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A Principle of Practical Magic

Voluntary control of an occult power by an individual implies that that power is subject to ^{his} ~~the~~ will and reason. Assuming that a given individual has already attained a sufficient development of will to command the spiritual force upon which occult manifestations are dependent, the remaining problem is that of how the reason may be employed.

Reason acts upon the material given to it as the original indefinable elements and can, in principle, work out through its own power ~~xxxx~~ all the hidden implications of these elements. But reasoning power by itself is incapable of discovering new elements.

New elements are discovered by an individual through a process which is essentially awakening to new levels and these elements are known immediately. They are essentially of the nature of 'Knowledge through Identity'.

The essence of Initiation is the awakening to the immediate apprehension of new elements. This Initiation may be either spontaneous or directed by Those who already stand upon the superior level which the Initiation opens.

The reasoning power and the individual will cannot command Initiation as the level opened by Initiation is above that currently attained by the individual. But once Initiation on any level has been attained it supplies new material with which the individual will and reason may act.

As a consequence the first breaking to new power is essentially spontaneous, from the standpoint of the individual concerned. He may prepare himself, but he cannot command the event of Initiation. Once, however, he has awakened to the new level he can, in principle, act at will with the powers resident on

that level.

A power which exists in principle requires, in addition, to become an effective fact, a development of the appropriate knowledge, judgment and skill. This practical power, however, may be one by self-directed effort without dependence upon a further spontaneous act from the level of Spirit.