

The Ancient Wisdom Series

A Brief Introduction to the Ascended Masters

By John P. Johnston

The Masters of Light live and work in the celestial city of Shamballa. They represent the crown of human achievement, and they have dedicated their lives to the salvation of the human race. Many of them come from the stars, while others come from planets within our own solar system. Their first incarnations took place on the ancient continent of Lemuria, followed by lifetimes on Atlantis, where thousands attained the coveted status of Ascended Master. Others achieved that goal during the time of the Buddha, while others achieved Mastership during the time of Jesus Christ. There have been but a very few who have attained mastery while in the flesh, most having taken the final initiation following death in the physical body. Those few who mastered in the flesh include Babaji, Morya, Kuthumi, Solomon, St. Germain, and Jesus. Besides those who attained mastery upon the physical plane there are those who ascended at the very moment of death, such as Yogananda, Buddha, and Lord Maitreya. Be that as it may, there are no distinctions made in Shamballa, where every Master, whether of the 5th, 6th, or 7th degree, earns his rank and privileges through Love and Service.

In 1875 the decision was made to relocate Shamballa from its physical plane location in the Gobi Desert to an undisclosed location upon the etheric plane. The move was unavoidable, because the Masters were in the process of transferring their ashrams from the upper mental plane to the buddhic plane, thus necessitating a corresponding action upon the physical plane. The etheric plane is what modern physicists refer to as the quantum universe, a world composed entirely of atoms; and those atoms, when acted upon with conscious intent, constitute the template underlying physical manifestation. The buddhic plane exists within the unfathomable world of the fourth dimension, and can best be thought of as the plane of intuition, but also the plane of divine love and wisdom.

There is but one Shamballa. However, Shamballa is in fact multidimensional, simultaneously manifesting upon two planes of consciousness: the etheric plane and the buddhic plane. Within the hierarchy of Masters there are seven principal ashrams headed by Seven Ray Lords, and those seven ashrams fall under the authority of three Great Lords - the Manu, the Bodhisattva, and the Mahachohan. The Manu rules the first ray of power and seventh ray of order, and therefore facilitates the manifestation of God's Will upon the physical plane. The Bodhisattva rules the second ray of love/wisdom and sixth ray of devotion, and his duties include the release of religious and philosophical concepts for the edification of human civilization. The Mahachohan rules the third ray of adaptive intelligence, the fourth ray of harmony, and the fifth ray of science, and therefore works with the intelligent adaptation of form to spirit. Together the three Great Lords and the ashrams of the seven Ray Lords comprise the ashram of the Planetary Deity.

Christ and Buddha occupy unique positions within the Hierarchy, and therefore have assumed duties and responsibilities rivaling, and sometimes surpassing those of the three Great Lords. The Buddha serves as a conduit for the Planetary Deity, raying out cosmic and planetary energies to the three Great Lords, who in turn distribute those energies to the seven Ray Lords, whose ashrams adapt the higher energies for use in the human sphere. Christ acts as the Intercessor, communicating to the Planetary Deity humanity's plea for help. Christ is also responsible for certain aspects of the karma created when, while suspended on the Cross, He agreed to channel both cosmic and solar energies for the sake of humanity.

Master Jesus works very closely with humanity, serving both individuals and groups; however, He does not communicate through mediums, channels, or any other form of paranormal phenomena. Those who claim to be channeling Him are most likely channeling either another Master, or an initiate working on the inner plane under the supervision of a Master. Additionally, it is not unusual for mediums to unwittingly channel thought forms created by the Masters. Clearly, valuable information is communicated through mediums and channels, information that uplifts both the heart and the mind. Those channels, however, only rarely communicate the esoteric teachings.

Esoteric teachings come directly from the Master, and are communicated either through telepathy, or via the antahkarana, the magnetic link connecting Soul and personality. Telepathic communication registers directly in the brain, where it is translated from abstract thought to concrete thought. Accuracy depends upon the degree of purification found in the three lower vehicles of consciousness, and upon the strength of the karmic connection between Master and Disciple. When the esoteric teachings are received via the antahkarana, the abstract concepts of the Master are interpreted by the Soul, which then impresses the brain. This method of communication is typically less accurate, and is often mistaken for intuition, as are direct impressions from the Master, who will on occasion impress the student with concrete thought via direct voice.

There are approximately 140,000 Masters, men and women who have willingly retained basic human qualities, such as an appreciation for laughter and recreation, so that they might better serve humanity. They work tirelessly, but they also take time to relax and enjoy their favorite pastimes. They sometimes attend music festivals in the higher planes of consciousness, and they sometimes spend time on the etheric plane where they can enjoy the beauty of Mother Nature. They live full and balanced lives.

Blessings flow continually from Shamballa, because the Masters always respond to the pleas of humanity, guiding world leaders whenever possible, availing themselves of every opportunity to alleviate world conditions. The Masters are presently working very closely with humanity, and are diligently seeking men and women willing to dedicate their lives to Love and Service. If you are interested in serving God's Plan alongside the Ascended Masters, make your intentions known while in meditation, and a Master will appear, first on the inner plane during the hours of sleep, and later, after proof of service, in full waking consciousness. When the Master establishes contact you may not notice at first; however, over time you will undoubtedly recognize the wonderful changes that have occurred in your life.

John P. Johnston is the author of *This Side of the Gate*, a metaphysical novel about reincarnation. *This Side of the Gate* can be purchased at select bookstores and online at amazon.com and barnesandnoble.com. More information is available at www.authorsden.com/johnpjohnston.