



Rosa Veritas  
**Learning**



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

Study Topic 1

## **Definitions**

*Esoteric training, esoteric knowledge,  
occultism, metaphysics*

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## STUDY TOPIC 1

# Definitions

### ***Esoteric training, esoteric knowledge, occultism, metaphysics***

This unit is entitled 'An 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.

In this first study topic we will introduce the subject, give basic definitions and highlight the difference between an esoteric approach and the metaphysical approach.

### **The Difference Between Esoteric Training and Esoteric Study**

Mario Schoenmaker (co-founder of the Rosa Veritas Learning) wrote in a 1980 article on Esoteric Training that more and more people are becoming spiritually aware and are recognising the great potential they have within themselves as spiritual beings, 'But with this awakening there also comes the need for knowledge. Not only a knowledge of facts and figures, but knowledge about self and relationship of self with the whole of the universe, with God, Spirit and fellow human beings.'

This unit in esoteric studies should not be considered to be esoteric training. However this course will provide a conceptual framework or guiding map, to be used as an aid during your study of esoteric and spiritual material.

The reason these courses do not amount to an esoteric training is because esoteric training encompasses the whole of one's life and soul rather than just intellectual information about spirituality.

In the same article Mario describes what is involved in an esoteric training. He says 'Contrary to the thoughts of many, the training is not necessarily a mental one. It does not mean that your mind will be filled with all sorts of intellectual concepts and ideas, though it may be necessary to give intellectual concepts and ideas, the training on an esoteric level is not greatly concerned with that.'

He goes on to say what esoteric training would involve. He includes training in concentration, meditation and control of mind, body, emotions, devotion and the development of character. For each of these areas of training different methods would be used in accordance to the needs of the pupil. With regard to training in devotion he says that this could include devotion to an institution, to a community or a special work. 'Whatever it is, it will mean the bringing out of full and pure love; the shining of love directly from the heart centre.'

Mario Schoenmaker says this training may take many years, a life time or even life times. 'The purpose of training is to transcend the flesh; to become one with the universe, and to realise our total spiritual self.' Clearly this course in Esoteric Studies cannot offer such a lofty training.

Having said this however, much of the material covered in this course was taught by Rev Mario during his ministry as a spiritual teacher. As he said, as part of an overall training 'it may be necessary to give intellectual concepts and ideas.'

It is always good to keep in mind while studying this course in esoteric studies that essentially it can never really describe the real experience, the wonder and glory of the spiritual worlds. The course is merely an introduction to the spiritual worlds as experienced by initiates.

Esoteric material should not be studied out of curiosity or to satisfy the intellect but should be studied as a means to nourish the soul and to sustain oneself on the spiritual path.

Esoteric study does not involve the passive taking in of intellectual concepts, like we may study some other academic subject or science. The soul needs to be active in the study. It is hoped that during this course you will experience yourself being awakened in the process of the study, and the ideas and concepts being contemplated become living thoughts.

## Esoteric and Occult

There is a need to define a number of terms that have been used so far.

The dictionary definition of the word **esoteric** has traditionally meant something which is inner or within. When used to refer to doctrines or

## WRITING

# Written Task #1

1. Define what you mean by the word 'metaphysics'.
2. Define what you mean by the words 'occultism' and 'esotericism'.
3. Give an example of someone (historical or modern day) whom you would consider to be an 'occultist' **OR** an organisation you would consider to be an 'occult movement'. Include reasons.
4. The following terms and concepts belong more properly to either the metaphysical approach or the occult approach. Separate them into their appropriate categories. If you think a word belongs to both categories, then indicate the category in which you think it fits better:

Superconscious	Etheric
Astral body	Aura
Evil as negativity	Symbol
Evil as a real force	Atlantis
Group consciousness	Karma
Divine mind	Science
'As above, so below'	Evolution
Clairvoyance	'I AM'
Ego	Reincarnation
Affirmation	Astrology

Metaphysics	Occultism	Both