

# The Harmonized Fourth Ray

*By Andrew Johnson*

In trying to summarize the qualities of the fourth ray it is often easier to talk about the qualities of conflict and struggle which characterize this ray, especially in its un-evolved expression, than it is to talk about the harmonious organization of energies that characterize the developed fourth ray. Nevertheless, an attempt should be made to understand the goal toward which the fourth ray points, to understand the beauty, harmony, sensitivity, and right relations toward which all the conflict and struggle has been moving. Together, desire, struggle, and love create a pearl of great price, a pearl which is hard to find and to hold, but one which has the power to resolve the ancient conflicts, to reveal the hidden synthesis, and to unfold the principles that constitute the way which goes from here to there and back again.

When we first try to describe the more evolved expression of this ray we are tempted to use a descriptive terminology that derives its meaning from the abstracting of the lower qualities of the fourth ray into a spiritual realm "above" the personality realm. This may take the form of statements which speak of the absence of conflict, worry, moodiness, etc. The goal toward which the fourth ray person strives is more than this. Pain and suffering must have its reward in some positive achievement, some acquired power of the soul. This is obviously true and so we need to have a better understanding of the person who has struggled through to a condition of achieved balance and equilibrium at the dynamic point where the opposing forces meet.

The developed fourth ray person, to a large degree, has left behind purely personal conflict and drama. The conflict they participate in is group conflict. All their acquired sensitivity is put to use in the service of humanity. They are

sympathetic and wise in helping others to struggle upward toward the light. In this sense the developed fourth ray person seems like a suffering second ray person. This is because fourth ray love and sympathy (Esoteric Psychology, Vol I p. 205) have their root in a keen sense of, and response to, the suffering of others. This is the love of the true humanitarian who has "strong affections," "devotion," and "generosity." (Ibid., p.205) One senses that the love of the developed fourth ray person is born out of real experience. This is in contrast to the sometimes lofty, almost benign and indifferent love the second ray sometimes radiates.

Somewhat like the sixth ray, the fourth ray person is said to be quick and responsive but again it is important to distinguish the various levels of expression possible. At one level the fourth ray person (or a person expressing this ray through one of their vehicles) will be the one to respond quickly and sensitively to your report of your struggles, conflicts, and pains. The undeveloped type will tend just as quickly to begin talking about their problems. The more developed type has less egoism and so one is apt to get a more steady and sensitive hearing. They will lead you along as you unburden yourself with their positive affirmations (nodding, etc.) in such a way that you feel they are right with you on every peak and in every valley. While you may feel confused and bewildered, you sense that they understand the purpose behind all of these ups and downs. They seem to have found the center where peace and harmony rule. Almost wordlessly they convey a sense that despite all your pain, conflict, and struggle, something of great value and beauty is being nurtured at the true center of your being. You may well find yourself laughing in loving understanding

of the drama in your own life as the result of something said by the fourth ray person. The more developed type is able to convey through image, story, or analogy a pivotal insight that is both judging (analytical) and accepting (wholistic) at the same time. The humor of the developed fourth ray type is like this. It heals not hurts.

The battling fourth ray person often looks very similar to the sixth ray. On the other hand the harmonized fourth ray person often looks like what we expect the second ray to be. This is not surprising for two reasons, as I see it. The first is that the fourth ray is by nature a relating ray and one of its many points of dynamic relating is the midway spot between ray six and ray two. The second is that we usually experience the fourth ray only at the level of the personality (there may be incarnate at the present time some unfolded fourth ray souls). The fourth ray is necessarily, then, always related to the work of harmonizing the soul and personality. We know that the astral body (as an expression of sixth ray force) is the most potent vehicle of the four-fold personality and that the soul is an expression of ray two (no matter what its coloring ray is). Therefore, it's clear that the fourth ray is intimately involved in the human struggle to transmute both the sixth and second rays through a creative and dynamic interplay. The perfection of this task on the personality level leads to the fourth initiation and the fulfillment of the purpose for which the fourth Creative Hierarchy (the human) took incarnation. At this initiation the ego-sense (the causal body) is absorbed into a wider more universal sense of identity.

Much more could be said along these lines but one final point about the principle of invisibility and its connection with the fourth ray needs to be said. It is obviously true that persons who battle constantly with everything around them will be more visible than those who harmonize with everything. It is easy to miss the developed fourth ray person because of this; they become invisible. The one who truly harmonizes neither adds nor takes away

but allows and facilitates. They grease the wheel, in a sense, and the wheel is able to fulfill the purpose for which it was made. Another image might be that of a gyroscope, which only signals an imbalance when it occurs, otherwise it remains silent. The gyro is the standard of balance and orientation only so long as it is "obeyed." As the Master at the center of the ashram (one of the symbols of the fourth ray) orients and harmonizes the ashram, so at a lower level the fourth ray disciple may remain invisible until the group needs re-balancing and harmonizing. This is the fruit of the work undertaken in Taurus, Scorpio, and Sagittarius, but that is the topic of another paper. Suffice it to say that the perfected fourth ray person often works invisibly bringing harmony out of chaos. They do it because they love it.

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