

Introduction to the Seven Rays continued from last week:

A ray is but a name for a particular force or type of energy, with the emphasis upon the quality which that force exhibits and not upon the form aspect which it creates". (*Esoteric Psychology*, v. 1, p. 316)

The Rays and Humanity

The seven rays are the first differentiation of the divine triplicity of Spirit-Consciousness-Form. They provide the entire field of expression for the manifested Deity. *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 17

The seven rays are embodiments of seven types of force, which demonstrate to us the seven qualities of Deity. These seven qualities have consequently a seven-fold effect upon the matter and forms to be found in all parts of the universe. They also have a seven-fold interrelation between themselves. *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 19

All people are units of consciousness breathed forth on one of the seven emanations (rays) from God... These seven subsidiary groups produce a varying outlook, mentality, and approach—all equally right, but all presenting a slightly difference angle or vision. (*A Treatise on White Magic*, p. 33)

All the rays are sub-rays of the second Ray of Love-Wisdom. *The Rays and Initiation*. P.386

The seven rays embody and express the totality of energies, which circulate throughout our planetary form. *Esoteric Healing*, p. 695

Disciples upon the different rays will all have the same goal, make the same experiments, go through the same experience, and arrive equally at divine expression. However, their qualities, their modes of approach, their reactions, and their distinctive natures will differ according to their ray type. *The Rays and Initiation*, p. 338

Each student, as he takes up the study of the rays, must steadily bear in mind that he—as a mental unit—finds his place on one or other of these rays. The problem produced is a very real one. The physical body may be responsive to one type of ray force, while the personality as a whole may vibrate in unison with another. The Soul may...respond to another type of ray energy. *Esoteric Psychology I*, xxiv

Of the colors, red, blue and yellow are primary and irreducible. They are the colors of the major rays:

- a. Will/Power..... Red
- b. Love/Wisdom.....Blue
- c. Active Intelligence....Yellow

We then have the subsidiary rays:

- d. Harmony/Conflict.....Orange
- e. Knowledge/Science...Green
- f. Idealism/Devotion.....Violet
- g. Organization/Ritual...Indigo

The Seven Rays in the Psychological Make-up of a Human Being

Humanity is divided into seven main ray types, which might be enumerated as follows:

- a. The power type-----full of will and governing capacity.
- b. The love type-----full of love and fusing power.
- c. The active type-----full of action and manipulating energy.
- d. The artistic type-----full of the sense of beauty and creative aspiration.
- e. The scientific type----full of the idea of cause and results; the mathematical type.
- f. The devotee type-----full of idealism.
- g. The business type-----full of organizing power, and given to ritualistic ceremony.

(*Esoteric Psychology I*, p.329)

There is a most direct correlation between the first three rays (the rays of aspect) and the Trinity (found in major religions under various names). Will, Love, and Light or Purpose, Wisdom and Intelligence are qualities of Deity (or ray energies).

Along with the *three rays of aspect*:

Ray 1 – Will/Power

Ray 2 – Love/Wisdom;

Ray 3 – Activity/Intelligence

[T]he septenate also includes the *four rays of attribute* [which emanate from Ray 3 – Active Intelligence]:

Ray 4 – Harmony through Conflict or Beauty/Art

Ray 5 – Concrete Knowledge/Science

Ray 6 – Idealism/Devotion

Ray 7 – Organization/Ceremony or Ritual

How can these apparent abstraction or hypotheses be brought to a place of observation and then knowing, particularly in terms of human psychology? The following key is helpful in the answering of that question:

The Soulcan be on any one of the seven rays. (Not all soul types, however, are in incarnation at any given time.) [For example Ray 4 is not in incarnation at this time, but will come back in around 2025.]

The Personalitycan also be on any one of the seven rays. (The personality is, in a sense a sub-ray of the causal and dominant soul ray.)

The [Mental] Body.....generally on either ray 1, 4, or 5

The Emotional Body.....generally on ray 2 or 6

The Physical Body.....generally on ray 3 or 7

This paradigm is of considerable help in understanding the ray energies, as they energize and condition the life of an individual human being. At this point we could say that there are up to five rays that play through the life of an individual. One or two of the rays will be more dominant than the others. The soul ray may not be evident in the relatively undeveloped [spiritually] person. During different stages of development a particular “body” and ray will receive the focus of energy. For example, during the 14-21 year old cycle and also the 21-25 year cycle, the ray of the mental body will very likely be central.

It is necessary to emphasize, however, that every person is unique... Yet there are patterns and similarities. The seven rays hold the key to the mystery of psychological *type*—and also one of the keys to the mystery of *level* of manifestation. (*Introduction to the Seven Rays* by Kurt Abraham, pp. 4-5)

There is much of practical usefulness in a study of the ray qualities. When he believes himself to be upon a particular ray, they will indicate to him some of the characteristics for which he may look, and perhaps demonstrate to him what he has to do, what he has to express, and what he has to overcome. *Esoteric Psychology II*, p. 78.

THE FIRST RAY: WILL and POWER

Special Virtues: Strength, courage, steadfastness, truthfulness arising from absolute fearlessness, power of ruling, capacity to grasp great questions in a large-minded way, and of handling people and measures.

Vices of Ray: Pride, ambition, willfulness, hardness, arrogance, desire to control others, obstinacy, anger.

Virtues to be acquired: Tenderness, humility, sympathy, tolerance, patience.

This has been spoken of as the ray of power, and is correctly so called, but if it were power alone, without wisdom and love, a destructive and disintegrating force would result. When however, the three characteristics are united, it becomes a creative and governing ray. Those on this ray have strong willpower, for either good or evil, for the former when the will is directed by wisdom and made selfless by love. The first ray person will always “come to the front” in his own line. He may be the burglar or the judge who condemns him, but in either case he will be at the head of his profession. He is the born leader in any and every public career, one to trust and lean on, one to defend the weak and put down oppression, fearless of consequences and utterly indifferent to comment. On the other hand, an unmodified first ray can produce a person of unrelenting cruelty and harness of nature.

The first ray person, often has strong feeling and affection, but he does not readily express it; he will love strong contrasts and masses of color, but will rarely be an artist; he will delight in great orchestral effects and crashing choruses, and if modified by the fourth, sixth or seventh rays, may be a great composer, but not otherwise. ... The literary work of a first ray person will be strong and trenchant, but he will care little for style or finish in his writings.

The characteristic method of approaching the great Quest on this ray would be by sheer force of will. Such a person would, as it were, take the kingdom of heaven “by violence”. We have seen that the born leader belongs to this ray, wholly or in part. (*Esoteric Psychology, I*, pp. 201-202)

It is easy for first ray people to resist the tendency to identify themselves with others... This detachment can so easily be found on an inability to love, in a selfish concern for one’s own comfort – physical, mental, or spiritual, and above all, emotional. First ray people dread emotion and despise it, but sometimes they have to swing into an emotional condition before they can use emotional sensitivity in the right manner. (*Glamour: A World Problem*, p. 4)

First ray people belong to what is called the “Destroyer Ray” and the power of the first aspect, which is the power to bring to an end, flows through them. They will have a tendency to destroy, as they build, through a wrong direction of energy, through over-emphasis of energy in some particular direction or through misuse of energy in work with themselves or others. Many first ray people have the tendency to pride themselves on this and hide behind a plea that, being upon the first ray, a destructive tendency is unavoidable. Such is not the case. Builders, such as second ray people always are, have to learn to destroy, when prompted by group love and acting under the Will or first ray aspect. Destroyers have to learn to build, acting ever under the impulse of group love and utilizing the power of attachment in a detached manner. Both groups, builders and destroyers, must ever work from the standpoint of reality, from the inner nucleus of truth and must “take their stand at the center.” (*Glamour: A World Problem*, p. 6)

The first ray is still out of physical manifestation but is beginning to have a definite effect upon the mental plane; there it influences the minds of disciples everywhere and lays the stage for the appearance of a certain group of disciples from Shamballa¹... Where humanity is concerned, the first ray makes its presence felt, and its potency dominates, when the stage of accepted discipleship is reached. It increases in power as progress on the path is gained. Thus there is beginning to be gathered on the subjective side of life a steadily growing group of those who can function under the influence of this first ray. When enough persons of humanity can thus function, their united responsiveness will constitute a channel through which this first ray can come into manifestation. (*Esoteric Psychology*, pp. 349-351)

¹ Shamballa is a state of consciousness or a phase of sensitive awareness wherein there is acute and dynamic response to divine purpose [“Where the Will of God is known”]. (*The Rays and the Initiations*, p. 276)