

Monday Morning

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Joseph Majdalani

## 'THE SOCIETY OF THE WHITE KNOWLEDGE'

The Society of the White Knowledge is an intellectual grouping formed in Beirut some months ago, a member of the Society told us last week, under the direction of Joseph B. Majdalani, originator of the idea, and a few other founders, among them George Sayegh and Mrs. Malou Abi-Saleh. Members of the Society now number 300.

As the fact of the Society's formation becomes better known, a series of activities have started, temporarily restricted to weekly meetings and debates among members, and the monthly publication of a book giving an analysis and exposition of the Society's concepts and views, its aims, and the need of the modern age therefor.

The Society is a non-secret, non-sectarian, non-political organization. Its aim is strictly intellectual and experimental. It delves into the depths of

man's self-knowledge, the member of the Society told us.

The Society has already published seven books in Arabic. These, with their English titles, are: *Know Your Heart, The Science of Numbers and the Secret of the Cipher (Zero), The Book of Man, The Ten Letters, Directives to the Inner World in Man, Letter from a Master to His Pupils, and Views of the Masters on Existence and on Man.*

*The Book of Man*, which has been printed four times, is a detailed exposition on Man's self, dedicated "to those who aspire to the fulfillment of the supreme perfect life by way of perfecting the inferior earthly life, through self-discovery, self-knowledge and self-culture." It has a foreword by Dr. Moussa Prince, who explains the gist of the sublime heavenly teachings which set aflame in man the aspiration for the at-

tainment of eternal ecstasy at the end of the spiritual path. That ecstasy is the bliss of the soul upon fulfilment of its spiritual realization which is the outcome of the painful effort of rational understanding, which liberates man from the claws of materialism. Dr. Prince describes the book as: "the traversing bridge between the limited beginning and the boundless end... and the aim is the attainment of real happiness".

The book deals with questions concerning the purpose of the creation of man, his origin, the nature of the man of the future, the human-god, transcendence over matter, the duality in man, incarnation and resurrection of the spirit. It evaluates man's accomplishments, speaks of the development of his unconsciousness and his sensory perception, the unfoldment of his inner consciousness and inner awareness, his seven states of consciousness, the seven stages of life and the seven degrees on the greater path of man's perfection. It delves into the mysteries of nature and man, the mind, the universe and the universal system, knowledge and the truth, and other subjects dealing with man's innermost nature.

The Society has recently founded an institute for the study and practice of esotericism, which is in fact the "esoteric science" or the science of the inner self. The institute's name is "The Esoteric Path".

What is this science of the inner self? Here is a résumé of the explanation given by Joseph B. Majdalani: "We will try to shed some light on this unique subject by first posing certain relevant questions to the reader. " - Have you ever considered the nature of the hidden powers in man, those which are known as telepathy, extra-sensory perception, thought-transference, the sixth sense, telekinesis, the third eye, etc.?"

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" - Have you ever considered the nature of the hidden powers in man, those which are known as telepathy, extra-sensory perception, thought-transference, the sixth sense, telekinesis, the third eye, etc.?"

" - Have you ever reflected on the nature and

precision of that enormous energy which organizes and controls the bodily functions? Normally, the brain never fails to issue its orders to the various members of the body, nor does the heart ever stop pumping the blood of life, or the eye fail to wink!!

" - Have you ever thought of the influence of the correspondences of the stars and planets on man's temperamental nature, the course of his life, and on life in general?!"

" - Have you ever questioned, for example, the reason why one ordinary man or the other failed to discover the secrets of the atom, or originate a certain mathematical formula... whereas some one discoverer or one other scientist was brilliantly successful in the field of discovery?!"

" - What about the phenomenon of child prodigy?!"

" - Have you ever pondered the nature of the dream? Is it an illusion, a mirage, or is there another subtler world which man visits during sleeps?!"

" - Have you ever understood why sometimes you feel strangely and irresistibly drawn to someone you hardly know or have just met, feeling very much at ease with that person, whereas you cannot possibly feel the same way with some other person you have long known?!"

" - In your mind surely lingers and occasionally

arises the elusive question: "Whence before our birth... and whither after our death?!"

" Man asks himself many other relative questions, consciously or unconsciously, and though he more than often dares not admit them to himself openly, they continue to lie latent in the very depths of his being. Every now and then they awaken and pose themselves to him, to remind him of their inherent existence. However, man habitually ignores or disregards such questions, for the reason that either he himself cannot possibly arrive at convincing or logical answers to them, or because material science has not yet openly admitted matters of such a subtle nature, and when it rarely does, it presents them in theory form. On the other hand, the bigoted material scientists attribute them to superstition, illusions and irrational beliefs. Now, had this been really so, why have they persisted in

the memory of every man since time immemorial?!"

Mr. Majdalani continues:

"We say that there is a science known as "the Esoteric Science" or the Science of the Inner Self, which answers all those questions and any other question that may cross your mind. This is so not only because the "Esoteric Science" embraces all sciences, but because it is the science of man in his entirety -- man from all aspects, visible and invisible, physical, inner and spiritual!"

"We do not claim the promulgation of a new science, as 'the Esoteric Science' is actually the most ancient on earth. It existed since the consciousness of man became mature. Its secrets have been concealed in ancient documents and manuscripts, and held privately in safekeeping.

"Some people think that we are introducing a new philosophy or science in the "market". This is not so at all. We are simply unveiling an old science which was the only and most important one during the flourishing civilizations of the East, and of ancient Greece and Egypt. We are placing it at the disposal of the aspirants and seekers after self-knowledge.

"We do not ask that this unveiled science be accepted as actual truth arbitrarily, for, one should become intimately acquainted with its propositions and practically apply them before one is expected to accept them as convincing truths, as this

is the only science that is based on experimentation in the laboratory of the inner self; and here, man himself is both the laboratory and the experimenter."

Mr. Majdalani goes on:

"The Esoteric Path" is the only one that answers your questions practically. It places at your disposal practical methods, the application of which will enable you to perceive the truth directly, and acquire the higher knowledge all by yourself.

"When we say 'the Esoteric Science', the word science here is not meant in its limited or strict sense, nor more particularly in its modern understanding of the term. In fact, 'Esotericism', as we might also call it, embraces and is based on the correlation of the three branches of knowledge by which man has always endeavoured to arrive at the fundamental truths of existence -- namely, philosophy, religion and science.

"In its philosophical aspect, our institute, 'The Esoteric Path' but a practical way of life. Speculative philosophy is theoretical, based on futile argumentation, and its uncertain conclusions are bound to change each time a new theory is formed.

"The Esoteric Path' is not a denominational religion, but a realization of basic truths, and therefore a respecter of all religions and beliefs. It draws adherents of all creeds who find that it elucidates their own speculative beliefs!"

"Very simply, "The

Esoteric Path" is a way of life, a path of evolution and unfoldment of consciousness. It is the way to man's self-knowledge, not only that of his physical body, but of his whole being!!

"Of old it was said 'Know thyself', and 'Man, know thyself and thou shalt know God and the Universe'. Has man come to really know himself, let alone God and the Universe?!!

"Material science tells us that man uses only a small portion of his potential powers and faculties, and that the brain capacity of an ordinary man is limited to 6-10% of the totality of his brain cells. So, man's knowledge of himself is currently proportional to this small percentage only. "The Esoteric Path" works to expand man's consciousness by increasing his capacity to use a larger portion of his brain cells which can unfold and multiply only by use. This will clarify man's understanding, allowing him to delve deeper into the mysteries of his own being. Then, he will find that much around him that seemed obscure, ambiguous and mysterious, is being gradually clarified, elucidated and unravelled.

"There remains to say that the 'knowledge of man' ever continues to be man's immediate aim!!!"

For further information, you may call the Society of White Knowledge at telephone numbers 895094 and 897005 in Beirut.