

# IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY

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*In this article, H. Spencer Lewis provides powerful guidance on how we can serve as instruments of the Divine in manifesting that which best contributes to the evolution of humanity.*



Imagination is the one great creative power within the human body. It is that which has built cities, put bridges over rivers, covered the oceans with ships, and filled the air with airplanes. It has changed people's customs and habits, their clothing and food, their languages and ways of thinking. In fact, imagination is the keynote of human evolution...

The individual who lacks imagination or the use of it, or who has not permitted this unusual, divine faculty to develop, is bound by ancient traditions and customs, and is blind to the future in all of its creative stages. Such an individual can live only in the past, can have no foresight, and must therefore be lacking in ambition and creative desires.

We have three ways by which new knowledge, new ideas, and new things may come into our lives and into the process of human evolution. The first of these is cosmic revelation, whereby attunement with the Universal Mind and with the divine consciousness gradually reveals to our consciousness the great wisdom that is timeless and deals with the past, the present, and the future. This wisdom inspires, instructs, guides, and leads us on. It teaches us the lessons that come through the errors of human existence, and fortifies us against similar errors in the future. It lays the foundation for contemplation and meditation. It supplies ideas in an embryonic state that may be evolved and matured into living things.

The second great gift to us is that of imagination by which we may take the



inspired and embryonic idea and develop, unfold, and reconstruct it mentally, in a mental world that knows no limitations. With this faculty we can build things out of invisible material, intangible substances, and construct an immaterial and intangible edifice or an invisible and intangible nation. We can unfold in our minds the possible and impossible things alike. We can conceive of that which is beyond achievement today but possible of achievement tomorrow. The imagination is like the blueprints of the greatest architects who can plan and outline that which should be done without regard to cost, to time, or to surrounding conditions. With it we can surround our consciousness with the pictures of possible future achievements and hold these before us as the ideals toward which all our effort may be directed. Imagination is the light that leads us on, and it is the golden light that has led the

movement of human evolution through all of the darkest ages.

The third great blessing is the power to create mentally. This is different from that of imagination, for with the person who develops the faculty of mentally creating, the plans and the designs conceived in his or her imagination are taken one by one and reconstructed not of intangible and invisible substances but of a very tangible essence, radiating from the human mind into space and materializing into concrete, definite, material forms out of which all of the world has been built and all of the universe made manifest.

Mentally creating is the process that the Divine used when conceiving the idea of a world for human beings and breathed forth from Divine Consciousness the power of the laws which set into motion that which was conceived in the Divine's imagination. Out of chaos and darkness came form and light, and the form of things was changed into great diversity of nature. All living things were conceived and created in the same manner and ultimately human beings were created by the same great power.

And then to humankind was given this Divine power to continue the creation that the Divine had started. While people may imagine great things and hold them in their consciousness as an idea toward which to strive or dream about, to hope and pray for, the person who uses the mental creative faculty takes each imaginary picture of human conception and, by concentrating and focalizing the creative power of his or her being upon it, brings it into concrete, material manifestation.

The mystic knows only too well the value and danger, the goodness and the evil, that lies in the power of mentally creating. We know that if we hold in our minds a picture and give it the vibrations of living possibility, and if we prophetically proclaim that it is to be or will be, we bring it about; we create it in the world of actu-

ality, by transferring it from the world of reality to material manifestation. We know that as each hour of the day passes, the things which we have held in our imagination and which we now allow to pass into the chamber of mental alchemy are likely to be crystallized immediately in earthly form.

We must, therefore, be pure minded. We must be pure and holy in our imaginary concepts. We must keep the chamber of mental alchemy so clear and so wholesome and of such a high standard that no evil thought, no evil admission, no unholy concept of our earthly imagination may take form there and grow and be born in the world of actuality.

Human evolution is the result of cosmic inspiration, human imagination, and divine mental creation, but when the center faculty of these three is lacking and imagination has not been permitted to develop, or is not used, the human being stagnates and becomes a slave to the past and a victim of the present. There are no hills of the future over which he or she may rise to see the grand perspective of valleys and plains beyond. There are no ships lying in port waiting to take the person from the land of the old and the land of the past to the land of the new and the future.

Let your imagination, therefore, have full sway. Build it up until it is filled daily and hourly with the pictures that the lessons of the past and the trials of today suggest to your consciousness. Then analyze these imaginary things, select the best, and take them into the laboratory of your creative powers. Let the divine consciousness flowing through you reconstruct them, radiate them, and bring them to pass in your life and in the lives of those around you, thus adding to the world the assets of the future and the beautiful things of human evolution.

