

Dedicated to a unified understanding of philosophy, science, religion and art

Summa Sophia

1175 Harrington Place NE #212

Renton WA 98056

U.S.A.

Phone (425) 227-6979

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*All things arise and cease due to
interdependent causes and conditions*

Guide For Conducting Small Group Study Meetings

A Suggested Approach to the Ageless Wisdom

Introduction

A world teacher once said, When you see those who are violating the Dharma, run for your life. Stated otherwise, When you see those who are upholding (living) the Teachings, run towards them. If a number of people do this, there will be meetings. It might as well be.

Study meetings create wonderful opportunities to clarify our own thinking. Firstly, we think for ourselves. Discussions are not meant to display erudition, but to help make matters clearly understandable. Some by questions and answers. Neither is a particular point of view made to the exclusion of others. In the spirit of goodwill, alternative viewpoints are brought up for careful consideration. Furthermore, friendships draw forth our latent spiritual qualities.

A harmony of universal understanding produces a powerful influence (ideal thoughtforms) in uplifting those conditions that make for a better world for all.

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A Suggested Approach to the Ageless Wisdom

(Before starting, the Moderator assigns or selects a volunteer to be the Opening Speaker, and another one to be the Closing Speaker. Furnish them a copy of their respective lines. See Box.)

OPENING

Moderator:

Let us have a few moments of silence, during which we renew our friendship, and rededicate ourselves to the search for truth. Two minutes meditation.

(Soft background music is optional. To signal the end of the meditation, make three light knocks.)

Opening Speaker (After hearing the light knocks):

We gather here as students of the ageless wisdom, endeavoring to prepare ourselves for service to humanity.

May we work together in harmony. May we acquire the knowledge and spiritual understanding that will qualify us for greater service.

Moderator:

From the unreal, lead us to the real.

From darkness, lead us to light.

From death, lead us to immortality.

Our meeting is now open.

GROUP STUDY

The topic or subject for study is now taken up. Here are three universal questions that help intensify individual study as well as enrich the quality of small group discussions:

1. What do you think? (Awakens the Mind)
2. What does it mean? (Awakens the Intuition)
3. What ought to be done? (Awakens the Will)

Remember: Uphold the freedom of thought; it is sustained by knowledge. Behold the freedom *from* thought; it is attained by virtue. Thus, in knowledge and virtue, wisdom is won.

CLOSING

Moderator:

It is now time to close our meeting. Has anyone anything to say before we close? (It is helpful to close with a positive note.)

Let us have a few moments of silence during which we thank the Guardians of Humanity for Their guidance and protection, as we offer ourselves in Their service to the world.

Two minutes meditation.

(Soft background music is optional. To signal the end of the meditation, make three light knocks.)

Closing Speaker (After hearing the light knocks):

Having received this further instruction in the ageless wisdom, may we go hence with our faith renewed and our minds inspired by the higher life.

May we by devotion and unselfish service, endeavor to awaken the divine nature within, until all shall be found worthy to see that Star shine forth.

Moderator:

Repeat after me. (Stop after every line to allow repetition.)

O Hidden Life, vibrant in every atom!

O Hidden Light, shining in every creature!

O Hidden Love, embracing all in oneness!

May all who feel themselves as one with thee,

Know they are, therefore, one with every other.

Let us go forth to sound the note of harmony in the world.

(Pause briefly.)

Moderator only:

Peace. Peace. Peace.

Our meeting is now closed.

Thank you for your presence.

(It is helpful to disperse quietly.)

Field Study on the Ageless Wisdom Classics*

For the basics:

H.P.B. *The Key To Theosophy*.
Besant, A. *The Ancient Wisdom*.
Hodson, G. *Basic Theosophy: The Living Wisdom*.
Judge, W. Q. *The Ocean Of Theosophy*.

For daily living:

H.P.B. *Gems From The East* [Precepts & Axioms].
Bhagavad Gita.
At The Feet Of The Master.
Voice Of The Silence.
Light On The Path.

For a series of integrative studies from several books:

Powell, A. E. *The Etheric Double. The Astral Body. The Mental Body. The Causal Body. The Solar System*.

For inspirational and metaphysical understanding:

Bailey, A. *Cosmic Fire*.
Barborka, G. *The Divine Plan*.
Bhagavan Das. *Essential Unity Of All Religions*.
Hall, Manly P. *Secret Teachings of all Ages*. [Oversized illus. ed.]
Hodson, G. *Light Of The Sanctuary*.
Judge, W. Q. *Echoes Of The Orient*. 4 vols.
Purucker, G. de. *Fundamentals Of Esoteric Philosophy*.
_____. *Esoteric Tradition*. 2 vols.
Taimni, I. K. *A Way to Self-Discovery*.
_____. *Man, God and Universe*.

For lifetime studies:

H.P.B. *Collected Writings*. Vol. 12 (of 14 vols.), B. de Zirkoff, ed.
Blavatsky, H. P. *Isis Unveiled*. 2 vols.
_____. *The Secret Doctrine*. 3 vols., B. de Zirkoff edition.
The Mahatma Letters. Chronological edition, 1993.

*Studies on the ageless wisdom need not be restricted to a version of theosophy from various associations. A field study introduces a seamless exposure. For it is the sense of wonder that nurtures our search for truth. Then in the integrative study of philosophy-science-religion, an open-mindedness leads us to those universal or unifying principles, awaiting discovery. A teaching is pure only to the extent of the purity (selflessness) of the teacher. And, if the student is pure (selfless), truth is revealed beyond the material or object chosen for study.

The forms of truth are: impartiality, self-control, forgiveness, modesty, endurance, goodness, renunciation, contemplation, honor, fortitude, compassion and harmlessness. In truth, this is how to study. Thus, there is no imperative duty (in philosophy, science, or religion) higher than truth.

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