

Considerations in Ray Determinations

By Brad Berg

This article is intended to provide some useful ideas to consider when attempting to discern the ray energies being expressed through an individual's personality. The focus will be on parameters involved in distinguishing the presence of one ray from another, with ray one being used as an example, as it is easy to confuse a ray with other seemingly similar qualities.

Due to the brief nature of this article we will address the expression of a ray as it manifests within, and through, the general nature of a person, leaving for a later study the attempt to determine which particular vehicle (physical, emotional, mental, etc....) is involved.

This is both a fascinating and deeply complicated endeavor, providing a fertile field for learning to the person undertaking the study, as well as the opportunity to enhance an illuminating and useful understanding of, and for, the person being studied.

Many factors are involved in ray determination, several of which will now be touched upon. Perhaps most importantly, one should have a clear grasp of the qualities of which each of the seven rays is an expression, especially as it pertains to the individual human being. This, in itself, requires much lengthy, careful study, and fairly well developed discriminative and analytical faculties.

Of course, one can only proceed so far via observation and rational procedures. It is therefore virtually a necessity to possess some degree of intuition, or a perceptive sensitivity that will allow one to "feel" the qualitative nature of the energies themselves. Hence the term esoteric psychologist!

As we are not yet perfect, it is safe to

assume that there is some inherent distortion in our own ability to perceive that which emanates from others and into our own field of awareness. It is the belief of this author that in the not too distant future, ray psychologists may have available instrumentation to measure the actual frequencies of the various ray energies present, but this is not yet the case.

Another important factor to be taken into consideration is the presence of more than one ray in an individual's structure. For instance, one may miss the presence of ray two at the personality level, if the person under study has a ray three soul, a highly developed ray five mind, a powerful ray six emotional body and a well sculptured and active ray seven physical body. The entire subject can become significantly more abstract if one assumes that the ray of each of the five vehicles composing an individual's structure also has a qualifying sub-ray. It is upon this analogous basis that the personality is said to be the sub-ray of the soul.

When undertaking an attempt to determine a person's ray structure, it is exceedingly valuable to know as much as possible about the astrological influences involved. These will strongly affect a person's make-up and at the least, one should, hopefully, be aware of the constellations--or signs--in which the subject's Sun and Ascendant are located.

An awareness of the development and activity of the seven major energy centers of the etheric body of the subject can provide additional useful information, as the centers are related to specific rays. However, further thought along this line is beyond the scope of

this article.

Ideally, certain pieces of information about the subject of study will facilitate the process of ray structure determination. These include vocation, hobbies, interests, tendencies and previous areas of involvement. The Personality Identity Profile, ¹ that has been developed by the Seven Ray Institute, is an example of a highly useful tool that can be incorporated in such a study.

The opportunity for face-to-face contact with the subject, including a short discussion, can be most illuminating. Much can be gleaned from the subject's style of dress, manner of speech, body language, as well as general demeanor and overall manner in which the person presents himself or herself to the world. Facial features and expressions, the "look in one's eye" and other subtle nuances, are all potentially valuable in this process. After all, everything a person is and does is veritably an expression of some one or combination of energies.

It should also be kept in mind that the rays on the 1-3-5-7 line of energy share overlapping qualities, as do those on the 2-4-6 line. Just as devotion can be an expression of both rays four and six, criticism is often a characteristic (lower) expression of rays three and five.

As the above is but a fleeting glimpse of the factors involved in ray determinations, one can see the inherent challenge in this process. The student, or psychologist, may be quite accurate when concluding that a major key to ray determination is the ability to distinguish between the rays.

In examining how the presence of one ray can easily be confused with that of another, ray one will be utilized as an example. The rays most often confused with ray one are rays six, seven and three. Perhaps the most common error of judgment is the assumption of ray one rather than ray six. Influential is the fact that during the last two thousand years, ray six has reached a zenith of expression in the human kingdom. Not only has it been strongly in manifestation for so long, but it is also related

to the influence of Pisces, which is now waning as the Earth moves into alignment with Aquarius.

In the study of an individual, the persistence, drive, one-pointed adherence and (often) emotional determination of ray six can easily be mistaken for ray one. The one-pointed focus of ray one emanates from a dynamic sense of purpose willfully manifested, as opposed to the desire and ideal-oriented ray six energy.

Ray six works primarily through the solar plexus and stimulates the emotional nature, while ray one commonly inhibits emotion and is apparently cool and aloof. As ray six is frequently thought of as "the ray which no one wants present in their own structure:" ² and since many people relate mostly to its lower means of expression, its presence can easily be neglected when one is determining one's own ray structure. Many of us would much rather assume ray one and its qualities of will, power and synthesis, especially as it is one of the three major Rays of Aspect.

Ray one has a unique relation to ray seven, as does ray two to ray six, and ray three to ray five. Ray seven may seem to share similar qualities with ray one, enabling the investigator to, again, easily confuse the energy at hand.

The strong tendency to organize and coordinate group activities (which may propel someone to a position of leadership) can closely resemble the powerful, direct ray one type leader. Discrimination is necessary to determine whether the quality manifested is the vital energy that produces order and organization, versus the independent, steadfast and willful purpose which results in assuming a leadership position. Where both rays are present in an individual's structure, the task is, of course, quite complicated and necessitates true discriminative ability.

Ray seven brings energy down to the physical plane and delights in things done decently and in order, enabling one to mistake this for the willful sense of purpose denoted by

ray one. The qualities of ray three which most often are assumed to indicate ray one are the tendency to manipulate, strongly communicated ideas and plans, as well as the "vitalizing of forms through group work."³ While manipulation is usually seen in a negative light, it can also be expressed in a positive, constructive manner and the effort to manipulate forms or ideas, in a group format (also known as adaptability) can be mistakenly thought of as the willful leadership of ray one.

People with ray three present enjoy being the spider at the center and emphasize self-importance, which are traits that can erroneously be thought of as pertaining to ray one.

It can be seen that the effort to determine a ray structure is most challenging, and merely the effort to do so can enhance one's own understanding of the rays, as well as human personality structure. This article is intended to be stimulating as well as informative and the author certainly welcomes responses and comments from interested readers.

¹ Michael Robbins, *Journal of Esoteric Psychology*, Vol. 1, No. 1, 1985

² Benjamin Creme

³ Alice Bailey, *Esoteric Psychology*, 1, page 416