

A Few Words . . .

By Gita Saraydarian

Torkom Saraydarian considered our self-image as an important part of our path of discipleship. When we strive to become an authentic person, a person of character and discipline, we must take into consideration how we see ourselves and how it is consistent with how we present ourselves in the world.

Our image of who we are has many sources. In *The Mystery of Self Image* published in 1993, Torkom discusses the many ways we build our image and even multiple images. He continued to lecture and write about the importance of our self-image and its many complex forms, and this current book is a result of his subsequent work.

As we observe our current life and the huge challenges that we face to create a sound self-image, we must renew our commitment to find the true image that our Solar Angel holds for us, and to guard it against all intrusions and falsifications that society forces upon us.

Our self-image acts as a subterranean energy current that colors all that we do. If that image is based on our truest values, and if that image is continuously being updated and refined, then our life will reflect this continuous growth and expansion. However, if we succumb to the images forced upon us by family, tradition, gender roles, or social expectations, we will have great difficulty growing out of old images and growing in ways that are more in tune with the need of the times.

In Chapter 10, Torkom writes the following:

Every advancing person knows that he is aspiring to a point of spiritual beauty. This point of achievement is the anchorage and the fulcrum of all his activities through all his lives.

As long as he has such an image within his soul and periodically draws energy and inspiration from that image, he will never be imprisoned by those images that he creates throughout his lives that are conditioned by inner and outer situations.



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SELF-Image - Finding Your True Identity

For an average person it is difficult to surpass the self-image forced upon him by the conditions of his life and by his reactions and responses. If he is a servant to such an image, he will always be conditioned by that image in all circumstances and relationships, and those who do not accept him as a servant of that image will be rejected by him.

But an advancing person will be able to destroy his temporary and conditional images by the force of the image that he has in his soul. The image of beauty, glory, freedom, the anchorage of his existence, will dissipate every temporary image created by him for adaptation with life and life circumstances. It is this image that, like a golden thread, will bind him to his innermost divinity. It will pull him up every time his temporary image is no longer useful for his progress on the path.

Many people are trapped in their self-image, for one life or many lives, without being able to release themselves from their image and its forceful manipulations.

An advanced person is always aware that under what ever image he is living, it is temporary, and it is the best mechanism that he can use at that time to continue his own development and relationship. But this is done with the feeling that this image must not be a concrete pattern but an unfolding flower through which he can gradually introduce the beauty of the Archetype that he has in his spirit.

We are pleased to present this inspiring book to you. We hope this gives you the courage and inspiration to work toward a greater self-image, one that is consistent with your Archetype that your Solar Angel holds for you.

With love and appreciation,
Gita Saraydarian
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