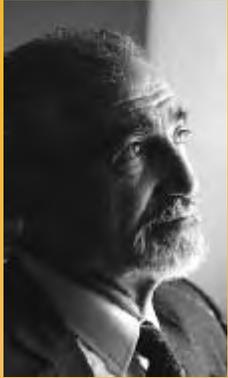




# OUTREACH

PRACTICAL TOOLS FOR ETHICAL LIVING

MAY / JUNE 2007



Torkom Saraydarian  
1917-1997

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## Initiation: The Mystery

Chapter One from the book *Initiation: The Path of Living Service* is so beautiful and meaningful. Here are some of my thoughts as I read it and pondered at the deeper meaning of mystery.

As I read this Chapter several times, I tried to understand what is the meaning of mystery. I wondered how can I understand mystery if it is a “mystery”?

Then, one evening, a way to understand “mystery” began to unfold right before my eyes. Even though the mystery remains a mystery, nevertheless, intuitively I knew that there was mystery in my daily life and that I really loved this part of life. I very much relished it and had a deep inner need for mystery.

I happened to be sitting on a big chair in our living room. My husband was sitting opposite me. He was reading a magazine and looked up at me and said, “I can’t believe how some people do not believe in God. How can anyone deny the existence of the Creator? It makes no sense to me. That would mean that the person lives without hope and without faith. What kind of a life would that be?”

Just at this time I was reading the Chapter on Mystery. I looked at him and started to understand what this mystery meant and how important it is in our life to have a mystery. I sensed it in his voice and in his eyes. I understood right then that God, mystery, love, and everything associated with understanding truths beyond our five senses gives us tremendous faith and hope and purpose. We need to have mystery in our life.

I said to him, “I agree with you. I cannot think of living without a sense of the Mystery of God. I cannot say with certainty that I understand God, but I love the feeling of the Mystery. It is just like understanding love. I know you love me for example, but your love is not that you fix the cars, paint the walls, clean the yard and so on. These are just the outer things and they do not necessarily mean that

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Gita Saraydarian

## Mystery

by *Torkom Saraydarian*

The real meaning of the word mystery can be understood if you think about a man and a tree and try to see the causes that brought them into being. Or you can think about the cause of our solar system or galaxy. The mystery is the cause, the organized architectural details which gave birth to the objective Universe.

An atom, a man, a solar system are the objectifications of a mystery that we cannot see, touch, or understand. The mystery is beyond the form, but it is also in the form.

Thinkers are those who are able to contact the mystery behind the form, the energies and the laws and processes behind the form and make them partially “tangible” to the average mind.

All life is surrounded by a mystery. Actually we live, move, and have our being in mystery. Every man knows that even a man is a mystery to himself, unless he becomes his True Self.

Mystery is the noumenon of the phenomenon, the unseen and unconceived cause behind the form.

The ancients had ceremonies and rites. They were called mysteries because they portrayed a part of those causes that were projecting the phenomenal life or the phenomenal world. Thus each mystery was a revelation of the causal world, but so much was veiled that people used to relate intuitively to them. The mysteries still remained as mysteries to their intellect or brain.

When we do not see the operation of energies, laws, and principles behind events, forms, and movements, we feel the existence of the mystery. Of course, our mind often imitates unveiling the mysteries with its scientific formulas and discoveries. But the mystery remains a mystery and increases its mysteriousness as a scientist faces himself and questions the validity of his discoveries and their goal-fitness.

Every Great One is a mystery. Buddha, Christ, and others, despite Their historic existence, were the Word made flesh. The mystery is the Word; the flesh is Their historic existence. They are so powerful because They are both fact and mystery combined. For our narrow consciousness They remain as mysteries.

The mystic is one who has contact with the mystery, but he lacks the faculty to actualize his control in such a way that we can understand and make use of it.

On the other hand, a scientist is occupied mostly with the body of the mystery, and he does not show interest in the mystery behind the form because his devices or instruments are not capable of contacting the mystery. Since his inner senses are not being developed yet, he becomes the slave of forms.

The mystery is the real existence behind all that exists.

The mystery is like the shadow of the mortal man. The more he runs after the shadow, the more the shadow runs away from him.

The mystery cannot be found by the physical senses, but one must develop astral, mental, intuitional, and even higher senses to follow the tracks of the mystery. Each contact of the mystery is an act of creativity.

Each mystery is like an iceberg in space. Only one forty-ninth of it is in manifestation. The other forty-eighths of it are out of manifestation on the physical plane.

The mystery is the Archetype of the forms in the Subtle Planes, and it has a dynamic nature to express itself through matter. The cause of creativity is the dynamism of the mystery. The mystery can manifest through the fiery substance of the mind, which provides vehicles for it. Further, the attractive power of desire brings it closer to manifestation, and eventually etheric matter molds itself around a wave of mystery and gives shape to it.

In Cosmic levels the mystery is the Divine mind and the Divine desire and the higher ethers that manifest it.

Every disciple or Initiate acts as a bridge between the mystery and its manifestation. They are both mystics and scientists.

Without a scientific mind the mysterious degenerates into superstition, and without a mystical vision, science turns into exploitation and worship of matter.

Mysteries, we are told, have seven keys corresponding to the seven planes. Each plane is a key to the mystery. If one has the seven keys, which means if his consciousness is operating on seven levels, the

Continued on page 3

Initiation - Mystery - Cont. from page 2

mystery will be unveiled partially for him, at least on the Cosmic Physical Plane.

Every initiation, we are told, has its mystery. As the Initiate advances, these mysteries are one by one revealed to him. It is the level of our consciousness and beingness that makes the mystery reveal itself to us.

Each expansion of consciousness is a step of penetration into the mysteries. This is why the Teachers advise us to develop our mind through meditation and expand our consciousness, level after level, through our service.

Each penetration into the Subtle Planes must manifest through our relationship to life in order to keep the balance between the subjective and objective manifestations.

It is very interesting to note that each key of the mystery corresponds to a branch of knowledge that people develop. These branches are developing on each sub-plane of every plane into which man is able to penetrate.

*The Secret Doctrine* by Helena P. Blavatsky refers to these keys as follows:

1. Psychological key
2. Astronomical key
3. Physical or physiological key
4. Metaphysical or mystical key
5. Anthropological key
6. Astrological key
7. Geometric, symbolic, or numeric key

Each key must be turned seven times. This means that on each plane, seven keys must be turned. For example, the astronomical key must be turned on physical, astral, mental, Intuition, Atmic, Monadic, and Divine Planes, and in each plane seven times to reveal the mystery existing in the plane. It is the same for the other keys.

The mystery hidden in all planes is the Cosmic Mind, *Mahat*, which is different in all seven planes of existence in various potentialities.

The search for the mystery is accomplished through the fusion between the human and the Divine mind. Each degree of fusion is an expansion of consciousness and a process of initiation. ❖

## Psychic Mechanism

by Torkom Saraydarian

Aspiration and striving toward greater spiritual values and states of consciousness gradually build in us those psychic mechanisms through which we contact the greater values and new states of consciousness and begin to function through them.

The readings from sacred books, the visions given to us by Teachers create such aspirations and such strivings.

At first these values and states of consciousness are like dreams for us, and sometimes we feel discouraged when we cannot establish a tangible contact with them. But slowly as the psychic mechanism comes into being, we see the gradual actualization of our dreams.

The formation of the psychic mechanism takes a very long time, and many people may feel exhausted by their own aspirations and strivings. But after contact with new levels of consciousness the psychic mechanism sometimes appears in unexpected moments of our life.

Aspirations and striving never fail. Under the law, the building of the mechanism takes place, and the process of building is under the influence of our perseverance or fluctuations.

Aspiration develops the form of the psychic mechanism. Striving collects the substance with which the mechanism must be built.

Aspiration and striving help the substance in the body go through a process of transmutation. Also, they draw new substance from higher realms. Eventually they build the psychic mechanism (just as our senses were built) and use it on the level of the Soul.

Our whole psychic mechanism is the result of our steady aspiration and striving. Steadiness is the keynote. Steadiness is a kind of concentration of energies into the same direction.

Aspiration and striving generate various energies not only from human principles but also from the corresponding principles of the planet. But they become useless if the steadiness and continuity of perseverance are not there.

When steadiness is lacking, the accumulated energies in our aura turn into burdens on our whole system, and

the agitated substances from our bodies create problems of health.

Every released energy must be used properly so as not to create congestion within our system. The arrow must fly to the target, and the river must flow to its destination. This is why the ancients highly recommended steadiness, perseverance, and concentration.

Energies are collected, increased, and used creatively only if one achieves control over them. One loses his control over energies when he lacks steadiness, perseverance, and concentration.

An uncontrolled energy can devastate our life. It is better not to have energy if the power to control it is not yet achieved.

It is interesting that our aspirations and striving fluctuate. Sometimes they fluctuate to such a degree that our past accumulations disintegrate and melt away, and we often start from the beginning. This fact is responsible for the delay in building our psychic apparatuses.

What may happen in the process of building a temple is that during the day the workmen try to erect the walls, and at night other people take away the walls. Such a labor can continue for years without result. The same happens to those who temporarily aspire and strive and then lose their enthusiasm for a while, and then after a long time start again.

The tragedy is that if this continues for a long time, the builders give up and the destroyers take over. They not only destroy the remains of the temple, but they also destroy the foundations and the pillars upon which the future temple was to be built.

Rationality is one of the faculties that develops when people persevere on the path of aspiration and striving.

People lose their power of rationality when they lose the power of perseverance. They begin to act in a way in which you cannot see in them any rationality. Their actions and thoughts lose the path of reason, and irrationality controls them.

The cause of irrationality is the accumulated substance and energy in the aura that interact on each other without a plan and without a purpose.

When energy and matter go from one side of a

closed barrel to the other side, the barrel loses its balance and makes "irrational" movements. Our mind loses its balance and rationality when it becomes subject to the chaotic energies over which man has no control.

This is why we are told that the unbalanced and irrational people found on the path of religion or on the path of spiritual endeavors are not guided by a higher light.

Irrationality is a state of mind in which there is no permanent direction. The directions of the mind are in the hands of substances and energies existing in the mental body, agitated and moved by outer and inner influences.

Irrationality is a universal problem. Minds that have no firm foundation and one-pointed direction are influenced by the irrationality of the world.

The mental ocean of the world is an agitated ocean with ever increasing contradictory currents. Only those who have strong aspirations and steady striving can sustain their rationality and balance and reach their destination. ❖

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Excerpted from the book *Initiation* by Torkom Saraydarian: *Chapter 1: Mystery*, pp.11 - 15 & *Chapter 2: Psychic Mechanisms*, pp. 17 - 20. Copyright: The Creative Trust, printed by permission. All rights reserved. For more information, please see the TSG website: [www.tsgfoundation.org](http://www.tsgfoundation.org)

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you love me. In and of themselves, these do not add up to love. The real love that I feel that you have for me is a mystery. I don't understand it, yet it is there and I cannot imagine not having that feeling. There is so much to love even with one person; how much more profound is the love of something so much greater than us? That is the love that keeps us going and keeps us searching and gives us hope and faith that there is more to love than the fixing of things."

I kept reflecting and thinking, if I can love one person or groups of people, how then do I feel for God, for Christ, for Hierarchy, for the myriad beauties in existence that wait to be discovered and uncovered? Isn't it the power of love that pulls us to strive and better ourselves?

I started to see that what I call love is a small particle of the greater love that permeates the entire universe, and that is the essence of mystery.

In this first Chapter, it says, "The mystery hidden in all planes is the Cosmic Mind, Mahat, which is different in all seven planes of existence in various potentialities." So, as we try to penetrate into the meaning of life and of love and of beauty and so on, we are entering into the levels of mind material. In each level that mind material of Cosmos exists, and as we contact it, at that level we understand it. So, love or mystery can be understood at any level. The mystery of love (and of other aspects of life) is knowing that more of this exists to be found and to be contacted than meets the eye!

I began to realize that the very fact of the existence of mystery is what makes life so appealing, so delicious, and so beautiful. I know that there are places in life, existences, which I can know about. I know because inside of me there is a spark of that Mystery. I am part of that mystery. Do I know who I am? Do I know where I came from? With certainty, I do not. I can only surmise by looking at my life. So much of life is a mystery, a beautiful, deep, insurmountable mystery of depths.

The Chapter's deeply philosophical discussion shows that each of us is a manifestation and a mystery. They are the spirit (mystery) and matter (manifestation). So the mystery is what is behind the scenes, just out of reach for our ordinary senses. We

are in essence a mystery. We see the outer part of our life and think that is me. The outer part is one part of reality but it is not the whole thing! How lovely to know there is more to life than what meets the eye, more to understand.

The Teaching tells us that when we understand the mystery of a human being, we can begin to appreciate the vastness of the Creator.

In the process of discipleship, we uncover page after page of life's mysteries. As we uncover one layer, a whole new layer is found to be a mystery. The imagery is an upside down iceberg, an iceberg in space (see page two of this issue of *Outreach*, second column, sixth paragraph). Only the tip is dipping below where we can see it; yet the whole of it is out of view, on subtler and subtler levels of existence. They are not hiding; you just need the right keys to open these doors. As you open one door, the spiritual exhilaration that comes about is the discovery process of mystery.

This Chapter explained to me that in the process of discovery of the mystery of life, we go through a creative process. We create the senses and vehicles with which to understand the mystery. Each sense and vehicle we create then in turn take us up to the next level of mystery. Each of these stations of understanding is an initiation.

Desire makes us search; mental capacity and mental development makes us able to articulate the discoveries of that search; as we articulate that finding, we fuse with the mind matter of that level, we achieve a level of initiation.

So, in the process of initiation, we are in a process of uncovering the existence of life on many levels. Each level of initiation means we have the vibratory rate, the vehicles, and the consciousness to function at an expanded level. Each initiation gives us not only a higher beingness and understanding, but also a broader one, the image of an inverted, ever broadening, iceberg!

I hope each of you discovers the inner feeling of mystery as you gaze at the tangible and intangible creations of the Great Architect.

## The Lectures of Torkom Saraydarian

During his lifetime Torkom Saraydarian was a world renowned speaker and gave thousands of lectures throughout the world on many topics. These lectures have been preserved on audio and video tape exactly as he gave them. We are in the process of converting all of his audio lectures to CD, also available as .mp3 download, and all his video lectures to DVD. If you are interested in helping to preserve Torkom's legacy, donations to our Archiving Fund are always greatly appreciated.

The audio lectures are available on cassette tape or CD and the videos are available on VHS or DVD.

The conversion process consists of playing the tape or video cassette into a computer and then, as needed, using software to filter out background hiss, add title and chapter menus, and extra information including related lectures, excerpts from related books, as well as full track samples of Torkom's music CDs.

While all of Torkom's lectures are now available on CD or DVD, the majority must still undergo this conversion process, so please have patience when ordering. The following DVD lectures are already complete, and will ship out within 5 business days of ordering:

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- DVDs and video cassette lectures \$20 each
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### Torkom videos now on YouTube!

As each video lecture is produced on DVD, a sample clip is then placed on the video-sharing site YouTube.

Search for Saraydarian and see clips from all of Torkom's DVDs and then some!

To order or for more information:

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## TSG Cave Creek Center Upcoming Events

### Gemini Full Moon



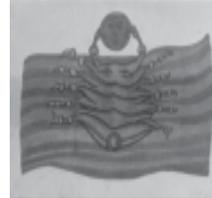
**Sunday, June 3rd**

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Lecture and Meditation

by Gita Saraydarian

### Cancer Full Moon



**Sunday, July 1st**

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Lecture and Meditation

by Gita Saraydarian.

### Leo Full Moon



**Sunday, July 24th**

10:00 am - 11:00 am

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by Gita Saraydarian.

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## Initiation: Path of Living Service

by Torkom Saraydarian

Book review by

Robert Constat

This is the book that makes very practical the teaching of Alice Bailey and the Tibetan Master on the stages of spiritual growth. Saraydarian makes the AB/Tibetan teaching on initiation come alive with clear and understandable descriptions of what the initiation process really is and what is needed to take the next step.

He dispels many of the glammers surrounding this topic, showing what the truth really is. The author presents a hope and vision that not only is initiation attainable, but also that we absolutely need to strive for it in order to fulfill our purpose and mission during this cycle of evolution.

Initiation is the path to expansion of service in this world and beyond earth to other planetary schools, the university of the solar system and throughout our galaxy. Service and growth continue into higher and higher levels of existence and beingness. The author says that space is filled with invisible worlds in various densities of spirit-matter.

Initiation has a ceremonial aspect to it, but this is similar to a graduation ceremony. The student graduating already has achieved what there is to achieve at that level of knowledge. The ceremony only authorizes the graduate to proceed further along the path of higher education and to contact higher levels of instructors.

What I especially liked about Saraydarian's presentation is that it made spiritual growth and initiations seem possible to achieve by every sincere disciple on the Path. Even so, the process requires very hard work and some of the grace from the higher worlds, especially as to timing. AB/Tibetan teaching states that the first and third initiations seem to develop as a natural growth process, but that the second and fourth initiations are painful and require hard work. It is encouraging to learn that all the suffering, bitterness, disappointment, rejection and loneliness that life often

brings throughout our lifetimes prepares us to take the fourth initiation of total renouncement of the ego in the service of humanity. No matter where we are on the Path, every act of generosity, no matter how small, every sacrifice of time and energy for the sake of others – all this accumulates and enables us to complete the process of the fourth initiation.

It is useful to have some idea of where we are on the Path. That knowledge helps to focus on the next step ahead and to more efficiently and consciously to work on developing those qualities that are needed for the next level of achievement. Initiation in some respects is giving up one level of friends for a better group of friends and contacts that enable us to expand our service.

The author explains something that to my knowledge no author has ever previously mentioned. Our level of initiation may be blinded from our awareness for our own safety and mission in life. For example, if we knew that we were at a certain level it might make us have spiritual pride or make us spend too much time in spiritual study when we needed to spend most of our time in politics, education, science or finance. There is the danger of wanting so much to have experiences with the Higher Worlds that it might abstract us excessively from our duties and responsibilities in this world, thus making us inefficient in our service to humanity.

Saraydarian gives a clear overview and summary of the sixth through ninth initiations. Also included is an overview of the seven cosmic paths of evolution that start with the sixth initiation. This is summarized from *The Rays and the Initiations*.

Among all the theosophical and neo-theosophical books on this subject this is the foremost to begin with and of the most practical value. Ideally this book should be read before studying the AB/Tibetan book titled *The Rays and the Initiations* in order to obtain the greatest benefit from *The Rays and the Initiations*. Saraydarian's book contains nothing about the rays, as does the AB/Tibetan book. Therefore, it is more understandable to someone unfamiliar with the Tibetan's works.

I studied with Saraydarian for thirty years. This book of his has all that we will ever need to know about the process of initiation. ❖

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*Initiation is the path to expansion of service.*



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