New Age religions

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> New Age is a range of spiritual or religious practices and beliefs which rapidly grew in Western society during the early 1970s.
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> Wikipedia

Having railed against Wikipedia regarding ESP, it seems fair to quote their article on the New Age movement, which I find informative and better balanced.[1]

The aspect I'm addressing here is the large number of belief systems, ways of explaining existence, and paths for spiritual advancement which one can come across within the esoteric / spiritual community. Many of them are stated to be channelled from higher entities, and hinge around external influence or some plan for human development. But I have a problem with that: Over the decades I've encountered a larger number of such works than I can count conventional world religions! Surely, they can't all be right? Or one particular one right and all the rest wrong? And such a broad range of world views and helping hands on offer, to mention just a few: The Immortals[2], Theosophy, Scientology, Anthroposophy, Ashtar Command, Arcturians, the Age of Aquarius (astrological cycles), Hollow Earth and Deliverance through an incursion from the 5th dimension! Not to mention Benjamin Crème, who announced that a world saviour, or Maitreya, would appear in 1982 – he did not. Even the most gullible, excepting a few die-hards, then became disillusioned and/or wandered off to other movements.

I was moved to write this section when I was recently given some excerpts from the 'Knowledge Book', written by the Turkish woman Bülent Çorak (born 1923), published by the 'World Brotherhood Union Mevlana Supreme Foundation' in 1996. Can't get better than supreme! The teachings of the Knowledge Book are based on ideas from the Lightwork and Ashtar Command movements of the 1980s, elements from Muslim tradition and ideas from Sufism. Vedia Bülent Çorak sees herself as the reincarnation of the Sufi mystic Rumi.

Let's look at an excerpt from the foreword:

1 Better yet: https://www.britannica.com/topic/New-Age-movement

2 The movement died out (ha-ha) when the founders died.

> The source through which it has been revealed is ALPHA, which is the Direct Channel of the LORD, and it has been dictated from the Sacred Focal Point from which all the Books of Religion had been revealed. However, the Period of Religions has come to an end long ago. Now, our Celestial Friends are abolishing Idolatry by telling us all the Truths. The purpose of the dictation of this Book is to gather all the Universe and our Planet in the Consciousness of Humane Integration. The periods of Prophethood have come to an end. From now on our Planet will be enlightened on the path of Science and Learning.

1st sentence: The source… which has most kindly 'revealed' things. We are introduced – without further explanation – to ALPHA and the LORD (bow down, humble earthlings). We've kindly been dictated to… well from somewhere Sacred, implying that most other places are not sacred . In fact, from the fount of all books of religion, implying that all spiritual / religious revelation stems from this source. Modesty in short supply here? Were people like Buddha then just tools of this / these most enlightened of beings?

2nd sentence: The claim that the period of religions ended long ago is simply wrong; data compiled from the Pew Research Center shows that in 2022, even though secularism is increasing, 84% of the world's population still identifies with a religious group.[3]

3rd sentence: abolishing idolatry … ALL the Truths. Seems to me to be a mix of communism and egomania.

4th sentence: gathering all the Universe *and* our Planet. Whoops, seems that our planet isn't part of the universe (I assume that the rest of the universe was meant). And Humane Integration – why use a word based on 'human' when referring to universal consciousness? For extra emphasis, write capitals where lower case would be correct.

5th sentence: Prophethood now ended – praise be, something I like. But is not the Knowledge Book itself a channelled work, prophesying:

6th sentence: our Planet will be enlightened on the path of Science and Learning. Firstly, what does she mean by enlightened? And secondly, enlightenment is not normally associated with science and learning, but with a spiritual *experience*.

Sorry, but all I can see here is an outpouring of bombastic assertions in a melting pot of snippets from various religions and New Age traditions. It's easy for people who

3 https://www.visualcapitalist.com/mapped-major-religions-of-the-world/

lack orientation and suffer from a feeling of uncertainty to grab on to something which is so assertive. This does not make it right.

There are people who work with this book by reading chapters of it in so-called focus groups, and they say it helps them. And that's the thing: Since PTST is a characteristic of the universe, it's available to all sentient beings, and works for them with the resonance keys which they have – in this case, the book itself, connecting them to the insights, *viewpoints and interpretations* of Bülent Çorak. And yes, these followers will probably make some spiritual progress – and attribute it the teachings; but perhaps they would have made the same or even more progress in say a Buddhist tradition – or even without external teachings, by simply noticing and reflecting as they live their daily lives?

As I'm urging you countless times in this book, please don't believe anything anyone (including myself) writes or tells you; the foundation of your world view should be your own experience, which you yourself integrate to your own world view. And equally, be very cautious when interpreting your experience. PTST simply works – it connects Christians to Christ, Hindus to Krishna, Starseeds to beings on other planets, Theosophists to Blavatsky and, yes, people practising in focus groups to Çorak. Thus people connect, to whomever, pick up that beings thoughts and ideas, and often enough appropriate them as their own viewpoint. The big problem here is when the experiences made on a particular path are understood to prove that *this* way is the right one. Or even a particularly effective one. It is one way in a multitude of ways, not more and not less.

For myself, I decide whether something is a *really* good path by how much it tries to tell me, authoritatively, what's what (the less the better), and how much it encourages me to make, and reflect on, my own experience (the more the better). That's why I like (the core of) Buddhism. What I'm particularly allergic to is when someone says we are dependent on the well meaning external help of more advanced beings, authorities or cultures. That sort of mentality had people obeying someone with a toothbrush moustache. The (channelled or earthly) utterances of such 'exalted' beings are believed and repeated by others. This is not good. People have lost the internal compass of their own reflection, and what should be their intuitive grasp of what's compassionate and what is not.

Certainly many people practising a particular path are not exclusive about it, and fully accepting of other paths of advancement. Even so, often enough some sort of Guru worship creeps in unnoticed. I know this from my own experience: I was a Sannyasin

of Osho, but of the clear conviction that I was not like most of the rest of the sheep hanging on his utterances. No, I was my own guy choosing to take what was helpful to me from the various lectures, meditations and therapeutic groups, but no Guru worshipper! Then one day I heard of his passing, and suddenly I was a fatherless heap of misery sobbing in the corner. So be watchful to recognise this sort of thing in yourself.

Looking back on my own life proves to me that we don't need to think of ourselves as dependent on outside help. I sought out a wide breadth of perceptional experiences, I classified them to a knowledge of such types of phenomena, I read a lot and reflected on it all, for many years, and thus came to understanding and knowledge. True, I did receive a lot of input from other beings, both earthly and extraterrestrial, but that which I valued most and has endured was that which I felt free to pursue, or not. Mostly it was information which I simply noticed. There's a big difference between having information available for your consideration and having it rammed down your throat and being brainwashed to believe it. The latter I experienced as a young man, on a backpacking trip. While in New York I was picked up in a coffee shop, very professionally, by the Moonies, the followers of the late Korean self-proclaimed Messiah Sun Myung Moon. At the start very subtly, everything an offer, then once I agreed to visit their remote farm with ever more psychological pressure and verve. That experience helped me to be more discerning!

Sometimes something very out of the ordinary happens, which can convince someone to follow a particular creed or path. For example, I've heard of people being strongly, almost forcibly, directed to a particular book. In one persons case, while walking through an esoteric bookshop getting frozen in mid walk and having the title of a particular book zoom clearly into their vision. To me, such occurrences sound very much like mental interventions by another being. And I see no reason why such things cannot happen. I have myself experienced contact being initiated by others, so why not also in a forceful manner? The possibility of such forcefulness is a further aspect of PTST, but one hardly ever used by the galactic community. I have witnessed, with some of them and through them, really strong pictures of events – but I was privileged to be a witness, nothing was pushed to me in a forceful manner.

I get very edgy and wary whenever I hear of such forceful interventions, patently directing the steps of an individual. I tend not to believe in free will, rather in determinism. But *subjective* free will, and respecting others viewpoints, are important to me, especially as I was brought up in a fervently Christian household, being told what was

right, and also later the episode with the Moonies. Respect, yes. A little persuasion, in moderation and with tact, OK. Forceful intervention, no.

In book one I wrote quite a lot about the galactic community, including ‘Mechanisms for helping younger civilisations’ and ‘Limits for helping younger civilisations’. So you may be wondering why I’ve been writing so decidedly against external pressures and assertions of dependency, when I myself have already written that galactics do get involved, and especially so in this difficult phase of humanity. If you have a problem with that, I can only suggest you go back and reread those two sections. I hope that when you read about the motivation, and the consensus on preserving individual racial traits, and the minimalistic limits which galactics impose on themselves for their ‘nudgings’, that you will come to be at peace with it. I mean, come on, compassion would indeed be impotent if you were not allowed to do *anything*. For me, what we have here is a question of the respect and delicacy with which one acts. If I see someone who is terminally ill, and in much pain, in the act of taking their own lives, I would not intervene to prevent that. If so desired, I would offer well-wishing company for the last moments. But humanity in general wants to live, and I want to help with that.