

OVERVIEW - MEDITATION QUEST - MODULE 10

MQ-10: RULES OF THE ROAD Stanza 5

This meditation concentrates on Stanza Five, which begins with the words: “Each Pilgrim on the Road must carry with him what he needs: a pot of fire, to warm his fellowmen; a lamp...” Thus we are given instruction on certain qualities to develop - warmth, love, generosity etc.



Skill to Learn - Understand One's Place in the Universe

The study paper introduces the student to the process of understanding his or her place in the universe, to the fact of the universal Oneness of all life, and to the concepts of the microcosm and macrocosm.

MEDITATION 10: STUDY PAPER

THE MACROCOSM AND THE MICROCOSM

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This paper will focus on the Macrocosm and Microcosm: A microcosm is a small universe, like a human being, while a macrocosm, is a large entity in manifestation, such as a solar system. It will introduce you to the Law of Correspondence, the law that allows us to identify similarities between our microcosmic selves and what lies beyond at planetary, solar and cosmic levels.

As Above, So Below

There are energies swirling continuously around us, and they originate from various sources throughout the cosmos. The universe is one big, living, breathing ENTITY, while we are but a tiny atom (microcosm) within the Whole (the macrocosm). The ancient phrase “as above, so below” holds eternally true, and demonstrates the relationship between the microcosm and the macrocosm.

In this correspondence between what is above and below, lies the relationship between ourselves, and the numerous energies streaming down to us from all over the solar system and beyond. We usually have little control over these energies at this point in our evolution, and we experience them more as forces impacting us, rather than energies we can consciously use.

Even though at our stage of evolution we can't truly *know* even a minuscule aspect of these great Existences such our planet, solar system, constellations, it is important nevertheless to project our consciousness beyond our own limited world and towards the unknown, where a great mystery lies that in due course, we will decipher and truly understand. Master DK has encouraging words for those who are embarking on such a great quest:

*For aspirants who have not even a knowledge of what planetary consciousness signifies, the above information has only one value and that is, that it emphasises the synthetic nature of the great plan and the fact that the smallest unit is an integral part of the whole. It enforces the idea that energy is a life fluid circulating throughout the entire body of the Logos, and vivifying therefore even the tiniest atom in that whole. It is valuable to endeavour to grasp the picture and to vision the wonder of what is transpiring.*¹

The injunction “*Man, know thyself*” is at the heart of understanding the true meaning of the occult phrase “as above, so below”.

*One of the main means whereby man arrives at an understanding of that great sum total we call the Macrocosm—God, functioning through a solar system—is by an understanding of himself, and the Delphic injunction “Man, know thyself” was an inspired utterance, intended to give man the clue to the mystery of deity. Through the **Law of analogy**, or correspondences, the cosmic processes, and the nature of the cosmic principles are indicated in the functions, structure, and characteristics of a human being.*²

¹ Alice Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, p 364

² Alice Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, p 18

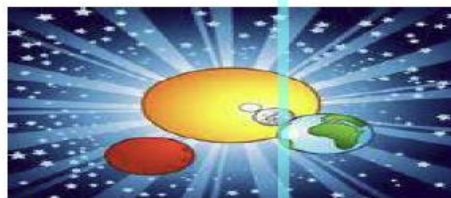
Spiritual Origins and Our Spiritual Goal



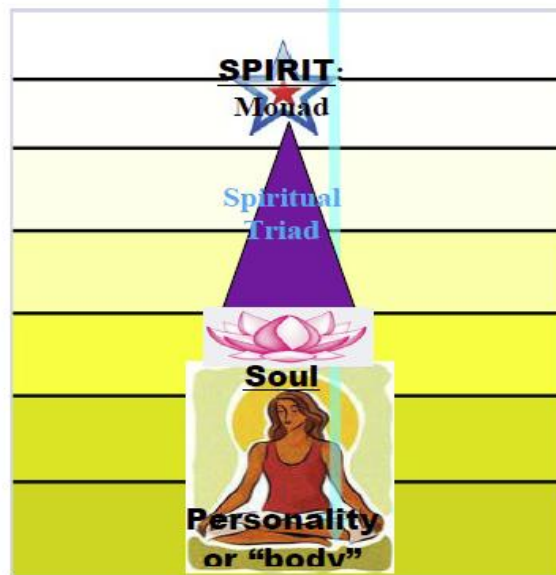
As fiery Spiritual God-Sparks or Monads, flowing out
through great Beings who ensoul
galaxies and constellations



Via the 7 Rays to our Solar System



Through the 7 levels of our system



OUR GOAL IS "UNION" - TO IDENTIFY CONSCIOUSLY WITH SPIRIT

The grand scheme portrayed in the images above shows how the One Life divides and extends into the multiple layers of existence from cosmic realms to our own world of experience. Such portrayals can be intimidating, even more so because many of its layers are beyond what most humans can comprehend. They allow us, however, to get a glimpse of our place within the

universe. We are shown that man, the microcosm, is part of a great life that has extended itself into cosmic, solar, planetary and human spheres. Indeed, the One Life extends itself into various existences, thus experiencing many realms of consciousness, as it cascades from unity to diversity.

We are now going to explore a most important tool that helps us to understanding our relationship with the macrocosm of which we are a part. This tool is the Law of Correspondence.

The Law of Correspondence



The grand scheme, the great universal picture is beyond our ability to grasp and understand, but it is possible to fit ourselves into this great picture by using the Law of Correspondence or Analogy. The dictionary provides many synonyms for correspondence and analogy: likeness, resemblance, equivalence, similarity, affinity, coherence, etc. Therefore, this law does exactly what its definition suggests: it shows us the similarities between the macrocosm and the microcosm, so that by knowing the microcosm (ourselves) we can hypothesize or make assumptions about the macrocosm.

The Law of Correspondence illustrates that the universe is constituted of interdependent lives that have similarities in terms of their essential beingness, their quality, and their structure. We can therefore extend what we know about ourselves, and by following these threads of similarities, we can deduce knowledge about the macrocosm. In essence, by using the Law of Correspondence, we can reason upward from the microcosm to the greater Whole and discover links and relationships between the entities *below* and those *above*.

This law is then a tool that we can use, to project what we know about ourselves, the microcosm, towards the greater whole, the macrocosm, and then make inferences about it. This is possible because the microcosm has been created in the image of the macrocosm – it is true that we are created in the image of God.

*It is an occult truism that; as a man arrives at a knowledge of himself, under the great **law of analogy** he arrives at the knowledge of God.³*

*... if you arrive at an understanding of the **Law of analogy** or of Correspondences, and if you will also accept the truism that the microcosm reflects the macrocosm and, therefore, each human being is related to Deity through **essential similarity**.⁴*

We, as lives who are evolving within the human kingdom, are mirror images of the greater Life evolving through the planet earth, who is our Planetary Logos; similarly, we are created in the image of that great Life evolving through the solar system, the Solar Logos. Further, we can also infer correspondences between humanity and the still greater Lives within cosmic and universal realms.

The following quotes are good depictions of the relationships between ourselves and the greater Lives of which we are a part:

*If we are right in our fundamental concept, if there is a grain of reality in our hypothesis, and if there is a substratum of truth in our idea of the atom from which the elements are compounded, it is to be recognised as a life working intelligently through the medium of a form. Then it can perhaps be proven that man is equally a life or centre of energy, manifesting through his bodies; then it can perhaps be demonstrated that a planet is also the medium of expression of a still greater centre of energy, and further, under the **law of analogy**, it may perhaps be proven at some distant time that there is a God or central life back of material nature, and an Entity Who functions consciously through the solar system.⁵*

Esotericists must remember that every kingdom in nature constitutes a totality of lives. Every atom in every form in nature is a life, and these lives form the cells of a Being's body or vehicle of manifestation. There is a Being embodied in every kingdom in nature. Just as the myriads of atomic lives in the human body constitute a man's body of expression and form his appearance, so it is with the greater Life informing the fourth kingdom in nature. This appearance—as are all appearances—is qualified by some particular ray type, and is determined also by the vital principle or spirit aspect. Thus every form is composed of innumerable lives, which have in them a preponderance of some ray quality. This is an occult platitude. These qualified lives produce a phenomenal appearance, and thus constitute a unity, through the influence of the integrating principle, which is never absent.⁶

According to this quote, all lives are part of greater Lives. For instance, the life of the atoms constituting our heart are part of a greater life, which is us, a human being. Similarly, a human being is a part of a greater Life that is the Planetary Logos, while the planetary Logos is part of a still greater Life that is the Solar Logos. By applying the Law of Correspondence we can trace the lines of correspondence between these lives and determine their similarities in terms of their essence, quality and constitution. Lesser lives gravitate towards the larger Life of which they are a part through magnetic attraction created by the lines of harmony and coherence between them. They evolve towards one another through progressive alignment, approximation and finally, union. This is the spiritual path and the spiritual destiny of all the Lives existing within the micro- and macrocosms.

In the process of broadening our understanding of what lies within the macrocosm, esoteric students can use the Law of Correspondence to build charts that show similarities and identify the patterns and links between the various micro and macro aspects under consideration. Of

³ Alice Bailey, *Light of the Soul*, p 88

⁴ Alice Bailey, *Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle*, p 131

⁵ Alice Bailey, *Consciousness of the Atom*, p 80

⁶ Alice Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology I*, p 343

course, at our stage of evolution we can only achieve glimpses but nevertheless, any pondering that we do along these lines expands our consciousness and develops the intuition so that over time, we get deeper and wider understanding, gradually achieving greater awareness and relationship with the greater Life of which we are a part, our Planetary Logos.

For instance, if we were to ponder on the truism that we are made in the image of God, we would infer that our Planetary Logos is similarly constituted as logoic spirit, soul, and personality. We would then ponder on this and draw the logical inferences about the possible meanings of such a revelation. Further, we need to consider that under the Law of correspondence, there exists a relationship within our Logos that is similar to that existing in ourselves between the soul and the personality. Such ponderings do expand our consciousness and develop our intuitive faculties. Over time our understanding of our multi-faceted relationship with the Planetary Logos would be broadened and deepened, thus bringing us closer to understanding our place within that greater Life.

Similarly, if we were to chart the correspondences between the three aspects: Will, Love and Intelligence at various levels of extension from the macrocosm “down” to the microcosm, this chart might contain the following elements:

Will	Love	Intelligence
Great Bear	Sirius	Pleiades
Ray 1 – Will and Power	Ray 2 – Love/Wisdom	Ray 3 – Intelligent Activity
Shamballa	Spiritual Hierarchy	Humanity
Spirit/Monad	Soul	Personality
Atma	Buddhi	Manas
Mental plane	Astral plane	Physical plane
Mental vehicle	Astral vehicle	Physical vehicle

The elements listed in this chart of correspondences have been part of the study papers in this course, but now they can be seen arranged in terms of their correspondence to the three major aspects, and categorized as such. By following the threads we do get some idea, although vague at first, of the inter-relationships between extensions of the One Life as it divides and creates mirrors of itself, and as it manifests on various planes of existence. There is pattern, order and organization in the universe, and these types of charts are great aids to allows us a glimpse at how everything that exists falls under one of the three major differentiations of the One Life – Will, Love, Intelligence.

Unfoldment of Consciousness

We have depicted the macrocosm and microcosm as a Grand Scheme of evolving lives within greater Lives. We must not forget, however, that the relationship is based on correspondences that can be apprehended by humans only through an unfoldment of consciousness, through an expansion of our ability to come into alignment and rapport with Lives greater than our own. From personality self-consciousness we have the potential to expand to soul group consciousness, and after aeons of evolution, to planetary and solar consciousness. Correspondingly, stages of consciousness expansion are related to stages of comprehension of ever-greater macrocosmic realms.

As sparks of this One Life, we needed the vast experience that being human could give us, so we started the long process of involution—the fall from spirit into matter. Initially, this involved becoming completely submerged in the world of matter. Our mission, then, was to experience all aspects of life—good and bad. Our descent into the lower vibrations of matter took us through all the kingdoms of nature. When we, the Monad-in-incarnation, became an *individualized* human being the earliest phases of our development tended to make us egocentric, thinking everything revolved around our little, egoistic self. We were greedy and selfish, thinking only of our own experiences, immersed in material things. Our limitations in consciousness also made us think of ourselves as finite beings; our view of life was this – we lived, we experienced, we accumulated, and then we died. Nothing remained; in our ignorance, so we thought.

But as we incarnated over and over again, not consciously aware that we had done this many times before, we evolved and learned. We eventually began to feel a flicker deep within, a spiritual stream of consciousness emanating from our soul. We weren't in conscious awareness of that soul, but we began to acknowledge that it was there. We came to realize the lifetimes of this soul are *many* and that, essentially, we are immortal beings with an immortal consciousness: we live, we experience, we die; and then we incarnate over again to learn more, experience more, grow more and assist the Plans of the Greater Life in which we live and move and have our being. Now we are at the point where we can begin to understand that we, as a soul-in-incarnation, evolve from lifetime to lifetime, from incarnation to incarnation; we begin to move away from identification with the world of matter and form and consciously seek the return to the Spirit that we *essentially* are. We find our relationship to the Solar Angel and Egoic Lotus, and systematically build quality into the Egoic Lotus, which then becomes a storehouse of all the progress in consciousness and virtue that we have earned over many lifetimes.

To conclude, here is a wonderful quote from Master DK that summarizes the important points of this paper:

That the development of the human being is but the passing from one state of consciousness to another. It is a succession of expansions, a growth of that faculty of awareness that constitutes the predominant characteristic of the indwelling Thinker. It is the progressing from consciousness polarised in the personality, lower self, or body, to that polarised in the higher self, ego, or soul, thence to a polarisation in the Monad, or Spirit, till the consciousness eventually is Divine. As the human being develops, the faculty of awareness extends first of all beyond the circumscribing walls that confine it within the lower kingdoms of nature (the mineral, vegetable and animal) to the three worlds of the evolving personality, to the planet whereon he plays his part, to the system wherein that planet revolves, until it finally escapes from the solar system itself and becomes universal.⁷

⁷ Alice Bailey, *Initiation, Human and Solar*, p 7-8

MEDITATION 10

RULES OF THE ROAD (5)

SKILL TO LEARN 1

ABILITY TO UNDERSTAND ONE'S PLACE IN THE UNIVERSE

The focus this month is on the ability to understand one's place in the universe. Obtaining an intellectual and technical understanding of this panoramic theme is important, because this gives the mind a map it can follow. It is interesting to consider that this desire to find one's place is due to an intuitive (often an unconscious) recognition that we do 'belong' to the universe and that we have our own unique and important role to play in this drama of Life.

The meditation format you have been following, which starts from the particular and ends at an apprehension of "the whole" (when successfully performed), has been designed to help you gain this understanding.

MEDITATION THEME – "RULES OF THE ROAD, STANZA 5"

The goal this month is to understand one's place in the universe. Accompanying this intellectual and intuitive understanding, is the meditative skill of being able to tune into "wholes", whether that be with your group, with humanity or with all universal Life.

Meditating upon the Rules of the Road helps us to do this. These rules tell us that we are travelling a Road with leads from where we are, to Him who waits at the end of the Road; and that we travel with all humanity. We continue our Rules study this month with Stanza 5. Say the whole stanza first, then meditate upon the given segment, answering the questions and any others that should arise.

Stanza 1. The Road is trodden in the full light of day, thrown upon the Path by Those Who know and lead. Naught can then be hidden, and at each turn upon that Road a man must face himself.

Stanza 2. Upon the Road the hidden stands revealed. Each sees and knows the villainy of each. And yet there is, with that great revelation, no turning back, no spurning of each other, no shakiness upon the Road. The Road goes forward into day.

Stanza 3. Upon that Road one wanders not alone. There is no rush, no hurry. And yet there is no time to lose. Each pilgrim, knowing this, presses his footsteps forward, and finds himself surrounded by his fellowmen. Some move ahead; he follows after. Some move behind; he sets the pace. He travels not alone.

Stanza 4. Three things the Pilgrim must avoid. The wearing of a hood, a veil which hides his face from others; the carrying of a water pot which only holds enough for his own wants; the shouldering of a staff without a crook to hold.

Rules of the Road and Florence Nightingale (5)

Stanza 5. Each Pilgrim on the Road must carry with him what he needs: a pot of fire, to warm his fellowmen; a lamp, to cast its rays upon his heart and show his fellowmen the nature of his hidden life; a purse of gold, which he scatters not upon the Road, but shares with others; a sealed vase, wherein he carries all his aspiration to cast before the feet of Him Who waits to greet him at the gate—a sealed vase.



Nightingale set out on her own--against her family's wishes—and shared herself with others. She travelled to the wounded soldiers, set up nursing stations and trained other women to help. She showed the nature of her hidden life by kneeling in the dirt, binding wounds, assisting in amputations, and nursing people through deadly cholera and typhus outbreaks.