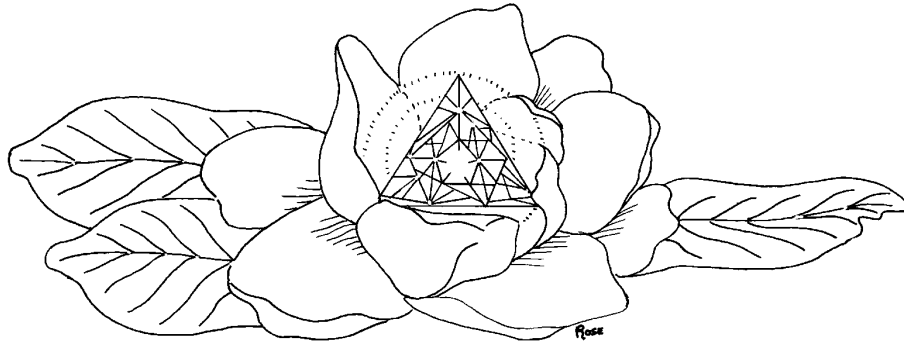


ThoughtLine

March 2007



To provide the training, the atmosphere, the companionship and service
opportunities necessary to
"link Hierarchical intent with human aspiration"

Arcana Workshops

Arcana Workshops is a non-profit tax exempt corporation and your donations are tax deductible.

Meeting Location:

3916 Sepulveda Blvd., Suite 107
Culver City, CA 90230

Mail Address:

P.O. Box 506
Manhattan Beach, CA 90267-0506

www.meditationtraining.org
webdisciple@meditationtraining.org
Phone 310-749-3585, 310-545-0910

✓ **In this Issue**
On Guidance

P. 1 - by Tom Carney

✓ **Workshops/Classes Held At Arcana Workshops**

Fourteen Rules For Group Initiation - Sundays @ 9:00 AM. (Please Call)

Fourteen Rules For Group Initiation - Tuesday Mornings @ 11:00 (Please Call)

Study/Discussion Group, Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle - Tuesdays 7:00 to 9:00 PM

✓ **Up Coming Events**

Community Meditation Gatherings

March 3, 2007, Saturday 2:30 PM (Note: early start - Exact time meeting)

March (Pisces) Community Solar Fire Meditation Gathering
Arcana Workshops, 3916 Sepulveda Blvd. Suite 107, Culver City, CA

The Three Linked Festivals
Aries April 1, 2007 Sunday @ 7:45 PM
Taurus May 1, 2007 Tuesday @ 7:45 PM
Gemini May 30, 2007 Wednesday @ 7:45 PM

Arcana Workshops, 3916 Sepulveda Blvd. Suite 107
Culver City, CA phone 310 749-3585, 310 545-0910

Group Meditation
New Moon Cycle Seed Thought

February 18, 2007 through March 18, 2007

[Christ's] heart, embodying as it does the love of God, is drawn forth from the heart of the planet (the Hierarchy) to the hearts of men, and the path of His return to Earth service stands unchallenged and unobstructed. Again, under law, a profound optimism is engendered and may be rightly developed. 7R5 p. 619

March 19, 2007 through April 17, 2007

Toiler, when the energy is Transmuted into an ocean of light, does thy consciousness quiver or expand? Toiler, is thy heart fearful or exultant when before thee looms Infinity? *Community*

Note: Write to the Editors at webdisciple@meditationtraining.org

On Guidance

Guidance is probably one of the more misunderstood and disputed issues of contemporary discipleship, and has been, for the last year or so, the topic of an ongoing conversation within the esoteric community. As one who works with disciples, I have been quite concerned with the topic, and have given it considerable attention. I think guidance is an extremely important aspect of discipleship, and in an effort to get more light on this very crucial subject, I wanted to share with you some of my thinking.

So, the following comments concerning guidance are simply my efforts to formulate the gleanings of efforts on these issues. Although much of what I think about guidance comes from the study, meditation work and the guidance that I receive within that framework, the formulations, the analysis, the esoteric sense or spiritual discernment, or lack there of, are my responsibility. I will not declare the following as “inspired writings” or claim any kind of “bated breath” authority for these formulations.

Further, I recognize that these particular formulations constitute what I think today. I am very open to having an entirely different perspective as further study, meditation and guidance on this topic reveals greater levels of understanding and deeper insights. In fact, during the composition of this piece, I have had a number of what for me were totally new understandings and realizations concerning the nature and use of guidance.

However, for now I think of “guidance” as a suggestive force of some kind that comes to us from somewhere. It is frequently very difficult for us to discriminate between suggestions or guidance that are reaching us from outside our own immediate consciousness and the guidance and suggestions that are indeed a product of our own background cogitation and consideration. The whole notion of guidance is very involved with this consideration, and this is one of the aspects of guidance that makes it so interesting and challenging for the conscious disciple.

I think we can all agree that guidance in this macro sense comes to us as an urge, a feeling, vague or powerful, that we need to, or ought to do something. It is an awareness, a conscious, or often an unconscious, sensing of a suggestion of some kind. Frequently, this sensing is like a blind urge, an insatiable hunger, the need to breathe, the need to go somewhere, do something, get something, be something one thinks of the force of the One Ring that drove Frodo and Gollum *né* Sméagol to the “Cracks of Doom.”

However, guidance also comes to us, as we say, “from deep within” as a very quiet voice, urging us to do this or that, to hope, to have faith, to persevere. Guidance is the sensing of an energy, a force, an urge that suggests or in some cases impels action. It can be overwhelmingly powerful or so subtle that it is hardly noticeable by the conscious part of ourselves.

I think that we all receive guidance in some form or another. We are all being guided, consciously or not.

Well, in this very broad sense, who on earth does not receive guidance? Who is not being guided? I think that we all receive guidance in some form or another, and we are all being guided, consciously or not. Therefore, the question is not if we receive guidance because it is quite obvious, whether we know it or not, that we all do.

So, to get more to the point, let's deal specifically with guidance as it pertains to the rather specialized area that we in the esoteric community call discipleship. The question here has to do with what constitutes guidance for disciples. What is a disciple's relationship with guidance, and the burning question, are we able to consciously seek, receive and register guidance?

It is my present opinion that many of us are quite capable of consciously, that is deliberately seeking, receiving and registering guidance. This opinion is based on years of rhythmical meditation, alone and with groups, and years of experience working with and teaching other meditating disciples. We can and we do receive guidance. We receive guidance not only from the dimensions of the three worlds which we call the physical/etheric, the emotional and mental, but also from higher dimensions of consciousness.

I am very much aware of the undertow of feelings and diversity of opinions regarding the general concept and issue of guidance that are swirling around, almost like smog, in the lower mental and emotional planes of our community. As one who lives and works in the field of teaching and working with disciples, I am faced with this issue on a daily basis. It is a good time, I think, for us to bring this issue into the open for discussion. We may be able to bring some

kind of clearing light and understanding to bear on this most basic of issues.

The questions that I think would benefit from a little self pondering, exploration and discussion are as follows:

How do we receive guidance? How do we determine the meaning of the guidance? How do we evaluate the genuineness of the guidance? How do we determine the source of the guidance, and how do we determine its proper role in our work today?

In the years that I have been involved with working disciples, I have observed the phenomena of guidance shift dramatically. It has gone from being considered a rare event reserved only for the most holy of individuals, and, therefore, outside of the proscribed and proper things in which disciples could participate or even talk about, to a relatively frequent experience. Unfortunately, it seems that a great deal of the experience is grossly misunderstood, often abused and has led many a disciple down the proverbial primrose path.

This is unfortunate. It is unfortunate for the young disciples who are attempting to place their feet on the Path. It is even more unfortunate for the experienced disciple who, through steadfast discipline and a life oriented toward service to humanity, is a point of reception for the incoming guidance necessary to lead humanity forward.

The Concept of Guidance

What is needed first, I think, is an update on the **Concept** of guidance, specifically as it pertains to the Path. Our conception of the term is all confused and covered with

the incrustations of centuries of traditional overlays. For example we have Zeus in the relatively ancient past, who was known to give guidance in the form of thunderbolts or by visiting himself upon certain nice looking young women, in the form of a swan or a shower of gold, or a bull. We also have a vast array of other lesser Gods and Goddesses who were all into guiding this or that hapless human. One thinks of Apollo and the unfortunate Cassandra. More recently we have “God” in the **Old Testament** guiding Abraham. One thinks of Bob Dylan and **Highway 61**. And of course there is David and a whole host of others.

Then, in **The New Testament**, we have many, many examples of guidance from on high. Just about every step Jesus took, we are told, was guided by his Father. And since the death of Jesus, we have dozens and dozens of examples of individuals who were guided in all sorts of ways—burning bushes, bleeding palms, receiving visions, going blind—to do various and sundry things. Joan of Arc comes to mind, along with a whole host of other individual humans anointed, usually posthumously, as in the case of Joan of Arc, as Saints by the Catholic Church.

The Mythical History Of guidance

All of this “history” has served to make the concept of guidance something quite special and very much reserved for very special people. Not all of these people, by the way, were that pure. Thus, this traditional view, in addition to being a grossly inaccurate representation of guidance as it really works, has set up a great temptation that has snared hundreds if not thousands of quite ordinary disciples.

You see, if one wants very, very much to be spiritual, or pure, what better proof of one’s purity or spirituality is there than to be the recipient of guidance? If one receives guidance, then, according to the above picture, one must be some holy, or at least very special person. This is a very insidious, cleverly disguised and very slippery slope down which many a well meaning disciple has been observed sliding.

Older Than Pisces

That this older than Pisces view of guidance has contributed to the delays and missteps of many disciples over the centuries is the least damaging aspect of the illusion which it projects. During the more recent Piscean Age, having been taught repeatedly that they were unworthy sinners and, therefore, could not possibly receive anything remotely like spiritual guidance, the projected illusion had, and still has, the effect of guiding sincere and truly dedicated disciples away from receiving guidance from their own souls less they be accused of dallying with succubus, slipping into glamour or any of a countless number of heresies. Typical of the projections of the Dark Brotherhood, this view of guidance damns you if you do and damns you if you don’t.

How We Receive Guidance

Just how we receive guidance is a very difficult aspect of this concept to explain and or to understand. There seems to be no one way for the reception of guidance to happen. Often, receiving guidance is a matter of the disciple’s equipment. Some disciples have and participate in visions. Some simply hear individuals speaking directly to them. Some guidance takes on the form of a conversation with an inner

source. This can happen in meditation or often when one is engaged in writing. Others simply have what we call an “a-ha” experience which seems to be a rather common method. Suddenly, in the middle of the day, in the shower, at the market, driving on the freeway, an insight to a problem upon which one has been meditating, or a question about which one has been thinking will “drop” into their awareness.

In the case of rhythmic meditators, guidance of any variety is frequently received during formal meditation periods when the impressions of the deep silence are occurring. These deep formless and ineffable understandings are in turn impressed by the meditator upon his or her lower mental equipment. From here forward, the meditator is totally responsible for how these impressions get formulated. Still other rhythmical meditators have developed a more or less open link with the Ashram and can and do work under guidance and direction during major parts of their day, particularly if they are teaching or writing.

The fact is that receiving guidance, if and when one manages to connect to one’s Soul, is actually unavoidable. Being able to engender a sensitive field upon which the impressions from higher dimensions can register is the point of meditating. To be open to the reception of guidance is why we meditate.

The sensitivity of one’s receiving apparatus and, therefore, the reception of impressions or guidance increases as one proceeds to make the higher communication

connections (what we used to call building the antahkarana) and to find his or her way into the higher 3rd, 4th and 5th, dimensions, what we used to call the Spiritual Triad. Receiving guidance is a natural and to be expected aspect of the science of meditation. It is how we know meditation is working. And believe it, friends, the Teachings seen from these higher dimensions are quite different than what we see from the dimension of the lower mind.

It is good that we are able to discuss the phenomena of guidance now because the old notion that guidance was something special and reserved for only a chosen few is not correct. It was never correct. I think that this thoughtform is another of countless examples of a deliberate manipulation of the truth by the forces of retrogression to inhibit those in the human groupings who were ready to begin work on

this level of consciousness from moving forward. Guidance for all is, and always has been, available.

This is the deeper significance behind the ancient statement, “When the student is ready, the Teacher will appear.”

It is good to realize, in the context of statements such as the one above, that there is only One Humanity, and the evolution of any individual son is the evolution of Humanity. When the disciple has downloaded and installed the necessary connections and linkages within his or her equipment, he or she will be guided. This is the deeper significance behind the ancient statement, “When the student is ready, the Teacher will appear.”

These necessary psychic upgrades and linkages are not for sale at the local Fry’s or any electronics store. These upgrades can only be downloaded through a proper

inner-net connection or what we call alignment. They concern the evolving group awareness of the disciple, the building of the antahkarana, and the generating of a receiving plate sensitive enough to register 3rd 4th and 5th dimension frequencies.

Using materials which came with the embodied model and are available within his or her present physical/etheric, emotional and mental lockers, these upgrades require self construction on the part of the disciple. The appropriate sockets and connectors will come on line when the rhythmical meditation of the disciple has generated the sufficient and necessary transmission lines and is able to sustain the necessary frequencies during transmission and reception.

This is truly a plug and play system. All the component parts have been pre installed. The disciple merely has to plug in, turn on and become a server. Because we continually involve the hypercritical lower mind in this effort, we make it into a very big deal. Actually it is not. It is the true line of least resistance. Once we understand which way the River of Life is flowing, all we need do is swim with it.

These bi-directional sockets or receptors and the linkages that connect them become functional as the disciple becomes rhythmical in his or her meditation practice, aligns with the Soul and through a conscious act of sacrifice allows the lower frequencies of the separative and illusionary personal desires, **which have been creating the disciple's daily**

agenda and thus guiding the disciple's life, to be replaced by the resulting in pouring energy or guidance of his or her Soul's Purpose. As the Master said, "It is intensity of purpose that will turn you...into a disciple whose heart and mind are aflame." *Discipleship In the New Age 1, P.538*

By the way, if we look at the concept of sacrifice in this light, it is easy to see how sacrifice means "to make sacred." Letting go of those little personal desires, those time consuming habits that feed the lower goals of the separated self at the expense of being available for the Soul's work is a challenging part of the Path. It is good to recall what the Master M pointed out, "A grain of dust can arrest a mighty wheel." Or, to update that image a bit, "A grain of desire can short out the connection."

This is truly a plug and play system. All the component parts have been pre installed. The disciple merely has to plug in, turn on and become a server.

It is these kinds of sacrifice that indicate the success of the shift in the guiding light.

That we see the sacrifice of a grain of dust or an insignificant desire as painful and hard to do is another example of how the Great Illusion of Separation holds us, in this case through the hypercritical lower mind, in thrall. The line of development which consciously connects each of us (because we are always unconsciously connected) to his or her Soul is the most natural thing in the world. It is the trajectory, the path of the Plan through consciousness.

Connecting to the Soul, our true self, this is what is supposed to happen to us. Those who achieve along this line are not special or "saints" or miracle workers. They are

examples of the success of the Plan, examples of the success of evolution, examples of what awaits every one of us as we make our way back to the Father.

There is no doubt at all, and never has been, that rhythmical, service oriented meditation will lead to a contact and connection with one's Soul. This contact and connection will result in the persevering disciple becoming sensitive to Soul impression. Soul impression is the very first step in spiritual guidance.

So, if one has set aside, that is sacrificed to some degree at least, the desires of the separative life, and has established a rhythmic meditation practice, daily focusing the mind in the clear light of the Soul, there is no way to avoid guidance or impressions from the Soul.

The Quality of Guidance

Well, as we who meditate all know, what we think of as the razor edged path into the Light of the Soul and the higher dimensions beyond is really a closed razor edged communication loop. It begins and ends with the disciple. Our first task is to construct the transmission line, what we call the antahkarana, over which the invocative frequencies, our outgoing queries, messages or sendings, must move, and we must receive the response that will unavoidably flow over those same input lines back into our consciousnesses.

There are a couple of things about this that are frequently overlooked and need to be considered. One is that we are not only

responsible for building the transmission lines, but we are equally responsible for the quality, the voltage, the purity of the invocative frequencies which we send over these lines. The frequencies of the invocative inputs will evoke outputs or responses that are exactly attuned or synchronized or harmonized with the note, quality, purity of the inputs. This synchronicity plus the requirements for a group presence when we are working with the frequencies of the higher dimensions, helps to protect disciples from receiving more voltage than we can handle.

So, there will unfailingly be an evocative response to any invocative input.

The evocative response will be, must be, synchronous with the invocation. You know the old saying, "For every action there is an equal and opposite reaction."

The Meaning Of The Guidance

Thus, questions are indeed answered. Responses are given to queries of whatever sort. However, just what these responses and answers may mean and or signify, remains the responsibility of the disciple or group to determine. Understanding, interpreting, fashioning appropriate thought forms, and embodying these answers and responses into the living fabric of our daily lives remains totally the responsibility of the disciple and or group.

Revelation requires recognition. This is how we discover and eventually reveal the as yet to be revealed future. This is the source of the as yet unrevealed Truths.

The frequency of the invocative inputs will evoke outputs that are exactly synchronized or harmonized with the frequency note, quality, and purity of the inputs.

The Source Of Guidance

Our personal responsibility for the purity and quality of our invocations is, of course, one of the points where the problems concerning guidance start. Any illusory separative personal, selfish, or self focused frequency transmitted during the meditation will automatically attract frequencies that are sympathetic to it. There are no frequencies of illusion, no frequencies of a separative personal, selfish, or self focused nature within the higher dimensions or within the sphere of life that the Soul and or the Ashram occupy. Consequently, any frequencies that carry this wave form will take a horizontal track into the frequencies of the Great Illusion—which populate both the astral and lower mental planes—to find compatible wave forms with which to connect. These frequencies of illusion and separation will be the evocative responses, the guidance that the sending disciple will receive.

Returning frequencies will invariably be perfect responses to the sent frequencies. Thus the frequent reminders vis-à-vis the need for constant vigilance and purity of motive. What we believe, what motivates or guides our meditation work determines the guidance we will receive. This fact is something of which all meditators need to be constantly conscious.

It seems very hard for us to realize or accept the fact that the separate life of the personality is an illusion. Partly this is because the concept of individualism (the realm of the soul) is confused with the illusion of separation. This is another example of how the dark side obscures

truth. The nature of this particular illusion is that to be an individual one must be separate from and opposed, not just to other humans, but to everything. Thus we have absurd delusions like “Man Against Nature” and books such as *Atlas Shrugged* being put forth as principle.

Modern material science has demonstrated over and over that there is no separation at all on the dense physical planes. Soon, one hopes, the material scientists will start to expand their own understanding and begin to include the other levels of the three worlds in their view.

Individuality, of course, exists forever, and apparently on all manifested dimensions. What is difficult for the lower mental equipment, which operates through separation and categorization, to realize is that individuality can only manifest within the context of a cooperative and harmonious whole. To claim that one’s “I” is separated from all else is simply psychotic, i.e., suffering from a loss of contact with reality. Within the manifest Universe, there is no separation. There is no one.

“Unity is always plural and a minimum set is two.”

What we believe, what motivates or guides our meditation work determines the guidance we will receive.

The Genuineness Of Guidance

True guidance, that is guidance that is emanating from the higher 3rd, 4th or 5th dimensions will simply not be concerned with the personal desires or plans of the separative personality and the Great Illusion of Separation. The fact that we, the Soul, must operate through a personality in the lower three worlds reveals why the Teachers spend so much energy

emphasizing the need for detachment, discrimination and dispassion. It is considerations in this area that reveal the Razor Edge of the Path.

The Role Of Guidance In The Group Life

Another very important aspect of receiving or registering guidance which originates from Soul and higher levels has to do with the New Consciousness. We call this consciousness, which represents a huge shift in how humans register reality, “new” not because it is new, but because it is beginning to come into the forefront of human awareness. More and more humans are

The interesting thing about this New Consciousness is that this is the natural or normal consciousness of the Soul.

beginning to register that “Everything—every form, every organism, within all forms, all aspects of manifested life in every kingdom in nature—is intimately related each to each....” ***Telepathy And The Etheric Vehicle P. 148***

In the esoteric community, we have been aware of this kind of consciousness for a very long time. It has traditionally been referred to as group consciousness, and for many people, it is a growing and “new” way of seeing the world. The ancient phrase, “The world within which we live and move and have our Being”, is really not a hyper religious comment. Nor is it “a piece of symbolic writing used...in order to convey the unconveyable.” It is a scientifically sound statement concerning the nature of reality.

Group Consciousness

Just what group consciousness is and what it will reveal to humanity, as we continue to

move into it, will be unfolding in the next few hundred years. However, today, the New Consciousness represents a paradigm shift that is leading to a revelation in human understanding concerning the nature of reality that will turn the present world systems and structures of human living inside out, to say the least. This New Consciousness will eventually end the Great Illusion of Separation.

Very simply put, an individual who is beginning to develop an awareness of the New Consciousness realizes a growing ability, on the dense physical planes to register, to know and to understand the interrelated reality, the unified field, of all things in the lower

three worlds. Through the higher sensory experiences of rhythmical meditation, this individual is becoming able to register as well the fact that this field of unification and interrelatedness includes the existence of the presently unseen meta-physical or subjective worlds. These are the higher dimensions which we call, in esoteric jargon, the Buddhic, Atmic, Monadic and Logic Planes.

That’s a mouthful. I wish I could find language that would make a clearer image, but this is how I sense the meaning and reality of this New Consciousness. The interesting thing about this New Consciousness is that this is the natural or normal consciousness of the Soul. Thus, when one becomes rhythmical in his or her meditation practice and manages to actually link with the Soul, the consciousness of the Soul, Group Consciousness, begins to flow into the disciples awareness system.

This New Consciousness never overrides or eliminates the intrinsic sense of individuality that the disciple has, for Group Consciousness is impossible without the diversity of individuality. However, the separative aspects of the Great Illusion that have over the centuries generated such notions as competition and the ownership of property even the ownership of children and other human beings, of exclusivity and privilege are gradually revealed as aspects of the illusion of separation. These, frequently died for illusions, actually seem rather pathetic in the Light of the unified whole.

To repeat, the science involved here concerns frequencies. The *higher* dimensions are *higher* because they require a group conscious focus or frequency to be accessed. They require an instrument sensitive enough to register their presence. Separative persona led or controlled groups are simply not able to access the higher dimensions because they cannot generate the necessary sensitivity to register them.

Evaluating Guidance

So, how does this all tie into evaluating the genuineness of guidance? The process of guidance always involves a group, even if we are talking about one disciple working more or less alone on the dense physical. What this lone disciple is working on, if he or she is a disciple, is not his or her separative business, it is group business, humanity's business.

Also, the days when disciples are working alone in their homes or studies are, rather rapidly, coming to a close. More and more, disciples will be working in groups, one way or another, consciously connected though both the inner-net and the internet as well as on the dense physical plane. Thus, to repeat, since higher dimensional guidance always concerns group, or whole system issues, the reception and the evaluation of guidance is a group process.

Nevertheless, guidance in my experience, is usually specific and shaped for the particular equipment of an individual disciple in a group. However, the genuineness of the guidance must pass through the analysis, and the spiritual discernment, or lack thereof, of the group.

A great deal therefore depends upon the individuality of the group as a group and the group's dispassion, detachment and discrimination.

It seems that in the instant that one or two individuals in a group become the sole receivers, dispensers and deciders concerning the value, truth, genuineness of the group's guidance, we no longer have a group. The doors to higher dimensions close. The doors to all kinds of glamour open wide, because this situation has reverted to a persona leadership situation rather than a group. There are many, many frequently very sad examples of this kind of situation.

Disciples make mistakes. Groups of disciples make mistakes. Let us recall that disciples and groups of disciples are not operating in a separated state. Just as

More and more, disciples will be working in groups, one way or another, consciously connected though both the inner-net and the internet as well as on the dense physical plane.

there is only one humanity, there is only one worldwide discipleship group.

This fact serves to illustrate a situation with which we should be very familiar. The Forces of Retrogression seldom operate on one level, and they realize, if we always do not, that there is but One Group of Light Workers on the planet. Any blow to any one of these groups or any of individuals within any of these groups is a blow against the Light. Thus they are always happy to see us pointing accusational fingers and squabbling amongst ourselves.

However, we know that the Forces of Light plan well in advance. We can be assured that, in their planning they always, account for the gyrations and manipulations of the dark side. The Forces of Light know well what and where the weaknesses of their disciples are, and they, therefore, are well aware of the openings to manipulation that the Forces of Retrogression will find and try to exploit.

In these moments of pain and learning let us recall Master M's comment. ***"Twilight will end. Do you not see that the Cosmic Consciousness is in convulsion? We know the course of the battle—the Plan of the Creator cannot be altered. From the Beginning the dark ones struggled.***

From the Beginning We conquered." The Call #231.

In the last analysis, we as individuals and now as groups of individuals are the arbiters of what constitutes Truth for ourselves. As we all know, often from bitter experience, we make mistakes from time to time. Also, as we all know again from experience, it is what we do after we discover the mistake that really matters.

In cases where mistakes have been made, we can look to the age old ***Labors of Hercules*** for guidance. Hercules we know made some rather spectacular mistakes, like committing what amounts to manslaughter, if not murder, twice. Yet Hercules moved on to gain the final portal. Surely, although they may draw us up short for a while, the mistakes we make in judgment and spiritual discernment will not stop our struggle into the Light.

We know that there are no individual problems. There are only the problems of Path Walking. Working through and solving the problems of our experiences will make The One Group of Light Workers wiser and better disciples. We will move forward with the Group and the Ashram for the sake of humanity.

Tom Carney
March 2007