

The Seven Rays Introduction and Overview

Excerpts from Wikipedia on The Seven Rays:

The seven rays is an occult¹ concept that shows up in Antiquity through Greek, Chaldean and other mythologies. It has appeared in many religions and esoteric philosophies, since at least the 6th century BCE in both Western culture and India.

In the West, it can be seen in early western mystery traditions such as Gnosticism and the Roman Mithraic Mysteries; in texts and iconic art of the Catholic Church as early as the Byzantine era (330 CE); in India, the concept has been a part of the Hindu religious philosophy and scripture since at least the Vishnu Purana, dating from the post-Vedic era (c 500 BCE). In

Late 19th century, seven rays appeared in elaborated form in the teachings of Theosophy, (Blavatsky – The Secret Doctrine); later in writings of C. W. Leadbeater, Alice Bailey, Manly P. Hall, Benjamin Crème, and many others.

Syncretistic interpretations of culture and religion, begin to appear in the 19th century with greater global experience and research. Amalgamations appear among Egyptian, Vedic, and Christian stories, scriptures and myths in which “seven” shows up symbolically in rays, planets, souls, arms, stars, elders, days, spirits, etc. Syncretism is one of the core principals of Theosophy, a religious philosophy appearing in the late 1800’s where the seven rays appear repeatedly.

Popular appearances are in the fundamentals of yoga, the seven chakras, the seven Reiki manifestations and other forms of bio-field healing and occult anatomy as indicated in most modern healing methods. When analyzed for qualities of the prayers of the Lord’s Prayer, there are seven prayers consistent with the qualities of the seven chakras.

Excerpts from *Tapestry of the Gods* by Michael D. Robbins:

The Nature of Individual Purpose

Each of us has a unique life purpose. Each of us is a spiritual archetype, which must be expressed in time and space. All of us are integral and inseparable parts of a great, all-inclusive ENTITY, and are intended to cooperate in Its creative purpose by manifesting our archetypal nature. At our present stage of evolution it is easy to forget that each of us

¹ That which is hidden, or occluded, and must be studied to be understood. Latin, “to conceal” formed with prefix “oc” meaning “reversely, inversely, opposite” thus the opposite of “cult”. Occultism seeks to penetrate the causal mysteries of being; the science of Life or universal nature. Occult studies are those hidden from or not know to most of humanity.

is a spiritual archetype. Of all the many purposes, which animate us as human beings, it is our deepest purpose to manifest our spiritual archetype. The spiritual archetype can, from the esoteric point of view, be considered a *pattern of differentiated energies*. There is nothing but energy, and all things are patterned forms of that energy in its innumerable differentiations and combinations. Our individual, spiritual, archetypal pattern is part of the Divine Pattern, which is in process of becoming manifest.

We must become conscious of our *unique pattern of energies*, and live true to that pattern, thus becoming in actuality who and what we already are *in essence*.

Unfortunately, the majority of us, even if we happen to be relatively intelligent, do not recognize the true pattern of our spiritual identity, nor do we recognize our place and function within the larger scheme of things.

The Nature of Energy

According to the esoteric world view there is nothing but energy. From the point of view of esotericism, we might define energy as follows: *energy is the mobile manifestation of being*, or, *energy is being, in activity*. Within the manifested worlds, all is in motion – all is energy. Although all energy is, essentially, but **one** energy, there are (for practical purposes) *types* of energy that can be differentiated from one another by their rates of motion or vibration, their *frequencies*. It is these differentiations of energy, which account for the distinct identities of individual entities.

Energy and Human Identity

Human beings are complex, living *entities*. According to the Ageless Wisdom, there is, throughout the universe, but ONE ENTITY, that ONE ENTITY is, paradoxically, subdivided into numberless sub-entities such as human beings and animals, cells and organs, plants and planets, etc. All these entities are *alive*. Each one of these entities manifests as an *aggregate* of energies. Each of these entities is, according to the esoteric teaching, composed of, or “woven” of, numerous *energy threads or rays* of differing frequencies. Essentially, all entities are *identical in essence*. But in the world of manifestation they span an immense range of development from the simplest to the unimaginably complex. We are beginning to understand something of the *vibratory quality* of the various entities to whom we are exposed. When we speak of *quality* we usually mean a *perceptible difference in frequency or vibration*. The frequency of the entity is that which distinguishes it from all other entities.

A person has many qualities (*perceptible differences in frequency*), and these qualities affect those in his/her immediate environment. The total effect of all his/her qualities becomes a composite quality or *Quality* with a capital “Q”. It is that composite emanation

which determines his/her overall, global influence upon the larger system or whole of which he/she is a minute part.

Quality as a Key to Identity

For practical purpose, when we register major energy frequencies from another entity, we simply call those energy frequencies *qualities*, and his/her total Quality (composite emanation). In short, we experience the *identity* of the other person.

Our spiritual responsibility is the expression of our true identity. In this, there is nothing selfish or egotistical. Instead, by doing so, we are fulfilling our responsibility to the larger whole. Each entity within the larger ENTITY, is a unique pattern or design which must express itself if the totality of the Divine Design is to be manifested. Thus, if we fail to discover who we are, or fail to manifest that which we discover, the Greater Whole is the poorer for our negligence (or ignorance). We are meant to manifest our True Self, our Soul Self. It is the function of esoteric psychology to make this possible.

Every human being lives in a sea of energies, and is constantly subjected to numerous streams of vibration. Out of this incredible flux, certain streams of vibration are more influential, and relatively more important, than others. Such influences emanate from what might be considered *Earth's most important celestial neighbors*. The emanations from these neighboring cosmic and solar systemic entities are instrumental in creating the pattern of identity for all entities upon the Earth including the human being.

The Seven Rays

There is nothing in the whole solar system, at whatever stage of evolution it may stand, which does not belong and has not always belonged to one or other of the seven rays. (EP I)

We now have some concept of the cosmic sources, which emanate the seven primary qualities which condition all life upon our planet – the seven rays. This is fascinating from the cosmological perspective, but the esoteric psychologist has to be much more practical than the cosmologist. The true purpose of psychology is to help human beings learn to bring the soul (*psyche*) into full expression in their lives. In order to do this, two essential pieces of information are necessary: 1) an understanding of the occult constitution of the human being; and 2) an understanding of “the next step ahead.”

The occult constitution (in simplest terms) consists of the soul, the personality, the mind, the emotions, and the etheric-physical body. The question of the “next step”, which means the next *spiritual step* ahead. In order to understand and take that step, one needs

to understand who one is—to have a very clear idea of one’s spiritual and personal energy patterns. One needs to acquire sufficient Self-knowledge (knowledge of both soul and personality) to take that next step, which is different for each individual. It depends not only on his/her point in evolution, and his/her karma, but upon the ray and astrological energies with which he/she has been equipped in any particular life cycle.

Only a very thorough familiarity with the *meaning of these energies* will enable people to *cooperate* with them – to work with the energies and use them, rather than work against the energies and be used by them.

The Names of the Seven Rays

Each of the seven rays has a number of names. A ray is essentially a quality of energy, which emanates from a great cosmic entity. As an esoteric psychologist, we are interested in what a ray means to a human being.

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. This is the true definition of a ray. (EP I, p. 316)

The ray names given by the Tibetan have cosmic and solar significance, but also can be applied to the human spirit, soul and personality. The names of the seven rays are as follows:

- Ray I: The Ray of Will and Power
- Ray II: The Ray of Love – Wisdom
- Ray III: The Ray of Active Intelligence and Adaptability
(also called the Ray of Creative Intelligence)
- Ray IV: The Ray of Harmony through Conflict
(also called The Ray of Harmony, Beauty and Art)
- Ray V: The Ray of Concrete Knowledge and Science
- Ray VI: The Ray of Devotion and (Abstract) Idealism
- Ray VII: The Ray of Ceremonial Order and Magic

A great many people are primarily interested in themselves. There is nothing essentially wrong in such an orientation; self-knowledge is absolutely indispensable, and the Delphic Injunction, “Man Know Thyself” must be fulfilled before the human being can become an illumined server of the Diving Plan. It is quite impossible, however, to know oneself in a vacuum! The individual who is also vitally interested in the quality and character of other individuals is the individual who is truly equipped to see him/herself. This means that the best way for us to understand our own rays is to understand the rays of those whom our lot is cast; we must understand ourselves *in context*.

The implications are obvious: the science of the seven rays must be studied in a large and general way before the ray structures of particular individuals can be expected to emerge with clarity.

The science of the seven rays is in its infancy. The majority of us cannot yet **see** a ray, nor can we measure a ray objectively; yet the time must soon come when we can do both. It is the task of all serious students to learn what presently can be learned about this fascinating science; to apply in service what has been learned; and to discover valid ways of extending that learning. (M. Robbins)

We reviewed the presentation by William Meader on the Seven Rays from his online workshop “Revelation: Holding the Mind Steady” (www.meader.org)

Comment by Patsy:

The science of the seven rays is expressed in esoteric cosmologies, esoteric philosophies, esoteric anatomy, esoteric healing work, and esoteric psychology. It is the basis of a soul-based psychology that we will look at for the next two months that will aid us on our journey of *healing into wholeness*.

Wisdom Circles:

- 4/10/16 Ray 1 – Will and Power (Patsy)
- 4/17/16 Ray 2 – Love and Wisdom (Patsy)
- 4/24/16 Ray 3 – Active Intelligence and Adaptability (Patsy)
- 5/1/16 Ray 4 – Harmony through Conflict (Patricia Green)
- 5/8/16 Mother’s Day – The Divine Mother in Manifestation (Patsy & Lynnea)
- 5/15/16 Ray 5 – Concrete Knowledge and Science (Patsy)
- 5/22/16 Ray 6 – Devotion and Idealism (Lynnea Honn)
- 5/29/16 Ray 7 – Ceremonial Order, Ritual and Magic (Tracy Johnson)