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# Masters of the Ancient Wisdom

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The **Masters of the Ancient Wisdom** are the beings in the [Spiritual Hierarchy](#) of the planet [Earth](#) as a whole as identified by the [Theosophists](#) [Madame Blavatsky](#), [C.W. Leadbeater](#), [Alice A. Bailey](#), and [Benjamin Creme](#) as opposed to just the [Mahatmas](#), those Masters that Madame Blavatsky claimed to have actually met during her lifetime.<sup>[1]</sup> They are said to constitute a total of [twenty-nine](#) named beings only. Sometimes they are referred to by Theosophists as the *Elder Brothers of the Human Race* or the [Great White Brotherhood](#), or sometimes simply as *The Masters*.

According to C.W. Leadbeater, Alice A. Bailey, and Benjamin Creme, there are a grand total of 60 *Masters of the Ancient Wisdom* in all.<sup>[2]</sup> Of these, a total of 29 of these Masters have been named so far: 18 by C.W. Leadbeater (including as a subset all the original Mahatmas that H.P. Blavatsky claimed to have personally met), nine new Masters named by Alice A. Bailey, and two new Masters named by Benjamin Creme. This makes a total of 29 Masters that have been named, thus leaving a total of 31 Masters that are still unnamed.

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## Masters identified by C.W. Leadbeater

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The total number of the Masters of the Ancient Wisdom and other beings in the [Spiritual Hierarchy](#) identified by C.W. Leadbeater is a total of 18 beings only.<sup>[1]</sup>

The Masters named by C.W. Leadbeater, going from the lowest to the highest members of [Earth's](#) [Spiritual Hierarchy](#), are as follows:

According to C.W. Leadbeater, there is one Master, a **Master Jupiter** who lives in [India](#) who is involved with overseeing the people, government, and development of India.<sup>[3]</sup> He is at the [fifth level of initiation](#).

Above the Master Jupiter are eight beings—the seven all equally ranked [chohans](#) (Masters) of the [Seven Rays](#)—[Morya](#), *Master of the First Ray*, [Kuthumi](#), *Master of the Second Ray*, [Paul the Venetian](#), *Master of the Third Ray*, [Serapis Bey](#), *Master of the Fourth Ray*, [Hilarion](#), *Master of the Fifth Ray*, the **Master Jesus**, *Master of the Sixth Ray*, and the **Master Rakoczi** (**St. Germain**), *Master of the Seventh Ray*, and an eighth being, [Djwal Khul](#), the coordinator and [communications director](#) of the Chohans of the seven rays. All eight of these beings are at the [sixth level of initiation](#).

Above these eight are believed to be four beings, ; the **Maha Chohan** ("Great Master"), who oversees [human evolution](#); the [Chakshusha Manu](#), who was the progenitor of the [Atlantean root race](#) millions of years ago in [Lemuria](#); the [Vaivasvatu Manu](#), who was the progenitor of the [Aryan root race](#) 100,000 years ago in [Atlantis](#); and the [Maitreya](#) who determines the format of the various human [civilizations](#).<sup>[3]</sup> All four of these beings are at the [seventh level of initiation](#).

Above these thirteen are four beings: the [Three Pratyeka Buddhas](#), but they do not interact with humanity; their function is simply to transmit the energy of the Seven Rays from the [Solar Logos](#) (the [Solar Deity](#)),<sup>[3]</sup> and [Gautama Buddha](#) himself, who constantly interacts with humanity as he is the *Planetary Buddha*.<sup>[3]</sup> All four of these beings are at the [eighth level of initiation](#).

Finally, above the seventeen beings of Earth's spiritual hierarchy mentioned below is [Sanat Kumara](#) (the governing [deity](#) of [Earth](#) believed to dwell in [Shamballah](#)), originally from the [etheric plane](#) of the planet [Venus](#) (believed by Theosophists to harbor a civilization hundreds of millions of years in advance of [Earth](#)).<sup>[4]</sup> Sanat Kumara is at the [ninth level of initiation](#). This makes a total of eighteen Masters in all identified by C.W. Leadbeater.

The Master Jupiter and the Seven Masters of the Seven Rays and Djwal Khul are depicted as living in far away parts of Earth such as the [Himalaya Mountains](#) or [Tibet](#), but they have paranormal abilities and are able to [teleport](#), [levitate](#), and travel at will on the [spiritual planes](#). The other higher beings are depicted as living in [higher spiritual planes](#).<sup>[3]</sup>

## Masters identified by Alice A. Bailey

[\[edit\]](#)

In the *Alice A. Bailey Material* she lists beside the original eighteen beings mentioned by C.W. Leadbeater nine additional beings as Masters.

Alice A. Bailey lists the **Master P.**, who is said to help [St. Germain](#) (referred to by Bailey as *The Master Rakoczi* or the *Master R.*) bring about the [Age of Aquarius](#) in the [Americas](#), and two different *English Masters* (**English Master #1** and **English Master #2**), one of which is said to have inspired the [labor movement](#).<sup>[5]</sup> In addition to these three, there are the three *Lords of Liberation*—(**Lord of Liberation #1**, **Lord of Liberation #2**, and **Lord of Liberation #3**). According to Alice A. Bailey, the three *Lords of Liberation* formulated the slogan *Liberty, Equality, Fraternity*, and telepathically communicated it on the human race which used the slogan to symbolize the [Enlightenment](#) and the [French Revolution](#). According to Alice A. Bailey, this slogan will

be the keynote of the **New Age**, i.e., the **Age of Aquarius**. The *Lords of Liberation* also helped supply the **spiritual energy** necessary to help the **Allies** win the war against the **Axis** in **World War II**.<sup>[6]</sup> Finally, there are the three *Lords of Karma* (**Lord of Karma #1**, **Lord of Karma #2**, and **Lord of Karma #3**). These three beings are said to live in **Shamballah** and help Sanat Kumara decide where and when **souls** are going to **incarnate** in their next life.<sup>[7]</sup>

All nine of the above beings are at the **fifth level of initiation**.

## Masters identified by Benjamin Creme

[edit]

Benjamin Creme identified two previously unidentified Masters in 2001—he stated that there is a **Master in Moscow**<sup>[8]</sup> and a **Master in Tokyo**<sup>[9]</sup>, but did not give their actual personal names. Both of the above beings are at the **fifth level of initiation**.

It is usually assumed that one of the two English Masters mentioned above by Alice A. Bailey is Benjamin Creme's Master.

## Total number of masters

[edit]

Thus, adding together the 18 Masters identified by C.W. Leadbeater, the nine Masters identified by Alice A. Bailey, and the two Masters identified by Benjamin Creme, we reach a grand total of 29 Masters identified by name. The total of sixty Masters minus the 29 identified by name equals 31 Masters that are still unidentified by a specific name.

## Ascended masters

[edit]

*Main article: Ascended masters*

In 1930, **Guy Ballard** introduced the concept of "**Ascended Masters**", founding what later became known as the **Ascended Master Teachings** (a group of religions based on Theosophy), and depicted all of the Masters as almost always living on the **etheric plane**. The Ascended Master Teachings teachers Guy Ballard in the 1930s and **Elizabeth Clare Prophet** from the 1960s to the 1990s together both added more than 200 new "Ascended Masters" that they claimed to receive dictations from in addition to receiving dictations from the original eighteen *Masters of the Ancient Wisdom* of Theosophy identified C.W. Leadbeater, including them all as *Ascended Masters*.<sup>[10]</sup>

None of the eleven Masters identified by Alice A. Bailey and Benjamin Creme are recognized as "Ascended Masters" in the Ascended Master Teachings.

Theosophists do not recognize any of the more than 200 new Masters identified in the Ascended Master Teachings as Masters of the Ancient Wisdom.

Since the retirement of Elizabeth Clare Prophet in 1999, other Ascended Master Teaching teachers have continued to make contact with more new Ascended Masters and thus each decade the number of Ascended Masters continues to grow.

## Skeptical view

[edit]

**K. Paul Johnson** suggests in his book *The Masters Revealed: Madam Blavatsky and Myth of the Great White Brotherhood* that the Masters that Madam Blavatsky claimed she had personally met are idealizations of certain people she had met during her lifetime.<sup>[11]</sup>

Also see the article "Talking to the Dead and Other Amusements" by Paul Zweig *New York Times* October 5, 1980, which maintains that Madame Blavatsky's revelations were fraudulent.

## See also

[edit]

- [Hodgson Report](#)
- [Ascended masters](#)
- [Initiation \(Theosophy\)](#)
- [Secret Chiefs](#)
- [Theosophy](#)

## References

[edit]

- <sup>1</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> Leadbeater, C.W. *The Masters and the Path* Adyar, Madras, India: 1925--Theosophical Publishing House--Diagram 5, Facing page 248, provides details about the Great Ones functioning on **initiation levels five through nine**. C.W. Leadbeater's Spiritual Hierarchy Chart (The Bodhisattva=Maitreya)
- <sup>2</sup> <sup>a</sup> Leadbeater, C.W. *The Inner Life* Volume I 1912 Page 27
- <sup>3</sup> <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> <sup>d</sup> <sup>e</sup> Leadbeater, C.W. *The Masters and the Path* Adyar, Madras, India: 1925--Theosophical Publishing House Page 33
- <sup>4</sup> <sup>a</sup> Powell, A.E. *The Solar System* London:1930 The Theosophical Publishing House (A Complete Outline of the Theosophical Scheme of Evolution) See chart on Page 13
- <sup>5</sup> <sup>a</sup> Bailey, Alice A. *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy* New York:1957—Lucis Press (Compilation of earlier **revelations** by Alice A. Bailey) Master P. Page 682; See numerous references to "English Master" in Index
- <sup>6</sup> <sup>a</sup> Bailey, Alice A. *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy* New York:1957—Lucis Press (Compilation of earlier **revelations** by Alice A. Bailey) "Lords of Liberation" Pages 266-271
- <sup>7</sup> <sup>a</sup> Bailey, Alice A. *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy* New York:1957—Lucis Press (Compilation of earlier **revelations** by Alice A. Bailey) "Lords of Liberation"
- <sup>8</sup> <sup>a</sup> Creme, Benjamin *The Great Approach: New Light and Life for Humanity* Amsterdam:2001 Share International Foundation Page 179
- <sup>9</sup> <sup>a</sup> Creme, Benjamin *The Great Approach: New Light and Life for Humanity* Amsterdam:2001 Share International Foundation Page 177
- <sup>10</sup> <sup>a</sup> Prophet, Elizabeth Clare and Prophet, Mark (as compiled by Annice Booth) *The Masters and Their Retreats* Corwin Springs, Montana:2003 Summit University Press--See Profiles of the Ascended Masters Pages 13-394--More than 200 Ascended Masters are listed
- <sup>11</sup> <sup>a</sup> Johnson, K. Paul *The Masters Revealed: Madam Blavatsky and Myth of the Great White Brotherhood* Albany, New York: 1994

## Further reading

[[edit](#)]

- Campbell, Bruce F. *A History of the Theosophical Movement* Berkeley:1980 University of California Press
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- Melton, J. Gordon *Encyclopedia of American Religions* 5th Edition New York:1996 Gale Research ISBN 0-8103-7714-4 ISSN 1066-1212 Chapter 18—"The Ancient Wisdom Family of Religions" Pages 151-158; see chart on page 154 listing *Masters of the Ancient Wisdom*; Also see Section 18, Pages 717-757 Descriptions of various Ancient Wisdom religious organizations

Categories: [Masters of the Ancient Wisdom](#) | [Esoteric cosmology](#) | [Theosophy](#) | [Theosophical philosophical concepts](#)

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