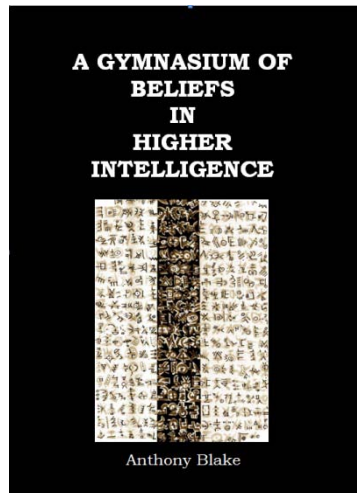


A GYMNASIUM OF BELIEFS IN HIGHER INTELLIGENCE

Anthony Blake



400 pages with diagrams and illustrations, extensive index and bibliography

DuVersity Press, January 2010, \$35 (USA) £20 (UK) 25 Euros

This book follows on in the series Anthony Blake has produced exploring the ramifications of fourth way ideas in the context of the rapidly expanding and ever more complex world we live in*. It takes as point of departure the injunction John Bennett made in the 1960s that 'we should learn to communicate with higher intelligence'. This book explores attitudes and beliefs about higher intelligence in our confused and bewildered culture. The 'gymnasium' in the title is a mental one and the underlying premise of the book is that by becoming more free and flexible with our beliefs we need not be slaves to them but become more able to recognise and participate in the reality which transcends them.

The book begins with an exposition of why we can say our minds are illusions, based on Bennett's fundamental scheme of mental energies. It then goes on to explore three main categories of belief in higher intelligence: as inside people, as beyond us and as generated out of time itself. Illustrative ideas are drawn from numerous sources ranging from the ancient and occult to the recent and technological. In the final section the book circles down to land on the extraordinariness of our 'ordinary' experience.

The structure of the book around twelve beliefs or 'hypotheses' is based on a DuVersity conference held in Baltimore 1994.

'A Gymnasium of Beliefs' is designed in a special way that demonstrates a method of understanding. It can be read sequentially as an unfolding story or dipped into for stimulation and provocation. Fourth way ideas are explored in unusual ways and the author happily skips between spirituality, physics and literature. He embraces our modern rich informational environment and the clamour of its discordant voices to say that belief is always distortion but can become a flux of energy to vivify our assimilation of impressions. A pervasive theme is that every man or woman is a genius in his or her own right but this makes us responsible for what we believe.

The author says, 'I had to use a lot of words to say something simple but I couldn't just say this simple thing because it is beyond belief.'

* A Seminar on Time, Intelligence, The Intelligent Enneagram, The Supreme Art of Dialogue