

ESOTERICISM AND SCIENCE: A CONTRADICTION?

INTRODUCTION

Is esotericism a science? To come to an answer to this question we should first look at what esotericism actually is. The meaning of the word esotericism is that which is inward, the inner world, the energies which are invisible to the senses. This is contrary to exotericism which is the outer world, that which is visible to the senses, the world of appearances. Can we achieve scientific proof of the existence of an invisible hidden world, the world of the underlying energies and forces which bring forth the outer appearances? This is not taking in consideration that our exoteric technology is seeing into the visually invisible worlds – from nanotechnology to dark energy and dark matter.

For scientific proof a clear method is needed which leads to results that can be repeated. And these results have to stand the test of experiments. The mainstream of contemporary science swears by empiric testing, with outcomes that can be perceived by the senses. As if there would be no other ways and laws by which validation of hypotheses could take place.

In this short paper I will give some thoughts why esotericism and science are not a contradiction and why esotericism can be seen as a science.

ESOTERIC SCIENCE

In 'Education in the New Age' (p. 63) Master Djwhal Khul (DK) states that esotericism is a science:

“Esotericism is not in any way of a mystical and vague nature. It is a science—essentially the science of the soul of all things— and has its own terminology, experiments, deductions and laws.”

The subject of research in esotericism is the soul. In essence esotericism is the science of the soul of all things, the science of the search to the life-giving source of all appearances, forms and substance. In the end it is the scientific search to the ONE LIFE that brings forth all forms and appearances. It is the art of bringing down to earth and anchoring the energies that spring from higher sources, and in the end from the highest source.

Esotericism is also the science of redemption. Redemption of the substance and its forms, and the creative restoration of the causing Spirit, as Jesus Christ as an initiated Master came to show humanity, thereby realizing his next initiation.

All true esoteric activity brings light and enlightenment. The word “Light” in esotericism maybe sounds a little vague by the mystical use of it. But it is good to remember that according to modern science the words “substance” and “light” are synonyms. So we can say that esotericism brings substance, it tries to reveal the root cause of everything in a scientific way.

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD

What is the scientific way esotericism is using? Let's first define what a scientific method is. Which method of acquiring knowledge is science using?

We can define the scientific method by the following three steps:

1. A question is formulated.
2. Data about this question are collected through observation and experiment.
3. A hypothetical answer is tested.

The question is if this method can be or is applied in esotericism?

Madame Helena Blavatsky, the founder of the Theosophical Society, argued in "The Secret Doctrine I" (p. 272) that Theosophy (Note 1) conforms to the scientific method.

"This system of ancient cosmogony . . . is the uninterrupted record covering thousands of generations of Seers whose respective experiences were made to test and to verify the traditions passed orally by one early race to another. . . .

How did they do so? By checking, testing, and verifying in every department of nature the traditions of old by the independent visions of great adepts. . . .

No vision of one adept was accepted till it was checked and confirmed by the visions -- so obtained as to stand as independent evidence -- of other adepts, and by centuries of experiences."

We can state that the scientific method followed by Blavatsky, but also by philosophers and yogis down the ages is:

1. The formulated (essential) question is: "Who am I?"
2. Data are collected through enquiry, observation and experiment, hypotheses, techniques and methods to attain self-realization.
3. Hypothetical answers like "I am That", "I am the Self" or "I am the Monad", are passed down each generation, to apply, test and trial.

Which means are used by esotericists to find answers to their fundamental questions?

Without trying to be complete I pose here that used means are: studying sources, logical reasoning and induction, and the Law of Correspondence or Analogy. Lets go a little deeper into this law.

THE LAW OF CORRESPONDENCE OR ANALOGY

It seems that in our present evolutionary state, in which we are equipped with five senses and a thinking mind which is for most human beings not under their control, the only way in which we can find some clues for the existence of mysterious powers like God, soul and related hidden forces or energies lies in the Law of

Correspondence or Analogy. The following quotes from the books of Alice Bailey are saying more or less the same:

“We must resign ourselves to the fact that the only way in which we can find the clue to the mystery of the rays, systems, and hierarchies, lies in the study of the law of **correspondences or analogy**. It is the one thread by which we can find our way through the labyrinth, and the one ray of light that shines through the darkness of the surrounding ignorance.” (IHS, p. 6-7)

“... under the **Law of Correspondence or Analogy**, the initiate can gradually come to a true perception of the significances involved.” (DINA II, p. 404)

This law tells us that when a certain fact is proven true, by correspondence or analogy the same fact must be true on another level of reality. This is the significance of much repeated truisms like: “as above, so below” or “as outside, so inside”. The same mechanisms that are working in one level of reality must be applicable in the same way on other levels. Otherwise the universe would be chaotic and of a random construction, which is clearly not the case although some scientists want us to believe this. The universe is in perfect order. Einstein confirmed this with his statement: “*God does not play dice with the universe*”.

For example: the working of an atom and the interrelation with its particles, their interrelated movements and the so-called empty space between them, can be found in the exact same way in the interrelated movements of planets around a central sun with also a vast seemingly empty space in between. In other words: when you could look into an atom with a microscope you would find the same mechanisms compared by looking into space with a large telescope. In Letters of Occult Meditation the following quote can be found (p. 225):

“The relationship between the microcosm and the macrocosm is accurate, and exists not only broadly but likewise in detail. This is a fact to be grasped and worked out.”

Are there no other ways to prove esoteric facts then with this law? I think there are. Two ways I want to mention shortly are Statistic Testing and Quantum Physics.

STATISTIC TESTING

In proving for example the credibility of Astrology, or the influence of the planets and constellations on us persons on earth, we could use the same method as is used often in science: Statistic Research. I am not a big fan of this, but we could select a random population of 100 persons, let a good astrologer draw their birth charts, confront them only with the explanation of these charts (not with the actual charts) and let them fill in a multiple choice questionnaire about it. I would show them threesomes of possible characteristics of themselves, one the characteristic from the birth chart and two others. Of course the respondents must not know which is the one from the birth chart. This will show in which characteristics they recognize themselves the best. I would use a 95% reliability margin, as is customary in statistic research. When 95% of the respondents recognize themselves significantly more in the birth chart explanations then in the other ones this would go as statistic proof of the validity of astrology.

QUANTUM PHYSICS

Is there a reproducible method to prove the occult statement that everything in the Universe is connected with each other?

It seems there is. Quantum Physics proved that particles are connected even when they are separated over a large distance. Experiments were done with this and they were repeated. According to the Law of Correspondences or Analogy it seems to me that this fact means that everything in the Universe is connected.

This also can be applied to the question above about the credibility of Astrology. When everything in the Universe is connected it logically follows that we people must be connected to planets, which is the proof for the validity of Astrology as a science.

Another aspect of this is that Dark Energy (a transparent energy) is the Universal Constant – it is equally distributed throughout the universe(s), creating a type of etheric body for all that exists. It seems to me that this Dark Energy, which still is a riddle for exoteric science, is the invisible (esoteric) force that creates the connection between everything in the Universe.

CONCLUSION

In this short paper I tried to give some thoughts why esotericism is a science and why these two are not a contradiction. Esoteric (re)searchers over the ages used the scientific method of formulating a question, collecting data and testing hypothetical answers. For this they used, among others, studying sources, logical reasoning and the Law of Correspondence or Analogy. About this law something is said in this paper. Beside this I mentioned two other ways that can be used to prove esoteric questions. Those are Statistic Testing and Quantum Physics. Statistic Testing is quite popular in the academic field, but to my opinion a quite poor way of proving facts because of often false assumptions and a reliability margin of 95%. Quantum Physics seems more promising. It proved already that particles divided over a large distance are connected. So there must be an, until now invisible (esoteric) force, that creates this connection.

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November 11, 2013

NOTES

1. Theosophy is in essence the same as esotericism. It can be defined as “a system of belief based on mystical insight in the nature of God and the soul”. (wordnetweb.princeton.edu/perl/webwn)

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