

The Rainbow of Hope



The beacon-light of occult truth is Nature without the illusory veil of the senses.
She is the Rainbow of Hope and our only hope.

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It is written in an old book of occult studies:

Gupta-Vidyā (Secret Science) is an attractive sea, but stormy and full of rocks. The navigator who risks himself thereon, if he be not wise and full of experience,¹ will be swallowed up, wrecked upon one of the thousand submerged reefs. Great billows, the colour of sapphires, rubies and emeralds, billows full of beauty and mystery will overtake him, ready to bear the voyager away towards other and numberless beacon-lights that burn in all directions. But these are false lights, will-o'-the-wisps,² lighted by the sons of *Kāliya*³ for the destruction of those who thirst for life. Happy are they who remain blind to these deceiving lights, more happy still those who never turn their eyes from the only true Beacon-light whose eternal flame burns in solitude in the depths of the waters of the Sacred Science. Numerous are the pilgrims who desire to enter those waters; very few are the strong swimmers who reach the Beacon. He who would get there must cease to be a number, and become *all numbers*. He must have forgotten the illusion of separateness, and accept only the truth of collective individuality.⁴ He must see with the ears, hear with the eyes,⁵ understand the language of the rainbow, and have concentrated his six senses in his seventh sense.⁶



¹ Acquired under the guidance of a *guru* or Master.

² [Or *ignis fatuus*, “foolish fire,” ghost lights seen by travellers at night, especially over bogs, swamps, or marshes. It resembles a flickering lamp and is said to recede if approached, drawing travellers from the safe paths. — Metaphorically, will-o'-the-wisps are delusive or misleading hopes.]

³ The great serpent conquered by Krishna and driven from the river Yamunā into the sea, where the serpent Kāliya took for wife a kind of Siren, by whom he had a numerous family.

⁴ The illusion of the *personality*, of a separate ego, placed by our egotism in the forefront. In one word, it is necessary to assimilate all humanity, live by it, for it; and in it; in other terms, cease to be “one,” and become “all” or the *total*.

⁵ A Vedic expression. The senses, including the two mystic senses, are seven in Occultism; but an Initiate does not separate these senses one from the other, any more than he separates his unity from Humanity. Each one of the senses contains all the others.

⁶ Symbology of colours. The language of the prism, of which “the seven mother-colours have each seven sons,” *i.e.*, 49 shades or “sons” between the seven, are so many letters or alphabetical characters. The language of colours has, therefore, fifty-six letters for the *Initiate* (not to be confused with an *adept*; see my article “A Danger Signal”). Of these letters each septenary is absorbed by the mother-colours, as each of the seven mother-colours is finally absorbed in the white ray, Divine Unity symbolized by these colours.

[For an in-depth analysis of the subject, see “The True Colours of Man,” in our Major Works Series. — ED. PHIL.]