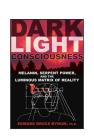


Dark Light Consciousness
Melanin, Serpent Power, and
the Luminous Matrix of Reality
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ISBN 978-1-59477-472-0 • \$19.95
Quality Paperback — July 2012
352 pages; 6 x 9
Includes 57 black-and-white illustrations
Imprint: Inner Traditions



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OTHER METHODS FOR AWAKENING THE SLEEPING SERPENT

THE SCIENCE OF KRIYA YOGA

A method that integrates both breath control and the circulation of the energy around the spine is found in the Indian version of the science of kriya yoga. Its lineage stretches back through a line of world-renowned yoga masters, from Paramahansa Yogananda to his teacher Swami Sri Yuteswar, back to his guru Lahiri Mahasaya, and on to his own teacher Babaji. Babaji himself rediscovered the lost science that had been the science of India millennia ago, when the events of the Bhagavad Gita were living history before the light of this science passed into another dark age.

The disciplined practitioner learns through pranayama to suspend and energize the breath, coil the life force around and up the spine, focus attention, then detach from the body and move toward union with and within the all-pervading Consciousness. The body may appear lifeless as attention is focused and withdrawn deeply into the interior spine. The practitioner directs the awakened life force to spiral around the six energy centers or charkas, or ANS plexuses, along the spine. This spiral movement is done slowly up and down around the spine,

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almost like a moving barber pole, from the coccygeal plexus up through the brainstem and crown and back again.

The practice may be deepened by remembering and tuning in to the earth's core rotational dynamics of spin within the earth itself, which creates coils spiraling upward and out in an experientially realized electromagnetic-gravitational wave to the ever-widening cosmos. This method has an affinity to the earlier mentioned Taoist technique of circulating the light in the major and minor orbits along the spinal line.

A physical meditative posture described in earlier chapters is best for this process. By sensing and visualizing this dynamism moving up from the earth into and around the spinal line, the meditative discipline "harnesses" or yokes this dynamism. The effect seems to create a warp in the fabric of moment-to-moment bodily space-time and move the consciousness principle up and into the realm of "no time." It is in the realm of "no time" that the spirit forms reside.

This practice is executed during spiritual practice many times a day and night. In kryia yoga, a single coil moved around and up the length of the spine is believed to quicken the pace of spiritual evolution. Thirty seconds is believed to equal one year of regular life, so instead of a million human years for a human soul to reach cosmic consciousness it is a much shorter journey.

SRI YANTRA

The Method of Meditation and Absorption

Earlier we described the Sri Yantra as a complex figure emanating from a single point. A single point is surrounded as it progresses outward by a series of triangles interfacing with each other. It was described as a two-dimensional representation of a three-dimensional triangular figure emerging in a fourth dimension in which time is included. This Sri Yantra is associated with the nine openings, or "gates," of the body. The triangle is an enclosed and enfolding space that opens out in manifes-

tation. Perhaps the most accessible text on this ancient method is the commentary of the polymath Bhaskararaya in Bhavanopanisad. The innermost dot of these enfolding triangles represents a kind of "zeropoint energy field," the information field that underlies the manifestation into this dimension of time and space itself.

Progressive meditation on the Sri Yantra begins at the center, but it can also begin at the outskirts (see figure 12.1). When it begins at the outer edges, meditate upon it moving gradually through various triangles toward the center. Then focus on the center moving progressively outward toward the edges. The practitioner does this to the point of being completely absorbed in the progression inward and outward, of involution and evolution and involution again.

Become completely absorbed in this while, at the same time, close the nine gates of the body physically in combination with one of the appropriate forms of breath control. This leads to a radical meditative experience and eventually the transcendence of experience itself. Pratyahara, or sensory withdrawal and self-absorption, occurs naturally in the process of this meditation upon involution and evolution, the wave in and the wave out of manifestation itself.

If this proves difficult then approach it from another direction. Establish yourself in meditation.

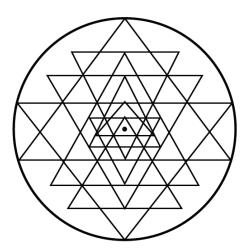


Fig 12.1. Sri Yantra

SRI YANTRA MEDITATION

With the eyes focused slightly above your head, visualize the bottom of a triangle. Go up into the triangle and visualize another triangle within it at 90 degrees. Then progress further upward. It will seem as though the triangles open within each other.

At times the image will appear external to you, at other times it will feel inside of you and you inside of it. During the practice, a quiet and spontaneous sensory withdrawal or pratyahara occurs. At the ninth level, the Sri Yantra will be completed. For some of you there will spontaneously appear the image and internal perception of two triangles flowing or penetrating each other in the shape of a star. This is the "celestial vehicle," or Merkabah, used by the ancient wisdom traditions for spirit travel and communion with "intelligences" not limited to the four conventional dimensions of human experience. Approach it with care.

Practice these mental manipulations at other times. Play with the visualization. Give yourself time. Have fun. Eventually you will be able to master it. It will occur spontaneously in dream sleep. Associate it in meditation with the seed sound/vibration "OM," and eventually something luminous will dawn within you.

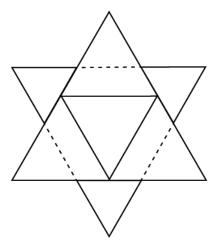


Fig 12.2. Merkabah