love of God, and the true spiritual incentive which recognises God immanent in all nature and peculiarly expressing that divinity in man, is lacking in the bulk of the priesthood in all the world religions

Love is not the guide, the indicator and the interpreter

Hence the dogmatism of the theologian, his ridiculous and profound assurances of correct interpretation, and his oft-times cruelty, cloaked by his claim of right principles and good intentions

But the true priest exists and is found in all religions.

The true priest is the friend and brother of all and, because he loves deeply, wisdom is his; and (if he is of a mental type and training), his INTUITION is awakened and REVELATION is his reward

Ponder on this.

The 'true priest' is rare and is not found only in the so-called "holy orders".

4. Those who are the **PRACTICAL MYSTICS OR OCCULTISTS**

These, by virtue of a disciplined life, ardent aspiration, and a trained intellect, have succeeded in evoking the intuition

They are, therefore, personally in touch with the true source of divine wisdom

This, it is their function to interpret and to formulate into temporary systems of knowledge

There are many such, working patiently today in the world, unrecognised and unsought by the unthinking

Their need today is to "assemble themselves" in this hour of the world need and so let their voice be clearly heard

These people are resolving the sense of duality into a known unity, and their preoccupation with reality and their deep love of humanity have released the intuition.

When this release has taken place, no barriers are felt and true knowledge as a result of revealed wisdom is the gift which such people have, to give to their race and time

These are the four groups who are ‘exchanging illusion for the intuition’

This is the initial resolution of the pairs of opposites, for there is no such resolution without the aid of the intellect, because the intellect—through analysis, discrimination and right reasoning—indicates what should be done. [Page 139]