

Part I

What are Enlightenment? Illumination and Awakening? Ω

Enlightenment means awakening fully to the presence of **GOD** the **LIGHT** with all its essence in the totality of our being, *Body, Soul* and *Spirit*. Illumination is also a very popular word for a similar concept. Most often it is used in a slightly different context, that of the strictly Mystical quest, such as the quest of monks in a monastery. However, the quest for Illumination is essentially the same as the quest for Enlightenment. Although they are from different linguistic roots, the two words mean exactly the same thing.

The idea of Awakening is somewhat different. It is mostly used by people who believe that individuals have the power to transform themselves on their own. Although this is possible, most schools of thought recommend a form of teaching; finding a Teacher who will guide the person to Awakening. This is a more personal path to follow. The Teacher, or the Guide, is not conceived as the “transmitter” or initiator of Enlightenment or Awakening, but as a practical Guide who teaches what is necessary in order to awaken oneself.

Still, Enlightenment and Awakening are not quite the same concept. Usually, Enlightenment has been used in the context of societies of Initiates (occult groups) that had hierarchies and ritualistic initiations. These groups seemed to believe Enlightenment was possible only through transmission from already enlightened human beings to those who walk in the dark, or are "asleep."

Awakening and Enlightenment, in truth, are the conception, the development and the unification of your three Alchemical Bodies, *Body, Soul* and *Spirit*, into a single Consciousness. Along the Path, it implies a large measure of Self-Realization, of actualizing your potential in all your dimensions. Your own Spirit must ultimately be your Guide and Master. You must grasp that although a true Master can show you the Path, no one but yourself can follow it. Your Guide might even be willing and able to give you a helping hand, but he or she cannot climb it for you.

When you awaken, you open your eyes and your other senses to the reality surrounding you. There seems to be a difference in points of view between Awakening and Enlightenment. But, in reality, there is really no difference. The key here is that you awaken from your long sleep in order to perceive reality through your own Consciousness, the true reality, not the image you have inherited from your upbringing.

Therefore, you need to transcend many limitations and principles you might have thought immutable. This true reality is something you can read about in a book or hear about in a lecture, but, in the end you must realize it for yourself! The problem is not with the Light! The Light is always there for all of us. The real problem is awakening to our true Selves in order to open our inner eyes and ears to our true reality, to our Real Selves. Then the real Work begins.

All schools of thought consider most human beings either “in the dark,” “asleep” or “hypnotized” and they all believe it is the responsibility of each human being to awaken and to reach Self-Realization. This brings us to an important question: “Where do we start?”

Most people start from their own need, anguish or despair. Sadly, it sometimes seems that this is often the only motivational factor. Fear of death and of what may or may not come after death is also a fairly common inspiration. A few exceptional human beings seem to begin the process through a kind of spontaneous awakening, as if they became interested in a glimmer of Light that came their way for no apparent reason. The truth is we do not realize who we are, what ultimate reality is, or the true meaning of life and why we are here. Emotions such as fear and despair are the way we first become aware (not yet conscious, but aware) of our deep ignorance, powerlessness, and blindness. That is when we begin searching for answers and paths. We may find a book or hear someone lecturing. We still do not know anything, but the book or lecture may give us a glimmer of hope that there just might be answers or a Path! Then this takes us to the next question: “How can we be sure about the authenticity of teachers, groups or paths?”

Although most schools agree that humans are “in the dark”, “asleep” or “hypnotized”, there are some individuals or groups who are consciously or unconsciously serving the purpose of the dark forces.

There may be others who are not necessarily in the dark, but are not competent enough to carry out the task of guiding humans and end up misleading followers into a worse condition like powerlessness or loss of hope. Therefore, what follows is advice on distinguishing authentic teachers and paths.

First:

Beware of groups, no matter how old they are, who promise the Light if you adhere to their beliefs and submit to their priests, gurus or masters! You should not necessarily run away from all of them, but thoroughly examine them and test them before becoming fully involved. The more a group's message tends to be that you cannot get anywhere without them, that you must first obey and connect to their belief system before you receive an initiation, and so on, the more you should beware.

Second:

Beware of the individuals who teach and guide! The power of being awakened seduces some. They may use you or go on a power trip with you. Also, many individuals know something, but not quite enough, find too much pride in what they know and in what little powers they've mastered! They think that they've "made it"! But they must keep you partly asleep so that their in-completeness, if not their falseness, will not show! There is nothing as dangerous as a half-awakened human being who thinks he or she is fully awakened!

On the other hand, a half-awakened person who knows and admits his or her limitations can be very useful to you and can teach you a lot! Also, since there are extremely few truly Awakened teachers and Guides alive at this time on our planet, a half-awake teacher might be the most you can find for yourself. Remember this: talents such as Healing or Clairvoyance, even when they are true and proven talents, are still only talents! They are superior talents, surely, and require at least a partial awakening, but are never proof that the person is fully awakened! The same goes for magical powers and so on. As a matter of fact, people who are very advanced in the paths of the Dark or of destruction can have true and great talent for magic, healing and clairvoyance! So be careful! I suppose that, at this point, you are wondering how to recognize someone who is truly awakened? What follows are a few pointers.

Truly Awakened Persons will not make you dependent on their power in order to awaken yours. You should never have to submit to them in order to gain something that you would lose if you left. They will tell you that powers or consciousness are parts of you once you develop them. This is not something that you gain if you are obedient or lose if you are disobedient and so on.

Despite the pitfalls one may encounter, those who want to awaken or become enlightened, must find a teacher or a proper group. Although it is possible to follow a Path on your own, it is not probable that you would completely succeed that way.

First find a Teacher or a Guide for a Path that works for you. Then, at the proper time, you must detach from your teacher or your group and proceed on your own.

One needs to awaken the Self, but first one has to learn the tools that can achieve that. In other words, awakening requires knowledge and tools, a learned practice. After learning and practicing, you must go out on your own and finish the job yourself.

Third:

The teacher or the guide never comes to the student. The follower of a Path must first find the Path. The student must find the Teacher, not the other way around. The Teacher or Guide or Master or Mistress makes himself or herself available, just enough so that it is possible for them to be found.

One of the very first lessons a true teacher learns on their own Path is, “Wait until you’re asked!” The first step of any Path is to find it and the close second step is to choose a Teacher. This implies that you must find your Teacher yourself. It is the student who must determine who is a worthy Teacher; it is the student who must ask to be taught. And remember that it is quite possible that one may find more than one teacher along the Path, as if graduating from one to the other. Choose teachers wisely. If you realize you made a mistake, change! This will be a valuable experience and will make you advance more than you would think.

Fourth:

No Path can be easy and comfortable all the way, all the time! Since you are the one choosing your Path and your teachings, you are not allowed to complain! There is only one promise: you will find the teachings, people and circumstances along the way, as you need them. But most of the time, you will have to be able to recognize them.

Alchemy

The ancient Latin and Greek words for the goal of Alchemy translate into English as “The Great Work”, of which the Philosopher’s Stone is but the end product. Contrary to Harry Potter’s belief, the Philosopher’s Stone is not an external magical object that brings eternal life and great power. The Philosopher’s Stone is something that one constructs within the Self. But it does bring a form of eternal life and surprising power.

However, in the popular literature, it is thought of as an object because of the symbolic way it has been described in ancient books. The Philosopher’s Stone is always thought of as being “Red Gold”.

For as long as humanity has existed, Alchemy has been the main path to Awakening and Enlightenment. Distinct traces of it exist in most ancient documents of the most ancient Egyptian texts known to us, as they do in Chinese texts of the middle Ages such as the Book of the Golden Lotus. In Occidental texts of ancient Greece, the same book exists, except the Lotus has become a Rose. But it is still Red Gold. It represents the path of becoming who we truly are.

Traditionally, there are three colors that represent Alchemy: Black, White and Red. It is not necessarily in that order. There is the Black of the Physical world, of your Body, without which nothing else at all is possible. But it is also the Black of all the unknown parts of yourself and of the Universe. This Black is positive energy, a Black Light, shiny as a polished black diamond from Alaska. When the Black is dull and matte, then it is the darkness of despair and hopelessness.

White is the energy of the Soul. But also, it is the White Light of Consciousness and understanding, of healing and communing with the Source, of learning and teaching.

Red is the color of the Spirit. It is also the color of true power, the power that comes from within and doesn’t depend on external powers such as a mantra or a ritual, for example.

Alchemy has two different mechanisms. The first one starts at birth and usually ends in one’s late thirties or early forties. This mechanism is called the automated life process. This is when the person is sleeping or hypnotized by the outer world, but trying to be aware.

The second mechanism of Alchemy that starts usually in the late thirties or early forties is called the conscious life process. This is when a person is aware, consciously trying to be awakened and enlightened.

In our modern age it seems to be difficult to assign any precise age for the transition from the automated life process to the conscious life process, because of the transformative energy of the Age of Aquarius and the powerful effect that that has on human consciousness, which seems to have accelerated these processes. And in our new civilization, the Alchemical path is open to many more people than it used to be in the past.



THE FIRST PHASE: THE SHINY BLACK OR ALCHEMICAL BODY

The first phase of Alchemy is the *Shiny Black* phase. This phase represents the development of the first Alchemical Body that we call by the same name, the Alchemical Body. This is when we start to be awakened; just to be aware is not enough any more. One of the first signs is that we feel the need to stop following our habitual rules and principles, and we become very determined to challenge ourselves and ask questions. We begin to distinguish between our emotions, our conditioned reflexes and our true self. We consciously renounce the things that used to be right for us but which we know no longer feel right any more, and we then start going outside of our life's framework.

Another sign is when we detach and let go of our security, belief or ideals (on our own not because a teacher is asking us to do so) and go into an adventure. We may quit our job or end our marriage if we feel it's blocking our growth and our spiritual development.

One important factor of the black is the capacity to go beyond meditation, healing and questioning and to start manifesting our true self. Most of us meditate, receive healing and are willing to be in an ashram for a month, but we refuse to take risks and we change nothing in our life.

In this stage, we have to pass from inspiration to manifestation, from idea to act and we have to do whatever it takes to actualize our potential and achieve Self-Realization in alignment with our higher purpose.

THE SECOND PHASE: THE SHINY WHITE OR ALCHEMICAL SOUL

The second phase of Alchemy is the *Shiny White* phase. This phase represents the development of the second Alchemical Body that we call the Alchemical Soul. This is when we start radiating spiritually and enter the early stages of Enlightenment. This also happens when we are in a deep genuine learning and teaching mode. We learn what we need to learn and then teach it right away, for if we don't do that, it would be difficult for us to advance.

In this stage there is always a desperate and doubting phase, and we may even make major mistakes as if it takes the making of these mistakes to get rid of the last rigid beliefs that we are hanging onto. If our guides see us making these mistakes, it is very probable that they will keep quiet and maybe even misguide us to let us make these mistakes. Why? Because it may be important for us to go through these experiences in order to change something extremely important in our life.

THE THIRD PHASE: THE SHINY RED OR ALCHEMICAL SPIRIT

The last phase of Alchemy is the *Shiny Red* phase. This phase represents the development of the third Alchemical Body that we call the Alchemical Spirit. One of the signs that we are in this phase is that we stop talking and measuring. We can write a book explaining about the Alchemical Great Work and the phases of the Black, the White and the Red but we will never tell others where we are.

At this stage we might even be confused or have doubts whether we really are in the Red or still in the White; it is not always easy to distinguish between White and Red because in both phases, we have powers and we can accomplish projects. Who is going to confirm to us that we have made the transition from the White to the Red? Even if you ask an advanced person as to where we are at or if we have finished the Red phase and accomplished the Great Work, he or she might not be able to access the information, not because they don't have the clairvoyance capacity, but rather, because they might not be authorized to do so.

At this stage we have to rely on our own wisdom, discernment and connection to our Higher Self to access the information.

At the beginning of this phase we might make some mistakes, such as when we become very ambitious for our students or others, and we start pushing them and forcing them into a faster rhythm. This kind of mistake is also possible even in other phases too, but in this phase, we may become impatient, and if we don't see the student responding to the rhythm that we want, we might close our self to the student.

Another mistake that we might make is when we start helping people with high spiritual potential. We try to actualize it for them, instead of allowing them to search and understand their true being and giving them the freedom to work on their Self-Realization at the right time and rhythm.

We have to understand that we cannot desire for others. We have to respect their free will even if we believe in their possible potential. We cannot do the work for them; they have to make their own effort to choose their paths and teachers. We have to respect the synchronicity of the time and the rhythm of each individual who has to be completely aligned and in total harmony with his/her Higher Self. The respect for these conditions is an extremely important step for a healthy spiritual growth and to become an Awakened Self-Realized being.

IN COGNITO ENLIGHTENMENT Ω

If we have finished the Red phase and accomplished the Alchemical Great Work, this would be a sign that we have completed the process of *Enlightenment*. At this stage we have manifested the first part of the Philosopher's Stone with its great Healing and Magical Powers. At this stage we do not need rituals or symbols to manifest things in our lives, we can do powerful work effortlessly just by intent. At this point it is not appropriate to show others where we're at and we would not want to demonstrate any of these signs to others and if Powers are used it is used with discretion. At this point also, we start hiding without hiding, and lead without being leaders, or teach without necessarily being the president of a school. We partly retire from public life, we become very selective but we let ourselves be accessible to certain people when that is desirable. Even though everybody knows that we exist, nobody knows what we really do, and yet if we do or say something in public, many people will listen to us. The accomplishment of the *Alchemical Great Work*, *the Philosopher's Stone* and being Enlightened is a mystery.



The Spiritual aspect of the “Philosopher’s Stone”

The “Philosopher’s Stone” is a mysterious metaphorical symbol of “Transmutation” that transmutes base metal into gold and normal human consciousness into precious substance of Enlightenment.

The “Philosopher’s Stone” represents the “Journey towards Perfection”; it is perceived as “Red Gold”, a great magical object that one constructs within the Self that brings great power and allow us to transcend the realm of mortality to that of eternal life.

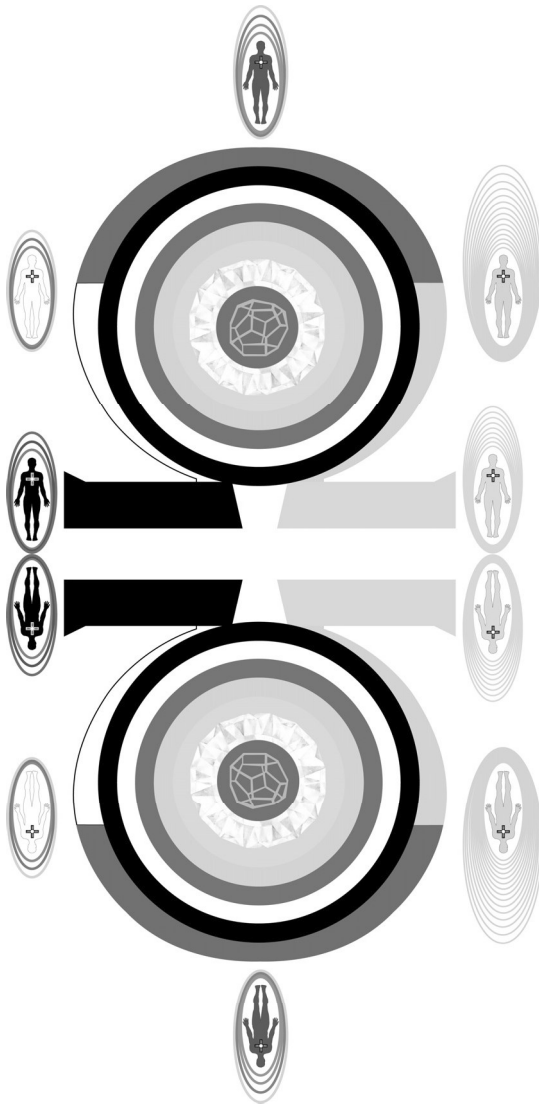
In the book “The Secret Teachings of All Ages” by Manly Hall, he writes that the “Philosopher’s Stone” is the representation and accomplishment of the ideal; it is supreme and unalterable reason. To find the Absolute in the infinite and in the finite it is the Magnus Opus, the Great Work of the Sages which Hermes called the work of the Sun. One who possesses the Stone possesses the truth, the greatest of all treasures. That person is healed from ignorance, the most loathsome of all diseases. To the mystic, it is perfect Love which transmutes all that is base and raises all that is dead.

Personally, I have arrived at a new, detailed and unique understanding of the real complete “Philosopher’s Stone”. The Stone is a set of 5 Chakras that exists within the three human planes of existence and in two Divine planes beyond the first three. It exists in five different planes: the Physical plane, the Cosmic plane, the Spiritual plane, the plane of Creation and the plane of the Absolute.

The Alchemical experiment of the “Great Work”, the “Magnus Opus” cannot be realized until it is successfully carried on in the five worlds simultaneously. If anybody would develop the “Philosopher’s Stone” in a real manner, he or she would become a human God because such a person would be able to manifest God the Absolute personally and directly even in his or her incarnate body.

The process of building the “Philosopher’s Stone” has two parts. The first part is accomplished as a human and is related to the refinement of our Self, to the actualizing of our potential in all of our three human dimensions and to the process of achieving Enlightenment. This is done either through the “Alchemical Great work”, or through any important intense creative work such as art, music, sculpture, dance, sport, invention or any other important creative project that leads to the development of the higher Chakras, subtle bodies and the three Alchemical Bodies which I call the Alchemical Body, the Alchemical Soul and the Alchemical Spirit.

The second part of the development of the “Philosopher’s Stone” calls forth our Divine potential and represents the quest for a Higher Purpose and the Ultimate Accomplishment of the human Self which is to become Divine. At this stage, you are manifesting a Life Purpose beyond the limits of ordinary life. It means that you take care of something from the level of the whole planet such as the Realization of Gaia, the Animals and all Humanity.



The conditions that lead to the development and the manifestation of the second part of the Philosopher’s Stone arise from first being Enlightened and then presenting to the Divine the Higher Purpose Project. When Enlightenment is achieved and the approval is given, then we can start developing our existences in the fourth and fifth planes of existences: the plane of Creation and the plane of the Absolute. Once we have developed our body of Creation and our body of the Absolute we can use the knowledge, the wisdom and the presences of these bodies as catalysts for completing the second part of the “Philosopher’s Stone”.

The “Philosopher’s Stone” in the Age of Aquarius Ω

Humanity started some 50,000 years ago (two Ages of Aquarius back). And since then every time that humanity has completed a cycle and has transitioned to another cycle, our civilization evolved and transformed depending on the nature and the qualities of that particular new era. And now that we are in the process of a new transition from the Age of Pisces to the Age of Aquarius and because of the nature of the Age of Aquarius and its relation to human Evolution, Consciousness and Enlightenment, we are going to change to a degree that we cannot imagine yet, because the new Age is ruled by Uranus and Aquarius; the ones who refuse to change are going to stay behind.

Another important factor is that for the first time in the history of humanity the smaller cycle of the Age of Aquarius that lasts 2149.7 years and the larger cycle that lasts 25,784 years are coinciding at the same time. What this means is that when we have a double Age of Aquarius like it is happening now, it is not called a transformation anymore. It is called the mutation of the human race into a new Enlightened semi-Divine Race; it is like going into the next step of the evolution ladder.

As opposed to the previous era, the Age of Aquarius will be an age of personal consciousness as opposed to the group collective consciousness of the age Pisces. For people who get into the energy of the Age of Aquarius their life accelerates and keeps changing. Creativity and personal power become very important; they transform themselves and reach Enlightenment.

Since Uranus went into Aquarius in 1975, many Uranian souls have been born on this planet with a special consciousness. Many books have been written about them, some calling them, “Indigo Children”, others “Crystal Children”. Whatever we call them is not important; what there is to understand here is this: these children are very developed spiritually, some of them are almost at the level of Enlightenment and maybe some others are already Enlightened. These evolved children are the ones who will transmute the human race and take it on to the next step of the evolution ladder into a new Enlightened semi-Divine Race.

To make this important transition, these children will need to develop higher Divine Powers such as both parts of the Philosopher’s Stone. Some children are already born destined to manifest this Stone. That’s why there are many metaphysical movies now such as “Harry Potter” that talk about the power of the Philosopher’s Stone. These movies are meant to activate the imagination of these children and to awaken their possibilities of manifesting these powers and of using them positively in all aspects of their lives and the lives of others.