

the creative process to occur. Scars of past experiences also block our perception. So we see that both excess emotion and residue from past experiences must be cleansed and healed to support the synthesizing needed for creative awareness to assist us.

Strongly held thoughtforms and emotionally charged memories, glimmers, and illusions, as well as addictions, must be addressed before intuition flows easily. These barriers hold us captive until we respond with the purification work demanded by every path. This fact is acknowledged by all spiritual approaches and creates the foundation for all spiritual disciplines.

"Psychic" means "of the soul," and indeed it is widely accepted that personality can be assisted to reflect the light of higher consciousness more clearly. Flashes of straight knowing may be fairly clear in certain areas of our lives, usually where the fewest barriers or wounds persist. If, however, we have a great deal yet to learn in a given area, i.e., unfinished business, we are apt to find our imagination creates havoc here.

Scars of earlier experiences or old fears reflect in our feeling nature as readily as higher knowing, so it is wise to hesitate to trust our impressions. When these barriers are present, we readily remember other instances when our impressions proved incorrect, and this makes us hesitant. At other times, we know our flashes are accurate, or soon discover so.

Our own nature contributes much to our subtler levels of development. As we focus in new ways, much happens because we are all "naturally" psychic, although we have not all been encouraged to believe so. As these levels emerge and flash their messages, we perceive and translate the messages in accordance with our clarity and our efforts.

If we are less naturally inclined, developmental practices will help us clarify and comprehend what we do sense. Metaphors, symbols, and the discovery of ar-

chetypes will give meaning to our subtler impressions. Dreams become messages to be understood, and life can be seen as a rich tapestry of many levels of conscious interacting.

We learn the language of symbolism, and we learn to relate to our feelings, stimulating our sensing processes as well. Then methods such as spiritual psychology, dream analysis, numerology, and astrology introduce us to concepts of subtle or hidden influences. All of these connect in the psyche to expand our comprehension of the Great Life of which we are a part.

Meditation, the primary tool for creative, aware seekers of enlightenment, involves calming the restless, scanning, rational mind and becoming increasingly sensitive to the subtle, "quiescent self" within whom we may never have met before. The quiescent self awaits; it is passive in nature until invoked, and it is the representative of the high self at its most basic level. This is the seat of the psychic nature and ultimately makes itself known as *clairsentience* or clear feeling.

Numerology, the ancient science of numbers and the only major spiritual science to have kept the term "quiescent self," provides the best clues to the nature of this hidden self which will, in time, express its gift through personality. In esoteric thought, numbers are considered to be symbolic of forces which prevail on the highest spiritual planes. Every number expresses an individual keynote, and as we comprehend the spiritual meaning of these keynotes, we discover deeper meanings that encourage and hasten enlightenment.

It has been said that the spiritual science of astrology is returning to its rightful place as a valuable source of inspiration and hope for humanity. Those of us ready for new experiences and great change can use its powerful tools to open to the quiet influences of the celestial world. The ancients taught that these energies affect the planet and humanity over long cycles

and that each of us is a blend of energies created by the birth matrix of our natal chart.

The concept of zodiacal signs as bestowers of particular positive influences can empower our lives and our spiritual progress. Our work is to build the virtues determined by our personal zodiacal trinity: the sun sign, the moon sign, and the ascendant or rising sign. Indeed, we are all building the twelve virtues of high consciousness, one for each of the zodiacal signs, whether we know it or not.

It has been my experience, after many years of teaching intentional development, that flashes of intuition or straight knowing engendered by such spiritual technologies lead us to exciting new insights into the great truths of life. They key us into impersonal soul patterns or realizations of truth that relate to the life of the soul. These inner knowings are often insights to realities, principles, or even spiritual laws that elude easy interpretation.

Due to its powerful contribution, the flash that brings such comprehension is referred to as "illumination." Think of this as for a brief period the mind opens, the new reality registers, and an entire area of life is illumined for our own way to be made clearer, leading us to believe that spiritual intuition reveals a broader and deeper understanding of the true nature of reality and the purpose of the soul.

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