Pre/De-bunking Conspiracy Theories: a Fifth Ray Field of Service

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We must also mention the relation of the fifth ray to the totalitarian rebellions now in process throughout humanity and especially in the United States. There is a Crisis of Belief which is partially to blame—millions of inadequately educated human beings do not know what to believe. It is the Science of the Inner Worlds which must contribute to the steadying of their consciousness so that they become capable of critical thinking and the apprehension of true knowledge instead of wild conspiracy theories uninged to truth. The illumination of the mass consciousness is the province of the fifth ray and its light must immediately respond to a very dangerous psychological situation based upon glamour, illusion and resultant, chaotic maya on the physical plane. Perhaps at Conference we can deepen our understanding of how to reach the many who are basing their violent reactions upon false premises and unsound ‘knowledge'.

The Four Freedoms

- **Freedom of speech**, for enlightened, wise speech; speaking truth to power.

- **Freedom of worship**: for the good, the beautiful and the true.

- **Freedom from want**: the greatest good for the greatest number.

- **Freedom from FEAR**: the fear of uncertainty.
Unity in diversity

The **keynote of the Lodge** is not attainment or degree. It is **stable relationship**, **unity of thought**, **plus diversity of method, of effort and of function** and its **quality is friendship in its purest sense**. The Brotherhood is a community of souls who are swept by the desire to serve, urged by a spontaneous impulse to love, illumined by one pure Light, devotedly fused and blended into groups of serving Minds, and energised by one Life. Its Members are organised to further the Plan which They consciously contact and with which They deliberately cooperate. -DINA I, 23

"In necessariis unitas, in non-necessariis (or, dubiis) libertas, in utrisque (or, omnibus) caritas."

"IN ESSENTIALS UNITY, IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY, IN ALL THINGS CHARITY.”
“An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” - B. Franklin

• “Pre-bunking” (PREVENTION)
  • Healthy, integrated, self-reliant personalities (well rounded education)
  • Critical thinking (trained mind) skills (right observation, right inference: scientific method of assessing facts, testing hypotheses and evolving beliefs)
  • Reliable, trusted sources of information to immunize against conspiracies

• Debunking (CURE)
  • Conversion therapies don’t work
  • Supporting self-initiated efforts of liberation (from addictions, cults)
  • Techniques of LIGHT (illusion, glamor, maya)
Sketch of possible psychological vulnerabilities

• Predispositions
  • FEAR (of being deceived again) ➔ BASIC DISTRUST
    • Personally: anxiety, stress, powerlessness, disenfranchisement (alienation), anger
    • Socially: dictatorships, clergy scandals, scientific misconduct, scams (including misleading commercials, unethical salesmanship), political polarization
  • A betrayed (believer, lover) who pledges never to “fall in love” (believe) again
  • “I know better”
  • Credulity (naivete of the untrained mind among inquiring people of goodwill often confused with “intuitions”)

• Promotion
  • Strong (integrated) personalities (fear mongering peddlers)
  • Motivated by self-interest (more followers, financial gains)
  • Demagoguery (politics) and messianic complex (religion)
  • Misguided intention of good willing people to help others
The situation today

Why the increase in conspiracy theories?

• Uncertainty and anxiety (emotional needs) in a deconstructed, post-modern (“post-truth”) world ruled by self-interest and ethical relativism

• Obstruction to the Plan of Love and Light (imminent externalization of the spiritual Hierarchy) ➔ another conspiracy theory?

• Astral pollution
  • Kali Yuga (blurred differences between true and false principles; need for *viveka*)
    • Forces of Darkness ➔ another conspiracy theory?

• Some conspiracies are true!
Ways of knowing

Why is the esoteric community susceptible to conspiracy thinking?

“Faith is the substance of things hoped for; the evidence of things not seen”

Short of KNOWING, who and what should we believe in?

- A RATIONAL (5th Ray) discernment of facts (HEAD approach; Raja Yoga)
- An INTUITIVE ascertainment and revelation of causes (HEART approach; Agni Yoga: practice of the monadic Presence in the constant search for meaning)
A Fifth Ray Approach to Updating Beliefs

Bayesian inference is a method of statistical inference in which Bayes' theorem is used to update the probability for a hypothesis as more evidence or information becomes available.

An intuitive formulation of Bayes’ Theorem

prior belief + new evidence \Rightarrow updated belief

Beliefs

- Beliefs float through our mind as conditioned patterns
- We identify with the beliefs
- Beliefs are NOT who we are!

Source: Eva Smith, Why is the Mind the Slayer of the Real, 2021 USR Conference
Mathematical Approach to Spiritual Discernment

The foremost exponent of the subjective approach to probability has been Thomas Bayes (1707–1761). Spiritual discernment, as previously defined in terms of the DR, may be mathematically related to the observer’s beliefs by a derivation of Bayes’ Theorem of conditional probabilities:

\[(\text{Precedent Belief}) \times (\text{Discriminant Ratio}) = \text{Subsequent Belief}\]

Belief is an attitude of mind in regard to explanatory models of reality. Beliefs also influence the way we structure consciousness to ascertain “facts.” Beliefs, in the Bayesian sense, are attitudes that can be evaluated in a continuous scale from zero (meaning impossible) to 1 (meaning certainty). Short of perfect convictions (i.e., beliefs with values of either 1 or 0), human consciousness relies on empirical evidence tested against models of reality to render judgments about events and their circumstances. This is the epistemological basis of the scientific method.

https://agniyoga.info/2000/01/01/mathematical-approach-to-spiritual-discernment/
Note: in the conspirative frame of mind, all facts are equally valid; there is no hierarchy of evidence, and eccentric “expert” opinions are highly valued. -JB
Debunking conspiracy theories

Abstract:

• As illustrated in Plato’s Allegory of the Cave, appearances usually mask reality. The investigation of hidden chains of causation is at the heart of the *exoteric and the esoteric scientific methods*. Falsifiable hypotheses are tested against empirical facts and the most likely explanations are held to be true, until new facts replace them with more inclusive models of reality. Such was the case for the heliocentric paradigm replacing the geocentric model in the history of humanity.

• **Conspiracy theories**, on the other hand, revert this progressive rational process by postulating *non-falsifiable hypotheses* reinforced by regressive circular reasoning. Both evidence against the conspiracy and an absence of evidence for it are re-interpreted as evidence of its validity. Therefore, the *Technique of Light*, so useful in dissipating glamour, is rendered useless.
Core components of conspiracy theories

RESOURCES

• https://ec.europa.eu/info/identifying-conspiracy-theories_en

• It is better to stop misinformation taking root than to try to weed it out https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-03130-6

• https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/people-drawn-to-conspiracy-theories-share-a-cluster-of-psychological-features/

• https://www.researchgate.net/publication/331930586_Understanding_Conspiracy_Theories
What are conspiracy theories? Why do they flourish?

1. What are they?
   The belief that certain events or situations are secretly manipulated behind the scenes by powerful forces with negative intent.

2. Conspiracy theories have these 6 things in common
   1. An alleged, secret plot.
   2. A group of conspirators.
   3. ‘Evidence’ that seems to support the conspiracy theory.
   4. They falsely suggest that nothing happens by accident and that there are no coincidences; nothing is as it appears and everything is connected.
   5. They divide the world into good or bad.
   6. They scapegoat people and groups.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/identifying-conspiracy-theories_en
3. Why do they flourish?

They often appear as a logical explanation of events or situations which are difficult to understand and bring a false sense of control and agency. This need for clarity is heightened in times of uncertainty like the COVID-19 pandemic.

4. How do they take root?

Conspiracy theories often start as a suspicion. They ask who is benefiting from the event or situation and thus identify the conspirators. Any 'evidence' is then forced to fit the theory. Once they have taken root, conspiracy theories can grow quickly. They are hard to refute because any person who tries is seen as being part of the conspiracy.

5. People spread conspiracy theories for different reasons:

Most believe they are true. Others deliberately want to provoke, manipulate or target people for political or financial reasons. Beware: They can come from many sources e.g. internet, friends, relatives.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/identifying-conspiracy-theories_en
Is this a conspiracy theory? Check before sharing

1. Check the author – who is writing this and why?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unlikely to be a conspiracy theory</th>
<th>Likely to be a conspiracy theory</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The author has recognised qualifications and credentials in the topic</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• The author uses verifiable facts and evidence from scientific or academic research</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The author is a self-proclaimed expert and not attached to a reputable organisation or institution</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Author claims to have credentials but they don’t withstand scrutiny or are suspended</td>
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https://ec.europa.eu/info/identifying-conspiracy-theories_en
2. Check the source – Is it reliable and reputable?

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Unlikely</th>
<th>Likely</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The source has been quoted by several reputable media outlets</td>
<td>• The source of information is not clear</td>
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<tr>
<td>• The information is backed by many scientists/academics</td>
<td>• The information is shared only by self-proclaimed experts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Independent fact-checking websites support the source and related claims</td>
<td>• Independent fact-checking websites do not support the source and have refuted related claims</td>
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3. Check the tone and style – Is it balanced and fair or sensationalist and one-dimensional?

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Unlikely</th>
<th>Likely</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• The author does not shy away from exploring complexity, including different perspectives</td>
<td>• The author presents their information as the only valid truth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The author is prepared to acknowledge limits to their knowledge</td>
<td>• The author raises questions instead of providing answers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• The tone is objective, factual</td>
<td>• The author demonises whoever they assume is behind the alleged secret plot</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• The tone is subjective, emotionally charged</td>
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<td></td>
<td>• Emotional images or anecdotes are used to illustrate the message</td>
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https://ec.europa.eu/info/identifying-conspiracy-theories_en
Conspiracy theories: The link to COVID-19

Be careful, conspiracy theories are deceptive: they ignore scientific evidence and falsely blame individuals and groups that are not responsible for the pandemic. Do not share them.

What are the red flags?

• Claims that the virus was artificially created (e.g. in a laboratory) by people with a specific interest (e.g. reducing world population).

• Claims that the virus was spread intentionally, or its natural spread artificially augmented to harm as many people as possible (e.g. through 5G signals).

• Claims that vaccines and cures are intentionally withheld to not disrupt the spread and to harm as many people as possible.

• Claims that certain sanitary measures to counter the spread of the virus are used to intentionally harm or control society (e.g. vaccines, masks).

Keep in mind: Nobody is responsible for creating the virus, but we can all help to curb the outbreak.

Rely on verified information. When in doubt, don’t share. Stop the spread.

https://ec.europa.eu/info/identifying-conspiracy-theories_en
What is a real conspiracy?

Real conspiracies large and small DO exist. They are more often centred on single, self-contained events or an individual like an assassination or a coup d’etat. They are unearthed by whistle-blowers and the media, using verifiable facts and evidence.

Looking for A REAL CONSPIRACY?

In 2006, the U.S. District Court in Washington DC (USA) ruled that major cigarette companies were guilty of conspiracy. For decades, they had hidden evidence of health risks attached to smoking to promote higher sales.

—LA Times, 2006

https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/default/files/live_work_travel_in_the_eu/unesco-conspiracy-english-1.jpg
An esoteric framework for understanding conspiracy theories

R&I 183: There are four veils of maya, constructed necessarily of seven forces, and these produce the factual and phenomenal aspect (in time and space) of the Great Illusion, in its three forms of illusion, glamour and maya.

Mental

Illusion

Mental Maya
3rd Veil—Separation
Hall of Illusion

Dweller

Glamor

Astral

Physical
Etheric

Astral Maya
2nd Veil—Distortion
Hall of Choice

Maya
4th Veil—Aspiration

E = m*c²

Maya is not something to be destroyed, dissipated, dissolved or negated. Maya is an aspect of time and connotes to the initiate the mass of creative forces with which he must work... The work of the initiate, acting under hierarchical inspiration, is to change the present forms into the more adequate forms demanded by the descending life and its dynamic activity.

Fundamentally, the task set before the Hierarchy is to "let in the light"; but this time not in the sense of revelation, of vision or of illumination. These latter are all aspects of soul light; the work of the initiate is to aid in the construction of the planetary body of light—substance which will finally reveal the nature of Deity and the glory of the Lord.
An esoteric approach to *defuse* conspiracy theories

MDR’s call to apply **Rule X of the Rules for Group Initiation** on widening the rents of maya to let the light in and averting any attempt by the forces of darkness to mend these rents.

- Watch for the evil stream of force which seeks to mend the rents. Project upon that stream the energy of which you know. It led you from the Ashram into the veils. Use it and drive the evil back unto the astral plane. -R&I, p. 190.

**JB’s annotations:**

- relationship between the *Technique of Indifference* given in GWP for the *devitalization* of maya and the *Renting of the Veils of Maya* given in Rule X (Organized Planetary Magic);

- relating *Aspiration* (4th veil of maya) to *Inspiration*, that is, *living an inspired life, indifferent to maya*, while renting its fourfold veil of blindness, a blindness which both protects and obstructs.

- the *Technique of Fusion* (an integrated, soul-infused [inspired] personality) [epilogue of GWP]
A roadmap to **enlighten** conspiracy theories

Let the group widen all the rents within those veils and thus let in the light

Today, hundreds and thousands of disciples are working, and thus learning to use the ancient rules for work within the veils of maya. Let me here give you some of these rules or formulas as they are to be found in The Masters' Book of Rules and as I can translate them. Some are untranslatable:

1. Focus the force at the jewel's point and find the veil that it can touch.
2. Carry the force from point to point and then project.
3. Look for the energy in form behind the veil attacked. A rent within the veil exists. Find it and see.
4. A path lies through the veils, giving access to the several courts. Walk on that path, wielding destruction and clearing out the refuse in the court. The court of the money changers is the last.
5. Meet the descending forces and find the current which is yours.
6. Watch for the evil stream of force which seeks to mend the rents. Project upon that stream the energy of which you know. It led you from the Ashram into the veils. Use it and drive the evil back unto the astral plane.
7. Work with the Sound and know it as the source of power. Use first the Voice; then use the O.M., and later use the Sound. All three together will suffice.

https://www.lucistrust.org/online_books/rays_and_the_initiations_oobooks/part_one_the_fourteen_rules_for_group_initiation/rule_ten_part1
The Great Invocation (1940)

• Let the Lords of Liberation issue forth. Let them bring succour to the sons of men. Let the Rider from the Secret Place come forth, and coming, save. Come forth, O Mighty One.

• Let the souls of men awaken to the light. And may they stand with massed intent. Let the fiat of the Lord go forth: The end of woe has come! Come forth, O Mighty One. The hour of service of the saving force has now arrived. Let it be spread abroad, O Mighty One.

• Let Light and Love and Power and Death fulfill the purpose of the Coming One. The WILL to save is here. The LOVE to carry forth the work is widely spread abroad. The ACTIVE AID of all who know the TRUTH is also here.

• Come forth, O Mighty One, and blend these three. Construct a great defending wall. The rule of evil NOW must end.