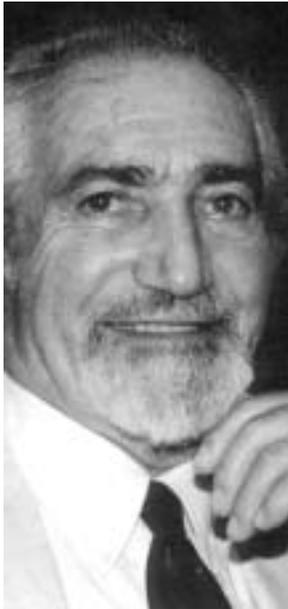


# O Outreach

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Practical tools for ethical living • Publishing & Distribution • Spiritual Education



## Mission

The purpose of TSG Foundation and The Torkom Saraydarian University (operated under the auspices of T.S.G. Publishing Foundation, Inc.) is to be a pathway for self-transformation based on the Core Values and Higher Principles of the Ageless Wisdom. We offer a complete line of spiritual products and services, including intensive spiritual training on site and by correspondence. T.S.G. Publishing Foundation, Inc. is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization.

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## Initiation

### The Unpublished Archives

Articles from the published and unpublished writings of Torkom Saraydarian

*In this issue of Outreach we are happy to present two Chapters from an unpublished book by Torkom Saraydarian titled **Initiation and the Path of Service**. We have also reprinted a beautiful poem and a Q/A section taken from Torkom's published books. We hope you enjoy these articles and find in them the inspiration to strive and serve. In future issues we will be sharing more unpublished writings.*

## Discipline

Initiation is the result of discipline. Discipline means to adjust our vehicles to the rhythm of the innermost center of our being. Suppose all of you are musicians and have your instruments ready, but the piece of music which you are going to play is not ready yet or all of you did not study it yet before rehearsal. Suppose the Conductor comes and wants you all to play. He moves his hands but there is no musical response from you - only uncoordinated notes, chaos, and noise. What will the Conductor say to the musicians? Most likely he will instruct each musician to master his part in

the symphony so that each member can be coordinated with the orchestra. Even if one musician can play his part perfectly by himself, he must still rehearse with the orchestra to adjust himself to the whole.

I know this from personal experience. I knew a piece of music very well, but when I tried to play it with many other musicians, I saw how I needed to refine my music to fit the orchestra.

The next step, which is very important, is the development of the sensitivity of the orchestra to the motions of the conductor. The orchestra can really express a high quality of interpretation when the conductor is able to keep it in the rhythm of his translation of the music. This is the secret of the beauty and fire that is produced by a well coordinated orchestra.

First, you must learn your piece of music as well as possible. Second, each musician must adjust himself to the others in the orchestra. Third, all musicians must become extremely sensitive to the

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direction of the conductor. It is the sensitivity of the orchestra to the conductor that makes all the difference in the music.

The translation of music depends on this sensitivity. When the orchestra is really playing according to the translation of the conductor, the music is now an expression of beauty. Suppose you are a musician who, because of your foolishness, says, "Why is the conductor standing there imposing his rhythm on me? I want to be independent, free to play the way I want to play." If this is the case, no audience would be left in the music hall.

The conductor is symbolic of the Innermost Self Who is trying to align, integrate, and purify your personality vehicles - your physical, emotional, and mental bodies - and bring them into harmony with the innermost rhythm of Itself so that It can translate the symphony of Divine Life through your thoughts, emotions, and actions and manifest the plan and the purpose of the Source of your life. This is what initiation is, in its esoteric meaning.

The mystery of initiation is nothing else but the gradual adjustment of your vehicles to the innermost center of your being. When you are really adjusted and harmonized with your innermost center, you have other great steps to take: You must adjust yourself to the Hierarchy, then gradually to the greater Center of Shamballa. These adjustments continue deeper and wider, until the day comes in which you adjust yourself not only to planetary and solar rhythms, but eventually to the rhythm of the Cosmos.

Each adjustment and harmony with a higher level is a state of expansion of consciousness, awareness, and beingness. This is the process of initiation which is taken through discipline. The expansion of consciousness, awareness, and beingness is a process of penetration into the depth of the great mystery, the great life, into greater light, love, and power.

This is how atoms become a vegetable, how vegetable life strives toward animal life, and how animals eventually make unbelievable progress into the human kingdom. How much harder the human kingdom must try to penetrate into the next kingdom and become a citizen of the fifth kingdom - the kingdom of souls - and onward.

The process of achievement, perfection, and initiation is based upon a single foundation - discipline: discipline of the physical vehicle and its life expression; discipline of the emotional body and its life expression; discipline of the mental body and its life expression, and so on with the higher bodies.

When we discuss discipline, we are not talking about taking a stick and beating somebody or imposing our will upon another human being. The secret of discipline is invocation and evocation. Invocation is a hint, a suggestion; it is the Teaching. Evocation is your sensitive response to invocation. If you are sensitive to inspiration, to messages and hints, then you can respond to them and change your life. As you change your life, you become initiated. Nobody else initiates you; you initiate yourself.

When you become an initiate, the Great Initiator comes and puts His hands upon you and says, "You did it!" We are told that in the first and second initiations, the Christ officiates in your initiation ceremony. He does not give you any credentials or a diploma, but affirms your own achievement. The Master Tibetan says, "Before you are initiated, you must be an initiate." It used to be thought that a Master would initiate you and then you would suddenly change and enter into greater light, love, and power. But this does not occur in reality. This idea is old-age information that is not based upon true experience.

You are going to initiate yourself. The Master will pass you through a ceremony to affirm that you are ready to enter a greater sphere of fire and, by doing

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so, your vehicles will not be damaged. After your "fire" is checked, the Master performs a ceremony in which greater responsibilities and duties are placed on your shoulders. After you are affirmed as an initiate, greater responsibilities and duties are given to you; this is what it means to be initiated. You make yourself ready and They load you according to the Plan and to the degree of your development.

I remember an incident where my violin teacher told me I was going to become a part of an orchestra. "Try to learn this piece and come see me in a few weeks to be checked," he said. A few weeks later I played the piece for him. He listened to me carefully and said, "No good. Bad; bad; bad." I went home very angry. "My goodness," I thought, "what else could I do? This man does not even know music; he did not see the talent I have." I was in total vanity.

A few days passed before I suddenly realized that my teacher could be right, and I very seriously tried to play the same piece again. After practicing it over and over again, I came to see how defective my music was. When I saw myself as I was and the corrections I could make, I almost cried. I did not know how I dared to go to my teacher and ask him to let

me play in the orchestra. But he helped me break my vanity. If I had stayed in my vanity, I would never have been able to pass beyond my level and become a better musician because vanity was my prison. A few weeks later, I was ready. He carefully listened to me and said, "You made it. Now you can play in the orchestra."

This is how initiations take place. You must initiate yourself, but the Master must check you, whether you like it or not. You cannot say, "I do not need to be checked. I do not need the guidance of Teachers. The path is free and I can make it by myself." It is true that you can do it by yourself, but it is most probable that you will get lost in the desert of your vanity instead.

You cannot enter from one level into another without help because initiation changes the frequency of all your being. If there are two different frequencies - one is yours and the other belonging to a higher plane - they cannot fuse with each other unless they become the same frequency. When you are switching on your radio, it receives only the station it is tuned to. You cannot expect to hear other stations if you do not tune in to their specific frequency.

The path of initiation is not like a soup with different vegeta-

bles which go together in a free manner. In initiation, there is symphony and orchestration; there is law and order; there is geometry, harmony, beauty, and alignment with that which is higher.

We can say that the process of initiation is the process of discipline. The process of discipline is the gradual adjustment and harmony of the vehicles with the innermost center of beauty within yourself. Whatever degree you touch that beauty, that is the degree of your initiation. Symbolically speaking, if you touch twenty degrees, you are a first degree initiate. If you touch fifty degrees, you are a second degree initiate. If you contact seventy-five degrees, you are a Third Degree Initiate, and so on.

Initiation purifies your physical vehicles. No corruption or trash can enter into the presence of the Lords. It is impossible. If you have a lover, you take a shower and beautify yourself before you go to visit him or her. What degree of purity and beauty is expected from you when you want to visit the Christ? The physical body must be transformed; that is why there is a new approach in the West to vegetarianism, diet, and discipline of the body. When we are involved in these practices, we must remember that they are

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only steps, not the goal itself. I have seen many vegetarians who are criminals. It is not enough to take care of your body if the other realms of your being are not cared for properly. Vegetarianism cannot make you an initiate, but it helps if you take it as a means and not as a goal. Initiation makes us realize that our physical body must pass through a process of purification or transformation. Then we can start taking the following items, as well as others, into consideration:

1. What and how to eat
2. How to sleep
3. How to dress
4. How to clean the body
5. With whom to shake hands
6. With whom to make love
7. From whom to keep away

Purity and impurity cannot agree or fuse with each other. You can have pure water in a barrel, but one drop of poison can pollute the whole barrel. This is why purity was greatly emphasized in old schools and monasteries of initiation.

A great Sage, in speaking about the seven points listed above, says, "If the Chalice is not baked in the fire, it cannot carry fire." Through meditation and contemplation, you are going to contact a great center of energy and power. Suppose you receive that energy and power. If your body is not transformed, it will be destroyed or so many physical complications will result that you will be unable to solve them and you will suffer tremendously. This is the reason that real Masters do not walk among common people. The energy and power of Their presence shatters people or stimulates their glamors and illusions, creating chaos. We must know that when we approach fire, the fire will burn us if any impurity exists in our bodies.

Adjusting our vehicles to the purity of the inner fire is the path of discipline. One day we met a great Disciple and asked Him if we could meditate with Him. He smiled at us and, pointing to a large rock, said, "Can you carry this stone on your backs?" "No," we replied, "it is too heavy." "Yes," He said. "Suppose we enter into meditation and I released a great voltage of energy into your systems. What would happen to you? It will increase the germs in your physical body, it will multiply your illusions and glamors, and you will suffer under the heavy load."

This is why we need to be ready to receive fire and for the assumption of heavier burdens through the process of meditation. You may become partially purified if someone takes a "bad spirit" out of you, but the next moment a "legion of spirits" will enter you if you approach the fire unprepared.

### **Breaking Barriers**

Every initiation is a breaking down of barriers that exist on the way of our total freedom. These barriers can be our own creation, as the sound barrier of a jet plane. They can also be our accumulated karma on many levels or the seven vehicles which we use. Initiation is going beyond barriers.

The physical body is a machine we use, but it is also a barrier. It imprisons us in many ways. The same is true for other bodies. Higher bodies imprison us through their rhythm, beauty, and glory and we do not want to give them up. Even our chakras are barriers.

We must mediate upon these matters if we want deeper wisdom revealed to us.

Initiation is also a process of breaking through the human materialism, glamors, and illusions and passing beyond them. Sometimes it is easy to break the personal hindrances, but national and global hin-

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## Book Specials & News

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♥ **Sale Books:** In March and April 2003, we offer the following books at 30% off the list price:

- *Obsession and Possession*, List price (\$25.00)
- *Olympus World Report... The Year 3000*  
List price (\$18.00)
- *One Hundred Names of God*  
List price (\$13.95)
- *Psyche and Psychism*, (2 vols) List price (\$60.00)
- *Psychology of Cooperation and Group Consciousness*, List price (\$12.00)
- *Purpose of Life*. List price (\$10.95)
- *Science of Becoming Oneself*. Available in Hard cover and Softcover. List price (\$16.00, \$15.00)

We have books with slightly damaged covers in our bookstore for 50% off. Call us for available titles.

♥ **A number of lecture videos by Torkom Saraydarian are available for \$10.00. You can call us for available titles or order online. Supplies are limited and subject to availability.**

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drances are much thicker. We should go through such hindrances like an arrow to our destination.

There are other things that must also be conquered on the path of your initiation. You must annihilate your ego, vanity, and separativeness. These are individually-built barriers, and also globally-built barriers.

The initiate must exercise appreciation, re-organization of values, and try to see the beauty of other people. For example, to be able to see the manifold beauty and nobility and the creative depth of your Teacher is in itself an initiation.

Those who have a divided image of their own self, or are sick with jealousy and envy, are always thrown out of the path. But those who have pure devotion

♥ The **TSG Annual Wesak Conference** in Sedona has been moved to TSG Center in Cave Creek. Details are in the enclosed flyer. We hope to see everyone soon.

♥ **TSG (UK) Ltd.** offers a full bookstore for all our European customers. See [www.tsg-uk.org](http://www.tsg-uk.org). Fall 2003 Seminars are being planned for September.

♥ **Books to Libraries:** In a bold new move, TSG is planning to give thousands of books to groups, churches, and libraries. See enclosed flyer for details and how you can help.

♥ **Archive Project News:** Equipment costs have dropped to an affordable level so we will soon be starting the process of transferring Torkom's lecture videos to DVD and tapes to CD. To learn how you can be involved visit our website or call us at 480-502-1909.

♥ **Torkom's music** will soon be re-released on CD's. Digitally remastered, you will hear a much improved quality. The following are being released in April/May 2003: *Spirit of My Heart*, *Toward Freedom*, and *Far Horizons*.

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and dedication are always guided back to the path even if they have momentarily fallen away from the path.

Ability to see, to recognize, to appreciate greatness, and express active gratitude to greatness is in itself an initiation.

Initiation is the process of self-forgetfulness. A true Initiate never thinks about when he is going to take initiation.

Initiation is like the sun that shines more and more upon you as you climb out from a canyon toward a mountain top.

You must learn also not to lose your head and your compassion when your psychic magnet pulls out all the dirt accumulated in the hearts of people

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around you. You will stay firm and stable when people become excited and horrified by their dirt and try to hurt you, to kill you, or to damage you in various ways. It is not easy to be a magnet and stand firm when dark arrows start flying toward you.

Of course you have a psychic shield, but sometimes it is very costly to try to purify people and to expand their consciousness. It may even cost you your life.

The ability to stay firm and not lose your vision in such situations is itself an initiation.

There are many kinds of barriers, and one of the heavy barriers is vulnerability during attacks. This must be conquered as well.

Dark forces are very expert in creating barriers. They know what your real barriers are, and sometimes they try to cover your barriers in such a way that you walk into them and trap yourself. The misfortune of not seeing your barriers is itself a great barrier on your path.

*(Excerpted from **Initiation and the Path of Service**, unpublished book by Torkom Saraydarian. Copyright The Creative Trust. All Rights Reserved. Reprinted by permission of Copyright holder.)*

## Expansion of Consciousness

See how flowers  
bloom.  
See how stars shine.  
See how  
fragrance spreads itself  
in space.

Everything expands  
from its core,  
from within.

Direct your thoughts  
toward beauty,  
toward the symphony  
of the Universe.

Direct your thoughts  
toward  
the fields of light,  
of love  
toward the source  
of power.

Fuse your thoughts  
with the fields  
of light and love  
and joy.

Thoughts are  
magnetic rays.  
They absorb  
and channel that

with which  
they come in contact.

Let the rays  
of your thoughts  
touch the fiery heart  
of the Universe.

Only energies coming from  
the heart of Cosmos  
will expand  
your consciousness.

Every time  
your thoughts  
touch  
the Cosmic Heart,  
your Chalice,  
your heart,  
will dance  
in joy.

It is this joy  
that expands  
your consciousness,  
expands  
your horizons.

Keep your thoughts  
pure.

Only pure thoughts  
are pure  
transmitters

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of light, of love, of joy.

Expansion of consciousness

is a road

leading you back

Home.

Look how

flowers bloom....

Look how

stars shine....

Look how

fragrance spreads....

Open your heart

to the beauty

of Cosmos.

Let your

consciousness expand

and reflect

the deeper image

of far-off worlds,

the image of your

glory within.

(Reprinted from the book of Poetry, *From My Heart*, pp. 159-161, by Torkom Saraydarian.)

## Q&A with Torkom

**Question:** *What is the difference between forgiveness and avoiding confrontation?*

**Answer:** Avoiding confrontation is a fear-filled action. You are not fearless; you are afraid. You go into your shell and pretend that you are a very strong and noble man, but at the same time you are avoiding confrontation because you are fearful. You think about your skin more than the truth. If you see that a man is violating the principles of a nation and the population is in danger, not to confront him is a hideous crime. Brave people give their life for principles. Christ did it. I bet they told Him that if He denied all the Teachings that He gave, He would be a King. He said, "Go behind Me, Satan."

**Question:** *You said that when people have existence they have become their own spirit, their own soul.*

**Answer:** First of all you must understand who *exists*. Something that is not real cannot exist. Your body is not real. It cannot exist as a body. Fifty years later that body is gone. Your emotions are not real because they are a body. Mind is a body. Who is the one who is *existing*? It is your spirit, your True Self. When you are your True Self, you exist. Then you are free. Your True Self exists because you have conquered all those things which are not the Self. You conquered the not-self. This is a hard pill, but you can swallow it.

If you read the Teaching of Christ very closely, very deeply, you will see that in that Teaching from the beginning to the end Christ is emphasizing freedom. It is not only political freedom, social freedom, and so on but also an essential freedom. That essential freedom is the elimination of all those limitations and obstacles that are preventing the human being from returning to his Divine nature. Everything that prevents you from being yourself, your essential Self, is an obstacle, is a limitation, and the Teaching of Christ shows exactly how to eliminate these obstacles and hindrances to lead you to total freedom.

(Reprinted from *Christ the Avatar of Sacrificial Love* by Torkom Saraydarian, pp. 257, 275-276. All quotes reprinted by permission of The Creative Trust.)