ALICE BAILEY’S PRESENTATION OF GENERAL ESOTERIC PRINCIPLES
General Postulates of Esoteric Theory

1. There is but One Life and It is both imminent and transcendent.

2. The One Life expresses Itself in seven radiant qualities or creative agencies, which are called the Seven Rays.

3. All is alive and is swept into expression by the breath of the One Life.

4. All are inter-related parts of the One Life and are tied together with circulating, interconnecting energy.

5. All life manifests cyclically.

6. Sentient little lives are built into larger lives in an apparent endless series.
General Postulates of Esoteric Theory (continued)

7 Life (spirit), quality (soul), and appearance (matter) are present in all forms, from an atom to a human to a solar system.

8 Each solar system is the manifestation of an energy and life of a great Cosmic Existence – a solar Logos.

9 In the building of our solar system, our solar Logos used matter already permeated with particular qualities and latent characteristics.

10 All souls are identical with the Oversoul and thus brotherhood is a fact and not just an ideal.

11 Humans develop from self-expression and self-realization.
That which became human started as Gods and chose to descend into the densest matter for purposes of service and experience. We are now on the long journey home.
The One Life expressed Itself through seven radiant qualities or creative agencies, which are called the Seven Rays. Rays 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 collectively form the five aspects of mind.
The planes of consciousness within the greater cosmos and within our solar system are better understood as being inner planes – one Chinese doll inside another.

The Seven Planes of Consciousness of our Solar System together make up only the lowest Cosmic Plane of Consciousness. Consciousness is indeed vast!
The Seven Planes of the Solar System
Staircase to Consciousness

These are the seven planes within our solar system, which form a staircase of expanded consciousness.
Time, Space, & Astrology

1. Time and space are related to periods of cyclical manifestations of some entity. When matter is energized by the will of this entity, time and space exist. If not, time and space do not exist.

2. Time does not exist on the inner planes.

3. Physical plane time extends for vast durations. The major cycle of our solar system is called a *mahakalpa* and lasts for 311 trillion years. Uncountable numbers of these *mahakalpas* have already passed and as many more are yet to come.

4. Space is an entity; in Him we live and move and have our being.
There are many universes inside the vault of heaven.

Astrology is a true and important science, though its current practice has gone far astray.

Esoteric astrology deals with the conditioning and governing forces that play upon the field of space and all within it. Nothing can escape these energies.

The goal of evolution for humanity is to become aware of these energies and to learn to work with them.
Cyclic Manifestation

1. All life proceeds under ebb and flow or the law of cycles. Creation is rhythmic.

2. The outstanding cycle of any entity is its out-breath into incarnation and its in-breath back into the center from which it came.

3. The indwelling entity takes to itself a body of manifestation (*involution*) for its use and perfection (*evolution*).

4. Life within any form undergoes the five stages of limitation, adaptation, utilization, crystallization, and finally disintegration.

5. The ebb and flow in all nature are exemplified by the ocean tides. The vitalizing and stimulating inflow is followed by an inevitable outflow.

6. Less resistance occurs in physical plane expression when one aligns with the ebb and flow or natural rhythm of daily life.
Cyclic Manifestation (continued)

7. The goal of each incarnation is to teach the indwelling entity certain lessons. All incarnations are not of equal value. A lifetime is but a moment in the long cycle of the soul.

8. Physical death ensues after one has produced light of a sufficient magnitude during a particular incarnation. That magnitude of light was decided upon by soul prior to incarnation.

9. Death is literally sleep for the unevolved. For the average person, death carries forward on the inner planes the interests and tendencies of the physical life. For advanced humanity, death is an entrance into a familiar sphere of service in which one has already been participating during sleep.

10. That which we call death simply relates to the location of our consciousness, which shifts from the physical plane to the inner planes.

11. Death will eventually become a more celebrated event than either birth or marriage.
Interconnectedness

1. There is an exquisite interdependence of all existence. A web of life or etheric body underlies every form and connects every part with every other part.

2. Space is etheric in nature and is an eternal medium for the exchange and transmission of energies.

3. Everything in our solar system is in a state of flux and the vital energy circulates as does the blood in a body.

4. All operates under law, but humanity does not yet have full knowledge or appreciation of higher law.

5. Higher law presupposes a superior Being who with purpose and intelligence is coordinating His forces to unfold a sequential plan. Laws are spiritual impulses.
Interconnectedness (continued)

6. We are under the influence of forces outside our consciousness, but within limits, we can control our destiny.

7. As we evolve, we slowly learn to react to the intent of the Whole of which we are a part.

8. The health of humanity depends upon the health of all allied evolutions.

9. All receive so we may pass on to that which is less evolved.

10. The same basic laws that govern the evolution of the solar system govern the evolution of humanity: as above – so below.
Bailey’s Human Constitution

The above illustrates the composition of the Human within the seven planes of consciousness in our solar system.
The Soul Lotus

Soul is understood as an energetic center resembling a lotus flower. Through evolution, the soul’s petals slowly unfold and demonstrate the nature of Spirit with its qualities of knowledge, love, and sacrifice. Finally the jewel or spark of divinity inside the soul is fully revealed.
Fields of Soul Lotuses

Souls or egoic lotuses are located generally on the 3rd subplane of the mental plane in vast groups that are reminiscent of our California fields of artichokes.
The Etheric Body and Its Energy Centers

Dr. Uta Hecke said that Alex Grey accurately portrays the human etheric body in his artwork. The seven major energy centers have been labeled.

Note. From Sacred Mirrors: The Visionary Art of Alex Grey by A. Grey, 1990, Rochester, VT: Inner Traditions.
The Etheric Body and Its Energy Centers

Crown
Ajna
Throat
Heart
Solar Plexus
Sacral
Base
The Self vs. The Not-self

1. Spirit, the Self, works through matter, the not-self.

2. We spend so many incarnations merged with our form that we eventually see no difference between the form (not-self) and ourselves. This identification leads to pain and sorrow.

3. The human operates from the consciousness of the animal form, and this form limits, distorts, and imprisons.

4. The soul within is dual: one part responds to the animal soul and the other part recognizes the divine soul. Humanity’s problem is that it answers to two masters.

5. The impact from the divine soul is very subtle, as it sends out rhythmic streams of energy recognized as our high impulses, dreams, and aspirations.

6. The human is an animal plus a God.
The Self vs. The Not-self (continued)

7 The Self eventually gains freedom from the not-self and from form, the desires of the emotions, and the dominance of the intellect.

8 The human kingdom is the battleground between the pairs of opposites, between the divine soul and the animal soul.

9 To evolve intelligently, one must learn to differentiate between the two aspects of one’s nature, between the Self and the not-self, between the divine soul and the animal soul.

10 The ultimate goal is unification of the Self with the not-self.

11 Humanity lives in a fog of illusion (mental distortions), glamour (emotional distortions), and maya (physical plane distortions). All three distortions belong to the not-self.
Soul undergoes evolution as does its reflection, the human. The day eventually comes when soul has served its purpose. Evolution then proceeds without the intermediary of soul.

*Note. From A Treatise on Cosmic Fire, by A. A. Bailey, 1925, New York: Lucis. Copyright renewed 1979 by Lucis Trust.*
Hierarchy of Consciousness in Our Solar System

The above figure illustrates the organization of consciousness within our solar system.

Initiation

1. Expansions of consciousness are normal in the evolutionary process. Sudden expansions of consciousness are called *initiations*.

2. Major initiations are extremely difficult to attain. Actual ceremonies on the inner planes coincide with major initiations. Either Christ, the head of the Hierarchy, or Sanat Kumara, the Lord of the World, presided over these ceremonies.

3. Initiations permit the personality to share in the wisdom already attained by the soul.

4. After an initiation, one’s work is to make that expansion of consciousness readily usable by the personality in service of humanity.

5. The Probationary Path precedes the Path of Initiation. Here one consciously aligns oneself with the forces of nature that chisel one’s character.
Initiation (continued)

6. At the 1st Initiation, the soul has attained a high degree of control over the physical body.

7. The 2nd Initiation marks the control of the soul over the emotional body.

8. The 3rd Initiation marks the control of soul over the mental body. This initiation is referred to as the *transfiguration*, as the personality thought-form is obliterated by the light of soul. This initiation signifies what humanity generally considers enlightenment.

9. At the 4th Initiation, the inner bud of the soul lotus bursts and exposes the *jewel in the lotus*. The central life is liberated and can return to its source, Monad.

10. At the 5th Initiation, the adept releases the lower bodies altogether and stands in the higher intuitional body. At this point, there is the option of seven paths to pursue for continued service and evolution.
Service

1. With increased esoteric training comes increased exoteric responsibility to apply the truth revealed.

2. Esoteric training emphasizes service, for it is only as one serves that one advances. Beginners are engrossed with the knowledge of the Ancient Wisdom; disciples are engrossed with the work to be done.

3. Disciples try to become transmitters of spiritual energy into the world. They try to build bodies strong enough to receive and hold the down-flowing energy, which they then transmit to the world through service.

4. The Masters cannot work without their physical plane focal points. Disciples strive to become outposts of their consciousness.

5. Humans do not become of real assistance to the Hierarchy until they can consciously direct their thought energy toward some channel of service to the world.
Service (continued)

6. Service is the work of the Self for the not-self.

7. The soul endures limitations in physicality so that it can know and serve.

8. Humanity’s goal is to become relaying channels of inflowing energy and not delaying points of selfishness within the divine flow.

9. As the human kingdom is helped from above, we in turn have a responsibility to help the lower kingdoms. We must become concerned with the evolution of all life, not just our own lives.

10. Integrated spiritual groups form focal points for the transmission of spiritual energies into the world. Such groups can invoke energies from above and then transmit them into the world.
Extraordinary Times

1. This is the day of opportunity, not just a day of opportunity. The evolution of those who are in any way advanced is being hastened as never before in human history.

2. We should view the world crises as opportunities and not as calamities, for the results of crisis often are that the soul assumes greater control over the form.

3. All periods of stimulation are at first experienced as disturbing. It is only after the dust settles that the purpose is seen to emerge.

4. 1st Ray energy streams directly into humanity from Shamballa without being previously buffered by the Hierarchy. This has only happened twice before in human history.

5. Humanity so hates the death of form that we consider the destroyer aspect of divinity to be bad and do not realize that forms often must be broken to permit the free expression of divinity.
Extraordinary Times (continued)

6. Those who are not prepared for the coming events will be blinded by the light. It is up to the advanced humanity to become their guides.

7. The Masters will again walk on earth with humanity, as they did in the distant past. The Masters will then guide human affairs to the extent permitted by innate free will. The forerunners of the Hierarchy are already in incarnation. Djwhal Khul called this group the *New Group of World Servers*.

8. The *New Group of World Servers* includes men and women of all races and in all nations. They are found in all fields of endeavor. The group pledges allegiance to no creed except brotherhood and recognizes soul as the ultimate authority.

9. Christ has announced His intent to return to physicality as soon as conditions permit. Many of His advanced guard are already here. When Christ returns, He will be visible to all. We should not think that He will work through the medium of the church.

10. Christ is a world teacher and not just a Christian teacher.