



Rosa Veritas
Learning



Esoteric **Understanding** of the **Human Being**

Study at Home
Introduction

Copyright © 2020

Rosa Veritas

All rights reserved

All quotes and excerpts
from the works of Mario Schoenmaker
used by permission



Rosa Veritas
Learning

Rosa Veritas, PO Box 4015, Langwarrin, VIC 3910, Australia
rosaveritas.org/learning • learning@rosaveritas.org

Introduction

Welcome. We trust that you will be enriched and empowered through your study of this unit, *ES1: Esoteric Understanding of the Human Being*.

As we build knowledge of our nature and being, our spiritual origins and destiny, we are enabled in our ability to embody our true self, embrace our potential and shape our life and expression. With self knowing comes greater self mastery, and we increase our freedom to be, to move, to live.

Rosa Veritas Learning accompanies individuals in their growth to spiritual maturity through deepened knowing. And with such knowledge, freedom.

• • •

Esoteric Understanding of the Human Being

This unit is entitled *Esoteric Understanding of the Human Being* and it provides a sound foundation for the study of further esoteric studies units with Rosa Veritas Learning. Our aim in this course is to come to an understanding of the basic concepts of esotericism. Our hope in doing this is to open to you a new way of understanding life, the human being and the universe.

This course has been inspired by the teachings of Reverend Mario Schoenmaker given over many years. It also draws work by Rosa Veritas Learning, and where necessary additional information has been added after researching Anthroposophical writings.

On page iii you will find an overview of the content of each of the eight study topics that make up this *ES1: Esoteric Understanding of the Human Being* unit.

Within each of the study topics you will find:

- the main teaching content;
- followed, in Study Topics 2 and 8, by some additional reading that enriches the main content; and
- concluding with a written task/s.

You will greatly benefit from completing the study topics with regularly and rhythm. If you aim to work through one study topic per week (fortnight, or three week period), this will give you time to carry out the study, reflection and writing.

Tutor

Your enrolment (purchase) in this Study at Home course includes the provision of a *Rosa Veritas Learning* tutor who will work with you through the course via email.

To be allocated a tutor, email your request to learning@rosaveritas.org and your assigned tutor will be in touch.

If you wish to be credited with completion of this unit, you will need to work with an assigned tutor. Communication will be via email and you and your tutor can make mutually suitable arrangements when you begin your work together.

You may choose to study this unit by yourself, without credit, in which case you do not need to request a tutor be allocated to you. If this is the case, we trust you will enjoy working with the *Esoteric Understanding of the Human Being* study materials.

Credit and Certification

If you want *Rosa Veritas Learning* to credit you with this unit and issue a certificate of completion, you need to provide your tutor with a copy of the written task for each of the eight Study Topics.

Overview of the Unit

Study Topic 1

DEFINITIONS

Esoteric training, esoteric knowledge, occultism, metaphysics

Content	1
-------------------	---

This study topic introduces the esoteric studies subject. This course is not esoteric training but nevertheless can nourish the soul. Definition of the terms esoteric, occult, initiate and metaphysics. The difference between an occultist and an esotericist. Spiritual individuality – I AMness. The concepts of involution and evolution. The difference between the metaphysical approach and the esoteric approach. The fundamental concepts: Reincarnation and Karma, Body, Soul and Spirit.

Written Task #1	15
---------------------------	----

Study Topic 2

BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT

Content	17
-------------------	----

The three bodies – physical, etheric and astral. The I AM and the individual personality. Interaction of the three bodies. Sleeping and waking. The human being and the mineral, plant and animal kingdoms. The soul and spirit in relation to the three bodies. The three faculties of the soul – Thinking, Feeling and Willing. The upper, middle and lower systems of the human being. The three soul faculties observed in the infant and child. The three spirit members – Spirit Self, Life Spirit and Spirit Man.

Additional Reading

- *The Essential Nature of Mankind* by Rudolf Steiner 30

Written Task #2	41
---------------------------	----

Study Topic 3

THE SOUL AND THE PHASES OF LIFE

Content	43
-------------------	----

The three members of the soul: Sentient Soul, Intellectual Soul, Consciousness Soul. The seven-year cycles in human life.

Written Task #3	59
---------------------------	----

Study Topic 4

PLANETARY AND HUMAN EVOLUTION

Content	61
-------------------	----

The seven incarnations of the world. Old Saturn and Old Sun. The concept of recapitulation in evolution. The four elements – Fire, Air, Water and Earth. Densification and rarefaction of the elements. The Old Moon and Earth incarnations. Future incarnations of the world – New Jupiter, New Venus and Vulcan and the principle of Correspondence.

Written Task #4	74
---------------------------	----

Study Topic 5

EARTH AND HUMAN TRANSFORMATION

Content	75
-------------------	----

The seven earth epochs – Polarian, Hyperborean, Lemurian, Atlantean, Post Atlantean, 6th and 7th. Introduction to the seven cultural eras of the Post Atlantean epoch. The incarnation of Christ, love and the I AM in present world incarnation.

Written Task #5	86
---------------------------	----

Study Topic 6

THE SPIRITUAL HIERARCHIES

An introduction

Content	87
-------------------	----

The lower kingdoms and the higher spiritual beings. Ancient source – Dionysius the Areopagite. The names of the hierarchy. The Godhead and the hierarchy. The human being in relation to the hierarchy. Description of the Angels Archangels and Archai, Exousiai, Dunameis and Kyriotetes, Seraphim, Cherubim and Thrones, The spiritual hierarchy in evolution – Old Saturn, Old Sun, Old Moon and Earth.

Written Task #6	101
---------------------------	-----

Study Topic 7

MICROCOSM AND MACROCOSM

Content	103
-------------------	-----

The rhythm of breath and heart as reflection of the macrocosm. The Soul world and the Spirit world. Devachan and Higher Devachan. Planetary spheres of consciousness – Moon, Mercury, Venus, Sun, Mars, Jupiter and Saturn. Journey through the spheres after death. The macrocosmic midnight hour. The zodiac and the human body. Return journey to a new birth.

Written Task #7	115
---------------------------	-----

Study Topic 8

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONCLUSION

Content	117
-------------------	-----

Reasons for esoteric study. Influence of Lucifer and Ahriman. Initiation in the past and initiation today. Work required for spiritual development – develop thinking, feeling and willing, transforming the astral and etheric, religious attitude to life, developing relationship with Christ. The pitfalls of esoteric study. Course summary and further study.

Additional Reading

- *Esoteric Training* by Rev Mario Schoenmaker 127
- *The Character of Occult Science* by Rudolf Steiner 133

Written Task #8	141
---------------------------	-----

References

Study Topic 1

DEFINITIONS

Esoteric training, esoteric knowledge, occultism, metaphysics

- 'Esoteric Training', Mario Schoenmaker, article published in *Communication*, 1980.
- *Introduction to Metaphysics*, Mario Schoenmaker, 1978, an out-of-print publication which describes the difference between metaphysics and occultism. (lecture 5)

Study Topic 2

BODY, SOUL AND SPIRIT

On the subject of Body, Soul and Spirit:

- *Theosophy*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1985. (chapter 1)

The Three Spirit members:

- *An Outline of Occult Science*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1984. (chapter 2)

Thinking, Feeling and Willing:

- *From Thinking to Living*, Francis Edmunds, Elements Books, 1990. (chapter 3)
- 'Esoteric Training', Mario Schoenmaker, article published in *Communication*, 1980.
- *An Outline of Occult Science*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1984. (chapter 1)

Study Topic 3

THE SOUL AND THE PHASES OF LIFE

The Three Soul Members:

- *Theosophy*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1985. (chapter 1)
- *An Outline of Occult Science*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1984. (chapter 2)

The Seven Year Cycles:

- *The New Clairvoyance*, Mario Schoenmaker, Gateway Books, 1986. (chapter 5)
- *Citizens of the Cosmos*, Beredene Jocelyn, Continuum, 1981. (part 1)

Study Topic 4

PLANETARY AND HUMAN EVOLUTION

Incarnations of the world:

- *A Short Occult History of the World*, Mario Schoenmaker, ICA Press, 1989. (chapter 1)
- *The Ultimate Vision*, Mario Schoenmaker, a 1984 ICA Press publication. (lecture 2)
- *The Book of Hebrews*, Mario Schoenmaker, a 1985 ICA Press publication. (lecture 2)
- *An Outline of Occult Science*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1984. (chapter 4)

Study Topic 5

EARTH AND HUMAN TRANSFORMATION

Epochs of the World:

- *A Short Occult History of the World*, Mario Schoenmaker, ICA Press, 1989. (chapters 2 and 4)
- *The Ultimate Vision*, Mario Schoenmaker, a 1984 centre publication. (lecture 3)
- *An Outline of Occult Science*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1984. (chapter 4)

Purpose of the Incarnation of Christ:

- *A Short Occult History of the World*, Mario Schoenmaker, ICA Press, 1989. (chapter 5)

Study Topic 6

THE SPIRITUAL HIERARCHIES

An introduction

There are many references to the hierarchy in Rosa Veritas publications.

A general reference is:

- *Our Spiritual Companions*, Adam Bittleston, Floris Books, 1980. This book covers the subject well.

For technical information on the role of the hierarchy during the evolution of the world see:

- *The Spiritual Hierarchies*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1996. (part 1)

Study Topic 7

MICROCOSM AND MACROCOSM

- *Birth Death and Beyond*, Mario Schoenmaker, ICA Press, 1992. (lectures 4, 5 and 6)
- *Citizens of the Cosmos*, Beredene Jocelyn, Continuum, 1981. (part 2)

For a description of the Soul world and Spirit world see:

- *Theosophy*, Rudolf Steiner, Anthroposophic Press, 1985. (chapter 3)

Study Topic 8

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT AND CONCLUSION

This study topic draws information from many different lectures and addresses given by Mario Schoenmaker. However the additional readings included with this study topic are useful references.