



THE OZARK THEOSOPHICAL CAMP AND EDUCATION CENTER



“The Gnostic Legacy, Esoteric Christianity and Visiting the Inner Temple.”

Presented by Richard Smoley

October 27-29, 2017

The Gnostic Legacy. Today there is much talk of the Gnostics, the ancient visionaries, long-reviled as heretics, who may have possessed the keys to the deepest secrets of Christianity. Who were the Gnostics? Where did they come from? Did they leave any descendants? In this lecture, Richard Smoley will trace the Gnostic legacy from its ancient roots in the *Gospel of Thomas* and the second-century Gnostics through its survival into the modern era, as well as its increasing influence on present-day mass culture.

Esoteric Christianity. Are there lost secrets embedded in the Christian tradition, secrets that the official churches have ignored or suppressed? If so, what are these hidden truths? They can be viewed as expressions of inner Christianity or esoteric Christianity, the inner truth that lies behind the surface forms of the faith. In this lecture, Richard Smoley will give a brief, accessible introduction to the central teachings of esoteric Christianity, including the inner Christ, the tripartite structure of body, soul, and spirit, and the nature of gnosis, or inner illumination. He will also

lead a brief guided meditation to enable participants to experience some of these ideas for themselves.

Visiting the Inner Temple. There is a great deal of lore about the Temple, both in biblical texts and in traditions such as Freemasonry. Although there have been physical temples, some of the teachings about this structure have to do with its creation and exploration on the level of the inner planes. In this talk, Richard will discuss some of these ideas. He will also lead a guided meditation so that participants can visit the inner temple for themselves.

Richard Smoley is editor of *Quest: Journal of the Theosophical Society in America*. He is also the author of several books on religion and spirituality. His latest one, *How God Became God: What Scholars Are Really Saying about God and the Bible*, was published in June 2016 by Tarcher Perigee. He is the author of *The Deal: A Guide to Radical and Complete Forgiveness*; *Inner Christianity: A Guide to the Esoteric Tradition*; *The Dice Game of Shiva: How Consciousness Creates the Universe*; *Conscious Love: Insights from Mystical Christianity*; *The Essential Nostradamus*; *Forbidden Faith: The Secret History of Gnosticism*; *Supernatural: Writings on an Unknown History*; and *Hidden Wisdom: A Guide to the Western Inner Traditions* (with Jay Kinney).

Friday

Noon to 4:00	Camp set up and preparation
4:00 to 6:00	Registration will begin
4:00 to 6:45	Potluck Dinner
7:00 to 7:10	Introduction of our speaker

Friday Night

7:45 to 10:00	Socializing
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Saturday Morning

7:30	Gentle Meditative Movement on the deck, or morning walk around the grounds
8:00	Breakfast
9:00	Meditation – Watson Hall
9:20	1. <i>The Gnostic Legacy</i>
10:30	Break
10:40	2. <i>The Gnostic Legacy</i>
11:50	Lunch

Saturday Afternoon

Directions:

If traveling on Interstate 49 in Missouri, take Exit “H” about five miles from the Arkansas/Missouri border on the Missouri side. Go west on “H” approximately six miles until you reach Hwy 90 in Noel, Missouri. Turn right and go through Noel on Hwy 90 (approx. 1 mile) until you reach Hwy 59. Turn left. (*The camp is located on a hill overlooking the small town of Sulphur Springs, AR off Hwy. 59, just two miles south of the Missouri state line.*) If coming in from the north on Hwy. 59 you will go over the Butler Creek Bridge and into Sulphur Springs. (*Be aware that you will cross Butler Creek before you get into town and then come to a second bridge in town.*) **You turn east/left on Colony Road just before the bridge in town.** (*If you see a large park on the left and you've crossed the bridge you've gone too far.*) Go about 200 feet and veer left on Colony Rd. Go another 400 feet up the hill to the first gravel driveway on the right. If you are coming from the south (Gravette) then cross the bridge right after the park, turn right on Colony Rd. and follow the instructions above. We will have signs out. If you are staying at the B&B we will direct you to that location once you get to Camp. If you run into problems call May Harshbarger at 405-441-7911 or Carol Holleyman at 417-699-8237. Looking forward to seeing you soon!

Airport Service:

Fayetteville/Bentonville Northwest Arkansas Regional Airport serves this area and is located about 35 miles from Camp. Coordinate with Wilfred Berlin (918-638-8302) if you need a pick-up and return to the airport.

Food:

Meals cover Friday night (Potluck), all of Saturday and Sunday morning. There are restaurants in the surrounding towns. The meals are lacto-ovo-vegetarian. Meals are collaborated by the Food Committee. Anyone wishing to help out with setting up and cleaning up will be greatly appreciated! (the menu will be posted on the Ozark Website as we become closer to the event)