



New Age Movement

Shawn Nelson, 2024



Outline

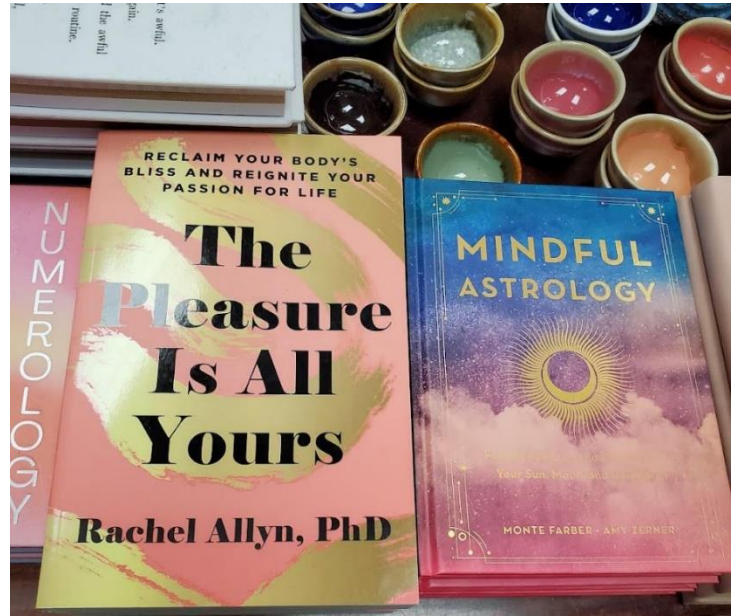
New Age Movement

- **Impact**
- Development
- Beliefs
- A Christian Response
- Ideas for Sharing

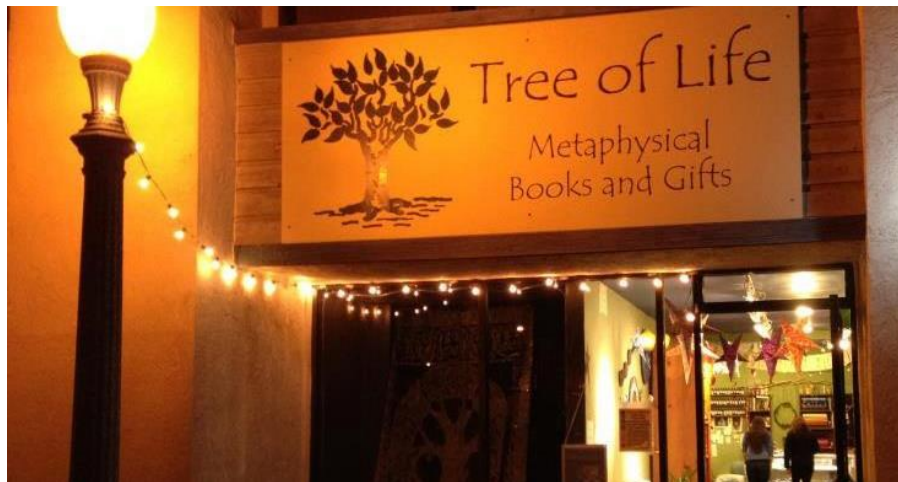




Take a walk with me down the 101







crystal healing



Take a walk with
me down cinema
lane



"May the Force be with you!"

It's everywhere in movies and TV!





"She's [Neytiri] always going on about the **flow of energy**, the spirit of animals. She talks about a network of energy that **flows through all living things**. All energy is only borrowed and one day you have to give it back."
– Jake






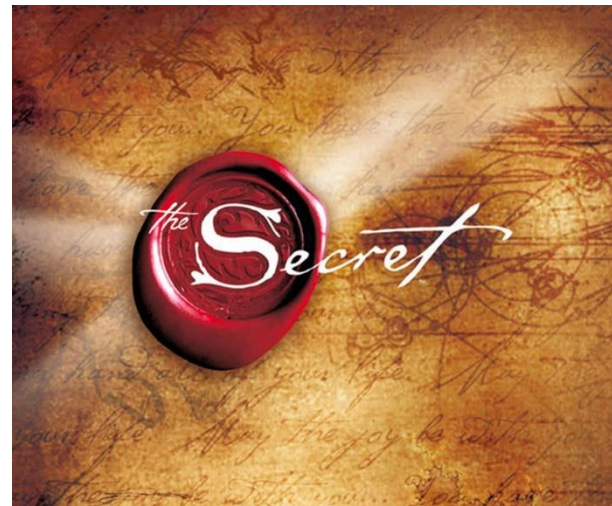
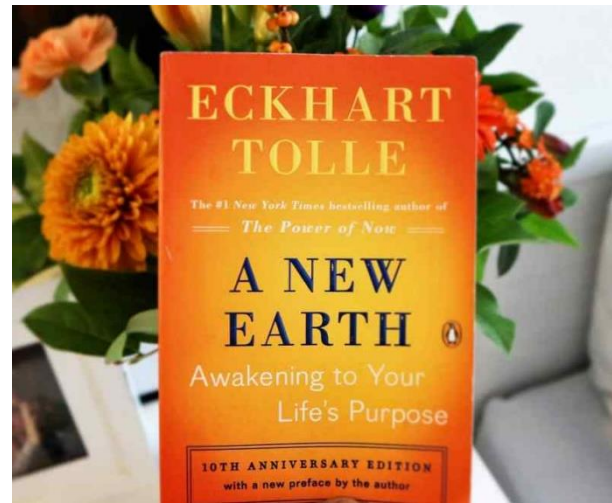
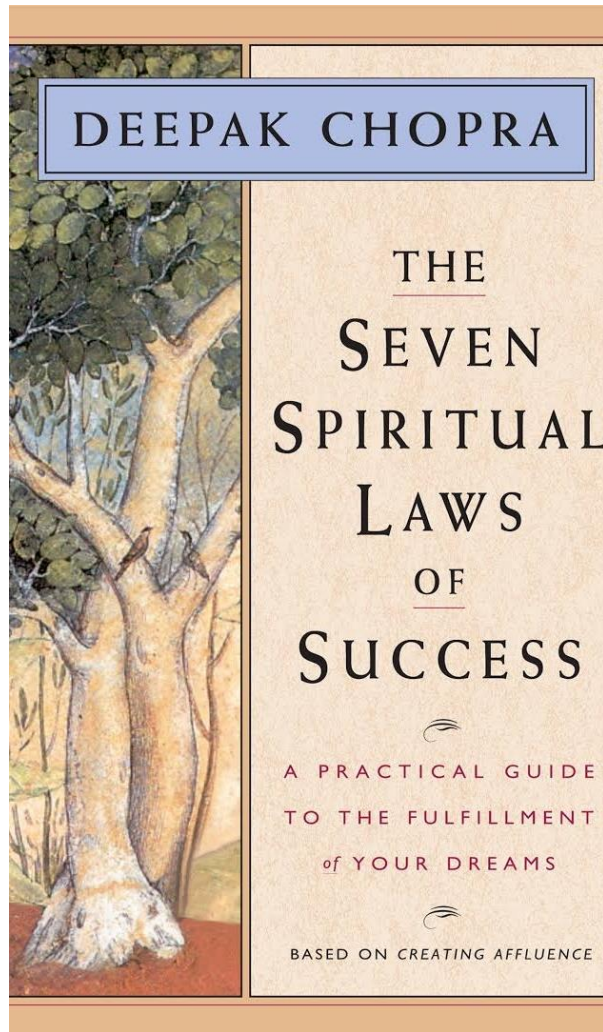
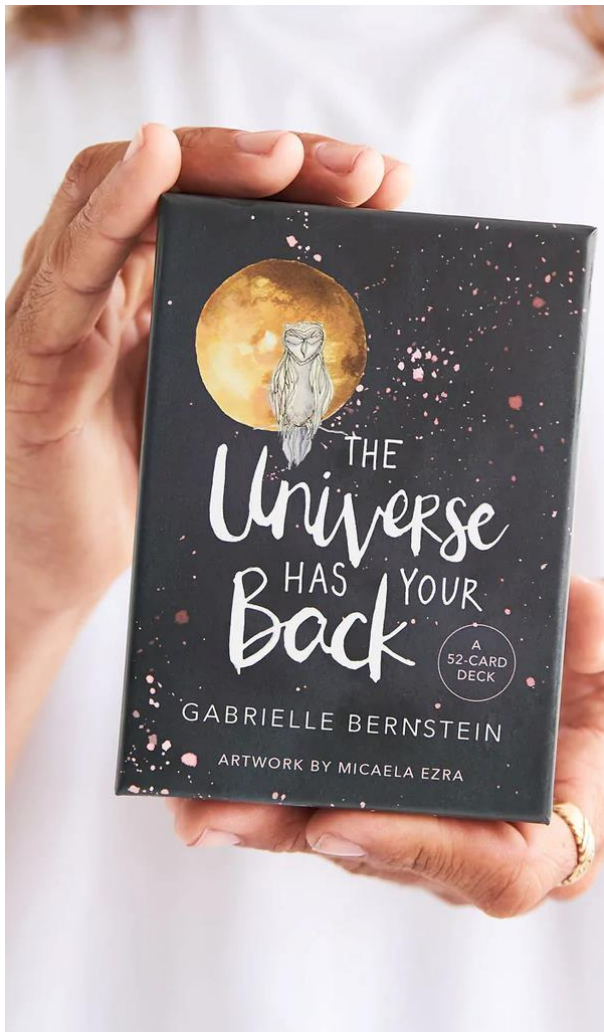


Mufasa tells his son, "Look at the stars. The great kings of the past look down on us from those stars. They will always be there to guide you... and so will I ... everything you see exists together in a delicate balance... we are all connected in the great circle of life."



A wide-angle photograph of a wooden boardwalk winding through a coastal dune landscape. The boardwalk, made of light-colored wooden planks, curves from the foreground towards the middle ground. The dunes are covered in green grass and low-lying vegetation, with patches of sand visible. In the background, a line of trees marks the horizon under a heavy, overcast sky. The overall mood is serene and natural.

Take a walk with
down the path of
popular literature



Yoga Blended into Our Culture

- **Yoga** and **meditation** are household words
- Taught in **community centers**, public **schools**, corporate wellness **seminars**, **malls**, **gyms**, **fitness clubs**.



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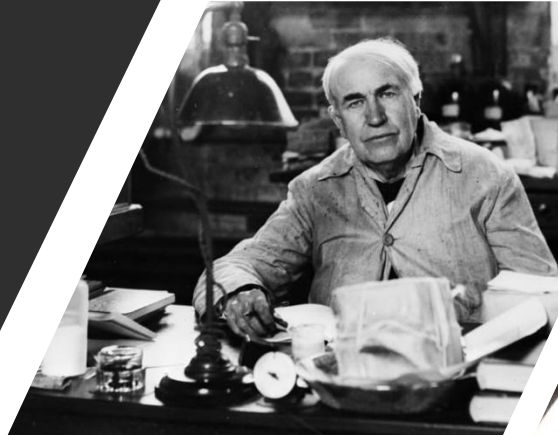


How did New Age become so popular today?

Top 5 reasons

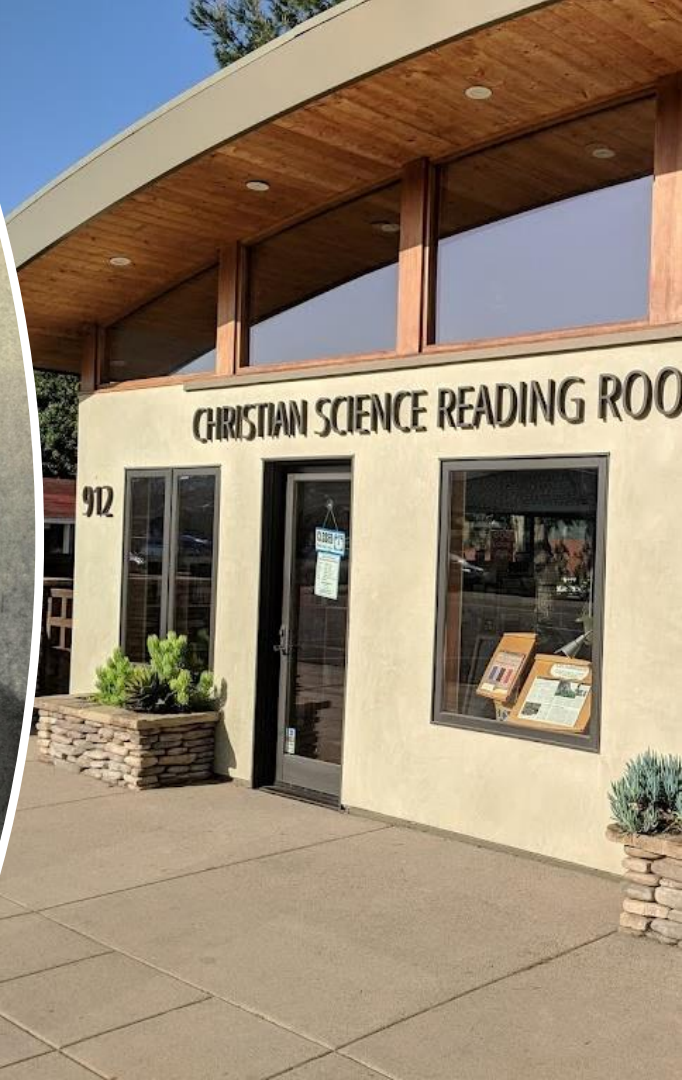
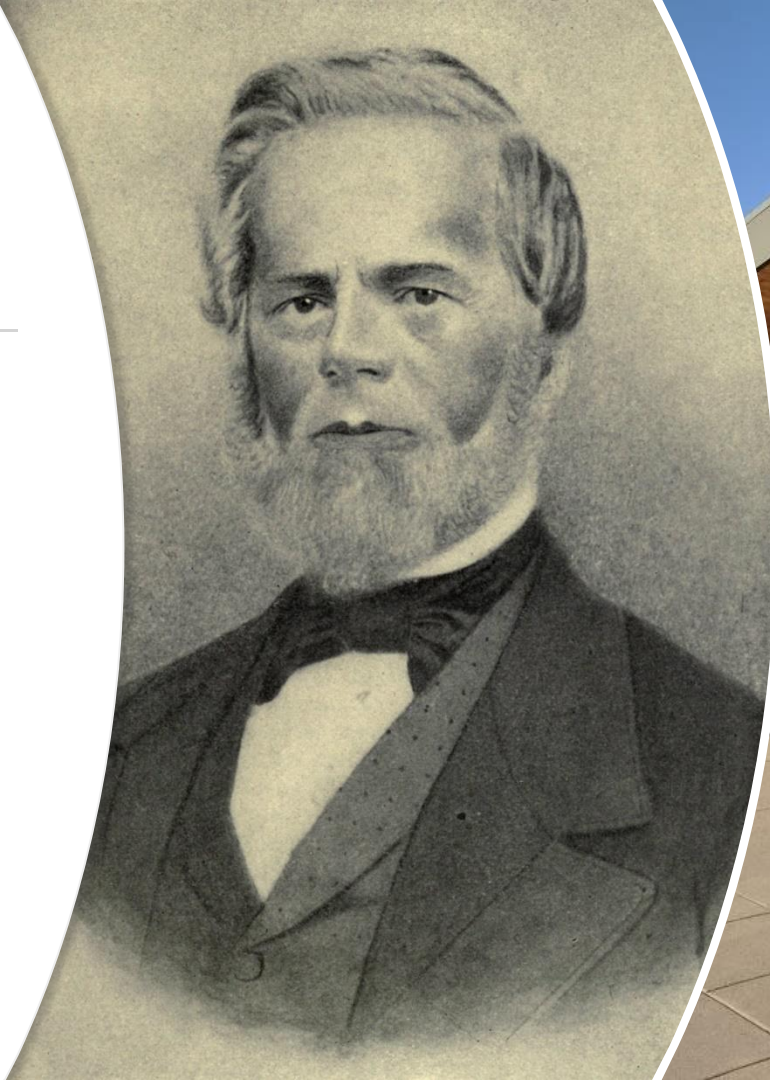
#1. Interest in Spiritism

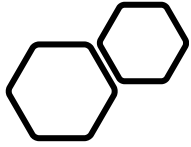
- Reaction to Age of Reason
- Communication with spirits
- Notable figures and events



#2. New Thought

- Phineas Quimby:
A Key Figure
- Emphasizing Mind
over Matter
- Mind Science
Groups Emerge
 - Christian
Science
 - Unity School
of Christianity
 - Church of
Religious
Science

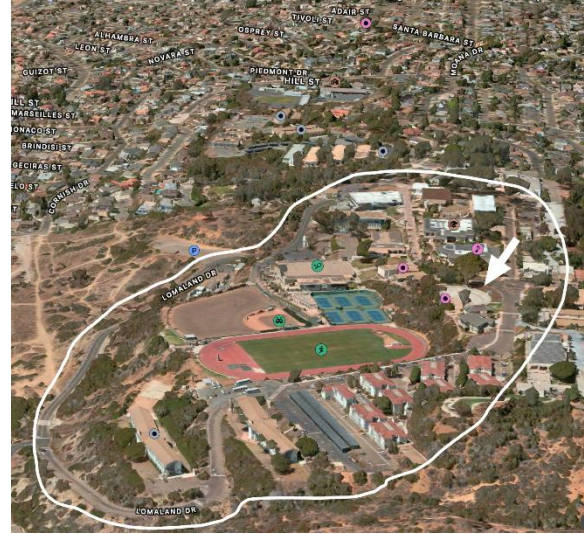




#3. The Theosophical Society

- Unity of all religions
- Universal brotherhood
- Tapping into spiritual powers
- Communication with spirit guides

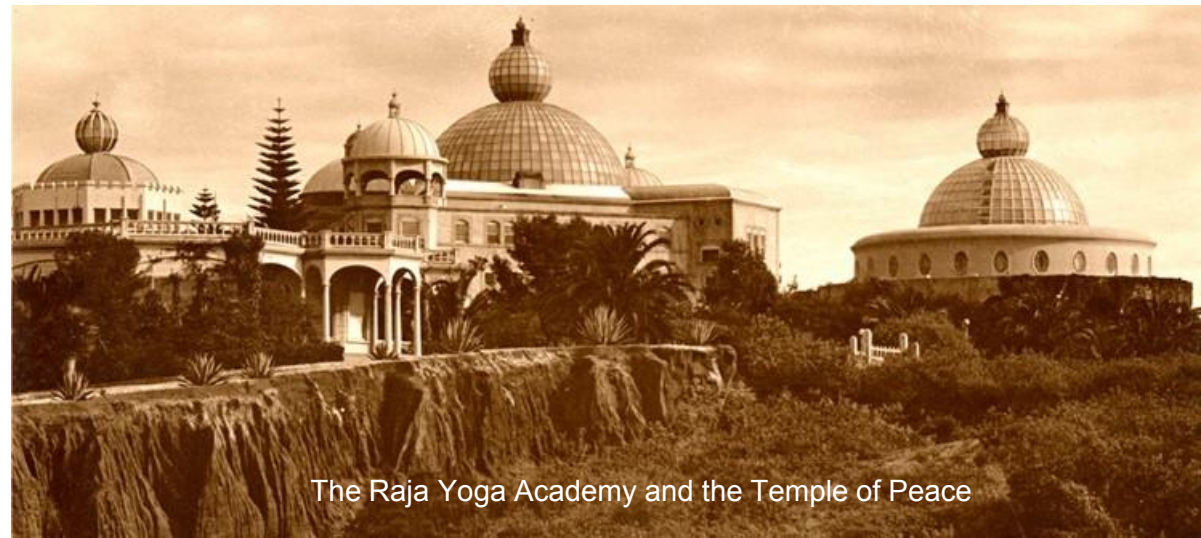
It's now Point Loma Nazarene University!



Original amphitheater still at PLNU



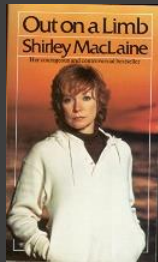
PLNU admin building;
originally Albert Spalding home



The Raja Yoga Academy and the Temple of Peace

#4. Popular Authors

- Ralph Waldo Emerson (d. 1882)
- Paramahansa Yogananda (d. 1952)
- D. T. Suzuki (d. 1966)
- Alan Watts (d. 1973)
- Maharishi Mahesh Yogi (d. 2008)
- Actors like Shirley MacLaine (b. 1934)





#5. 1960s Counterculture

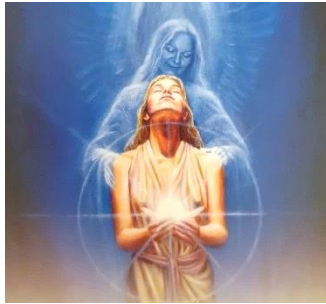
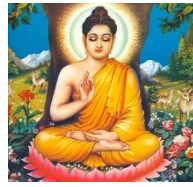
- Rejection of parent's generation
- Experimentation with drugs, LSD
- Rise of the hippie/alternative lifestyles
- Exploration of Eastern worldviews
- Anti-authoritarian movements
- Anti-war, pro-peace
- Concern for environmentalism

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A Mix of Beliefs

- Diverse traditions
- Syncretism
- Individual spirituality

A person might believe any of the following...



View of God

- All views valid
- Pantheism
- Beyond comprehension
- Diverse descriptions
- Impersonal energy

View of People

- Divine essence
- Inner growth
- Spiritual journey
- Varied beliefs on soul's fate





Ecology Minded

- Earth as organism
- Earth's awareness
- Green movement
- Global unity
- New World vision

Astrology

- Zodiac Ages
 - Past: Age of Wisdom
 - Present: Age of Decline
 - Future: Age of Aquarius
- "New Age"
Significance



What's the Age of Aquarius?

- Dawn of harmony
- Spiritual evolution
- Global cooperation



That song from the 60s!

“**Harmony** and understanding
Sympathy and **trust abounding**
No more falsehoods or derisions
Golden living dreams of visions
Mystic crystal revelation
And the **mind's true liberation**
Aquarius! Aquarius!”

...

“**This is the dawning of the Age of Aquarius**
The Age of Aquarius
Aquarius! Aquarius!”

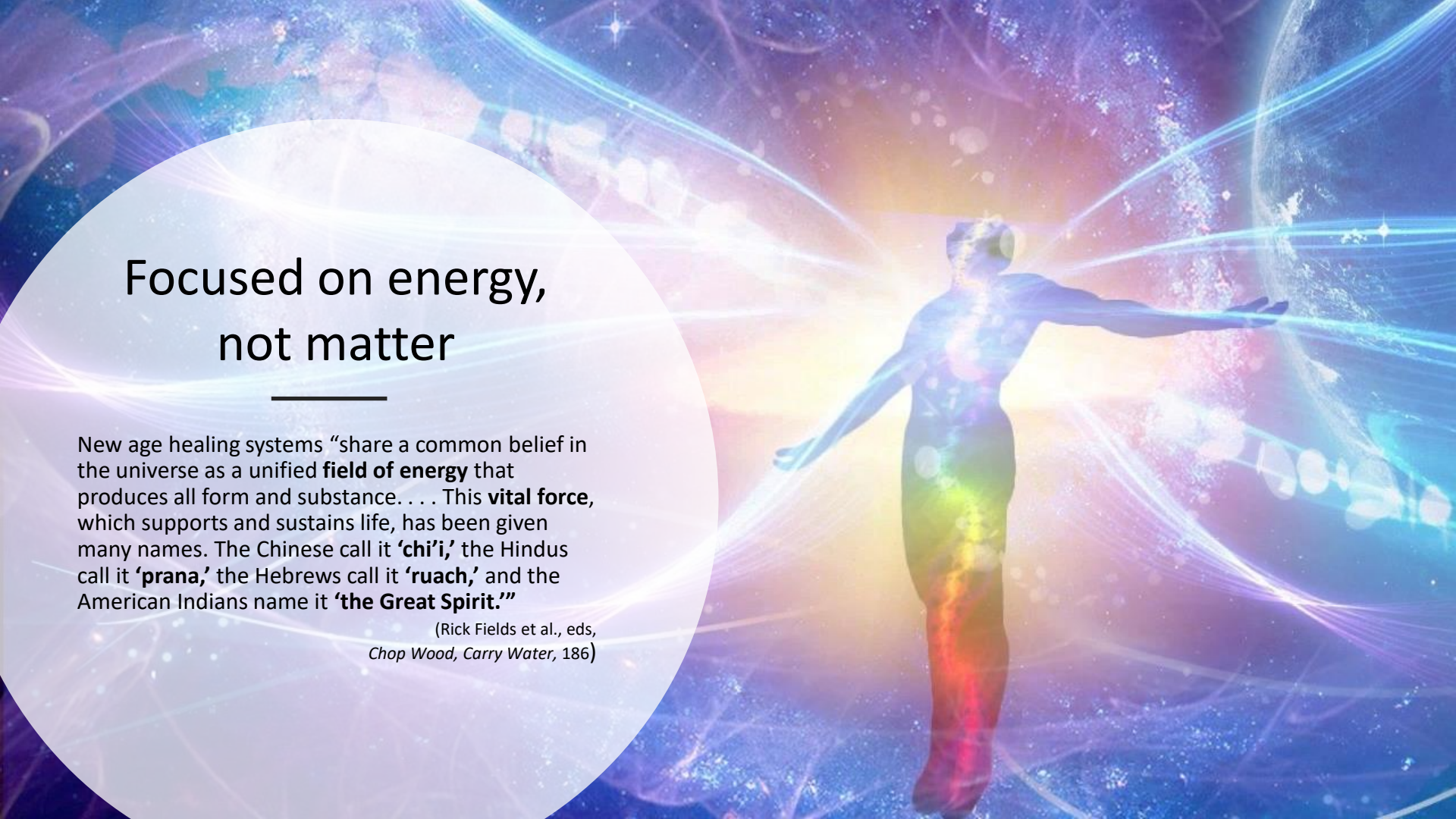
Age Of Aquarius, 5th Dimension, 1969



Healing

- Alternative medicine
- Natural balance
- Mind, body, and spirit





Focused on energy, not matter

New age healing systems “share a common belief in the universe as a unified **field of energy** that produces all form and substance. . . . This **vital force**, which supports and sustains life, has been given many names. The Chinese call it ‘**chi’i**,’ the Hindus call it ‘**prana**,’ the Hebrews call it ‘**ruach**,’ and the American Indians name it ‘**the Great Spirit**.’”

(Rick Fields et al., eds,
Chop Wood, Carry Water, 186)

Crystal Healing

- Energy enhancement
- Aura transformation
- Chakra alignment
- Energy grid





Other Common Practices

acupuncture

iridology

aromatherapy

massages

biofeedback

meditation

chiropractic

music

chromotherapy

psychic healing

crystal healing

reincarnation therapy

herbal medicine

visualization

homeopathy

yoga



Channeling

- Divine communication
- Trance & writing
- Guidance

Occultism

Latin *occultus* means “hidden, secret” or “knowledge of the hidden.”

Definition:

*“esoteric **supernatural beliefs** and practices... generally fall **outside the scope of religion and science**, encompassing phenomena involving otherworldly agency, such as **magic, sorcery, and mysticism** and their **varied spells.**” (“Occult,” Wikipedia)*

Refers to "knowledge of the paranormal", as opposed to scientific knowledge.



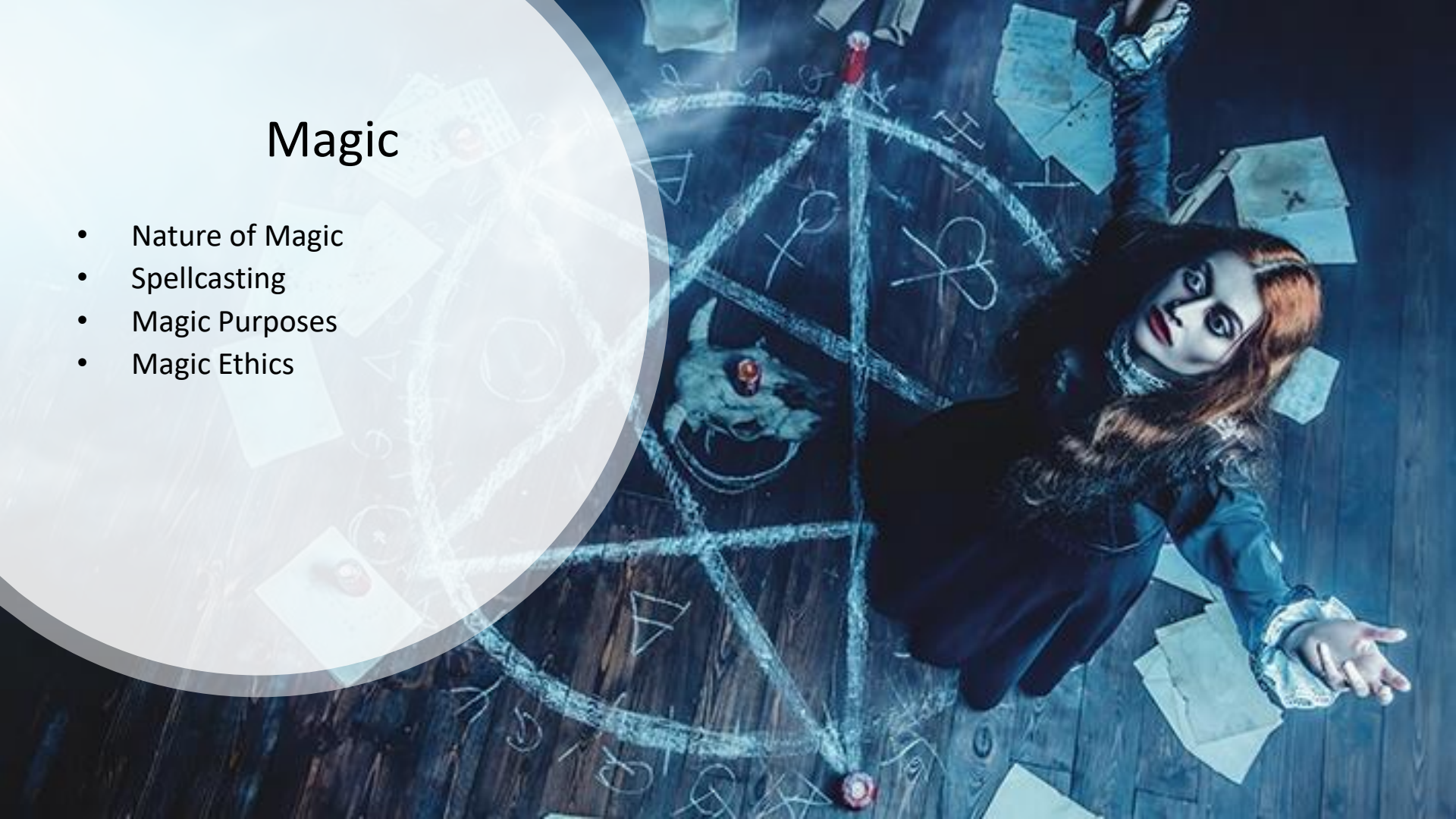


Wicca

- Wiccans prefer word 'Wicca' over 'witchcraft'
- Worship various deities
- Misrepresented in common culture

Magic

- Nature of Magic
- Spellcasting
- Magic Purposes
- Magic Ethics





Paganism

- New Age spirituality involves a **revival of paganism** (neopaganism).
- **They reject:**
 - **Organized** religion.
 - **Male-dominated** society.
 - Patriarchal, **male-exalting** religions.
- They emphasize “the **Goddess.**”

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“Jesus is one of many ascended masters”

Response: Bible says Jesus is the unique Son of God.

- John 3:16 – “For God so loved the world that he gave his **one and only Son**, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.” (*monogenes* means the only one; cf. Luke 9:38)
- 1 Timothy 2:5 – “For there is one God and **one mediator** between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”
- Acts 4:12 – “There is salvation in **no one else** [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”



“We achieve godhood
through works.”

**Response: Bible says we are saved
by grace.**

- Ephesians 2:8, 9 – “For it is by **grace you have been saved, through faith**—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.”
- We are **justified by faith** in the finished work of Christ alone (Rom. 3:20-23; 5:1; 6:23; Gal. 3:24).

“There are many paths to God.”

Bible says Jesus is the *only* way to God/heaven.

- John 14:6 – Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father ***except through me.***”
- Acts 4:12 – “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is ***no other name*** under heaven given to mankind ***by which we must be saved.***”
- 1 Timothy 2:5,6 – “For there is one God and ***one mediator*** between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all people.”

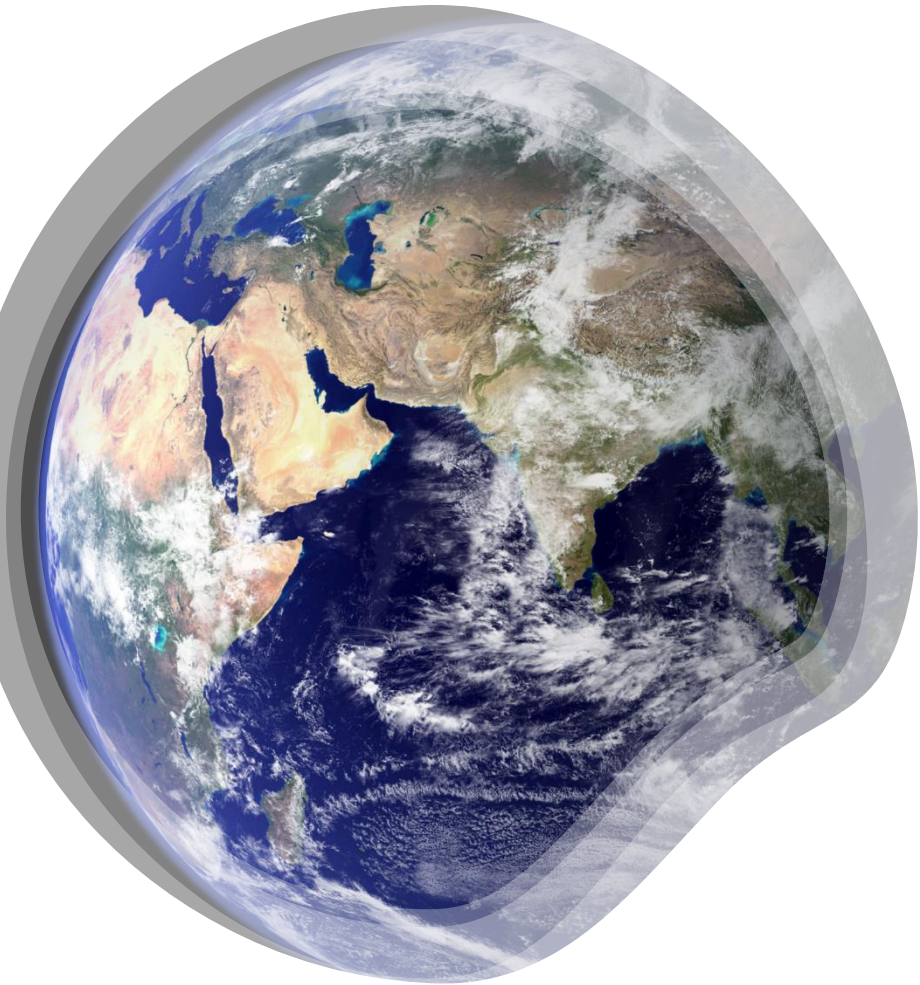


“We should awaken the Christ-consciousness within.”

Response: Jesus was sent to atone for our sins, not to show us how to become ‘a Christ.’

- While he did leave an example (1 Pet. 2:21), his primary purpose for dying on cross was to **provide atonement for sin** (Mk. 10:45; 1 Pet. 3:18), not show us any way to attain God-consciousness.
 - Mark 10:45 – “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to *give his life as a ransom for many.*”
 - 1 Peter 3:18 – “For Christ also **suffered once for sins**, the righteous for the unrighteous, **to bring you to God.**”
- “Christ” is Greek for Messiah. He did not discover a “Christ principle” but was fulfilling all OT prophecies about coming Messiah.






“We must worship
creation.”

**Response: Bible says we must
only worship God.**

- Deuteronomy 4:19 – “And when you look up to the sky and see the sun, the moon and the stars—all the heavenly array—do not be enticed into **bowing down to them and worshipping** [them]...”
- Romans 1:25 – “They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and **worshiped and served created things** rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.”
- Luke 4:8 – “And Jesus answered [Satan] and said to him, “It is written, ‘**YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD AND SERVE HIM ONLY.**’”



“We will be
reincarnated.”

**Response: Bible says we
will be resurrected.**

- John 5:28–29 “...an hour is coming, in which all who are in **the tombs** shall hear His [Jesus’s] voice, and shall come forth; those who did the good deeds to a **resurrection of life**, those who committed the evil deeds to a **resurrection of judgment.**”
- Matthew 25:46 – “And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

“Truth is within.”


Response: God’s Word (the Bible) is truth.

- John 17:17 – “Sanctify them by the truth; **your word is truth.**”
- Romans 12:2 – “Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but **be transformed by the renewing of your mind.** Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Warns against trusting “own truth”:

- Judges 21:25 – “In those days there was no king in Israel; **everyone did what was right in his own eyes.**”
- Proverbs 14:12 – “There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the **way of death.**”
- Jeremiah 17:9 – “The **heart is deceitful** above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?”





“We should contact the
dead or spirits for
guidance.”

Bible says we should not consult mediums or trust every spirit.

- Deuteronomy 18:10, 11 “Let no one be found among you who sacrifices their son or daughter in the fire, who **practices divination** or sorcery, interprets omens, engages in witchcraft, or casts spells, or who is a **medium or spiritist** or who **consults the dead.**”
- 1 Timothy 4:1 – “...in later times some will abandon the faith and follow **deceiving spirits and things taught by demons.**”
- 2 Corinthians 11:14 – “...**Satan** himself masquerades as an angel of light.”
- 1 John 4:1 – “...**do not believe every spirit**, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God...”



“We must turn from our
ignorance.”

Bible says we must turn from our sin.

- Luke 13:3 – Jesus said, “unless you repent, you too will all perish.”
- Acts 3:19 – Peter said, “**Repent**, then, and **turn to God**, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord”
- 2 Chronicles 7:14 – “...if my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will **forgive their sin** and will heal their land.”

“Wait for Maitreya who will establish a global government and world peace.”

Bible says we must wait for Jesus’s second coming.

- Matthew 24:44 – “So you also must be ready, because the **Son of Man will come** at an hour when you do not expect him.”
- Acts 1:11 – “Men of Galilee,” they said, “why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, **will come back** in the same way you have seen him go into heaven.”
- Revelation 1:7 – “**Look, he is coming** with the clouds, and “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him...”




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How to Approach

- Be courteous and caring
- Focus on primary issues
- Acknowledge the need for spirituality



How to Approach

- **Don't assume terms mean the same**
E.g., "Jesus," "Christ," "atonement," "ascension"
- **Share about your personal relationship with God**

Questions

1. Should Christians also be concerned about protecting the planet?
2. How could belief in a future world leader/government fits into the end times scenario?
3. Should Christian parents allow their children to watch movies with New Age or occultic themes? Why or why not?
4. How should Christians view the spirit realm?



8 Week Class Schedule

- DONE** Introduction
- DONE** Hinduism & Yogananda
- DONE** New Age Movement
- NEXT** Judaism
- Mar 31* *Easter (no class)*
- Apr 7 Islam, Part 1
- Apr 14 Islam, Part 2
- Apr 21 Jehovah's Witnesses
- Apr 28 Latter-day Saints & Mormonism



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