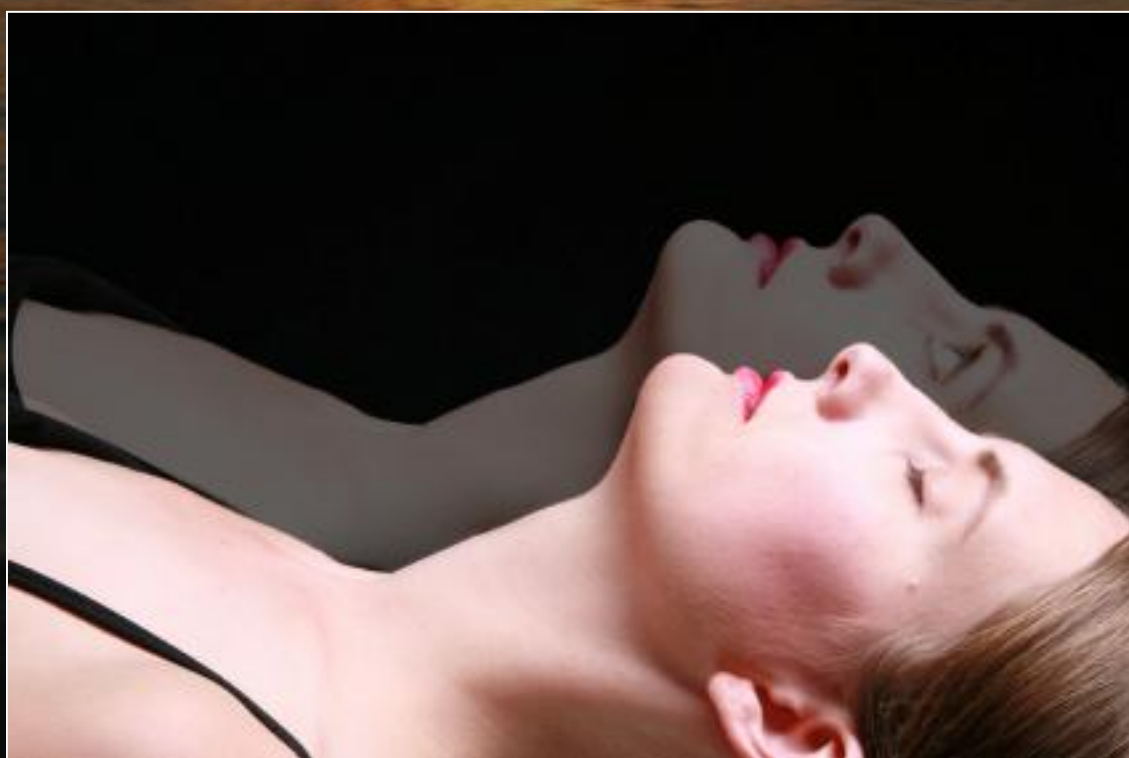


# GOOD HEAVENS TODAY



## MAGICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

SEPTEMBER 2009

Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®

Free Online magazine of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®

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## THE HERMETIC ORDER OF THE TEMPLE OF STARLIGHT®

This free online-magazine is sent to you on the launch of the new website of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®. We are a Western mystery school with a direct lineage to the Order of the Golden Dawn. We teach our students how all the disciplines of the 'Sacred Sciences' are interconnected and part of one Sacred Tradition.

Our new website will give you a lot of information about who we are and the spiritual training we offer. We guarantee high-quality spiritual training developed from an ancient lineage of initiation. Our training serves to deepen the spiritual experiences of our students and gives them a firm basis in spiritual awareness, enhancing the quality of their lives.

To introduce you to our work we regularly publish free articles, written by our Magister Ina Cüsters-van Bergen,

### TO HELP YOU DEVELOP MORE SPIRITUALITY WITHIN THAN JUST THE TOP OF THE ICEBERG

We use these articles to open up discussions about various magical subjects on the forum of our website. Our discussions are open and you are welcome to look in and/or take part. I hope that you will enjoy this article and will become a regular visitor to our website, a discussion partner at our forum and/or a visitor at our events.

In LVX  
Ina Cüsters-van Bergen

## MAGICAL CONSCIOUSNESS

**Magical consciousness is often seen as a way of thinking that creates illogical links between events happening in the outer world and the inner meaning of situations. Within healthcare settings magical consciousness is often seen as a confused form of thinking and one of the symptoms of psychiatric disease.**

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**An example of magical thinking is someone linking a passing red car with an expected future accident and an unhappy endings. Or in a milder form, the belief that a black cat passing your road is a sign of a chain of unfortunate events developing in the near future.**

**The most common scientific opinion of magical thinking is that is based on a disturbance in the neuro-technology of the brain, and that this kind of magical awareness is an abnormality, arising from a narrowed mode of consciousness.**

**Magical consciousness is connected to the ongoing stream of associations circulating in the subconscious mind, and forms a continuous undercurrent of awareness on which our daily decisions and actions are based. It is not common knowledge that this is a layer of consciousness that you can train and change. This is what we do in a magical training programme. This is the essence of magical exercises.**

**by: Ina Cüsters-van Bergen**

## **A Sea of Consciousness**

Seen from a magical perspective, everything is connected, and consciousness is regarded as a gigantic communication network. This not only links us together with other people and other living beings, but also gives us access to other dimensions of consciousness than the human level. On these other levels of awareness, past, present and future happen at the same time. Magical consciousness follows the Hermetic principle 'As Above, so Below'. Within the Western Mystery Tradition the universe is regarded as an infinite realm of consciousness and it is often compared with a sea. Like an ordinary sea this Sea of Consciousness has tides. These are tides in the universal consciousness, sometimes called the Astral Tides.

On the waves of this sea, everything that is connected to a certain frequency of consciousness is influenced at the same time by means of outpourings and contractions. It is a process that is synchronized in time. One and the same Cosmic Impulse synchronically influences the macrocosmic 'As Above' and the microscopic 'So Below'. This is the explanation for the synchronicity of events.

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Magical consciousness has its origins in ancient times. During the magical search for the interconnectedness of natural events and the physical laws of nature, people were alert to clusters of interrelated phenomena. This led to the discovery of the solar year and the cycle of the agrarian year; magical consciousness has been of immeasurable importance to the development of humanity.

Synchronicity has another side which is often overlooked. At the level of 'So Below', it makes it possible to influence the undercurrent of the subconscious mind and thus induce events that are created in the 'Above'. This is the underlying principle on which the practice of magic is based. In this case, the 'Below' is our own subconscious mind (and this is not the same as the unconscious mind). The subconscious mind works in a similar way to the MS DOS computer operating system. It is an awareness that runs continuously in the background and on its own subconscious level, makes decisions that remain beneath the surface of our waking conscious awareness. This type of consciousness is not rational. It is associative and has a direct influence on our moods and our bio-feedback systems. It can take the form of images or work in associative chains. We can become aware of it when we observe our moods or the reactions of our bodies.

Everyone regularly switches – even during the day – to the level of the subconsciousness' by entering a light trance. We switch to this level of consciousness when we daydream, plan and fantasize, while listening to music, during dance festivals, while watching television, while making love and during our sleep.

Many people try to understand their fate in life by use of the rational mind, searching hard for the causes of what happens to them. However, on deeper layers of our being, a mechanism of subconscious associative chains runs permanently and as quickly as an electrical impulse. And this is greatly more determining for what appears to be our fate.

To understand how magical thinking – and as a consequence the practice of magic in our modern times - relates to us contemporary people, is it helpful to look back to the past to see how people in ancient societies viewed the world. In those times magic had an important function in society and was practiced systematically. Modern magical schools link back to these ancient systems.

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Practicing magic is done by linking ourselves to these ancient layers of consciousness. In order to do this you need to widen your level of consciousness and this is achieved by certain techniques that train the mind.

Old scriptures teach us that in the past, magical consciousness was also a model to explain reality, greatly differing from our rational scientific vision of the world today. The magical image of the world is an explanative model for worlds of consciousness.

As children we have all experienced the so-called 'magical phase'. In fact we never leave that magical reality, even when we develop further after the magical phase in our youth. As I said earlier, it is a kind of operating system of the mind, that works continuously and is a part of ourselves that we open up to at our most vulnerable moments. It is then that we become easy to influence....

But what does this mean for you and me on a practical level? Let me give you an example of something that we experience on a daily basis and that most people are not aware off.

## **Modern Talisman magic– or; how to sell a product.**

A modern application of influencing people while making use of magical realities takes place in the world of advertising. Here designers and marketers continuously make use of the principles of talisman magic to sell products, ideas and opinions. A chain of positive associations is linked to a product and a message communicated telling us why we should buy this product. The product concerned will make us happy or healthy for example. The product is then linked to a series of words and images that also invoke these feelings. The associative chains are further communicated by the product's packaging and advertising spots. Very consciously a chain of associations is created between the product and the feeling. The associations have the form of mantras and work by means of hypnotic suggestion and the power of repetitive messages. In this way, at the level of the sub consciousness, the product becomes associated with 'feeling good'.

But what does it mean that these short advertising clips are shown amidst bad news and violence? Watching the daily news or never-ending violent movies and disasters on your television puts you in a state of light trance. You become absorbed by the story and unconsciously your mind is alerted. A danger is

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threatening you. And then the break follows and you are told; 'buy this product and it will make you happy and healthy'. These images reach you when you are in trance, and relaxed. At home, cosy on your own couch your subconscious mind is being programmed by messages. In our tradition this type of use of talismanic magic would be called black magic.

## The magical layers of consciousness

Magic presumes an invisible reality of different types of consciousness. These vary from the small consciousness of a single cell to the cosmic scale of star systems. Group consciousness can be presumed to exist in a group of people, but can equally be the consciousness of a biotope in nature. And of course there is individual consciousness. Moreover, consciousness is multilayered. All this is just a summary of different magical levels of consciousness. Magical consciousness works with waking day consciousness but also at levels of sleep. Our society deals with dreams by saying 'it was just a dream, it didn't really happen.' But in terms of subjective consciousness and our neurological system we really experienced the dream. It just took place at another level of reality, on another layer of consciousness. These layers of consciousness are called 'magical bodies' or bodies of light. In our modern language we do not even have words to describe these bodies. In ancient cultures there were names for different types of spiritual bodies. They are all layers of us, parts of ourselves that have sunk into our subconscious minds.

Practically speaking this means that when you start to practice magic you temporarily leave the state of rational consciousness. You contact other layers of consciousness in your subconscious mind. A rough schematic of the different layers of consciousness denotes underworld, earth and heaven. You can import issues that play a role in your subconscious mind into your daily consciousness. You can also plant goals of your higher mind (heaven) into your subconscious mind. The challenge is to use the right level of consciousness to work for you to achieve a certain goal. These layers of consciousness can be compared with the layers of an onion. They pass from day consciousness to the depths of different trance states, to dream

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consciousness and cross the borders of death. Magic was described by the Magister and Qabalist Dion Fortune as 'the art of changing consciousness in accordance with will.'

Meditation in the Western mystery tradition aims to create a connecting channel between the layers of the subconscious mind and waking consciousness, working on matters in the Underworld and gradually transforming them, bringing them up to the Upper world. These are so-called alchemical transformations. The journeys between the different layers of consciousness are called 'Rising on the Planes'. Ancient Egyptian texts contain important knowledge on these techniques in the so-called underworld books. In Egyptian culture the underworld was referred to as the Duat. The Book Amduat describes the Egyptian underworld, and herein is written:

*'These images are made as an example for that concealed in the Duat. Whoever makes these images is as the Greatest God. Beneficial is it for him upon Earth, a true remedy, corresponding with the secret images painted.'*

In spiritual circles you sometimes hear that 'you create your own reality'. On the everyday level you create your future by for example planning a holiday, or by deciding on the interior of your house.

On a psychological level we create our experiences by the way we choose to view our lives and the world around us. If you are depressed time will move slowly and you will experience your world as through a grey veil.

When you are happy the world appears to be sunny. Because of your reaction to your environment, people around you will react differently to you. In the archetypal layer of our personality we live in a self-created myth, and based on that matrix of consciousness we make choices. Do we choose the role of the victim or of the winner of our lives?

## **Tep Zepi – the 'First Time'.**

In magic we work with myths to access these very old mythical layers of magical consciousness. In ancient Egypt this mythical realm was called 'the First Time'. It was the time that the Gods still lived on earth and the entire world was in a state of harmonious unity. If you make changes in these layers of consciousness, as a consequence you also change your environment.

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To create these changes in consciousness, symbolical associative chains are essential. Chains of images, feelings and auditive impulses are stored in the subconscious mind and are linked to moods and learning experiences. If we want magic to work effectively there needs to be a dialogue between our inner senses and our everyday consciousness. If you plant symbols in your subconscious mind, it will communicate in a way you can understand. If you do not learn the language of the subconscious mind, the messages of that part of yourself will remain vague and dreamlike; a dream the message of which is unclear.

## **A prayer in movement**

The techniques of magic are meditation, prayer, spiritual exercises and ritual. Of these techniques, ritual is the least well understood. The main goal of magic is to create a state of harmony within, to realize a fruitful resonance between our deepest core and our highest spiritual goals and also our work in the world. In a ritual we use this acquired symbolic language referred to above. Every colour, every object, every gesture, every word that is being spoken aims to appeal to the archetypical layers of our consciousness.

Within magical ritual every act is performed in symbolical language. The temple is aligned with the goal of the ritual. The next step is to re-enact the story of a myth in the magical 'First Time'. Most magic is conducted within the context of a road of spiritual development and not as a beggar's letter to the gods, asking for favours. Every implement, every robe, every word that is being spoken, every gesture made has a meaning. The participants in the ritual open themselves up to communicating with divinity. In this way a magical ritual becomes a prayer in movement.

## **OUR NEW TRAINING PROGRAMME IS ABOUT TO START!**

We offer you an intensive training in Spiritual Ceremonial Magic. Learn more about our Order and the temple training we offer. We invite organizers and groups who are interested in this programme to visit us, or to contact us to organize this programme in their own environment.

We also offer weekend trainings and week courses about various subjects, all related to the Western Mysteries and Spiritual Ceremonial Magic. In November we will be holding an international residential weekend workshop. The theme this time will be the Black Goddess of Miracles.

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If you want to know more about our events, take a look at the photo gallery on our website, where you will also find information about [booking an event for your group](#).

Events planned for Autumn-Winter 2009-2010 can be found in our [online brochure](#)

## INA CÜSTERS-VAN BERGEN

*Ina Cüsters-van Bergen is the Magister and the Director of Studies of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight®. She teaches the Western Mystery Tradition. Ina is a so called Cosmic Mediator and a Third Degree Initiate. She is a very experienced practicing ritual magician. Her lineage runs back to the Golden Dawn via Dion Fortune, W.E. Butler and Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicki.*

*Ina is a trained psychiatric therapist, psychotherapist and healthcare manager. She is a certified NLP practitioner. She designs all her training modules in such a way that they integrate modern therapeutic systems and archaic magical systems such as the Qabalah and Ceremonial Magic into one system. In this way your spiritual practice enhances your emotional, mental and spiritual health and growth.*

*Ina is the author of the Solo Magical Training of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight, called 'The Order of the Exalted Land' and the author of the book 'The Temple of High Magic', ISBN-13: 978-1-59477-308-2*

*Ina teaches spiritual Ceremonial Magic through intensive training weekends all over Europe.*

## MORE INFORMATION

- *if you want to attend an event with Ina Cüsters-van Bergen*
- *if you want to book Ina to organize an event in your home town*
- *if you want to start the Solo Magical Training*
- *if you want to become a member of the Hermetic Order of the Temple of Starlight*

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