

Bailey/DK, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 207-208:

*Special Virtues*: Strictly accurate statements, justice (without mercy), perseverance, common sense, uprightness, independence, keen intellect.

*Vices of Ray*: Harsh criticism, narrowness, arrogance, unforgiving temperament, lack of sympathy and reverence, prejudice.

*Virtues to be Acquired*: Reverence, devotion, sympathy, love, wide-mindedness.

This is the ray of science and research. The person on this ray will possess keen intellect, great accuracy in detail, and will make unwearied efforts to trace the smallest fact to its source, and to verify every theory. He/she will generally be extremely truthful, full of lucid explanation of facts, though sometimes pedantic and wearisome from his/her insistence on trivial and unnecessary virtual minutiae. He/she will be orderly, punctual, business-like, disliking to receive favors or flattery. ...

For the fifth ray, the method of approaching the Path is by scientific research, pushed to ultimate conclusions, and by the acceptance of the inferences, which follow these.

Bailey/DK, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p. 51

The fifth ray...works actively on the plane of the greatest moment to humanity [the mental plane], being, for man, the plane of the soul, and of the higher and the lower mind. It embodies the principle of knowledge, and because of its activity and its close relation to the Ray of Active Intelligence might be regarded as a ray having a most vital relation to man at this time in particular. ...

The fifth ray has produced what we call science. In science we find a condition, which is rare in the extreme. Science is separative in its approach to the differing aspects of the divine manifestation, which we call the world of natural phenomena, but it is non-separative in actuality, for there is little warring between the sciences and little competition between scientists. In this the workers in the scientific field differ profoundly from those of the religious.

Kurt Abraham, *Introduction to the Seven Rays*, p. 13:

The mental plane is conditioned and “ruled” by the fifth ray of science. The scientific thinker moves with ease on the mental plane. This is a plane of detachment. On the watery plane of emotion, one feels with or empathizes with something or someone, and to some degree one becomes a part of the other psychologically speaking. On the mental plane one is able to remove oneself, to detach oneself, and observe. On the mental plane one can, as a unit of consciousness, observe phenomena without being pulled hither and yon. The scientist seeks neither belief or faith but concrete, exact, precise knowledge.

Zachary Lansdowne, *The Rays and Esoteric Psychology*, p. 22-23:

According to theosophy, the mental plane consists of seven subplanes, which are divided into two groups: the lowest four subplanes are the concrete levels, and the top three subplanes are the abstract levels. An individual is said to have three focal points of perception on these subplanes. One focal point of perception is *the mental body*, sometimes called the lower concrete mind or simply the mind; it consists of matter from the lowest four subplanes. The mental body is concerned with concrete thoughts and facts. Another focal point of perception is *the soul*, sometimes called the causal body or egoic lotus; it consists of matter from the second and third divisions (counting from the top) of the mental plane. The soul is the storehouse for wisdom, which is the abstracted essence gained from a person's experience, and it is the instrument for expressing principles or abstract thoughts. The third focal point of perception is *the spiritual mind*, sometimes called the higher abstract mind; it consists of matter from only the highest subplane. The spiritual mind can convey insights, or direct perceptions of truth, that reflect the innate divine nature with clarity, synthesis, and inclusiveness. After receiving insights from the spiritual mind, the soul can then use those insights to guide its own expression of abstract thinking, which in turn can guide the concrete thinking of the mental body.

Intuitions come forth as a threefold synthesis of concrete thoughts from the mental body, wisdom or abstract thoughts from the soul, and insights from the spiritual mind. Through evoking clear intuitions, fifth ray individuals learn the following lessons. They must develop the ability to receive insights, because knowledge of divinity lies hidden in the dimension that exists beyond the memories of both concrete facts and abstract principles. To develop this ability, they must have a realization of the soul and its potentialities, which in turn requires that power be developed in the mental body to recognize and contact the soul. Thus, they must achieve two different alignments: between the soul and the spiritual mind, and between the mental body and the soul.

The first step [to achieving these alignments] is shifting the polarization of consciousness temporarily into the soul. The second step is allowing the soul, which is an outer aspect of the individual, to reveal the deeper reality of the spiritual mind. And the third step is negating the activity of the soul. Through practicing these steps, fifth ray individuals develop the power to shift the polarization of consciousness temporarily into the spiritual mind, enabling them to attain direct knowledge of divinity.

William Meader, *Shine Forth*, p. 80-81:

The Fifth Ray is the energy that reveals the *Clarity of Divinity* through the pursuit of correct knowledge. Its role is to create within consciousness the ability to distinguish truth from fiction. The difference between this ray and the Third Ray is important to consider. The Third Ray gives to humanity the ability to use the mind with creative adaptability and to deepen our understanding of reality through the connecting of ideas. However, it is the Fifth Ray that disciplines the adaptable mind, so that the distinction between truth and falsity can be more clearly discerned.

For those upon the Fifth Ray, life tends to be dedicated to finding solutions (truth) to the many problems facing humanity. Through the use of clear and precise thought and analysis, the Fifth Ray disciple reveals cause and effect relationships that are not initially known or recognized. As such, this type of individual will be unbending in pursuit of truth, and will not yield to unsubstantiated theory or speculation. From a still deeper perspective, the spiritual purpose of such a disciple is to demonstrate that the function of knowledge is to reveal the spiritual sense behind all forms within creation.

When considered from a societal perspective, science is the manifestation of the Fifth Ray. It is the one institution within society that most demands accuracy in its pursuits. Science is completely dedicated to the precise examination of reality. Through the use of scientific investigation and experimentation, much of human suffering has been eliminated. Advances in medicine, physics and chemistry all give testament to the transformative power of this ray. Indeed, because of its influence (as it works through the more enlightened representatives of the scientific community), the existence of the soul will someday be established as a scientific fact.