

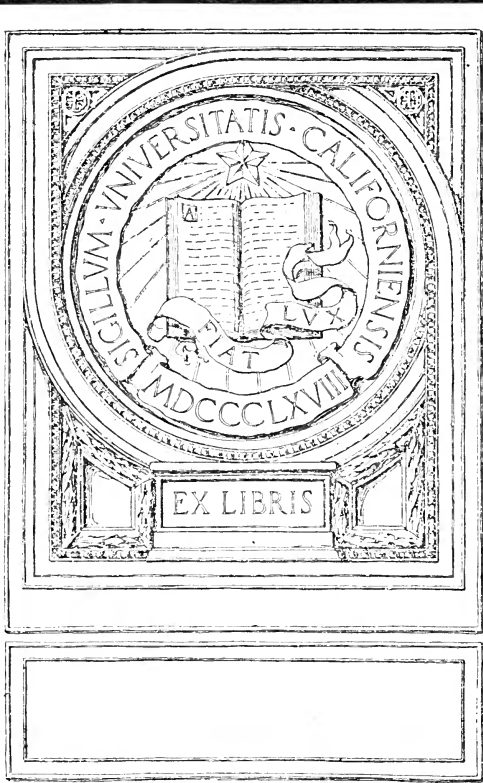
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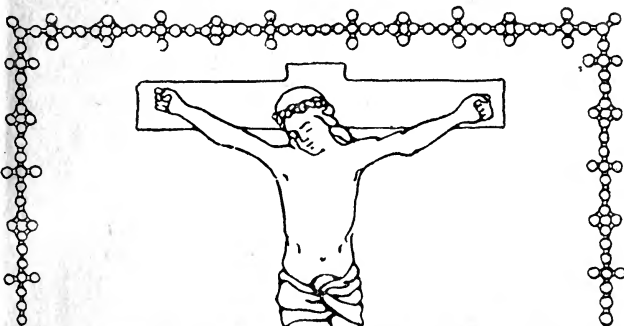


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CHRIST OR BUDDHA

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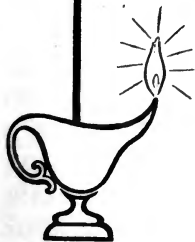


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ABSTRACT

Christ or
Buddha?



Annett C. Rich

The
Rosicrucian
Fellowship

Oceanside,

California



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FOREWORD

The following treatise was written by the author at my request, for the purpose mentioned in the first two paragraphs, and being well fitted by years of study of both Eastern and Western Religious systems to undertake such a commission, she has, in my estimation, given a most comprehensive view of the subject. She has taken a most sympathetic attitude towards the Eastern teaching as becomes an enlightened soul. Thus the spirit of this little book is not controversial in any sense, for we do not believe in trying to build up our own religion by casting dirt upon that of other people. We are just as sure that the religion of the East is perfectly suited to the people who live there as that the Christian religion is the religion for the Western people. Were the Buddha teaching today and a student from the West asked his opinion as to whether he should follow him or the Christ, I feel sure that he would direct the inquirer to The Light of the World; and this little book is therefore sent forth in the hope that it may show Western students that THEIR RELIGION IS THE CHRISTIAN, and that they should leave the Eastern religion to the Eastern people, while embracing with their whole heart and soul the religion of the Christ.

Max Heindel.

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Christ or Buddha?

INTRODUCTION

When the Eastern Occult Teaching was presented to the Western World, about 40 years ago, its explanations of the Universe were accepted as reasonable by many students, and since the Rosicrucian Cosmo-Conception has been given in 1909, similar in certain respects concerning the laws governing the Universe, the question naturally arises as to its scope and purpose, why it has been given, and whether its teachings and methods of development are better suited to an advanced or modern civilization.

This treatise is written in answer to the inquiry and to correct the erroneous con-

clusion, based upon a superficial glance, that "it is the same."

The 8th chapter of Hebrews tells of a time to come when it will not be necessary to teach others to know God, for then all, from the least to the greatest will have His Laws inscribed in their hearts and minds, and all shall know God. At present, perception is impeded in a varying degree, by the veil of flesh and blood which "cannot inherit the Kingdom of God." We are now grasping for the truth which shall make us free from the fetters of flesh and endue us with the spiritual faculties requisite to know God. It is the promise of Christ, that if we seek we shall find; He made no exception; we need not fear that any be "lost", yet much effort may be saved by searching in the right direction, and we therefore feel impelled to place before Western students some of the differences between the teachings of the East and West with particular emphasis upon the method of soul unfoldment, a method naturally adapted to that mental and racial difference between the Occidental and Oriental civilization, (or people).

(1) *We believe that all religions have been divinely given, each perfectly suited to the nation where it*

was originated by one of God's messengers.

(2) We *know* that the path of civilization has been from East to West, and that the most advanced people are now living here.

(3) We *think* it a reasonable supposition that the most advanced religion has been given to the most advanced people, and that thus our Christian religion is at present the most lofty form of worship.

(4) We *know* that each of the older religions had Mystery Schools for advanced souls, also that Christ gave his chosen disciples knowledge concerning "the Mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven", but parables to the public.

(5) In the Eastern Teaching Universal *Brotherhood* is considered the great Ideal. In the Christian Mystery Teaching of the West Universal *Friendship* is the Ideal. Christianity is to be a Cosmic instead of a race religion, and its esoteric teachings are destined to become universal. According to the Western teaching Christ is the Leader of the next Great Epoch and

will come again, but in a "soul body", (soma psuchicon), as taught by Paul in 1 Cor:15:45. . This vehicle is built of ether, and when man has evolved etheric consciousness so that he can meet Him "face to face", the Lord will appear.

(6) If the Christian religion is the most advanced, its inner teaching must necessarily be deeper and more far reaching than any other, and the Western Wisdom Teaching, includes methods of developing the soulbody so that we may function consciously in the invisible worlds while still living in the dense body. This method is particularly adapted to the need of Westerners, hence it is productive of results without the dangers attendant upon the use of Eastern methods by Western people.

In conclusion, the writer may add that after many years' study of the ancient religions she speaks without prejudice and with gratitude for the light there received. Thus she feels free to voice her conviction that the Christian religion is more lofty than any of its precursors; that the Christian Mystery Teachings, now promulgated by the Order of Rosicrucians through the

Rosicrucian Fellowship, are both scientific and specially adapted to this advanced civilization, and that to repudiate the Christian religion for any of the older systems is analagous to preferring the oldest text-books of science to the new editions which embrace discoveries to date.

A HISTORICAL RETROSPECT

We no longer need to be reminded that we are living in times pregnant with innovations. Into every department of our civilization has swept the intrepid invading spirit of inquiry, of investigation, of analysis. Neither can we fail to observe that we are living in an age where the intellect is reaching its most practical and intense expression of development, that it is arrogating to itself with a royal self-sufficing confidence the right to challenge any code of ethics, and theory of life or religion, any landmark of civilization, or hypothesis of science, and to demand proof of their right to exist. Nothing in the universe is too colossal for its investigation or too infinitesimal for its analysis. Society has ceased to shrink from the revolutionary attacks of scientific discoveries which for many years have been beating back with resistless force; ignorance, prejudice and dogmatism.

These have had their day, and are now powerless to restrain progress; mankind is advancing whether it will or not.

In no department of life is the spirit of inquiry, of sifting, of investigation more intimately manifested than in religion. Into this domain of mystery and tradition, into the depths of its origin, into the realm of its authority has marched the relentless spirit of inquiry which has not halted or flinched or turned back, though all the sacred bulwarks of creeds threatened to crumble before its encroachments. The intellect is demanding a right higher than that of the priest to interpret the truth of religion, confidently asserting that if it cannot discern truth or penetrate beyond the borders of the invisible to a knowledge of God, no other faculty exists capable of cognizing Deity.

If we look back over the centuries of history we note that the present intellectual and material age is the fruitage of a long and significant past, the crest of a wave of progress that has followed an impulse sent out from the very cradle of the race. Vague and uncertain as our glimpse may be of the civilization of India, Egypt, Persia or Greece, we nevertheless can note that since the birth of the Aryan race the line of pro-

gressive movement has been toward the beckoning glory of the setting sun.

When *India* reached the pinnacle of her greatness, the Hindu religion taught a conception of God and His omnipotence then which history furnishes none more lofty or spiritual. From the crest of that wave has flashed down through the centuries the light of a wonderful truth of the unity of life, and of the Divine presence in the universe. Then, with mighty stillness the wave receded to reappear in *Persia* adding a new message to stimulate human progress.

We do not usually associate the idea of material development with the Orient either, yet this, too, was born among them, for as the keynote of the Hindu religion is Unity, realizing the Deity in every part of the universe, so the keynote of the Parsi or Zoroastrian religion is Purity, purity of conduct and affairs of life. Zoroaster came to lift his people from the sloth of idleness into which they had fallen, and to arouse them from the state of apathy and inactive contemplation of the inner life, all too common among the Hindus, to a consideration adapted to its day as are all great religions, it emphasized the practical side of life rather than the metaphysical, and its motto of "pure thoughts, pure words, pure deeds" re-

veals how ancient is the doctrine of right thinking and right living.

Centuries later the Buddha came to re-enunciate the ancient truths that lay obscured beneath the debris of selfishness and caste, and feeling the suffering and sin of the world to be rooted in unfilled desire, his compassionate heart sought to alleviate sorrow through the doctrine of overcoming all desire and thus attaining to peace, a doctrine that fell like a benediction on the troubled life of his contemporaries, and which still lives in the hearts of his followers.

With the passing of the great Eastern Teachers the glory of the Orient began to wane. Again the spiritual wave receded to re-appear among the *Greeks*, in Hellas, worthy to be guarded from the powers of darkness, in whose splendid dust still trails the clouds of its ancient glory. Since the Greeks, no higher type of pure intellect has been achieved, their art, their philosophy speak always in the language of repose, of dignity, of self-control. To them, *Truth* and *Beauty* were the pearls of great price. They inscribed over their temples "Know Thyself", for to know thyself is to know truth, whether manifesting through the conscious power of their god Apollo, issuing from his temple to defend in person the

secreted shrine or reflected from the splendid achievements of Pericles, or through the lofty philosophy of Pythagoras, of Socrates, of Plato we contact always the presence of intellectual power in search for truth, and when drunk with pride of intellect and self-sufficiency, Greece fell before the organized militarism of *Rome*.

From its pinnacle of military supremacy *Rome* looked with complacency over the world it had conquered. Little it dreamt that it would topple before mere spiritual force, bequeathing its heritage of law, order and justice to a later generation.

To glimpse the misery and degradation of the world at the feet of Rome, enslaved by vice, apathy and superstition, is to realize, though vaguely, how far humanity had strayed from the lofty precepts of the ancient Teachers. All too faintly amid the babble of race prejudice, and race separateness, sounded the ancient keynotes of unity and purity. Egypt was wrapped in the darkness of a degenerate priesthood. India was fettered by caste, Persia lay asleep beneath its jewelled canopies, the glory of Greece was dimmed, the camp-fires of Rome, reeking with vice and dissipation, affronted the skies, and almost it seemed as if God had forgotten His world. But, "He stand-

eth still within the shadow, keeping watch above His own". "Again the time had come for one of those divine manifestations, which from age to age are made for helping humanity". Such a manifestation invariably comes when the oppression of darkness seems too heavy to bear and a new impulse is needed to quicken spiritual growth.

Into this maelstrom of a decaying empire, into the weariness of a despairing world, into the midst of a lost and despised people, descended the Sun Spirit Christ; manifesting "the greatest of the Divine measures yet put forth for the upliftment of the world". Christ came, not alone to rescue truth from oblivion, or to bring back the ancient teachings, or to re-establish the law, but to add to them the greatest principle of all: Love, to reveal to humanity the doctrine of the heart; how we may attain to a more sublime wisdom by the pathway of love, than we can reach by reason. He came to replace the Race relations which were instituted by and under the guidance of Jehovah, with a *Cosmic Religion*, promotive of Universal Amity as well as Universal Brotherhood, a religion wherein the reign of Law is superseded by the reign of Love, and wherein the spirit of antagonism and separateness which lies at the root of all

race religions, will be transmuted into selfless service, each for all, so that nations may beat their swords into plowshares and the reign of Friendship and peace begin.

In all the previous religions there were deeper truths than were given to the masses: The priests were custodians of this inner knowledge, but Initiation was open only to the few. Humanity was not sufficiently advanced to receive it. Those who partook of the ancient Mysteries required the mediation of Priests, and only the High Priest could enter the innermost Temple of God. When Christ came, begotten of the Father, He brought direct to humanity the light and power of the spiritual Sun. He poured into human life the Cosmic Ray of Himself. He is the link between God and man. The Way, the Truth and the Life, fulfilling within Himself the office of the High Priest after the Order of Melchisedek, Himself the Initiator, and now "whomsoever will may come and drink of the water of Life freely".

It seems paradoxical to consider the material growth and supremacy of the modern civilization as in any real sense the outcome of an impulse sent forth by the gentle Nazarene, yet the birth of the Christian religion gave direct and special stimulus to *individual* achievement, for it broke down the barriers

of caste and race and made all men equal in the sight of God. That all are brothers is a fact in nature, but under the regime of Jehovah, some were preferred to others, therefore Christ came to level the difference. Galilee itself was a more fitting birthplace for a new order of things than may be at first apparent. Obscure as it is today, two thousand years ago Galilee was the mecca of travellers who flocked there from the known parts of the world. It was as cosmopolitan as Rome itself, a sort of "melting-pot", providing conditions congenial for the birth of a body and brain different from the ordinary type, and an environment where adaptability to new impulses could find scope and new conceptions be sent over the world. In this new Christian religion the old ideals of slave and master, Jew and Gentile, priest and people, Brahmin and Pariah were superseded by the ideal of *equality*, of *independence* and *individual freedom*. Even the lowliest began to lift their heads as free men do and to reach towards individual achievement and individual development, and with this new sense of freedom in their hearts it is small wonder that they commenced to quaff their first thirst in the waters of material prosperity that never before had sparkled so copiously at their feet. Our

modern civilization is a normal outgrowth of this impetus given to individual development both in thought and action.

The material and intellectual achievements of modern civilization have naturally evolved the critical and analytical spirit that always accompanies individual growth. This was accentuated by the birth of modern science, until today the intellect sits enthroned upon the knowledge it has acquired, and refuses to accept anything as truth that cannot be seen, measured or analyzed. But though physical science may scoff at the Christian religion of love and self-sacrifice, as being unscientific and contrary to the laws of self-preservation and survival of the fittest, the teachings of the lowly Nazarene has silently and almost imperceptibly inoculated the Western World with a spirit of altruism which has been burrowing its way into the hearts of humanity since the sacrifice on Golgotha, impelling the world to bear each other's burdens and make the cause of individual welfare the cause of the whole, for only thus can man enter into the full birthright of his freedom and of the Christian Teaching.

CHRISTIAN ROSENKREUZ

Every student knows that this modern civilization has not been achieved by stages of smooth and uniform growth. Following the spiritual impulse of early Christianity came the grewsome dark age with its cloak of superstition and intolerance. The Christian Religion was used as a ladder for greed and ambition, and the inner teachings of Christ were submerged under a theological dogmatism that threatened to arrest human progress for the sake of ecclesiastical supremacy. The shackles of an autocratic priesthood were at length broken by modern science and *reason* leaped to the dangerous tyrannical supremacy it still maintains.

The intellect in its revolt against superstition soon showed a leaning towards ultra-materialism, and that this might not engulf the spiritual Truth there came about the 13th century a great Teacher bearing the symbolical name: Christian Rosenkreutz, to throw new light upon the misunderstood Christian Teachings, to preserve them and steer them through the impending materialistic and theological controversies. He is a warder of the hidden Wisdom of the West which alone can satisfy *both* heart and mind.

We are today in the midst of a civilization born of stress, strife and ultra activity, a civilization hewn by the sword and trailed by human blood. Truly Christ came "not to bring peace but a sword", for only thus can crystallized *nations* be broken to pieces and emancipated from the limitations of family tradition and race prejudice and be amalgamated into a family of the whole. This is a civilization that outstrides the weak, yet stoops in its unresting speed to succor those under its feet. It is to this service side of life that the true mystic Christian Religion is specially adapted. Its teachings are the heritage of a splendid past, the outgrowth of the "ever-becoming". Wave upon wave of spiritual impulses have preceded it, each one lifting humanity a little higher. It marks the height to which the world has climbed in ideals of *Brotherhood* and points the goal of *Universal Friendship* to which it will yet attain. Its teachings are still in a stage of growth, still in the forming, yet so virile is it that when Western students, weary of the materialism with which they are surrounded turn to the East for religious teachings, they are often thrown back upon their own Christian Religion to find scope for the freedom they have evolved, for the progress they have achieved, and for

the Christ doctrine of the heart that has arisen among us, which refuses to be denied and which proclaims that every man is his brother's keeper.

During the sway of the ancient civilization humanity was more under the direct guidance of its Leaders, the external world was less potent in its influence. The people practiced their lesson of obedience to the priests, their inner life was a nearer reality and metaphysical development was a normal outcome, but since humanity grows through experience, it was needful that it learn to stand on its own feet, learn to conquer the external world as well as the spiritual, and do its full share in the world's work. Every race has a body suited to its development. The Hindu body (and I speak of the Hindu because most of the Eastern religious teachings that reaches the Western World comes from the Hindu) is especially adapted to metaphysical thought, the ethers of his vital body are as yet loosely interwoven into his physical, and therefore *negatively* receptive to spiritual impacts, it lacks the sturdier qualities that render it capable of coping with and mastering the external world. All worlds of nature must be conquered by man that he may carry back the full fruitage of experience to God who sent

him forth. The lessons of this physical world are as essential as the spiritual. The Western brain and body are characterized by adaptability and fertility of resource, both necessary to material evolution. Because the ethers are closely interwoven in our physical bodies, *the Eastern methods of development tend to derange the Westerner's faculties* instead of spiritualizing them.

This Western direction towards outward things has produced many significant results. Within its scope has evolved the science of psychology, which furnishes not only a field for scientific research and development, but has also given such an impetus to the practical application of Altruism that no modern civilization ignores the physical or hygienic welfare of its people. To the knowledge of this and other branches of science the Western Wisdom Teaching of the Rosicrucians brings certain new and far reaching explanations that furnish a reasonable solution to many of the problems of evolution.

INVOLUTION, EVOLUTION AND
EPIGENESIS

Besides presenting the theory of Involution of *life* and the synchronous Evolution of *form*, the Western teaching includes a third factor, the Law of *Epigenesis*. Man is himself a factor in the building of his bodies. During antenatal life he works unconsciously, building in the "quintessence of former bodies", later he begins to work consciously, and the more advanced he is, the better he can build. In each embodiment he does some *original work*, so that "there is an influx of new and original causes all the time", and this process of taking initiative, of creating new possibilities of growth, is called "Epigenesis". This enables man to become a *genius* and a co-worker with the Creative Hierarchies of the world. If evolution consisted merely in the unfoldment of germinal or latent possibilities man could not thus become a creator. The Eastern teachings says nothing of this far reaching principle.

During antenatal life he works up con-

Soon after the promulgation of Darwin's theory of evolution certain objections were brought forward which have never been satisfactorily answered by science, but

which receive a reasonable explanation in the Western Wisdom Teaching. These objections to the Darwinian theory of evolution are:

1. The absence of discovered links between the higher apes and man.

There is always movement in nature, and as man passed through the various kingdoms he evolved and occupied forms adapted to each stage of development. "It is a law in nature that no one can inhabit a more efficient body than he is capable of building", but when the form reaches its limit of capacity it begins to degenerate, having served the purpose as a vehicle of growth. All along the way there were always some who refused to advance and were left behind as stragglers. As the pioneers passed into bodies better suited for further progress their outgrown and degenerating vehicles were taken up by the less evolved, and by the stragglers, who in turn used them as stepping stones until the bodies crystalized beyond the possibility of the evolving life to ensoul them, when they returned to the mineral kingdom. Science speaks of the evolution of forms, but there is also this line of degenerating forms used by the less evolved and by the stragglers. The apes belong to the latter class and instead of being the pro-

genitors of man are in reality stragglers occupying the degenerated vehicles once used by man. The Eastern teaching attributes their existence to the improper relations of primitive man with animals.

2. The sterility of hybrids.

This is another problem in evolution passed over entirely by Eastern Occultism, nor is it satisfactorily explained by science, but receives a rational solution in the Western Wisdom Teaching. Briefly stated, it is this:

Until the animals become ensouled by individual indwelling spirits endowed with reason to consciously, or subconsciously, guide themselves *from within*, Mother Nature wisely appoints a group spirit who guides them *from without* in harmony with cosmic law, and that which we call "instinct" is a manifestation of its wisdom. When animals of different species mate their progeny is not wholly under the control of either of the groupspirits which guide its parents. If hybrids were able to propagate the issue would be still further removed from their guidance and control, it would be a helpless waif on the sea of life, having neither instinct nor reason. Therefore the groupspirits kindly withhold the

seed-atom necessary to fertilization from hybrids, which are therefore sterile.

The scientifically observed fact of "haemolysis", or destruction of blood, when unnaturally mixed also has an important bearing on the subject. This is fully elucidated in the Rosicrucian Cosmos Conception to which students desiring to thoroughly sift the matter will do well to refer.

3. The moral and mental supremacy of man over animals.

This fact, so apparent that it cannot escape the notice of the most superficial observer, is not clearly explained by Eastern Occultism, but receives thorough and logical treatment in the Western Wisdom Teaching of the Rosicrucians:

The plants draw their sustenance from the soil, animals feed upon the plants, and the human beings also take their food from the lower kingdoms. Thus, in the final analysis all mineral, vegetable, animal and human forms are composed of the same chemical constituents of the earth.

Besides this physical form-world we see there are realms invisible to the eye, but perceptible by a sixth sense which is latent in the majority, but awakened in many. This spiritual vision reveals the existence of

An Etheric Region, promotive of growth and senseperception.

A Desireworld, and

A World of Thought.

As a form built of chemical matter is required for life in the physical world, so also is it necessary to have a vehicle made of the substance of the other realms of nature in order to express their qualities. Further, Life in evolution is ever seeking expansion of consciousness, to this end forms become more complex as we ascend the scale from mineral to man, and invisible vehicles are also added to the physical form. Man alone has vehicles correlating him to all four realms, and result in four states of consciousness analogous to those possessed by the four kingdoms.

TRANCE

At spiritual seances invisible entities accomplish the feat of materialization by drawing the ether out of a mediums body, forming it as they wish and filling this warp with a woof of physical particles floating in the atmosphere to any desired density. The body of the medium is thus separated from the higher vehicles which link it with the spirit, hence in a state of deep unconsciousness which we call "trance," and as the mineral has only a physical body it may be said to have a trance consciousness.

DREAMLESS SLEEP

When we look at a person wrapped in dreamless slumber, the body seems inert, but when we focus our spiritual vision upon the sleeper we shall see an inner activity. The processes of digestion, assimilation, secretion, etc., are carried on to even greater purpose than in the waking state. This because the dense body is interpenetrated by a vital body made of ether, but the higher vehicles float a few feet above the bed. When we examine the plants we find that they also have a dense and a vital body, which enables them to digest and assimilate food, to breathe the air, etc., and we may therefore say that

the plants have a consciousness analogous to dreamless sleep.

DREAMS

Sometimes when we are unduly intent upon the affairs of this world the higher vehicles do not properly separate when we go to sleep, the dense and vital bodies are then partially interpenetrated by the desire body which generates emotions and *motion*. Because the sense centers of our higher vehicles are then askew in respect of our brain, we see a galaxy of wild dream pictures and are tossed about on the bed under the sway of emotions generated by these visions, nor can we reason about them, for the mind is outside the dense body, and we therefore accept unquestioningly even the most impossible situations.

A vital body and a desire body, interpenetrate the dense body of animals, but are not quite concentric with the physical body. Upon the screen of these vehicles pictures are projected by the wise groupspirit, and the animals, having no mind, follow blindly the course suggested by these pictures. Thus we see that the consciousness of animals is analogous to our own dream-state, with the important difference, that the suggestive pictures projected by the groupspirit are not

irrational, but embody a wonderful wisdom which we mistakenly call "instinct."

The supernormal intelligence and reason observable in domesticated animals are "induced" by association with man, on the same principle that electricity of low voltage is transmitted when an uncharged wire is brought into proximity with another carrying a current of high tension.

THE WAKING STATE

In the waking state all man's vehicles are concentric, and he is thus able to will and reason. The mineral cannot choose whether it will crystalize or not, nor has the plant freewill, it is compelled to bloom by conditions outside its control, the lion must prey and the rabbit must burrow, each species has certain generic habits, and all the separate plants or animals of a certain family act alike under like conditions because impelled to action by the common groupspirit. Therefore, if we know the habits of any separate animal we know the characteristics of the whole family. Not so with man, *who is guided from within*. Each is a species, a law, unto himself, and no matter how many we study, we never can tell what anyone is going to do in a certain case by knowing how another would act. Neither can we write

the biography of a rose, or a lion, only a man whose life is different from all others can be thus sketched.

Thus man's mental and moral supremacy over the animals and lower kingdoms is due to the fact that he is an individual indwelling ego, knowing himself as "*I am*," an appellation unthinkable in an animal, and capable of initiating action from within, by an "*I will*," while animals are guided by from without by a groupspirit and have no volition.

4. The existence of organs of no use to their possessors under the laws of natural or sexual selection.

Here also the Western Wisdom Teaching is more comprehensive and explicit than Eastern Occultism. It distinguishes between

a. Organs which are atrophying because they have ceased to be of use, such as the muscles which move the skin and ears in animals. These are present in man, but are not used, and

b. Organs like the pineal gland and the pituitary body, which have played an important part of our past evolution, and, though dormant now, are destined to a still greater future.

During the period of Involution when

man was building his bodies and was in closer touch with the Spiritual Worlds, these organs were vehicles of consciousness, by means of which man contacted the inner worlds, which were then as real to him as the physical world is to-day, but as he dipped deeper into matter and began to focus his consciousness here these organs were a hindrance, for through them his attention was diverted from the work of the physical world. Therefore they became dormant as such. Man, however, evolves in a spiral, and as he mounts upward, these centers will again become active to re-contact the Spiritual worlds. Therefore they have not atrophied as they would have done were their purpose entirely served. After many years' study of the ductless and secretory glands Dr. C. E. de Sajons has published a profound Treatise on the Pituitary Body, wherein he shows this organ exercises a central control over our entire physical organism, that instead of being a rudimentary or atrophied organ, as Physiologists long held, it serves as a point of control over the body. The sympathetic nervous system, the vital secretions of the Thyroid Gland and the suprarenal capsules are regulated by direct connection with the Pituitary Body, as well as the digestive tract, and the entire

Vaso-dilator and Vaso-constrictor nerves. These scientific affirmations concerning the importance of this organ to our physical system are especially interesting in the light of Western Wisdom Teaching regarding the future function of this Organ.

The heart is in another class:

c. Organs not yet completely developed.

The Heart is an involuntary muscle, but it is invested with the cross-stripes peculiar to voluntary muscles, and these cross-stripes will become more and more marked as the ego gains control over this organ. All muscles are the expression of the desire body, and as man evolves more spiritual desires and grows in spiritual power, the heart will become a voluntary muscle, and the circulation of the blood will pass under his control, then man will have areas of the brain devoted to selfish purposes and direct it to other centers to build according to altruistic ideals.

THE MYSTERY OF BLOOD

In the Christian Scriptures certain doctrines are given great prominence:

1. Contamination of the blood by generation.
2. Cleansing of the blood by *re-generation*.

The doctrine of blood is written large upon every page of the bible from Genesis to the Apocalypse. It is undeniable also, that blood is the basis of all forms having sentient life, but so far as the writer has been able to learn, Eastern Occultism has not one word upon this important subject. The Western Wisdom Teaching, on the other hand, throws a light upon the "Mystery of Blood", which is illuminative of many of the most intimate problems of life, and were there no other difference between the teachings of the two schools, this alone would establish the superiority of the Western Wisdom Teaching.

The Western Wisdom Teachings present various far reaching ideas concerning the blood. It calls the blood the great "vantage ground of the spirit," the direct and individual vehicle, through which, man by means of its heat controls and directs his physical body. When man had entered the

human kingdom and was developing his individuality, the control of his actions was, to a certain extent exercised by the *Race-Spirit*, who, in a manner somewhat analagous to the control of the group-spirit over the animal kingdom, maintained dominion over man by preserving the purity of the tribal or family blood, and the closer the inter-mingling of blood by marriage in the clan, caste or tribe, the stronger the power of the Race Spirit. Since the blood is the vehicle of the ego, the carrier of his feelings and emotions, and the recorder of his memory, the inter-mingling of the same family blood had the effect of reproducing the mental pictures of the parents in their descendants, who saw themselves in this memory of nature through a long line of ancestors. Events in the lives of their forbears thus seemed to have happened to themselves. It was through this common consciousness or memory that a man was said to live many generations. When we read that Adam lived 900 years and the patriarchs lived for centuries, it means, not that the persons themselves lived that long, but that descendants felt themselves Adam, Methuslah, etc., because the ancestral blood, transmitted directly through inter-marriage, and which they, in turn, transmitted to their

descendents, is the store house of all experience, and carried the memory pictures of the life of these patriarchs. Thus certain faculties and traits were built in, and the type strengthened until humanity could stand on its own feet without the aid of family or Race Spirit, but during man's evolution of self-consciousness, he lived under this reign of law which submerged the individual in the nation, tribe or family that the type might be formed.

There is evidence that the Early Jew had special teaching concerning the blood, as shown in the 14th verse of 17th Leviticus, where they are prohibited from eating the blood because the "soul of all flesh is in the blood." Among them, the Race Spirit was stronger than the individual, for every Jew thought of himself, first as belonging to a certain tribe or family and his proudest boast was to be of the "seed of Abraham."

The original Semites were the first to evolve free-will. They, in a measure, broke away from the grip of the Race Spirit by inter-marrying with other tribes, and this introduction of strange blood, interrupted the common consciousness which they shared with their ancestors, and which was superseded by individual consciousness, but by this act they also gradually lost the so-

called "second sight" retained by many of the Scots who marry in the clan to the present day.

The great significance of the Christian religion lies in its teaching that Christ came to prepare the way for the emancipation of humanity from the sway of the Race Spirit, and unite the multiform races into a brotherhood of the whole; to supersede the reign of law with the reign of love, and self-sacrifice, to instill into the new race the ideal of *friendship*, an ideal that will eventually level all distinctions and bring peace upon earth and good will among men. He brought a sword for the sake of ultimate peace, for, not until the kingdom of men is destroyed can the kingdom of God be built, the kingdom of God that is built *from within*, through the free will of man as a self governing individual, co-operating with the Divine Will.

Man is building in all the worlds, and while at times he appears to build only for the separated self, yet there exists in the world to-day an ideal of friendship and altruism that was scarcely known in ancient civilizations. Through this expression of altruism, man is bringing to perfection his *vital body, which is the highest expression of the blood*. This vehicle is also the seat of

memory, and correlated to the unifying Life Spirit, as shadow is to substance. The blood corpuscles of the lower animals are nucleated and these nuclei are the vantage ground of group spirits which control their tribe through these centers of life. When individuality is evolved, the nuclei disappear, as in the higher mammals which are nearing individualization. In the human foetus, the blood corpuscles are nucleated during the first few weeks while the mother works on the body, but these, the indrawing ego disintegrates, and at the quickening, when it takes possession as an individual, the last are gone for there can be no other governing principle where the indwelling spirit is, thus, the blood of every human being is different from the blood of every other individual, which fact will shortly be discovered by science. We are taught in the Western Wisdom Teaching, that the vital body will be our densest in the next upward cycle, therefore the necessity of its proper unfolding is readily apparent. The Western Wisdom Teaching gives definite explanation concerning the vital body's constituent ethers, their functions in the development of man and the relation of this development of the vital body to the second coming of Christ. It includes instructions for this develop-

ment by cleansing the blood, and this method is suited to the mind and body we have evolved under the modern and progressive ideals it is *a Western method for Western people*, hence it is safe and sure, as the writer knows by experience.

As we study more closely this wonderful Teaching, we can understand in a measure the intricate problem of racial blood, that has ploughed such deep furrows in the world's history, and the part it has played in the perpetuation of family, tribe, nation, and ideas: Science is still searching for its significance, it recognizes the fact that the inoculation of blood into the veins of another of a different species kills the lower of the two, (haemolysis), but this Western Wisdom Teaching further explains that as humanity evolves towards the divine stature, mixing of human blood will become impossible. In that far off age, propagation of the race by mingling of the blood through marriage, will no longer be necessary, for man will then have learned to create *by the word, from within*. Even to-day man is building a finer and better body than he had in the past, more flexible, more adaptable, he is learning to know its functions and is beginning to liberate himself from the crys-

tallizing influence of racial blood, to become a citizen of the world.

THE MYSTERY OF SEX

The Western Wisdom Teaching also gives a solution of the problem of sex and its purpose. "The ego itself, contrary to the generally accepted idea is bi-sexual." This duality does not manifest as sex in the inner worlds, but as Will and Imagination, akin to the Solar and Lunar forces respectively. During the epoch when the earth was united with the sun, "the solar forces supplied man with all needed sustenance, and he unconsciously radiated the surplus for the purpose of propagation," but when the ego began to dwell within the body and control it, it was necessary to use part of this creative force to build the brain and larynx, that man might be furnished with instruments of self-expression. As the physical body became upright, the dual creative force was divided, one part being directed upward to build the brain and larynx, the other was directed downward to build the procreative organs. As a result of this change, only one part of the force essential to the creation of another being was available to one individual, and the co-operation of another was necessary for propagation. Thus, man ob-

tained brain consciousness at the cost of half of his creative power, but he gained an instrument by which he could create in the World of Thought, in the realm of music, of poetry, of art, and enter into the heritage of the world's beauty, and if by this act, his eyes were opened to the knowledge of death, of pain, and of sorrow, they were also opened to the knowledge of his own divinity, to a knowledge of the law of sacrifice, of love and of service. Eastern Occultism teaches the apparent fact of separation of sex, but the Western Wisdom Teaching *shows its purpose.*

THE MYSTERY OF INFANT MORTALITY

The Western Wisdom Teaching also logically explains how infant mortality which has brought so much sorrow and suffering into the world, is really the merciful measure of a loving God to prevent a still greater calamity, that it has been forced by ourselves, and that there is a way open whereby we may eradicate this anomaly and save ourselves the suffering incident to the departure of those beloved rays of sunshine which alas, too frequently leave our hearth cold and desolate. On account of limited space we can only give outlines of any subject we touch upon, but all, and much more,

are elucidated in the laterature of the Rosicrucian Fellowship, notably in the Rosicrucian Cosmo Conception.

Immediately after death a panorama of the life just ended passes before the spirit. By contemplation this is etched into the desire body, and as the soul enters the world of desires and emotions after death, it feels, with a keenness incomprehensible in our present state, the mistakes of life when it broods over pictures of scenes where it did wrong. That is Purgatory, and out of the suffering there the soul weaves *conscience* to guard it from evil in future lives. It also enjoys with unbelievable intensity, virtues evolved in the past life and the good deeds done. That is heaven, and out of this joy comes the incentive to live still *higher ideals* in the future. Thus the spirit reaps the fruits of conscience and lofty aspiration from the *undisturbed* contemplation of the panorama immediately following death.

When this contemplation is disturbed, as in case of death on a battlefield, or by fire, drowning or other accident, the harrowing circumstances attending make it impossible for the departing spirit to give undivided attention to the panoramic review of the past life. This is also the result when hysterical outbursts from relatives act in a

similarly disconcerting manner. Under such conditions the etching on the desire body is weak, and consequently the feeling of joy and sorrow is not felt with sufficient keenness in the post mortem existence, to generate conscience to guide the spirit in its next earthlife, or ideals to beckon it along. It has sowed, but has not reaped, the life has been lived in vain, and in its next earthlife it would still be subject to the vices which beset in the life just past, the virtues then achieved would have to be wrought anew. Thus the soul would be launched upon the sea of life like a ship without compass or lighthouse to guide it to the haven of rest, it would be doomed to destruction. Strange as it may seem, death in childhood is designed by the loving kindness of God to avert this calamity caused by savagery, carelessness or lack of consideration, and give the incoming spirit a fair start in life. The method of attaining this end is as follows:

On its way to rebirth the spirit gathers materials for a new mind, desire body, vital body and dense body. As a period of gestation precedes birth of the dense body, so with the finer vestures. Birth of the vital body at seven years of age inaugurates growth, of the desire nature at fourteen brings adolescence and ushers in the emotional age, and

at twenty-one when the mind is born, reason lights the path to subdue emotion and guide us through life.

That which has not been born cannot die, and when the dense body of a child dies before the age of adolescence gestation of the desirebody is finished in the first heaven, a part of the desireworld (called "summerland" by some), where noble ideals and a horror of evil are instilled by devoted teachers, where they imbibe a superior morality while engaged in a play with colors and living toys so sublime that could we see them, we would forget our sorrow and thank God for His goodness. After a few years these lucky ones are often born in the same family, nobler than they would have been if they had not lost the experience of the earthlife which necessitated death in childhood.

Eastern Occultism tells us that we should not grieve, for birth is as certain to those who die as death is to all who are born, that is true, but it is as cold as Occultism itself, and infant mortality is so sad, it is such an apparent anomaly in nature that we crave a ray of hope to comfort our aching hearts when the Angel of Death has taken the sunshine from our homes, and the Western Wisdom Teaching speaks to heart and mind

alike, it shows us a law working for good to correct our mistakes, it lights the path of sorrow with the ray of hope, and shows us how we may save ourselves this sorrow in future lives by abolition of war, by being careful to avoid accidents, and by being considerate of departing friends in the hour of death, not annoying them with selfish lamentations.

THE MYSTERY OF DEATH

Although the idea has been accepted by most thoughtful students, that death is but a shifting of activities from this physical world, to worlds less material, the Western Wisdom Teaching explains the natural working of law concerning length of earth life, and the collapse of the physical body. Man builds the archetype of his dense body in the heaven world, this archetype is of course built according to his capacities. Sometimes a life is prolonged beyond the normal, when the Compassionate Ones see that it can be of special service, but generally speaking the archetype persists only till the vibration attained at birth has been expended.

When the life is ended, the ascent of the spirit is hindered by the desire matter which clings to him after the mortal coil

has been shed. From this he seeks to free himself by centrifugal force, following the same natural law by which a planet throws off that part of itself which is most crystallized. Thus the coarsest matter of the desire body is thrown off first and is eliminated by the *purging* centrifugal force which tears out the evil and allows him to ascend into the higher regions, constituting the heaven world. In this connection too the very important teaching is given as to the necessity of properly etching the panorama of the past life, into the desire body that he may see his successes and his failures, wherein he was strong and wherein he was weak, that he may see the purpose of pain and the path that leads to its elimination. Each generation as it ascends to the heavenworld sings a song of its accomplishment while upon earth. Thus each sings a different measure in the Harmony of our Sphere, and as spores upon a glass plate are differently arranged when different tones set them into vibration, so these variations in the world-anthem are the causes which change climate, flora and fauna. If we were diligent we sang of a land of plenty, and, lo! we find it awaiting us on our return, if we neglected the land and spent our time in metaphysical speculation we find ourselves in a land of

famine, flood and earthquake. Two extremes well exemplified in the far East and the far West. All things, in heaven and on earth are governed by the immutable law of consequence which maintains the equilibrium of the world.

The Western Wisdom Teaching also gives invaluable instructions in the care of the dying, and shows how we may aid them, in the hour of passing, to realize the greatest possible soulgrowth from the life just ending. Thus this teaching is of practical benefit in every contingency of life and death.

THE CHRIST OF THE WEST is not
THE CHRIST OF THE EAST

But while the foregoing points are of importance as showing the superiority of the Western Wisdom Teaching over Eastern Occultism, they pale into insignificance before the diametrical difference of the teaching on the vital question concerning the Christ, His identity, His mission, and the nature of His Advent. On this important point, says Edith Ward in "The Occult Review," there is such a radical and irreconcilable difference that *both cannot be true*. She arrives at this conclusion by comparing the Rosicrucian Cosmo Conception by Max Heindel with the writings of a leader of the

principal Society promulgating Hinduism. Until November 1909, when the Rosicrucian Cosmo Conception was published, this Society had had very little to say about a Christ, but since then they have made this a feature. In the latest book this leader claims, (page 252), that the lives of Christ have always been in close relationship with the most devoted members of the Society involved, He is said to have taken birth as a Hindu at the present time and to be the ward of said leader who claims to be fitting Him for the spiritual rulership of the world.

I have no quarrel with those who believe this, it is contrary to the policy of the Rosicrucian Fellowship to speak in a derogatory manner of people of another persuasion, or to make light of their sincere beliefs, but I claim the ethical right of comparing the Western Wisdom Teaching which I have espoused, and which is in full agreement with the Christian Scriptures in which I believe, with the teachings of the Eastern School for the purpose of proving that the Christ to Whom the whole Christian world looks for Light and Hope is not the Christ proclaimed by this Society.

To this end I might adduce most voluminous references, but the following will suffice. The letters X and Z are used to desig-

nate quotations from two writers of the Eastern School. The black-face letters are mine.

According to X., it is stated that "when the time came at which it was expected that humanity would be able to take care of itself, the foremost who had reached the stage of adeptship were two friends or brothers whose development was equal, these were Lord Gautama and Lord Maitreya. The former held office first, the latter followed thousands of years later. . . . Buddha has yielded his office of ruler of religion and education to **Lord Maitreya whom the Western people call the Christ**, who took the body of the disciple Jesus during the last three years of its life on the physical plane. . . . Lord Maitreya had taken various births before he came into the office he now holds."

Z. traces a similar line of births:—

"The Lord Maitreya in due course appeared as Shri Krishna, and passed away in early manhood, returning to his Himalyan home, and then he came again, using the body of his dear disciple Jesus, the Hebrew, and for three years shone in the perfectest tenderness of the Christ. . . . And, now, again we are hoping, watching for His coming."

But that these people are not looking for the Christ of the Gospels, of the Christian world or of the Western Wisdom Teaching

is a fact they are careful to impress as follows:

Z. says: "In considering the return of the Christ I would have you distinguish clearly between the Christ of the Gospels and him to whom I refer. All they have in common is the name Jesus. . . . It is necessary to emphasize the fact that Jesus whose immediate return I look for shall in no way be confused with your Christ. . . . If you remain a faithful believer in your scriptures—the **authenticity of which I repudiate**—they will safeguard you against. . . . confusion between the prophet whose immediate return I proclaim, and the Christ of the gospels."

X. says that: "When we examine clairvoyantly the life of the founder of Christianity. . . . we find no trace of the twelve apostles . . . the author of the gospels seems to have conceived the idea of casting some of the great facts of initiation into a narrative form and mingling with some points out of the life of the real Jesus who was born 105 B. C."

With this Z agrees:—

"Your faith in his divinity arises out of your faith in the story of his life as recorded by his disciples. But so far as I know, these disciples never existed, and **the story of his life, as of theirs, is a creation of the imagination.** . . . the Christ to whom I refer . . . lived on earth about a century before the time when these events in Palestine

were supposed to take place but did not do so."

Does it not seem strange that this writer who thus repudiates the Christian Scriptures and brands the story of Christ and His apostles as a figment of the imagination should pathetically exclaim, because the new Christ is repudiated by many members of the said Society:

"Shall history here repeat itself, and the story of Judea, Jerusalem, and even Calvary once more be played?"

How can that repeat itself which never took place? And is it not strange that a leader who makes a world-wide campaign repudiating the Christ of the Western World, and the Christian Scriptures, and who heralds another Christ should say:

"I know next to nothing of this Jesus, whose return I foretell."

Is it not strange that one who says bluntly and without reserve:

I am not a Christian.

should have been entrusted with the great mission of proclaiming Christ?

Let the reader answer these questions as he, or she, thinks the evidence merits, but I personally I believe that the Christ of all devout and believing Christians is entirely different from the one heralded by the *new* leaders of the Eastern School of Occultism.

THE CHRIST OF THE WEST

The Western Wisdom Teaching gives a comprehensive Cosmogogenesis. Three great evolutionary periods have preceded our present state. The Father is the highest Initiate of the Saturn Period, The Son (Christ), is the highest Initiate of the Sun Period, and Jehovah is the highest Initiate of the Moon Period.

Under the regime of Jehovah and his Angels separation of the sexes took place, also a division of mankind into tribes and nations. The desirenature was rampant, so Laws were given, and "the fear of the Lord" was pitted against the desires of the flesh. All race-religions were designed by Jehovah, each suited to the particular nation to whom it was given, all these forms of worship aimed to bring mankind to Christ, whose mission is to emancipate us from the rule of Law, under which all sin, to the reign of Love where all serve.

Jehovah worked upon the earth and mankind *from without*, as Groupspirits work with the animals, but 2000 years ago, at the Baptism, the Christ Spirit descended upon Jesus, and dwelt in his body until Golgotha, when it entered the earth, as indwelling Planetary Spirit, and forthwith He com-

menced to cleanse the desireworld, which reeked with brutality and egotism generated under the Law, and also to radiate love and altruism which is slowly, but surely permeating the world. Thus, in time, we shall surely see "Peace on earth, and among men goodwill." But the Great Sacrifice was *only begun* on Golgotha, the Christ is still "groaning and travailing," and must so remain "till the day of manifestation of the Sons of God"; the day when we shall have evolved sufficiently to guide our own planet in its orbit and care for our weaker brothers. May God speed the day of His liberation, but let us not forget that we hasten or retard the day of His Coming by our lives. If we live unto the world, we lengthen His imprisonment and agony, and it behooves us to heed His last admonition, that whether we eat or drink, or whatever we do, be done "*In Remembrance*" of Him, for then shall we be working to free Him and we shall meet Him "in the air," as He passes out from the center of the earth to the surface, and thence to the Sun whence He came.

The work of the Aryan race has been to evolve its reason, and right well has it accomplished this purpose, but from henceforth, humanity must learn to illuminate its reason by the inner light of the Spirit, and

unite its *head knowledge*, with the knowledge of the *heart*. It must learn to initiate through its own Free Will, all action from within and this action must be Service.

It has been said that "the flower of religions is always given to the flower of humanity," and that more glorious religions are yet to come, yet the world to-day is just beginning to catch faint glimpses of the lofty Mission of Christ, which is to lift mankind into the living realty of *Universal Friendship*.

In the Atlantean Mystery Teaching disclosed in the Old Testament, we learn that man, of his own free will partook of "the tree of knowledge," which brought pain and death into the world, and was thus "expelled from the garden of God, to wander in the wilderness of the world"; that God in pity made a covenant with man; that a tabernacle was built, within which as the Ark, symbolizing the human spirit which never dies; that its staves were never removed, even as man, a pilgrim, may never rest until he reaches through his own free will the human goal. Within this Ark was the "golden pot of manna", MAN, fallen from heaven, together with a statement of divine laws he must learn in his "pilgrimage through the wilderness of matter"; and also

“the magic wand” of Aaron, the emblem of spiritual power, which “is within every one on his way to the Mystic Temple of Solomon.” In the Old Testament is traced man’s descent from heaven, his transgressions from the commands of Jehovah, who has led and guided him in pain and sorrow through the wilderness of matter to the reign of Peace ushered in by Christ.

Yet, scarcely has the world begun to live the inner Teachings of Christianity, only dimly is it beginning to grasp their significance, yet slowly but surely we are swinging into the next cycle of progress, the great Sixth Epoch, of which Christ is the Leader, an Epoch which will marshall all mankind, whether “Sons of Cain” or “Sons of Seth” to work in harmony in the Kingdom of their Lord, an Epoch where the Ray from the Rose Cross will shed its light of understanding into every institution of men “so that every difference will sink in common service for the good of all and “Friendship will unite the scattered souls in the kingdom of Christ, who when He has fully perfected the unification of the Kingdom will yield it to the Father, as stated in the Bible.

In the Western Mystery Teaching is found revealed this Mission of Christ, who came to show and prepare the way into His

Kingdom; that not the stragglers alone might be lifted up, but that all who are ready to enter into the narrow way and through the straight gate, may find the Light and the Way. No longer is He *the One to come*, but to *come again*. *Neither will He appear in the flesh*, which, as Paul says, cannot inherit the Kingdom, but in the vital Body (spoken of by Paul as soma psuchicon, or soul body, 1st Cor. 15), and when humanity has evolved its etheric consciousness they can meet Him face to face, but "*of that day and hour, knoweth no man, no, not even the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*" Then the Law that was given by Moses will be superseded "by the grace and truth that comes by Christ Jesus," and the stream of humanity that has been surging onward in its appointed course will bear witness as rightful sons of God to the divine command, "Be ye perfect even as your Father in heaven is perfect."

CONCLUSION

In the foregoing pages I have scarcely touched upon the wealth of wisdom found in the Christian Mystery Teaching disseminated through the Rosicrucian Fellowship, but it seems to me, sufficient has been said to convince anyone acquainted with the Teachings of Eastern Occultism, who is open to conviction, that while both contain the same great basic truths common to all religions, both ancient and modern, they are very far from being "*the same*," and that *the Western Wisdom Teaching is as superior to Eastern Occultism as Buddha, the Light of Asia, is outshone by our glorious Christ, the Light of the World*, for whose coming we watch and pray.

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