

The Upper Triad Material

Topical Issue 0.1

Introduction

The Upper Triad Association



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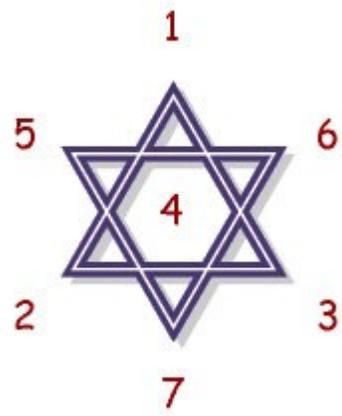
The Upper Triad Association is a 501 (c) 3 non-profit educational organization established in 1974 and devoted to the study and practice of various principles leading to personal and spiritual growth.

www.uppertriad.org

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Chapter 0.1

Introduction



The Upper Triad Association

- The Upper Triad Group was formed in 1973 in Albuquerque, New Mexico, by three spiritual students working together as a meditation triangle. The Group was formalized in 1974 as The Upper Triad Association. The Headquarters of the Association is now located near Victoria, Virginia, in Lunenburg County.

The Upper Triad Group

The Upper Triad Group is a small core group of spiritual students who attempt to embrace the principles and values of the spiritual path to the extent that those principles and values are understood and to the extent of their opportunities and abilities. Informally associated with the Upper Triad Group are a larger number of spiritual students who are interested in metaphysics and theosophy and the particular metaphysical and theosophical perspective of the Upper Triad Material.

The Upper Triad is the atma, buddhi, and manas
of the human soul.

I. Purposes

The general purposes of the Upper Triad Group are: to encourage world goodwill, right human relations, and the awareness of humanity; to encourage the physical, emotional, mental, and spiritual growth and welfare of humanity; to encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy, and science; and to encourage the application of ethical philosophy in the daily life.

The Upper Triad program is a service activity of a small group of spiritual and esoteric students. The purposes of the group are accomplished primarily through consciousness (greater awareness) as the group encourages the development, maturity, and application of constructive, spiritual consciousness.

The Upper Triad project is not affiliated with any religion, though it certainly respects the personal freedom of its members. Indeed, members are generally also adherents of one or another of the various religions, but always with considerable respect and appreciation for other faiths.

The Upper Triad program embraces no political purposes; in fact, the group is discouraged from any form of political activity (due to its subjective orientation). The Upper Triad project is intended to serve long-term, non-political, humanitarian purposes, without recourse to large-scale public activities.

Purpose is evoked by the First Ray, and reveals the true nature of all things. There is divine purpose underlying all aspects of manifestation.

II. Activities

1. Publications

The Upper Triad Material. For most of its existence, the principal objective activity of the Upper Triad Group has been the publication and distribution of the Upper Triad Material, originally in the form of periodic issues, subsequently through the Association's website and in book form. This activity is primarily concerned with philosophical content, in a conservative format, in furtherance of the objects of the organization. The various publications of the Upper Triad Material are available as downloads free of charge to anyone who is interested. If available, copies of printed publications are available at cost. The Upper Triad Association does not accept advertising and does not promote any commercial or political activity.

Context. The Upper Triad Material is intended for a relatively small segment of the human population, i.e., for people who are either approaching the spiritual path or who are already committed to the spiritual path (as aspirants or disciples), who are responsive to the form and content of the Upper Triad Material. It is not the intention of the Upper Triad Group to promulgate the esoteric philosophy, but, rather it is the intention of the group to respond to the

needs and interests of the spiritual student. The Upper Triad Material is not intended for all spiritual students, for many fine, broad-based and complementary publications are available. The Upper Triad Material is intended as a vehicle for a relatively mature (impersonal) presentation of metaphysical, theosophical, and esoteric philosophy.

General Caveats. Commentaries and other material printed by the Upper Triad Group are intended to stimulate constructive thinking and further study along spiritual lines. Each thought may be accepted, deferred, or rejected, in whole or in part, according to the perspective and discretion of the reader. The various commentaries are designed to stimulate the thinking of the reader, and frequently employ relatively difficult sentence structure, parentheses, etc., that discourage superficial reading and provide correlations that might otherwise be missed. Though each commentary addresses a particular subject, the complete set of commentaries is considered correlative and encyclopedic. The value of each commentary (and the complete set) depends a great deal upon the ability and consciousness of the reader. The authors make no claims of authority, enlightenment, or inspiration, nor any claims of privilege or special talent. The commentaries are the products of philosophical study and meditation (contemplation) and alignment with the subjective group effort.

Reprinted Material. The philosophical material originally published in the monthly or bi-monthly Upper Triad issues has been collected and reprinted in the form of a series of topical issues. Each topical issue represents a chapter in a series of books organized by scope and subject and made available at cost or free of charge, depending on the circumstances. Typically, new material is published first to the Upper Triad website and subsequently integrated into the various topical issues and books.

2. Group Meditation

The Upper Triad staff embraces a group meditation program which involves daily personal meditations, daily thematic meditation, several weekly group meditations, monthly full-moon group meditations, and quarterly solar meditations. These meditations are designed to complement the publication and distribution of the Upper Triad material by energy qualification and to coordinate the Upper Triad program with the overall effort of the spiritual path.

The group meditation effort primarily involves the Upper Triad staff; however, readers are welcome to link up with the group via their own personal meditation. The Upper Triad Material is considered a sharing of energy as well as philosophical content; the meditation effort furthers the linking up of students and groups with respect to the overall path. This meditation program is the principal subjective activity of the Upper Triad Group.

3. Public Activities

In the past, Upper Triad staff members have conducted classes, public lectures, group discussions, and/or public meditations depending on the resources available and the needs and interests of the community. The group does not intend to duplicate the efforts of other metaphysical or theosophical organizations, and, indeed, generally collaborates with other organizations in these public activities. More recently these activities have become more subjective.

4. Special Projects

There are four special projects that the Upper Triad Group has embraced from time to time. None of these projects are contrived. The group is simply responding to apparent needs and opportunities.

West Africa. The first special project involved readers and subscribers in West Africa and the group has endeavored to provide Upper Triad materials to individuals and groups in Ghana and Nigeria for many years. The Upper Triad Group was for many years informally linked to a number of meditation and study groups in West Africa.

Prison Outreach. A second special project involved readers and subscribers in various federal, state, and local prisons and correctional facilities in the U.S. In addition to providing Upper Triad publications, staff members occasionally traveled to prisons and meet with readers and subscribers.

International Travel. A third special project involves international travel and linking objectively and subjectively between various metaphysical and theosophical groups around the world.

Electronic Access. A fourth special project, beginning in 1996, involves electronic correspondence and providing the Upper Triad Material electronically through the internet and the world wide web. This has become the primary objective activity of the Upper Triad Group, with printed publications now secondary.

5. Consulting

The Upper Triad Group does not offer counseling services, but Upper Triad staff are occasionally available for consulting on metaphysical and theosophical matters. There is no presumption of expertise or authority.

Activity is the bringing forth into manifestation
the principles through which we live.

III. History

The spiritual path is not without its difficulties. This would seem to be true for spiritual groups as well as for individual spiritual students. The Upper Triad Group has endeavored to function in a manner that is not personality-centered. In that sense, the Upper Triad Group is an experiment. The group has had some success. Thus, the mundane history of the group also reveals something of its character and experience.

1. Albuquerque, New Mexico 1973-1976

The Upper Triad Group was formed in 1973 in Albuquerque, New Mexico by three spiritual students working together as a meditation triangle. This developed into a larger meditation group and the Upper Triad program was

begun in January, 1974 as a group meditation effort. Publication and distribution of the Upper Triad journal began in April, 1974 and became the major service activity of the meditation group. In January, 1975 the group was formally organized as a non-profit association by the twelve members of the meditation group. The formal organization is the Upper Triad Association. In June, 1975 the Association was granted tax-exempt status by the federal government. In Albuquerque, the Association operated from the home of two of its core group members. During the time in Albuquerque, the Upper Triad Group sponsored group meditation, group discussion, classes, and lectures.

2. New Brunswick, New Jersey 1976-1979

The Upper Triad Group moved to Somerset, New Jersey, near New Brunswick, in August, 1976. In October, 1977, the Association was incorporated under the laws of the State of South Carolina. In New Brunswick, the core group consisted of three people who had been part of the original group in Albuquerque and the Association operated from the home of two of those core group members.

3. Manassas, Virginia 1979-1995

The Upper Triad Group moved to Prince William County, Virginia, near Manassas, in November, 1979, and subsequently re-incorporated under the laws of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The three core group members who had worked together in Albuquerque and New Brunswick purchased a house on three acres of land and subsequently donated their financial interests in the house to the Association through a deed of gift. This house then formed the first headquarters of the Association. In 1981, the Association purchased ten acres of land adjoining the headquarters. In 1983, the Association purchased an additional fifteen acres of land adjoining the headquarters. The intention was to build a retreat facility and theosophical school once sufficient acreage was acquired and the mortgages were retired.

During this period, the core group consisted of several resident staff members and a number of community members. The headquarters near Manassas consisted of three apartments, office space, a meditation room, and a library. The resident staff lived together cooperatively, not communally. Rent paid by

the staff members covered all of the facility expenses and enabled the Association to acquire the adjoining acreage.

4. Germantown, Maryland 1995-1997

In August, 1995, the Upper Triad Group relocated to temporary quarters in Germantown, Maryland. The group then consisted of one staff member and several community members. In March, 1996, the Association sold its house and two acres of land at fair market value to two former staff members. In December, 1996 and January, 1997, the Association sold all of its remaining acreage in Prince William County, Virginia.

5. Leesburg, Virginia 1997-2004

In February, 1997, the Upper Triad Group relocated from its temporary quarters in Germantown to a new headquarters in Loudoun County, Virginia. This new, second headquarters consisted of a house on several acres of land, located five miles south of Leesburg, Virginia. The house had four levels and over 4,000 square feet of space devoted to living quarters, office space, meeting rooms, reference library, etc. The acreage was largely wooded, relatively private, and provides for a meditative environment. On the whole, both the house and land were well-situated.

The Association owned the second headquarters outright and rent paid by staff members sufficed to cover facility expenses. During this period of time, as the work of the Group shifted more toward electronic and book publishing, the expenses were reduced considerably and the Group did not rely so much on member and associate contributions.

6. Madison, North Carolina 2004-2008

In June, 2004, the Upper Triad Association sold its property in Loudoun County, Virginia and subsequently relocated to almost 17 acres of private land near Madison, North Carolina.

7. Clayton, North Carolina 2008-2013

In October, 2008, the Upper Triad Association relocated to a more modest property near Clayton, North Carolina.

8. Victoria, Virginia 2013

In the summer of 2013, the Upper Triad Association relocated to almost 15 acres of private land near Victoria, Virginia.

IV. Organization

The Upper Triad Group was organized as a tax-exempt, non-profit corporation. While the organization was founded in Albuquerque, New Mexico, the Group was first incorporated in South Carolina (1977) and subsequently in Virginia (1980). The Virginia corporation was dissolved in 2005 but the Upper Triad Association continues as a tax-exempt unincorporated association.

The Upper Triad Association is the principal department within the corporation and is responsible for all membership and financial matters (except the physical facility). The Association is also responsible for all public activities and programs. All persons involved in the Upper Triad project including officers and staff members, serve without compensation.

There are two kinds of membership in the Association. Formal membership is limited to a small number of spiritual students (workers) who are actively involved in the Upper Triad project. Informal membership is available to all readers of the Upper Triad Material; however, there are no apparent benefits to membership and membership credentials are not issued. The work of the organization is accomplished in accordance with its governing instruments (charter, articles, and by-laws). Business meetings are as needed.

The other department within the corporation was the Upper Triad Foundation. The Foundation was concerned only with providing the physical facility (headquarters) for the Upper Triad Group. The Foundation was financed primarily by rent paid by resident staff members, however, the Foundation was dissolved in June, 2004. The current headquarters is privately funded.

Organization is the underlying structure
which enables proper expression and service.

V. Financing

The Upper Triad project, from 1974 through 2004, was financed almost entirely by voluntary contributions. Three funds were maintained, a General Service Fund, a Special Service Fund, and a Foundation Fund. Contributions from staff members were placed in the General Service Fund which provided long-term financing for the Upper Triad program. Staff members and subscribers supported the Special Service Fund (unless otherwise specified by the contributor); contributions to the Special Service Fund were applied toward actual printing and mailing expenses. The Special Service Fund provided short-term (day-to-day) financing of the Upper Triad program. All contributions are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Rent paid by staff members was placed in the Foundation Fund and was used to finance the headquarters facility.

Copies of the Association's Form 990, filed each year with the Internal Revenue Service, were available upon request. However, the Association is no longer required to file a Form 990.

The spiritual student is encouraged to be an effective steward
of whatever resources there may be.

VI. Character

The character of the Upper Triad project depends to some extent on the background of its group members. All of the staff members are traditionally familiar with the Alice Bailey material (Lucis Trust) and most are members of the Theosophical Society and familiar with a wide range of theosophical subject matter. The Upper Triad project is not formally affiliated with these or any other external groups; however, the Upper Triad Group does cooperate informally with many theosophical groups world-wide, primarily via the exchange of publications and correspondence.

In a sense, the Upper Triad Group is eclectic, drawing upon the entire framework of the esoteric philosophy and ancient wisdom; but the group is also relatively well-defined in terms of character, methodology, and style.

The group is firmly dedicated to the spiritual path and seeks to embody spiritual maturity and as much of the esoteric philosophy as is practicable and appropriate, all the while remaining heart-centered. The group wholly respects the freedom of its members and subscribers and strives to present the principles of the esoteric philosophy in a relatively impersonal fashion.

Anonymity is generally preserved for the authors of the various commentaries printed in the journal, in order to keep the philosophical and spiritual significance free from personal association. The group is not concerned with promoting the Upper Triad material. The group simply endeavors to respond to whatever interest is expressed.

The Upper Triad Group is not a secret society, though the group is subjectively related to a particular esoteric order. The names of its staff are in the public domain via documents filed with state and federal authorities. However, the member names are not advertised since no need exists. The group exercises a very natural and particular discretion in all its activities, in accordance with its charter, its natural character, and the resources-opportunities available.

Character is the underlying truth of one's nature,
and is reflected into the ethics and practices of one's life.

VII. Philosophy

The philosophy of the Upper Triad Group is reflected in all of the Upper Triad Material published to date. The Upper Triad members endeavor to live in accordance with the Upper Triad philosophy to the extent that it is understood and to the extent that they are capable. Perfection of Upper Triad members is not implied in any manner. Some aspects of the philosophy are relatively easily embraced by the serious student, while other aspects represent ideals that serious students are working toward.

Following are Seven Basic Principles or assumptions which provide a sense of the underlying foundation or metaphysical and theosophical framework of the Upper Triad Material.

1. **Purpose.** That the purpose of life is the evolution of consciousness through experience and expression. That all life is conditioned by purpose within a grand scheme of progressive cyclic evolution.
2. **Consciousness.** That the spiritual path in its many aspects embraces the higher stages of human evolution in consciousness, as the human soul commits itself to conscious and selfless development. That this process encompasses the development of the inner, latent spirituality and the application of one's faculties in service to God and to humanity.
3. **Truth and Reality.** That truth can be found in philosophy, religion, and science, which are but aspects of one coherent and inclusive truth having no inherent conflict or contradiction. That truth is relative and can be perceived in many ways and on many levels, according to consciousness.

4. **Karma.** That human evolution proceeds through many progressive incarnations according to a cosmic law of periodicity, ever onward and upward. That life is conditioned by the Law of Karma, which yields learning experiences and encourages evolution as a consequence of free will, through every thought, feeling, and action.

5. **Knowledge.** That the real problem of life in the lower worlds is the elimination of glamour and illusion. That perception clouded by glamour and illusion can be fully overcome, as the student achieves the alignment of a purified and integrated personality with the soul, through intelligent meditation.

6. **Religion.** That there exists one God, both immanent and transcendent, within which are differentiated all lives and all forms. That there are many paths to God, embracing all religions and spiritual philosophy.

7. **Manifestation.** That God manifests through all lives and all forms. That the true individuality is the soul which inhabits the personality. That the personality is composed of three interrelated instruments: the physical body, the emotional or astral body, and the lower mind. That the soul is the true Self, the essence of divinity within. That the personality is the not-self that must ultimately be transcended in union with the higher Self.

VIII. Acknowledgements

Appreciation

- The Upper Triad Group acknowledges with appreciation the very many letters and notes received over the years with questions, suggestions, etc., that have helped to evoke the Upper Triad Material. The group also acknowledges with appreciation the financial support of the many contributors over the years that have enabled the Upper Triad publications to be produced and distributed without charge. And the group acknowledges with appreciation the various metaphysical and theosophical organizations that have offered encouragement over the years, either through direct collaboration or through provision of philosophical content.

Influence

- Although the Upper Triad material is apparently largely eclectic, and the fundamental or underlying basis of the material is more-or-less in common with every proper approach to the esoteric philosophy, there are particular influences that have more obviously affected this work.
- The fundamental or primary influence is that of theosophy, in the sense of laying a foundation upon which to embrace the inner planes, the spiritual path, and associated experience. This includes, particularly and in our perspective, various religious and philosophical influences, e.g., aspects of Taoism and Zen Buddhism, The Bhagavad Gita, The Yoga Sutras of Patanjali, The Enneads of Plotinus, and various selected theosophical works.
- The secondary influence, which builds upon and subsumes the former, is that of the Alice A. Bailey material, qualitatively in its entirety, except for certain "personality" notions.
- The influence of theosophy is largely foundational and head-centered. The influence of the Bailey material is more qualitative and heart-centered. Thus, for the Upper Triad Group, theosophy represents a personality influence and the Bailey material represents a soul influence. The Upper Triad Group

endeavors to avoid the glamour typically associated with both theosophy and the Bailey material.

- In the final analysis, the "real" influence is the character and quality of the inner group to which the Upper Triad Group is nominally related and the relative ability of the various Upper Triad members to collectively properly and effectively respond to that influence.

IX. Advice to Readers

- The Upper Triad material is non-prescriptive. There are no requirements or expectations of readers. Readers are free to believe whatever they wish, in whole or in part, and to embrace the material to whatever extent they are comfortable. Thus readers are not expected to believe or accept any or all of the material published and provided by the Upper Triad Group.
- If a reader is interested in approaching the Upper Triad Group in some way, then he or she is encouraged to write or call the Upper Triad Group and to arrange an exploratory visit to our headquarters or to arrange a meeting with a traveling staff member. Visitors are always welcome but are advised to call in advance for an appointment and directions. Contact information is provided through the Upper Triad website.

www.uppertriad.org

Topical Outline of the Upper Triad Material

- Following is a topical outline for each of the eight volumes of the Upper Triad Material.

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Volume 1 • Purpose

The Underlying Force of Manifestation

Volume 2 • Consciousness

The Focus of Evolution

Volume 3 • Truth and Reality

The Implication for Human Consciousness

Volume 4 • Karma

The Human Experience

Volume 5 • Knowledge

The Field of the Human Mind

Volume 6 • Religion

The Relationship of the Human Being to God

Volume 7 • Manifestation

The World of Form

† Introduction



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0.7 Cumulative Index

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- 0.73 Numerical Index of Commentaries
- 0.74 Numerical Index of Synthetic Triangles

† Volume 1 • Purpose



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1.55 The Seven Ray Methods

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