

A person is silhouetted against a vast, starry night sky. The Milky Way galaxy is visible, stretching across the upper half of the frame with a vibrant pink and purple hue. The lower half of the sky is a deep yellow and orange, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The person stands on a dark, rocky ridge, looking up at the stars. The overall scene is serene and contemplative.

Gnosis and the Magician

Practical Initiation



Overview

1. Define Gnosis and the goal of Gnostic work
2. Learn the role of consciousness in reaching our spiritual goal
3. Apply a spiritual principle to ourselves in a practical way to understand how we can begin Gnostic work

Gnosis (Greek): Knowledge

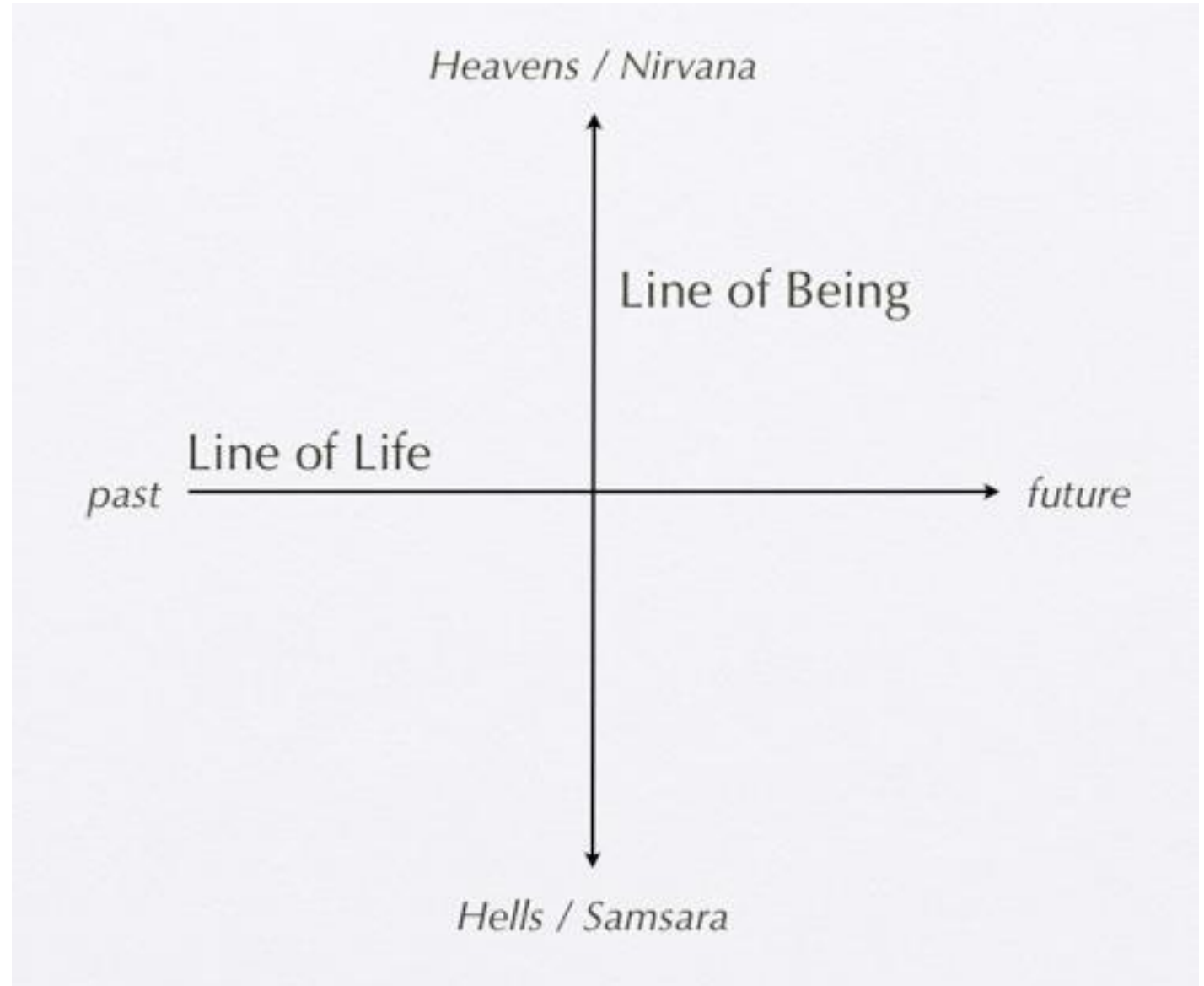
1. The knowledge we acquire through our own experience, as opposed to knowledge that we are told or believe in—conscious, experiential knowledge, not merely intellectual or conceptual knowledge, belief, or theory.
2. The tradition that embodies the core wisdom or knowledge of humanity

Gnostics: those who embody the highest ethical and spiritual values, such as temperance, diligence, humility, chastity, generosity, etc. and who can at will have personal experience with divinity.

Consciousness

Awareness; an alert cognitive state in which you are aware of yourself and your conditions.

- Consciousness allows us to obtain experiential knowledge
- Our quality and level of consciousness determines our trajectory on the Line of Being



Arcanum (Latin):
A secret, a mystery,
known only to the
spiritually educated.

Arcanum 1: The Magician



Are we the Magician?

“This arcanum gives aptitude in order to resolve problems. It grants power as much for awakening as for dominating passions in the physical world.”

—Samael Aun Weor, *Tarot and Kabbalah*

Magician has Knowledge of Reality

- Do we perceive reality consciously and objectively?

Magician is Master of Himself

- Are we slaves to negative states or our desires?

Magician has Power over Circumstance

- Are we victims of circumstances, or do we take responsibility for our reactions to life?



Knowing the power of concentrated thought [consciousness], the initiate makes use of it in all the problems of life. His method, however, is not that of direct attack in which he "wills" the change of the unpleasant condition, but is directed to bring about certain changes in his own consciousness, for he knows that it is his own temperament which is the real instrument of karma. It is only through those factors in his own nature which react that karma can affect him. He knows that certain conditions come to him in order that they may provoke certain reactions in his own nature, and according to his handling of these reactions will be his karma, even in the present life.

—Dion Fortune, *The Training and Work of an Initiate*

“A magus is simply a man who has a detailed and intimate understanding of mankind and of nature, and of the continuous ebb and flow that unites them through the medium of men’s thoughts, feelings and acts. A genuine magus takes care to use only what is pure, noble and divine in his work, because he knows that **every word or gesture as well as every thought or emotion, every act is magical.** Whatever helps someone to progress along the path of perfection, whatever brings man closer to God, is white magic, whereas all that holds man back in his quest for perfection, whatever comes between him and the divine Source, is black magic. Whether it be conscious or unconscious, that is what it is. With this definition of magic you are now in a position to decide what kind of magic you perform: are you a black or a white magician?”
—Omraam

