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ALCHEMY, GEMSTONES

THE PLANETS AND YOU



SRAVANIYA DIPECORARO



REVIEWERS' COMMENTS ON ALCHEMY, GEMSTONES,
THE PLANETS AND YOU



"Wow, an amazing read! Alchemy, gemstones, the planets and sublime literary mastery. This book clearly stimulates you to question your spiritual philosophy. Truly from the invisible to the visible, provocatively addressing the magic and science of alchemy. I recommend Sravaniya and her teachings for anybody on a spiritual quest. A toolbox must have."

— Claire Graham, Psychic & Medium



"We live at such an exciting time on our planet when the teachings of quantum mechanics and our understanding of energy, frequencies and vibration enable us to have a clearer understanding of what the ancient teachings have tried to tell us. We also have the freedom to explore and to think for ourselves.

As we move from the old paradigm of classical physics with its clockwork mechanistic view of the nature of reality, we begin to comprehend what the ancient teachings and traditions knew so well: All is energy and it is vibrating at different frequencies; that everything is connected to everything else and therefore influenced by everything else.

Sravaniya DiPecoraro's excellent book shows us how, as we become aware of these energies and the properties and frequencies of the reality around us, we can harness them to empower us and enhance our lives. Instead of trying to subdue nature or to resist it, we can work in a spirit of cooperation and thus make our lives so much more harmonious.

A truly insightful and informative book."

— Anne Acushla Hassett, Intuitive Coach, Psychic,
Hand Analyst, Author

ALCHEMY, GEMSTONES, THE PLANETS AND YOU

TRANSFORMATION AND TRANSCENDENCE

SRAVANIYA DIPECORARO



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To all spiritual seekers, wherever they may be.

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PREFACE



I washed up on the shores of Hong Kong in December 1989 alone and unattended. I had barely survived the sinking of an abusive twelve year marriage with an American Hare Krishna ex-junkie via a Taiwanese divorce — the wife walks and takes nothing with her. My two sons stayed with him and were about to find out why stepmothers historically make such offensive antagonists in literature. I had worked freelance as an English tutor and yoga instructor and, when the NT\$ depreciated 25%, I migrated out. Decisions make themselves when the time is right.

Finding my feet in a foreign country was difficult. With no family and almost no friends — I had a few students who knew me from Taiwan — I had to make it with no earthly support. It was in this situation that I delved into astrology and Tarot divination for guidance. Initially I was sceptical but, having no recourse, I gave it a chance. I learned to read cards from a book and the objective information was so accurate that I made time to read for myself daily. Tarot is a relatively quick and easy way of seeing a situation. It is the most objective process of reviewing real options and outcomes that I have ever found.

Then I met Barbara Ellen. I had heard about this visiting psychic from Great Britain in our small new age commu-

nity in the early 90s so I went for a reading. When she got to work and began telling me of all kinds specifics that she had no ordinary way of knowing, I was astounded. It was then that I was convinced about mediumship and spirit communication. I later found a booklet she had written called *Crystal Energy* (LLangollen Holistic Health Centre, published 1991). I began using it as a guide for wearing gemstones and Barbara Ellen proved reliable once again. Her references and notes on influences of the stones are included in this book.

When it comes to numerical and astrological attribution there are several different systems which are recognized. I studied Cheiro's numerical system, with its roots in Vedic texts, as well as the works of astrologer Lloyd Cope and his mentor Florence Campbell. During application in reading charts these latter two turned out to be the most useful and their system is described herein.

As for astrologers, my greatest influential guides have been Stephen Arroyo, Isabel M. Hickey and Liz Greene. I cannot recommend them highly enough.

My spiritual knowledge comes through my guru His Divine Grace A.C. Bhaktivedanta Swami Prabhupada (founder of ISKCON) of the Brahma-Madhva-Gauḍīya-Vaiṣṇava Sampradāya. The section on Spiritual Alchemy (and indeed my entire life) is illuminated by his sublime teachings.

My attitude, for better or worse, has always been that I'm not that interested in what anyone believes. Tell me what you *know*. The truth works when put into practice.

If the doctrine doesn't do what its proponent claims, then it is not real knowledge.

With my spiritual training as an initiate it seems that I live with a foot in each of two worlds. The spiritual side is, of course, most important. But for at least the remainder of this life we all have to continue "chopping wood and carrying water" in time and space. And so I encourage others to develop a deeper, practical understanding of the laws of Nature and Nature's God.

May the facts and insights presented herein bring benefit and assistance to the reader on his or her life's path.

Offered on the 21st of December, 2017

The disappearance day of Śrīla Jīva Gosvāmī

Hong Kong

PART I

THE LECTURE

ALCHEMY, GEMSTONES, THE PLANETS AND YOU
(FULL LECTURE)



by Sravaniya DiPecoraro
Delivered as a lecture in English and Cantonese to a
general audience at the Hong Kong City Hall,
on November 6, 2001.

Thank you all for taking the time to come out this evening and expand your understanding of life and the world in which we live. The purpose of tonight's presentation is to stimulate thought so that you can form your own conclusions. I am presenting some historical facts along with the views of the Bhāgavat Vedānta philosophical school as a point of departure to catalyze this process.

If this presentation moves you to question your assumptions about spirituality and come to some better conclusions, then I will have attained my objective.

This talk is about Planetary Gemnology and I am going to begin by explaining what is alchemy. This is a topic that you can find in the encyclopedia, but what I would like to share with you this evening is some information that you will not find in those pages, because alchemy has an external or exoteric presentation as well as an esoteric or internal meaning.



The word alchemy means to transmute one form of matter into another, or to change material energy. The current New Age movement is really the Old Age in a new bottle. In it you will find identifying characteristics such as a preoccupation with seeing into the future with Tarot cards and other forms of divination, astrology, angels, essential oils and potions for invoking different states of consciousness and mood, crystals and gemstones for healing and controlling energy, etc. This is the outside appearance of the alchemical movement which really goes back to the dawn of the Christian era. It arose in Alexandria, a port city on the coast of North Africa which was a great center of culture and learning, and was Cleopatra's capital in Egypt. This is where many of the texts for all these things we are going to be talking about originated. The alchemical traditions of Alexandria in the first centuries AD developed side by side with Neoplatonic and Hermetic philosophy. And so if you look at the current New Age movement you will see old

Egyptian magical rituals, Gnostic Christianity, and a mixture of various pagan beliefs from Greco-Roman times. Add to the soup some Platonic philosophy and you have the beginning of the movement that we are seeing now.

Astrology was part of that worldview. Astrology speaks of a unity of all things, and a law of what is called signatures or correspondences by which the archetypal realm of God reveals itself through progressively denser material forms. Alchemy went underground during the early medieval period because the Church considered it heretical and, being practiced in secret, its tenets have come to be known as occult (hidden) knowledge.

Being banned in Christian countries, alchemy found sanctuary in Byzantium (later renamed Constantinople, or modern Istanbul). It resurfaced in the west in the 13th century with the Crusaders and especially the Knights Templar. When Constantinople fell in 1453 a lot of writings were recovered, including some teachings of Plato. But since Plato believed in reincarnation, the Church left him aside in favor of Aristotle. St. Thomas Aquinas, whose theology forms the basis of modern Catholic doctrine, based his philosophy on the views of Aristotle.

Interestingly enough, some texts made their way into the collection of one Cosimo de Medici, a wealthy businessman and politician in Florence at the time. Medici handed over these manuscripts to his translator, Marsilio Ficino, to have the Greek rendered into Latin. But when Medici was informed about the magical texts he was so excited that he said "Plato can wait. Translate these first."