

The Academy of  
the Opened Ways  
School of  
Esoteric Studies

A fully contacted school in the  
Western Mystery Tradition



An introduction  
for prospective students



# Welcome



This introductory pack explains what The Academy of the Opened Ways is, what it teaches and how it is structured as a school in the Western Mystery Tradition. If, having read this, you wish to apply for membership of the school and to follow a very ancient path of learning passed down over many centuries, then we will be delighted to hear from you. For now, read on to discover what we teach, how we teach and how you can follow many others in discovering how to fully utilise the hidden powers of your mind and to create a truly magical life for you and those close to you.

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## The Academy of the Opened Ways

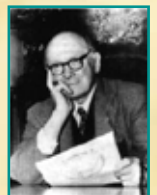


The Academy of the Opened Ways is a daughter school of the Servants of the Light (SOL) Mystery School founded by W.E. Butler and Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicki in the early 1970's. Ernest Butler was a student of the late Dion Fortune, one of the greatest figures of 20th century Western esotericism. The SOL has trained thousands of students from around the world over the last 35 years in Qabalah and the ancient mysteries.

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The Academy of the Opened Ways has been founded by Andy Cooper with the support of and a group of fellow initiates of

the SOL to create a new breed of school, incorporating many modern developments from the fields of accelerated learning and personal development and building on the firm foundations



set down by Ernest Butler and Dolores Ashcroft-Nowicki. The school is part of the “Fraternitatis Alexandrae” an ancient esoteric fraternity that encompasses the Servants of the Light, the Circulo Dorado (a Spanish language daughter school of the SOL) and now the Academy of the Opened Ways.

Through the Fraternitatis Alexandrae, the school has an “inner plane”, or discarnate, teacher who works through the initiates of the school to guide and assist in the direction and teaching of the school; accordingly, this is a “fully contacted” mystery school. Only a few of the many schools today offering training in the ancient traditions are genuinely “contacted” with such inner plane teachers and guides. There is a depth of experience and energy to the rituals and workings of a contacted school that simply isn’t present in a non-contacted school.

## What is the Western Mystery Tradition?

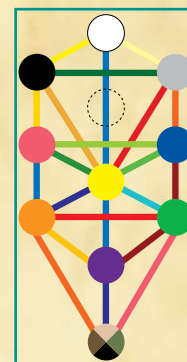


The Western Mystery Tradition is a hidden body of spiritual knowledge (“esoteric” knowledge) that has evolved and been passed down through the millennia from ancient Egypt, via the Jews and through Greece and down to the present day. It

is a path that encompasses the ancient spiritual and magical traditions of Egypt, the Qabalah of the Jews, Astrology, Tarot and many other ancient spiritual systems across Europe. Within this plethora of different spiritual approaches lies a tradition based primarily on Egyptian and Qabalistic thought, which finds its expression in the art and science of ceremonial or ritual magic.

It has been said that established world religions serves as an “outer court” to the esoteric traditions that form the “inner court” of the spiritual systems. This may well be true. For many people the “outer court” of established religion may well fulfil their spiritual needs for their lifetime. For others who start on the established religious paths, this becomes too prescriptive and disempowering so the esoteric path is chosen as a more personally empowering alternative. By personally empowering we mean that the follower of the esoteric path comes to know God (or the Creative Force of the Universe) through their own personal meditative practice rather than just following the rules laid down in the Holy Books.

## What is the Qabalah?



The Qabalah is a body of esoteric spiritual knowledge developed and codified by the ancient Jews. Whilst it can be thought of as the esoteric side of Judaism it clearly has strong Egyptian and Zoroastrian influences. The Qabalah provides us with a systematic and logical view of the universe, its evolution and the energies within it.

The Qabalistic Tree of Life is a diagram (often

called the “glyph”) that depicts the operating forces of the universe. Through meditation and contemplation of this symbol the student is able to access a huge body of esoteric knowledge and gain an understanding of the structure of the energies that created, and which continue to support the universe. This knowledge enables us to focus the energies present in the universe to our creative benefit.

## Why Ancient Egypt?



The ancient Egyptians had a very sophisticated system of spiritual and magical development, based on years of rigorous and disciplined training. By magic we mean the ability to use the power of the mind, combined with a detailed knowledge of natural forces, to create real change in the physical world. Their knowledge of mathematics, astronomy, healing, anatomy and astrology was lost for millennia and much of what they knew has only been rediscovered within the last two hundred years.



Many of the rituals and methods of the ancient Egyptians have been carefully researched and recreated by scholars in the last 150 years. This rediscovered material is very accessible to the student and can be very profitably employed as an effective system of magical and spiritual development.

Combining both ancient and modern systems for esoteric training todayThe school represents a totally new concept in training in the Western Mystery Tradition, using techniques from accelerated learning, Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), aromatherapy, Reiki, the Mystery Traditions and elsewhere to create a powerful programme designed to lead to mastery of the ancient magical and spiritual traditions of ritual magic. The training course draws together ancient techniques and modern systems with ideas from quantum physics to create a coherent model of the universe consistent with both ancient and modern thought.



One of the key things that the ancients insisted upon in their priests and magicians was purity. Whilst this is often perceived as purity in the strict sense of celibacy this was not actually the case. Purity refers mainly to a cleansing and clearing of the mental, emotional and spiritual parts of the self in order to provide a clear channel for direct communication with the divine. The results of this cleansing process is exactly the same as the results from our modern systems of psychotherapy, such as transpersonal psychology, gestalt therapy and NLP.

The need to perform emotional clearing is as important today as it was thousands of years ago – possibly more important given that the stress and pace of modern life far outstrips that of our ancient ancestors. Modern teachers of the Western Mystery Tradition such as Dion Fortune and Israel Regardie insisted on psychotherapy as an adjunct to esoteric training. In the Academy of the Opened Ways we believe that emotional and



Degree, and, assuming you are then accepted to do so, continue into the third year of study, following completion of which, you may be eligible to take initiation into the Second Degree.



Compared to almost every other mystery school this is a rapid advancement through the traditional degrees. This can only be facilitated through the accelerated personal development techniques provided for by NLP and

the results are both positive and life enhancing. The founding initiates of The Academy of the Opened Ways are all certified to Master Practitioner or Trainer level of NLP and are Reiki trained, in addition to their many years of magical training.

## Training Curriculum



The full Academy of the Opened Ways training course is three years duration. The first two years lead towards initiation into the first degree of the Academy. The final year is preparation for initiation into the Second Degree.

In order to support this accelerated training, candidates for initiation into the First Degree must complete training as Practitioner of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP) and be certified as reaching the required standard. Training in NLP is facilitated as part of the Academy's training process. Similarly, candidates



for entry into the Second Degree must be certified as Master Practitioner of NLP before being accepted for the Second Degree initiation.

The full curriculum for the three years training course is outlined below.

### Year One:

History and development of the Western Mystery Tradition from Chaldea and Mesopotamia to the present day; Esoteric Societies and key personalities; The mechanisms of emotional, mental and spiritual development; the "three minds and four bodies" model. The importance of coherent development of all the bodies; Presuppositions of Magical Practice; Timeline techniques for



emotional clearing; Use of aromatherapy and Hemi Sync for assisting meditative states; The Middle Pillar exercise; The Qabalah: Four Worlds. Sephiroth and Paths. Meditating on the Magical Images for each of the Sephiroth; Walking the Paths assuming the characters in the corresponding Tarot Card. Create a personal picture of the Tree marking on the correspondences and paths walked; Colouring the Major Arcana Tarot Cards and meditating on these images; Learning the meanings of the twenty two cards of the major Arcana; Exercises to develop powers of visual, auditory and kinaesthetic observation; The Lesser Banishing Ritual of the Pentagram (LBRP); Concepts of Ritual Magic and its purpose; Practical Ritual Training (workshop based).

### Year Two:

Divinatory meanings of the Tarot Cards and three card spreads; Meditations on the Minor Arcana cards; The Hebrew Alphabet: Practice writing the letters, meditations on the letters and pathworkings; The key myths surrounding Isis,

Osiris, Set and Nephthys: How Isis became Mistress of Magic and the Resurrection of Osiris; Osiris as one of many slain and resurrected Gods; Meditations on some of the Egyptian Godforms; Working out correspondences of the Egyptian Pantheon to the Tree of Life. Looking at the Minor Arcana correspondences to the Sephiroth; Simple ritual work. Opening and closing quarters. Temple behaviour. Purifying and cleansing the sacred space; The magical ring; More work on emotional clearing and belief change with Timeline techniques.

### Year Three:

Walking the Paths of the Tree of Life from Malkuth to Kether; Principles of designing rituals and exercises to write them; Lodge work – officers, energy, responsibilities, purpose, group minds, etc; Astrology: Introduction. The signs, houses, planets and aspects. Astrological correspondences to the Tree of Life; The use of magical tools. Creating a Wand and a Pentacle. Consecration of Tools. Making banners; Pathworkings with the Tarot Major Arcana The Tarot Celtic Cross Spread and personal divinations; Different types of ritual. Use of energy in a temple. Going deeper in ritual: invocations and evocations. Ecological use of ritual; Perform the Assumption of the Godform and be able to operate on both physical and astral levels simultaneously in ritual; Build Astral Guardians for temples and Angelic Guardians

## Initiation



In keeping with traditional Mystery Schools, we offer three degrees of initiation as part of our progressive training. The process of initiation is a ritual designed to attune the vibration of

the subtle bodies of the candidate to a higher level of awareness or consciousness, thus beginning a new phase in the candidate's spiritual growth.



A candidate's preparation for initiation will be discussed with them individually. It is anticipated that they will have at least worked on emotional clearing and some form of energy work. This energy work is an essential part of the training and when combined with both emotional clearing and magical training it can rapidly accelerate a student's progress towards initiation.

## *So, What's in It for me?*



Studying the ancient mysteries as a path to spiritual development isn't for everyone. It requires commitment and dedication and the results can be astounding. You will begin to experience a depth to life that wasn't there before. You will see connections and synchronicities around you that will demonstrate when you are on "the right path." You will learn to develop relationships to a deeper level than before, and start to manifest in your own life those things that you really desire. You will develop a sense of "connectedness" to the world around you and to the whole of creation, whether physical or unmanifest. You will meet like-minded people who share an abiding passion in understanding and mastering the hidden mysteries of life and of the universe. We invite you to join us on that quest and, in so doing, join a long line of initiates from before recorded history to the present day who have understood and experienced what Dion Fortune called "becoming more than human."

# How do I apply?



You can apply online at [www.opened-ways.com](http://www.opened-ways.com) or by completing an application form and posting it to the school at the address below. Details of membership fees are included on the application form.

You can apply online at [www.opened-ways.com](http://www.opened-ways.com), download an application form to complete, or complete the application form accompanying this prospectus and post it to the school at the address below. Assuming your application is accepted you will receive a joining pack containing the following:

- A folder containing a printed introduction to the school and sample meditation diaries
- A CD-ROM containing the lessons and audio guided meditations
- Self-colour major arcana Tarot cards
- An introductory letter from the Director of Studies
- A membership card
- Details of discounts available on attending workshops and lectures

**We look forward to receiving your application.**

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