

Several years ago, while pastor of Second Baptist Church, Salem, MO, I had an unusual introduction to the New Age movement. A group of people, known as the Rainbow, contracted with the U.S. Forest Service to camp on public land a few miles north of Salem, MO. They arrived in an unknown number. The local police estimated the total at 15,000, doubling the population of Dent County, MO. Their arrival brought a philosophy that was foreign to our small Ozark community and worried many citizens.

On the first visit to their camp, for the purpose of witnessing and distributing Bibles, I felt the 60's had returned. Drugs, fornication, nakedness, and filth ruled in the camp. We continued to witness and our discussions revealed a new philosophy of religion. I did not know it at the time, but this was a beginning of a study of many groups that are part of the modern New Age movement.

Recently, I discovered many cults I have studied, are part of this movement. This paper is a brief overview of the New Age and what I have learned of their philosophies.

WHAT IS THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT?

The New Age Movement is difficult to define. It is a combination of eastern mysticism, occultism, and pantheism, with some Christian terms to give it credibility. No organization can be called the New Age Movement, as there is no organizing body or formal leadership. The New Age Movement is "an informal designation for a large number of separate groups, individuals, and activities."¹ Even the beliefs and emphasis vary among groups and individuals that comprise the New Age Movement. This makes the New Age Movement very difficult to define, is it a religion, philosophy, or movement?

The New Age Movement is primarily a religious movement. Some people within the movement may deny it is a religious movement, yet its teachings are religious for they require faith or belief. In the western culture the New Age Movement uses Bible names and passages. Mysticism, spiritualism, Hinduism, and other religions play a role in the New Age. Walter Martin states: "The world is waiting for more revealers of truth (avatars), such as Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Zoroaster, Moses, Krishna, and ultimately one designated as the Lord Maitreya, an incarnation of the Buddha, the Enlightened One. The Lord Jesus Christ is relegated to the role of a demi-god or one of many equally good ways."² Since mysticism, spiritualism, Hinduism, and other religions are philosophies of the New Age Movement, it is also a philosophy.

Several critics of the New Age Movement classify it as a movement with plans of various conspiracies. Without any controlling leadership and with the loose organizations and associations comprising the New Age Movement, it is difficult to see it as a serious conspiracy. Some groups classified as New Age may have a political agenda, though they do not involve the entire movement. The New Age Movement is a movement of philosophy and religion, with each organization or individual seeking to spread their beliefs and doctrines.

¹Smith, Maurice. Interfaith Witness Bulletin: New Age Movement. Atlanta: Home Mission Board.

²Martin, Walter. The New Age Cult. Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship Inc. Publishers, 1989.

GENERAL DOCTRINES OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

No paper or book can deal with all the doctrines of the New Age Movement. There are too many doctrines and not all New Agers hold the same beliefs. This section will deal with widely accepted New Age doctrines that directly conflict the Bible, examining what many in the New Age Movement believe. The last section will provide Bible verses to counteract these doctrines when witnessing to a member of the New Age Movement.

A. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF GOD

New Age Movement perverts the character of God in an ancient manner, pantheism and monism. Pantheism is the belief that God is in all nature and that all is God. A New Age teacher, Benjamin Creme in The Reappearance of the Christ and the Masters of Wisdom said: "In a sense there is no such thing as God, God does not exist. And in another sense, there is nothing else but God, only God exists. All is God. And because all is God, there is no God."³

Monism is a Hindu doctrine that all is one and one is all. It is a cosmic unity, where all life is a part of the Universal Self. Monism is a modified form of pantheism. See section E: The New Age view of reincarnation for more information.

God is defined as an energy gestalt or an energy configuration that encompasses the universe. He is not the supreme, supernatural being who created the universe, but is the universe itself. Evolution is the system of God's existence and the universe is self-sustaining with God as the energy gestalt keeping it moving. This is also described as God being the life-force of the universe, with all living things being apart of God.

Since God is a life energy in every living creature, everything is God. If everything is God, no being is more powerful than another, and God does not exist in the biblical sense. He is not a personal God, Savior or individual being. God is a collection of all.

When the New Ager refers to God, they are referring to this energy gestalt or the enlightened one.

B. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF JESUS CHRIST

If God is simply the energy of life, all humanity theoretically can become the sons of God. Jesus was not born God's son, but obtained this position by living repeated lives (reincarnation) until he became enlightened. David Spangler, in Reflections on the Christ, said: "The true birth of the Christ was not the birth of Jesus. Jesus was an individual who himself had to recapitulate certain stages. He built upon the pattern the Buddha had established. He himself had to become awakened. He had to, in his consciousness, touch this Christ pattern."⁴ To quote David Spangler:

"in the esoteric tradition, the Christ is not the name of an individual but of an office in the Hierarchy. The present holder of that office, the

³Martin, page 26.

⁴Martin, page 27.

Lord Maitreya, has held it for 2,600 years, and manifested in Palestine through His Disciple, Jesus, by the occult method of overshadowing, the most frequent form used for the manifestation of avatars. He has never left the work, but for 2,000 years has waited and planned for the immediate future time, training His disciples, and preparing himself for the awesome task which awaits him. He has made it known that this time, He himself will come."⁵

The sons of God are those humans who become enlightened to their own divinity. Jesus obtained this state, making him a great teacher after the pattern of the Buddha. He is not the incarnation of God sent to deliver the sinner, but a manifestation of Lord Maitreya and a teacher to be studied in light of the Buddha. The New Age Movement does not recognize sin. There is no need of a savior, only teachers of enlightenment.

When the New Ager refers to "the Christ" they are referring to a pattern of life or enlightenment, not the biblical Christ. This state or pattern is obtained by following the avatars to spiritual enlightenment.

C. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF THE ATONEMENT AND SALVATION

Since there is no sin, atonement and salvation are unnecessary. People provide their own salvation, which is attaining self-realization through karma improvement. The sacrifice for atonement is not needed because a person's learning and development improve the karma. The ultimate goal of the New Ager is to achieve the "Christ Pattern" becoming as enlightened as he is.

"Redemption, if it could be called that, is a process of realizing the true self throughout many lifetimes. According to Madame Blavatsky, founder of the Theosophical Society, "It is owing to this law of spiritual development that mankind will become freed from its false gods and find itself finally, self-redeemed"⁶

D. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF HEAVEN AND HELL

Evil acts deplete an individual's karma, causing them to be reincarnated in a less desirable state. God did not create heaven or hell, as punishment and reward comes through an individual's karma. In a sense, a person creates their own heaven or hell by their enlightenment or lack of it.

If the karma is not improved during a life cycle, the soul is born in the same condition in the next cycle. When karma declines during a life cycle, the soul is born in a lower condition in the next cycle. This is the self made hell. An increase in karma, during a life cycle, leads to an improved condition in the next cycle, ultimately uniting with the "universal self." This is the self made heaven.

The purpose of life is to create right-mindedness in the individual, giving them good karma. Judgment is restoring right-mindedness, not punishing or

⁵Martin, page 32.

⁶Groothuis, Douglas R. Unmasking The New Age. Downers Grove, IL: Intervarsity Press, 1986.

rewarding an individual for acts. Eventually all souls will be restored to the right-minded, resulting in the second coming of the Christ.

E. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF REINCARNATION

Reincarnation is the New Age Movement's replacement for resurrection. It is often called the transmigration of the soul. Transmigration of the soul is a cycle of moving from one life to another, trying to improve one's karma during each phase. If one improves their karma, they are born in a more desirable state. When karma is perfected, they are born an avatar and become one with the Universal Self or God. "The ultimate objective of all reincarnation is to fuse with 'ultimate reality,' to merge with God, to become God."⁷ The aim of reincarnation is to break the cycle through building a better karma. This is accomplished through yoga, chanting, and transcendental meditation.

F. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF HUMANITY

A belief that God is all in existence means that man is divine. Each individual has the desire and capacity to unite with God (the enlightened one). Most people have not reached a state of enlightenment to unite with him. They must continue to attempt to break the cycle of reincarnation.

Some people become more enlightened, making them spiritually more powerful. Avatar is the title commonly given to such people, but they may be call a guru. They are considered divine. Examples of well known avatars are Buddha, Mohammed, Confucius, Zoroaster, Moses, Krishna, and Jesus. Many avatars exist today and enlighten those who follow them. The rest of humanity continues in a cycle of karma improvement. Karma improves as one learns and follows the teachings of the avatar. This eventually leads to one becoming an avatar in another life.

G. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF THE COMING AGE

The New Age Movement receives its name from the idea that a new age is beginning soon or has already begun, called the age of Aquarius. This spiritual age will commence, according to some New Agers, with the arrival of the Lord Maitreya. Some believe this is a reincarnation of Christ. He is the representative of the universal one.

The new age will result in a one world religion, centered on reincarnation and enlightenment. It will be a time of peace and prosperity for humanity. It is very similar to the biblical millennium, except humanity will rule instead of Christ.

FALSE RELIGIONS OF THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

SPIRITUALISM AND THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

One of the oldest occultic practices, spiritualism has found fertile ground in modern philosophies. Many in the New Age Movement, seek answers and guidance from the

⁷Elwell, Walter A. Evangelical Dictionary Of Theology. Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House,

"spirit world." Seances are held by some mediums, in traditional or non-traditional methods, but most spiritualism in the New Age Movement is in the form of channeling. A medium and a channeler are not the same. The medium allows the spirit to speak to or through them, while the channeler actually allows the spirit to take control of their body and mind. Those involved in New Age teachings, seek advice and enlightenment from the spirit-guide of a channeler. Large sums of money may be paid to the channeler for this information. This practice is know as contacting "familiar spirits" in the Bible and those who practice it are to be put to death.

THE REVIVAL OF PAGANISM AND THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

The New Age Movement has revived many paganistic religions. Shamanism, Native American Mysticism, worship of the Goddess, Satan worship, and other pagan religions are practiced by some New Agers. These religions are condemned in the bible and are to be avoided.

ASTROLOGY AND THE NEW AGE MOVEMENT

A major tenet of the New Age Movement is the practice of astrology. While many people have sought after horoscopes throughout this century, astrology has grown with the New Age Movement.

BIBLE VERSES FOR SHARING THE TRUTH WITH THE NEW AGER

A. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF GOD

1. God exists.
Isaiah 44:6 Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.
2. God is an individual, not a collection of all that existed.
Jeremiah 10:10 But the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting king: at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation.
3. God is the creator God.
Acts 17:24 God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands;
4. God is the power behind creation and the existence of the world.
Acts 17:25 Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things;
5. God does not exist in creation.
Ecclesiastes 5:2 Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few.

B. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF JESUS CHRIST

1. Jesus is God come in the flesh.
Matthew 1:23 Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son,

and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.

John 1:1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

John 1:14 And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.

2. Jesus is the only son of God.

John 1:18 No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Hebrews 11:17 By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son,

1 John 4:9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him.

3. Jesus is the only hope for humanity.

John 3:16-19 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Romans 3:24-26 Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.

C. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF THE ATONEMENT AND SALVATION

1. Man is a sinner, in need of salvation

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Galatians 3:22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.

2. Man's works are insufficient for salvation.
Galatians 2:16 *Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified.*
Ephesians 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
3. Redemption is an act of God.
Matthew 20:28 *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*
Romans 3:25 *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*
Galatians 1:3-5 *Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*
Colossians 1:19-22 *For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him to reconcile all things unto himself; by him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath he reconciled in the body of his flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in his sight:*

D. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF HEAVEN AND HELL

1. Heaven exists and is the future of all who believe on the name of Jesus.
Matthew 25:46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*
John 14:2 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*
2. Hell exists and is the future of all who refuse to believe on the name of Jesus.
Revelation 20:10 *And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever.*
Revelation 20:15 *And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*

E. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF REINCARNATION

1. Reincarnation is not biblical.
2. Man looks forward to resurrection, not reincarnation.

1 Corinthians 6:14 *And God hath both raised up the Lord, and will also raise up us by his own power.*

1 Thessalonians 4:16 *For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:*

3. Men die only once.

Hebrews 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

F. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF HUMANITY

1. Men are not God's but created beings.

Genesis 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*

Genesis 5:2 *Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.*

Genesis 6:7 *And the LORD said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.*

Isaiah 45:12 *I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded.*

Ephesians 3:9 *And to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the world hath been hid in God, who created all things by Jesus Christ:*

2. Perfection is beyond man's ability.

Romans 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

Romans 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*

Romans 5:19 *For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous.*

G. THE NEW AGE VIEW OF THE COMING AGE

1. Christ will reign in the coming age.

Revelations 19:15 *And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God.*

Revelations 19:16 *And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS.*

Revelations 20:4 *And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*

Revelations 20:6 *Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrec-*

tion: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.

2. It will last only 1,000 years.

Revelations 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed a little season.

3. The world will end when the millennium ends.

Revelations 20:4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years. And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

H. Spiritualism.

Leviticus 19:31 Regard not them that have familiar spirits, neither seek after wizards, to be defiled by them: I am the LORD your God.

Leviticus 20:6 And the soul that turneth after such as have familiar spirits, and after

wizards, to go a whoring after them, I will even set my face against that soul, and will cut him off from among his people.

Leviticus 20:27 *A man also or woman that hath a familiar spirit, or that is a wizard, shall surely be put to death: they shall stone them with stones: their blood shall be upon them.*

Deuteronomy 18:10-12 *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*

2 Kings 21:6 *And he made his son pass through the fire, and observed times, and used enchantments, and dealt with familiar spirits and wizards: he wrought much wickedness in the sight of the LORD, to provoke him to anger.*

1 Chronicles 10:13 *So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, even against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking counsel of one that had a familiar spirit, to enquire of it;*

Isaiah 8:19 *And when they shall say unto you, Seek unto them that have familiar spirits, and unto wizards that peep, and that mutter: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead?*

I. Paganism and Astrology.

Malachi 3:5 *And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the LORD of hosts.*

Revelations 9:21 *Neither repented they of their murders, nor of their sorceries, nor of their fornication, nor of their thefts.*

Revelations 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*

Revelations 22:15 *For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie.*

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Age Of Aquarius: Astrologers believe that evolution goes through cycles corresponding to the signs of the zodiac, each lasting from 2,000 to 2,400 years. New Age advocates say we are now moving from the cycle associated with Pisces into one associated with Aquarius. The Aquarian Age will supposedly be characterized by a heightened degree of

spiritual or cosmic consciousness.⁸

Animism: The belief that inanimate things (such as plants) possess a soul or spirit. New Age Advocates see animism as a way of rededicating the earth.⁹

Ascended Masters: Refers to those who have Supposedly reached the highest level of spiritual consciousness and have become guides of the spiritual evolution of mankind.¹⁰

Astral Body: A spiritual body capable of projection from the physical body. The astral body survives death.¹¹

Avatar: A person who descends into human form from above as a manifestation of divinity and who reveals divine truth to people. Such a one has supposedly progressed beyond the need to be reincarnated in another body.¹²

Blood of Christ: This is understood by some New Agers to refer to the "life-energy" of the Cosmic Christ. This "blood" supposedly flowed from the cross into the etheric (or spiritual) realms of the earth. From these realms, the Christ seeks to guide the spiritual evolution of mankind.¹³

Channeling: A New Age form of mediumship or spiritism. The channeler yields control of his/her perceptual and cognitive capacities to a spiritual entity with the intent of receiving paranormal information.¹⁴

Crystals: New Age advocates believe that crystals contain incredible healing and energizing powers. Crystals are often touted as being able to restore the "flow of energy" in the human body.¹⁵

Esoteric Christianity: A mystical form of Christianity that sees its "core truth" as iden-

⁸Martin, Walter. The New Age Cult Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship Inc. Publishers, 1989. P.

⁹Ibid, page 124.

¹⁰Ibid, page 124.

¹¹Ibid, page 124.

¹²Ibid, page 124.

¹³Ibid, page 125.

¹⁴Ibid, page 125.

¹⁵Ibid, page 126.

tical to the "core truth" of every other religion.¹⁶

- Exoteric Christianity: A form of Christianity identified with historic or orthodox Christianity that New Agers would describe as being devoid of all spiritual authenticity.¹⁷
- Gestalt: A physical, psychological, or symbolic configuration or pattern so unified as a whole that its properties cannot be derived from its parts.¹⁸
- Jesus: An avatar who attained a high level of attunement to the Cosmic Christ. This enable him to become a bodily vehicle for the Christ for a period of three years.¹⁹
- Karma: Refers to the "debt" accumulated against the soul as a result of good or bad actions committed during one's life (or lives). If one accumulates good karma, he will supposedly be reincarnated in a desirable state. If one accumulates bad karma, he will be reincarnated in a less desirable state.²⁰
- Monism: A metaphysical theory that sees all of reality as a unified whole. Everything in the universe is seen as being made of the same stuff.²¹
- Om: A word symbolizing Brahma, the creator God.²²
- Pantheism: Doctrine that identifies God with the whole universe, every particle, tree, table, animal, and person being part of Him.²³
- Reincarnation: Refers to the cyclical evolution of a person's soul as it repeatedly passes from one body to another at death. This process continues until the soul reaches a state of perfection.²⁴

¹⁶Ibid, page 127.

¹⁷Ibid, page 127.

¹⁸Boyer, Mark, Editor. American Heritage Dictionary. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991.

¹⁹Martin, Walter. The New Age Cult Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship Inc. Publishers, 1989.

²⁰Ibid, page 129.

²¹Ibid, page 130.

²²Ibid, page 131.

²³Ibid, page 131.

²⁴Ibid, page 133.

Self-realization: New Agers use this as a synonym for God-realization. It refers to a personal recognition of one's divinity.²⁵

Spirit Guide: A spiritual entity who provides information of "guidance," often through a medium or channeler. The spirit provides guidance only after the channeler relinquishes his perceptual and cognitive capacities into its control.²⁶

Spiritualism: Spiritualism, by its simplest definition, is simply a belief that people are able to communicate with the spirits of the dead.

Theosophy: A school of thought founded by Helena P. Blavatsky. The term literally means "divine wisdom." The goal of Theosophy are to 1) for a universal brotherhood; 2) do comparative study of world religions, science, and philosophy; and, 3) investigate the psychic and spiritual powers latent in man. Theosophy is the forerunner of much New Age thought.²⁷

Yoga: A means of becoming united with the supreme being, or with the universal soul.²⁸

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²⁵Ibid, page 133.

²⁶Ibid, page 134.

²⁷Martin, Walter. The New Age Cult Minneapolis: Bethany Fellowship Inc. Publishers, 1989.

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