

“The Seven Rays or Departments”

Presentation, March 27, 2022, online for the Seattle Theosophical Society, by Stanton Stevens

Online resources:

<http://www.laurency.com> – All that has been translated into English is available here.

The Basic Esoteric Dictionary, The Explanation, Knowledge of Reality, all good starting points

<http://www.lucistrust.org/> - The writings of the Tibetan, Dwal Khul, via Alice A. Bailey

<http://theosophical.org/> - The Theosophical Society, the first reintroduction of Esoterics to the public.

<http://onepurelove.com> - Stanton’s website; talks, transcripts, and handouts are there with articles.

<https://esotericlaw.com> – A presentation of the Esoteric truths, with a forum and a mini-course.

Books:

Laurency: Only two Laurency books are available in print in English (though all are in print in Swedish).

Both are available at Quest bookshop or can be ordered from the Laurency website mentioned above.

Knowledge of Reality - a review of Eastern and Western philosophies, contrasted with Hylozoics

The Philosopher’s Stone – cosmology, evolution, the stages of humanity, higher worlds

The other Laurency books mentioned in the quotes below are available online. I highly recommend Laurency’s presentation. It is clear, concise, free of misunderstood Sanskrit and other terms that are too often ambiguous. Both of the books above are excellent, containing an overview of Pythagorean Hylozoics and the essential facts of reality.

Also, mentioned in today’s talk:

A Treatise on White Magic, Alice A. Bailey

Esoteric Psychology I, Alice A. Bailey

Discipleship in the New Age, Alice A. Bailey

Knowledge of Life Three, Henry T. Laurency

Ch. 14 The Seven Departments -this entire chapter is an excellent review!

<https://laurency.com/L3e/L3e14.pdf>

Ongoing:

Alice A. Bailey study group – in Seattle, led by Karen Johannsen: ksjohannsen@gmail.com

Laurency discussion group – online, please contact me if you are interested.

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Quotes

“Truth is so obscure in these times, and falsehood so established, that, unless we love the truth, we cannot know it.”

== Blaise Pascal

A Treatise on White Magic, Alice A. Bailey (1934)

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Students of human nature (and this all aspirants should be) would do well to bear in mind that there are temporary differences. People differ in:

- a. Ray (which affects predominantly the magnetism of the life).
- b. Approach to truth, either the occult or the mystic path having the stronger drawing power.
- c. Polarization, deciding the emotional, mental or physical intent of a life.
- d. Status in evolution, leading to the diversities seen among men.
- e. Astrological sign, determining the trend of any particular life.
- f. Race, bringing the personality under the peculiar racial thought form.

The sub-ray on which a man is found, that minor ray which varies from incarnation to incarnation, largely gives him his coloring for this life. It is his secondary hue. Forget not, the primary ray of the Monad continues through the aeon. It changes not. It is one of the three primary rays that eventually synthesize the sons of men. The ray of the ego varies from round to round, and, in more evolved souls, from race to race, and comprises one of the five rays of our present evolution. It is the predominating ray to which a man's causal body vibrates. It may correspond to the ray of the monad, or it may be one of the complementary colors to the primary. The ray of the personality varies from life to life, till the gamut of the seven subrays of the Monadic ray has been passed through.

Therefore, in dealing with people whose monads are on a similar or complementary ray it will be found that they approach each other sympathetically. We must remember however that evolution must be far advanced for the ray of the monad to influence extensively. So the majority of cases come not under this category.

With average advanced men, who are struggling to approximate themselves to the ideal, similarity of the egoic ray will produce mutual comprehension, and friendship follows. It is easy for two people on the same egoic ray to comprehend each other's point of view, and they become great friends, with unshaken faith in each other, for each recognizes the other acting as he himself would act.

But when (added to the egoic similarity of ray) you have the same ray of personality, then you have one of those rare things a perfect friendship, a successful marriage, an unbreakable link between two. This is rare indeed.

When you have two people on the same personality ray but with the egoic ray dissimilar, you may have those brief and sudden friendships and affinities, that are as ephemeral as a butterfly. These things need bearing in mind and with their recognition comes the ability to be adaptable. Clarity of vision results in a circumspect attitude.

Esoteric Psychology I, Alice A. Bailey (1947)

p. 382

<i>Nation</i>	<i>Personality Ray</i>	<i>Egoic Ray</i>	<i>Motto</i>
India -----	4th ray of art -----	1st ray of ----- government	"I hide the Light."
China-----	3rd ray of intellect -----	1st ray of----- government	"I indicate the Way."
Germany-----	1st ray of power -----	4th ray of art -----	"I preserve."
France -----	3rd ray of intellect -----	5th ray of ----- knowledge	"I release the Light."
Great Britain ----	1st ray of power ----- or government	2nd ray of love -----	"I serve."
Italy -----	4th ray of art -----	6th ray of idealism----	"I carve the Paths."

Ray VII ----- Higher expression: All forms of white magic.
Lower expression: Spiritualism in its lower aspects.

DISCIPLESHIP AND THE RAYS

1st Ray----- Force ----- Energy ----- Action----- The Occultist
2nd Ray----- Consciousness---- Expansion----- Initiation ----- The true Psychic
3rd Ray ----- Adaptation ----- Development ---- Evolution ----- The Magician
4th Ray ----- Vibration----- Response----- Expression----- The Artist
5th Ray -----Mentation ----- Knowledge ----- Science----- The Scientist
6th Ray ----- Devotion ----- Abstraction ----- Idealism----- The Devotee
7th Ray ----- Incantation-----Magic ----- Ritual----- The Ritualist
From: *Initiation, Human and Solar.*

THE NUMERICAL INFLUENCE OF THE RAYS

The Mineral Kingdom.....Rays 7 and 1.
The Vegetable Kingdom.....Rays 2, 4 and 6.
The Animal Kingdom.....Rays 3 and 6.
The Human Kingdom.....Rays 4 and 5.
The Soul Kingdom.....Rays 5 and 2.
The Planetary Kingdom.....Rays 6 and 3.
The Solar Kingdom.....Rays 1 and 7.

THE EXPRESSION OF THE RAY INFLUENCE

The Mineral Kingdom.....Ray 7.....Radiation.
Ray 1.....Power.
The Vegetable Kingdom.....Ray 2.....Magnetism.
Ray 4.....Harmony of colour.
Ray 6.....Growth towards light.
The Animal Kingdom.....Ray 3.....Instinct.
Ray 6..... Domesticity.
The Human Kingdom.....Ray 4.....Experience.
Ray 5.....Intellect.
The Kingdom of Souls.....Ray 5.....Personality.
Ray 2.....Intuition.
The Planetary Kingdom.....Ray 6.....The Plan.
Ray 3.....Creative Work.
The Solar Kingdom.....Ray 1.....Universal Mind Will.
Ray 7.....Synthetic Ritual.

The Philosopher’s Stone, Henry T. Laurency
Esoteric World View

2.50 The Departments

1 The organization of manifestation is based on the division into seven departments. The seven departments have been given different names in the various esoteric schools: the seven rays, the seven types, etc. Their purpose is, as is that of many other things, differentiation, multiplicity in unity, the

purposeful distribution of work, the education of specialists. In them, seven main kinds are educated for various functions in the process of manifestation.

2 The division into departments has the result that every involutory and evolutionary atom belongs to one of the seven departments. The departments form seven different, parallel, lines of development and seven different main types. Within each department the septenary division is repeated in such combinations that there exists something more or less of all the types in all beings, although one of the types dominates in each being. This makes it possible for an individual to change his type as a developed causal self and move to another department by means of special training.

6 The types having odd numbers develop most easily during periods having odd numbers. Consequently, in our fourth eon, the types belonging to the second, fourth, and sixth departments follow the law of least resistance.

1.52 Our Epoch

1 Esoterics divides the history of the planet into zodiacal epochs of some 2500 years each. Every new zodiacal epoch brings with it other kinds of energies than the previous ones, energies from another constellation. The last 2500 years have constituted the Piscean zodiacal epoch and have simultaneously been the epoch of the sixth department. This information is valuable for those who are interested in esoteric astrology and departments. It explains much of the history of that epoch, an age of horror, the rule of barbarism with clans at the barbaric stage in incarnation.

The Way of Man, Henry T. Laurency

10.3 The Causal Self is Man Proper

6 In the ancient esoteric knowledge orders, they considered that the individual had not acquired self-knowledge of the lowest order until he was able by himself to exactly determine to which departments his five envelopes belonged.

10 Three stages in the acquisition of causal consciousness can be distinguished: the self reaches contact with the “soul”, identifies with the soul, and finally becomes the soul. The process of identification expresses in the fact that the self imagines to be the soul, thinks and lives “as if” it were the soul until one day it senses that it is the soul. The disciple receives personal instructions how this is to be done. It is connected with the method of vitalizing some certain centre. This method is individual depending on the departments of the envelopes.

The Philosopher’s Stone, Henry T. Laurency

The Problems of Reality, Part 2

2.2 The Matter Aspect of Existence

3 The table facilitates analysis of the composition of matter, the relations of the aspects, the seven types and departments.

1	1	2	3
2	1	2	3
3	1	2	3
4	1	2	3
5	1	2	3
6	1	2	3
7	1	2	3

1 = the will aspect (the motion aspect)
2 = the consciousness aspect
3 = the matter aspect

2.6 The Seven Departments of the Planetary Hierarchy

10 The first department represents the motion aspect (will, energies); the second department, the consciousness aspect; and the third department, the matter aspect. The other four are purposeful modifications of the three.

11 In the “odd” departments, 1, 3, 5, 7, and in the “odd” worlds, 43, 45, 47, 49, consciousness is more objective and extravert; in the “even” departments, 2, 4, 6, and in the worlds 44, 46, 48, it is more subjective and introvert.

12 The departmental energies that make themselves best felt in man’s envelopes consciousnesses are:

1, 4, 5 in mental consciousness

2, 6 in emotional consciousness

3, 7 in physical consciousness

2.7 The Human Types of Consciousness

4 Man’s five envelopes can belong to five different departments. The incarnation envelopes usually change in departments in each new life, so that the individual is continually changing “type”. He can have something of all the five types. 5A man will seem feminine if he has just concluded a long series of female incarnations, a woman masculine after a long series of male incarnations.

6 In the man, the organism and the emotional envelope are positive, the etheric and mental envelopes negative; in the woman the reverse is the case: the organism and the emotional envelope are negative; the etheric and mental envelopes are positive. This explains why women find it easier to endure pain and are mentally steadier, and why men are emotionally aggressive, etc.

7 Only 46-selves can ascertain to which department the five different envelopes belong. Accordingly, there is no point in speculating as to the type to which an individual belongs.

8 However, in order to give some hints as to the seven human types, the following attempt has been made, invoking the reservations above, to point out certain characteristics of the seven types.

9 The first type is distinguished by a strong so-called will which makes the individual suitable as a leader, a real one and one recognized as such by all. That type, often without regard for the consequences and the opinions of others, goes with “waves of his own across the ocean”.

10 The second type is that of the wise man, of him possessing knowledge, insight, and understanding. He is the born teacher, able and willing to unite conflicting opinions and individuals, etc.

11 The third type is the thinker, philosopher, mathematician (often the unpractical theorist), who examines everything from every side, etc.

12 The fourth type is the one who strives after harmony in all, the designer, architect, cityplanner, artistic constructor, etc., with a pronounced sense of form and colour.

13 The fifth type is the scientist, researcher with a sense of detail, the discoverer, inventor, etc. It is interesting to see that also those who follow the path of 6–4–2 during a series of incarnations must have the 5th department in their lower causal envelope (the one incarnating).

14 The sixth type is the mainly emotional imaginative man in the spheres of religion, literature, etc. with traits of fanaticism and well-marked sympathy–antipathy.

15 The seventh type is the man of order with a marked sense of everything belonging to procedure, ceremony, ritual, etc. The symbolic meaning of “ritual” as a support of the various moments in the process of formation of matter, remains esoteric.

16 The human types are rather examples of modes of reaction, resulting from the permanent influence of certain fixed kinds of energies (vibrations).

The Knowledge of Reality, Henry T. Laurency

Yoga in the Light of Esoterics

7.22 Esoteric Methods of Activation

5 The seven most important chakras in the etheric, emotional, and mental envelopes, receiving their energies from the seven departments, are:

chakra	number of petals	department
above the diaphragm: crown	960	1st
eyebrow	96	4th
throat	16	3rd

heart	12	2nd
below the diaphragm: solar plexus (navel)	10	6th
sacral	6	5th
basal	4	7 th

The Way of Man, Henry T. Laurency

Ch. 17 The Planetary Government

17.14 Cosmic Energies

9 The energies of the fifth department were switched on in 1775, and it is these mental energies that have enabled the great scientific discoveries and technological inventions. Since mankind has demonstrated that it does not want to use these energies in the right way but abuses them to the detriment of life and its own advantage instead of letting them benefit all, they were switched off in the year 1950. It will take some 50 years before these mental vibrations have lost their efficiency whereupon mankind will have to be content with the discoveries and inventions which the disciples of the planetary hierarchy are permitted to give out.

10 The energies of the sixth department (coinciding with the Piscean zodiacal epoch) become ever fainter and will have ceased functioning in the worlds of man a few hundred years hence.

11 The energies of the seventh department have reached down to the physical world and will, if nothing unforeseen happens, be active the next 2500 years.

12 The energies of the first department have begun penetrating the mental world, will be noticeable in the emotional world in about 100 years and fully active in the physical world about 2000 years hence.

13 The energies of the fourth department reach the physical world around the year 2025. In that connection the clans belonging to that department will begin a new series of incarnations. (Monads do not incarnate after the energies of their causal envelope department have ceased in the causal and lower worlds.)

14 The energies of the fifth department further science; those of the sixth department, ideologies; and those of the seventh department, new kinds of civilizations.

15 History, true history, is the science of consciousness development during the various zodiacal epochs and under the influence of the different departmental energies.

Knowledge of Life Three, Henry T. Laurency

Ch. 14 The Seven Departments (this entire chapter is an excellent review!)

<https://laurency.com/L3e/L3e14.pdf>

14.1 The Seven Departments

29 Every department within our planet receives energies from three of the twelve zodiacal constellations, thus: Department	Zodiacal constellations
First	Aries, Leo, Capricorn
Second	Gemini, Virgo, Pisces
Third	Cancer, Libra, Capricorn
Fourth	Taurus, Scorpio, Sagittarius
Fifth	Leo, Sagittarius, Aquarius
Sixth	Virgo, Sagittarius, Pisces
Seventh	Aries, Cancer, Capricorn

14.12 The Departments in Mankind

4 Scientific discoveries in physics have come too fast. Men have gained a knowledge of forces, which they are not ready to use in the right manner, and not to the detriment of life. Fortunately, the planetary government has decided to shut off the energies of the fifth department so that they will not be active in the worlds of man. Vibrations coming from Leo, Sagittarius, and Aquarius will not be permitted to pass through the fifth department after the year 1950. Repercussions can certainly make themselves felt still 50 years after this suspension. But from the year 2000 on those energies will have ceased. That means that no scientific discoveries or inventions falling within the domain of this department will be possible. Mankind has already gained more knowledge of and power over nature than it can rightly use. After the year 2000, mankind has to content itself with what it has so far managed to discover. Of course, the great wise men will then declare that man has explored “everything”.

14.21 Examples of Envelope Combinations (a partial list)

(“triad” refers to the personality, which combines and ultimately dominates the mental, emotional, and physical. The “triad” is shorthand for the “triad envelope” – the incarnated portion of the causal body. The xx xxxxx number represents, for example: 27 21347 – Laury’s paragraph number, followed by: Causal body/soul 2nd department, triad/personality 1st dept, Mental body 3rd dept, emotional body 4th dept, physical etheric body 7th dept)

1 Some examples of envelope combinations are given in the following. The envelope combinations cited are of aspirants to discipleship under the planetary hierarchy. Thus such individuals are concerned as have reached the stage of humanity and have acquired perspective consciousness. They have gained the qualities of attraction so as to be able to love all living creatures without thought of their “own selves”. This does not eliminate all kinds of egoism but facilitates the ability to love without ulterior or personal motives. Therefore they stand a good chance of reaching the fifth natural kingdom within a limited number of incarnations.

2 Of course it entirely depends on his level of development how the individual is able to use the energies of his departments. The combinations of departments and envelopes have entirely different effects at different stages of development in respect of consciousness and activity. As the different departmental energies work out in the envelopes they can have divisive or reinforcing effects on each other.

3 What is said here on the effects of departmental energies in the different envelopes is about people who have reached the highest levels of human development and so must not be understood in a generalized sense as though it were about mankind at large. If this reservation is heeded, the examples given here can be studied with some profit.

10 12461. Departments 3, 5, 7 are lacking, but balance is maintained through the first department of the causal and the physical. Longing for mental harmony (department 4) can sometimes entail too superficial judgement and action. The idealism of the emotional gave devotion to work and the ability to see good in everything.

11 36563. The mental, being in its “right” department, dominated. The third department of the physical afforded the power of physical orientation. The double third combined with the fifth of the mental afforded physical sovereignty. The sixth of the emotional, also “at home”, reinforced by the sixth of the triad, made him fanatically devoted to his ideals. The problem of this aspirant was in his particular consideration of emotionality.

12 26567. The health of this aspirant was very delicate. He was advised to take good care of his organism but not to think of it in other respects. In his quiet life he could help and support those able to work in the physical.

13 26427. The seventh of the physical was a balancing factor and released physical energies. The fourth of the mental wanted to dominate. The sixth of the triad and the mental hindered the causal from contacting the emotional.

14 21461. The first of the triad and of the physical dominated the personality. The problem of this aspirant was in making the energies of causal consciousness assert themselves via the fourth and the sixth through his cultivation of “divine indifference” to the temperament of the first.

15 21213. The first of the triad and of the emotional tended to entail self-importance and isolation. This was counteracted by the second of the causal and of the mental. This aspirant found it difficult to cooperate with first department people but easy with second department ones. The aspirant was encouraged rather to let co-workers do the work and to withdraw himself and to try and decentralize his personality.

16 12562. The triad has a relation to the emotional and to the physical, the mental to the causal. The sixth combined with the double second afforded an intense sensitivity, which made this aspirant compassionate, saintly, loved by all. He was mentally but not physically intelligent, which he would have been had the physical been of the third or seventh department. The first of the causal entailed success in everything.

17 24423. The double second and the double fourth made the individual physically passive. This aspirant was encouraged to become dynamic through increased consciousness activity, to concentrate his mental and emotional energies to his life of action, so that in the next incarnation his triad would receive a first department envelope. The fourth of the mental afforded intellectual flexibility and a quick conception of mental problems but also a facility of falling prey to mental fictions. The second of the causal and of the emotional had the effect that he found it easy to identify himself with other people. The double fourth made this aspirant a mystic.

18 26117. The sixth of the triad and the double first made this aspirant hard and exacting to himself and to others, made him regard his views to be the only right ones, not understanding that everybody is to find his own way (view, method, etc.). The sixth entailed, as always, fanaticism and cocksure statements, which are proof of lack of common sense.

19 23117. The first of the emotional resulted in fear of personal contact. This aspirant was encouraged to cultivate attraction, understanding, sympathy, and compassion, so that he could be born with a second department emotional in his next incarnation.

20 16261. The second of the mental was too easily influenced by the sixth of the emotional. The double sixth also was a problem that made it more difficult to mentalize emotionality, a necessary process. There was a risk that the individual sacrificed too much to endear himself to other people, that he compromised about the truth for friendship’s sake.

21 15361. The emotional is the only contact with the subjective line, 2–4–6. This aspirant pretty well detested emotionality and so missed the emotional energies that would activate the emotional. It is important that all the envelopes are activated, that those centres of the emotional are activated which will some time be required for contacting essential (46) consciousness, the sense of togetherness with all.

22 61161. The double sixth was the result of intensive emotional devotion in past lives, now unnecessary and pretty well a hindrance. The threefold first acted as a strong pressure on the people around him (not permitted for a disciple). His ability of pity was prodigious, which had to be stopped for the “health” of the emotional. He was told to “sacrifice” his devotion to his teacher, an illusion of an ambitious sense of honour that had to be seen through. By seeking to acquire “impersonal” mental attraction instead, he could in his next incarnation receive an emotional second, which would facilitate contacting essential (46) consciousness.

23 13366. The first of the causal and the double third entailed serious conflicts with the double sixth. The intellect worked on its own, and emotional attraction worked on its own. The first of the causal resulted in isolation, emancipation, and self-importance. The thirds with their critical and analytical

powers made this individual egotistic, intellectually vain, and a victim of mental fictions. It is more important to understand the views of other people than to assess their comprehension. This aspirant was encouraged to pass from comprehension to understanding, not to be attached to theories and intellectual ideality, and to satisfy the “needs of the heart”.

24 24127. 2, 4, 1 is a successful combination of energies. It indicates that the individual “takes heaven by storm”, throws a bridge from the mental molecule to the mental atom, in doing which he takes the first step towards full causal consciousness. The first of the mental gives mental influence. The second of the emotional raises the vibrations of attraction in the people around him. The causal and the emotional worked together so that this aspirant had both the virtues and the vices of the second department. He too easily identified himself with other people’s “personalities”, which are transient elements, but not with their causals. You must not protect other people from having their own experiences. He was encouraged to become a furnisher of ideas and to act through others.

25 16463. The causal works through the physical, the triad works through the emotional. The double sixth entailed a risk of fanaticism and devotion to both people and ideas. Fanatical emotionalism enforced its views on other people, and so people avoided contact. This aspirant was encouraged to let the causal control the triad via the mental, to become an impersonal mental analytic, and not to heed the emotional, which received sufficient energy as it was.

26 27567. Departments 1, 3, 4 are lacking. The mental, the emotional, and the physical are in their “right” departments. They afford a “well-balanced” personality. Having the seventh in the triad as well results in an excellent physical orientation and efficiency, a splendid constitution for the vocations of both the physician and the teacher.

27 15423. The type having the first in the causal, the fifth in the triad, and the third in the physical is the hard, so-called Prussian type, precluding discipleship. What totally changed the picture was the emotional second. The triad worked through the mental; the causal acted through the emotional on the triad. The triad must learn how to serve mankind and the planetary hierarchy through the causal. This develops the superconscious and the ability to view things from the standpoint of the causal.

34 24563. All five envelopes are of different departments, which is not very common. The second of the causal vitalizes the heart centre. It is acquired automatically through good will to everybody. The fourth of the triad solved all conflicts through service. The fifth of the mental affords clarity only if the “heart” is present. The sixth of the emotional gives purposefulness and a restricted horizon. The third of the physical yields intelligent work in the physical but easily too many interests. The second of the causal afforded intuitive understanding, affection, and warmth. The fifth of the mental, influenced by the second of the causal, gave intelligent aspiration to unity.

35 25467. All five from different departments. Anyone having such higher three envelopes (2, 4, 5) is in a position to help many people with their mental problems of life and problems of education. In this combination of envelopes the mental is the most important one. It also preserves the emotional from a fanatic dependence on its ideals. The triad and the physical cooperated for physical efficiency.

37 61167. The double first and the seventh entailed intensive activity in the physical world. The double sixth enhanced this intensity. The triad in conjunction with the mental afforded restless mental activity with incessant planning, divided activity, inability to distinguish essentials and unessentials. This aspirant was encouraged to cultivate the qualities of the second department, so that the pertaining matter could replace that of the sixth type of the causal.