

MAX HEINDEL'S MESSAGE



The Method of Spiritual Cognition

to the great majority. Similarly, we may turn an electric switch, the lights are flashed on, the motors begin to whirl, we see the phenomena, but we do not know the underlying forces until by investigation we have fitted ourselves and acquired the knowledge.

The very same conditions obtain in the desire world, but to an even greater degree because of the superlative plasticity of desire stuff and the ease with which it is changed into different forms by the ensouling spirit, whether superhuman or elemental. On that account even the person who has voluntary control of his spiritual sight requires a thorough training, and must cultivate the faculty of seeing beyond the form to the ensouling life. It is only when he has cultivated that faculty that he is free from delusion and able to perceive the true nature and status of all the things and beings which he sees in the

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CONTRARY to the opinion of people who do not know anything about the matter of spiritual cognition, it is purely a matter of training. It is absolutely wrong to suppose that because a person has developed spiritual sight and is able to see things in the worlds which are usually invisible to the ordinary human view in the present stage of evolution, he therefore by the same faculty knows everything. As a matter of fact, he does not know anything until he has acquired the knowledge by investigation. The law of analogy, which is the master key to all mysteries, should make this clear: "as above, so below," and "as below, so above."

We see the telephone hanging on the wall; we know how to operate it by taking down the receiver, placing it to our ear, and talking into the transmitter. We know even in a vague way that it is operated by electricity, but the mechanism is a mystery

invisible world. To do this in the most efficient manner and have the certainty of escaping illusion, it is necessary to cultivate the grade of spiritual sight pertaining to the concrete region of the World of Thought, where the archetypes which are the ensouling life can be seen.

To make this clear we may call to mind that physical sight varies and that there are certain beings which see perfectly under conditions that to us appear as darkness: for instance, owls and bats. The eyes of fishes are constructed so that they see under water. The organs of spiritual sight are also capable of being attuned to different vibrations. Each rate of vibration produces a different grade of sight and opens up to the investigator a certain realm of nature. By an exceedingly slight extension of physical sight the ethers and the beings

therein become plainly visible. This grade of sight may be likened to the X-ray, for objects which appear solid to the physical sight are very easily penetrated by the etheric vision. When one looks at a house with etheric vision, he sees right through the wall; and if he wants to find out what is taking place in a room on the farther side of the house from where he stands, the etheric rays from his eyes to the objects in that room pierce the walls and all other intervening objects, and he sees them just as plainly as if the whole house were made of glass.

This grade of sight may be applied to the human body, and it is possible with its help to look through the whole organic structure and watch its functions in actual operation. The writer had the idea until recently that the common trick of reading a letter enclosed in a sealed envelope, perhaps in the pocket of another person, was always done in the same manner. But stimulated by the articles on psychometry then running in this magazine, he one day took a letter addressed to himself and tried the experiment, which succeeded beautifully, showing the person who had written the letter sitting in his room and giving the whole contents very nicely.

Immediately afterwards, however, he tried another letter with the etheric sight to ascertain how the result would differ from the first, and it was then found to be very difficult to disentangle the writing on account of the letter having been folded. There seemed to be a conglomerate mass of ink streaks, and it required the use of the next higher grade of sight, which pertains to the desire world, before the letter could be deciphered and read.

When one looks at an object with the sight necessary to see the desire world, even the most solid objects are seen through and through, but with the difference that one sees them, as it were, from all directions. Thought forms are clothed in the material of the desire world, because no thought form can compel action save through the medium of this

force-matter which we call desire stuff. No one who has not made a study of it can guess how many people are actuated by thought forms which they think are their own, but which as a matter of fact originated in the brain of someone else. It is in this way that what we call public opinion is formed.

Strong thinkers who have certain definite ideas about a particular thing radiate corresponding thought forms from themselves, and others less positive and not antagonistic to the views expressed in these wandering thought forms catch them up and think that these thoughts have originated within themselves. Thus gradually the sentiment grows until that which was originally started by one man has been accepted by a large part of the community.

To learn positively the origin of such stray thought forms would necessitate examination by means of the grade of sight necessary in order to function in the Region of Concrete Thought where the ideas first took shape. There all solid objects appear as vacuous cavities, from which a basic keynote is continually sounded, and thus whoever sees a thing also hears from it the whole history of its being.

Thought forms which have not yet crystallized into physical action or being do not present themselves to the observer as a cavity. In that region thoughts are not silent. They speak in a language which is unmistakable, and convey far more accurately than words can what their intent is, until the force which their originator expended to bring them into being has been spent; and as they sing in the key peculiar to the person who gave them birth, it is a comparatively easy matter to the trained occultist to trace them to their source.

Thought forms lack spontaneity; they are more or less like automatons. They move and act in one direction only, according to the will of the thinker, which is the motive power within them. □

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