



Hamilton Lodge of the Theosophical Society

Dear members and friends

April 2005

Last month we did a bit of *spiritual orienteering*, and looked at who we are in the big scheme of things. We explored how we fit into this in the evolutionary plan, and the layers that make up our physical and non-physical world. You will recall we discussed the two paths that we orientate the vertical and ourselves on – the horizontal. There's the horizontal smorgasbord of topics that we explore when we come to realise that there's something more than simply existing, and there's the vertical path, which takes us on a more narrow and directed focus. Neither of these paths however, should take us further away from the world around us. We need to remain *in* the world, and continue to be an active part of life in order to grow.

So this month we break from tradition of exploring the world through the great minds of long-dead theosophists, and begin to explore through the great minds of those people working for a better world in recent decades. This month we're specifically going to focus on our interconnection with others – group consciousness, thoughts, group mind, collective intelligences, and so on.

Programme – April 2005

3rd : Collective Consciousness among animals and humans
(Rupert Sheldrake, audio & discussion)

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**10<sup>th</sup> : Collective and group consciousness**  
*(Roger Nelson, audio & discussion)*

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17th : An Introduction to Eastern Philosophy with Alan Watts
(Tony)

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**24<sup>th</sup> : Members' meeting: Thought forms - Be careful what you focus on**  
*Charles*

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Meetings start at 7.30pm, 73 Anglesea Street
Gold coin donation
All welcome

3rd – Collective Consciousness among animals and humans

Based on Rupert Sheldrake's two books *The Sense of Being Stared At and Other Aspects of the Extended Mind*, and *Dogs That Know When Their Owners Are Coming Home and Other Unexplained Powers of Animals*.

This audio talk explores the concept of the extended mind – reaching beyond the physical – and the science behind how we experience those moments of 'just knowing'. This will be followed by discussion.

(When we get *really* good at this, we can eliminate the discussion and just sit together and tune in!)

10th – Collective and Group Consciousness

We explore the group mind, and how we are both capable of affecting and being affected by the conscious energies of others.

We look at this through the work of Roger Nelson, founder and director of the IONS-sponsored Global Consciousness Project (GCP), an international collaboration of scientists, artists, and citizens working at a world-spanning network of detectors to record effects of major "global events" on a hypothesized global consciousness.

This audio talk explores the concept of inter-connected consciousness, collective intelligence - that group aha! moment - and will be followed by discussion.

17th – An introduction to Eastern philosophy with Alan Watts

Tony will facilitate an introduction to one aspect of the work of Alan Watts, who for more than forty years earned a reputation as a foremost interpreter of Eastern philosophies for the West.

His life and work reflects an astonishing adventure: he was an editor, Anglican priest, graduate dean, broadcaster, author, lecturer, and entertainer, who traveled widely with his students in Japan, and visited Burma, Ceylon, and India during the mid sixties.

24th - Thought forms: Be Careful What you Focus On

What's the different between a fleeting thought, and a thought form? The power of the mind? The thinker? The thought? Charles will give us an overview of thought forms.

Members' meetings are informal, and a great way to get to know each other, to talk about what's special to you, and to ask questions, in a safe and knowledgeable (well, we try) setting.

Direction

"Would you tell me, please, which way I ought to go from here?" "That depends a good deal on where you want to get to," said the Cat. "I don't much care where ..." said Alice. "Then it doesn't matter which way you go," said the Cat. "... so long as I get to SOMEWHERE," Alice added as an explanation. "Oh, you're sure to do that," said the Cat, "if you only walk long enough." From

Alice's adventures in Wonderland, Chapter 6

There's a little bit of Alice in all of us. Sometimes we walk so long we forget that there's even a destination, and I'm not talking Big Picture here. There are also milestones and indicators that point to a turn in the road, or a change in direction. We need to be aware of those flags. Sometimes it's a person, a hunch, an intuitive feeling,



or a knowing from the heart. Sometimes we're just clobbered by reality – life becomes a struggle, our motivation flies out the window, things become a burden, we need change, and to move on.

In the Evolutionary Plan, we learn and grow; we then either go out and do, or we help others to learn. We are here to contribute.

As we move into winter, we come to a time of reflection. Are you where you want to be right now? If not, take a long rest; think about how you will use the activity of spring to take off. Plant your seeds now, set your course, enjoy the long evenings and be kind to yourself.

All the best for April

Sonia,

Tony, Fiona, Vicki, David, Charles

I slept and dreamt that life was joy.
I awoke and saw that life was service.
I acted and behold,
service was joy.

~ Rabindranath Tagore

Sender: 73 Anglesea Street,
Hamilton