

INTRODUCTION

Steps to Knowledge is the Book of Inner Knowing. Its one-year study plan, which is divided into 365 “steps,” or lessons, is designed to enable students to learn to experience and to apply their Self-Knowledge, or Spiritual Power, in the world. *Steps to Knowledge* sets out to accomplish this task in a step-by-step manner as students are introduced to the essential ideas and practices which make such an undertaking possible. Practicing every day provides a solid foundation of experience and develops the thinking, perception and self-motivation necessary for both worldly success and spiritual advancement.

WHAT IS KNOWLEDGE?

Steps to Knowledge describes Knowledge in the following way:

“Knowledge represents your True Self, your True Mind and your True Relationships in the universe. It also possesses your greater calling in the world and a perfect utilization of your nature, all of your inherent abilities and skills, even your limitations, all to be given for good in the world.” (STEP 2)

Knowledge is the deeper spiritual mind that the Creator has given to each person. It is the source of all meaningful action, contribution and relationships. It is our natural Inner Guidance system. Its reality is mysterious, but its Presence can be directly experienced. Knowledge is remarkably wise and effective in guiding each person in finding his or her right relationships, work and contribution. It is equally effective in preparing one to recognize the many pitfalls and deceptions that exist along the way. It is the basis for seeing, knowing, and acting with certainty and strength. It is the foundation of life.

WHO IS *STEPS TO KNOWLEDGE* FOR?

Steps to Knowledge has been provided as a Way for individuals who feel that a spiritual calling and purpose are emerging in their lives, but who need a new approach to fully comprehend what this means. Often these individuals have felt this pull for a long time. *Steps* provides a foundation upon which they can begin to respond to this calling. The only entrance requirement is the determination to know one's purpose, meaning and direction.

WHAT IS IT DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE?

Steps to Knowledge represents both a path to God and a path of contribution in the world. It engages the student in solving the two most fundamental questions in life: Who am I? and Why am I here? *Steps* addresses these questions within the context of purpose, relationships and community. It emphasizes that everyone is looking for these in the world and that this pursuit underlies all the desires and endeavors considered to be meaningful here. The experience of purpose, relationships and community gives each person whatever sense of meaning and identity they may have at any given moment. *Steps* indicates that these needs are intrinsic to everyone and that everyone has brought the answer to these needs with them from their Ancient Home. Thus it says that every person carries, unknowingly, their own fulfillment within themselves, within their Self-Knowledge.

Through practice and revelation, *Steps to Knowledge* gives students the necessary structure to find Knowledge, to engage with Knowledge and to follow Knowledge in every situation. With this, they begin to find their true direction in life. Studying every day builds the skill and the confidence that only consistent self-application can provide.

The reclamation and the application of Self-Knowledge is the purpose of this book of spiritual practice and its teaching. The emphasis in each step is to develop the student's inner life and outer life together, for Knowledge (Self-Realization) and Wisdom (Self-Application) must arise together. Thus, through studying and applying The Way of Knowledge, the student naturally develops patience, objectivity, insight, strength, tolerance and an abiding sense of self-worth.

HOW IT WAS GIVEN

Steps to Knowledge was revealed to the teacher Marshall Vian Summers in the Spring of 1989. It was received over a twenty-day period in a state of revelation. *Steps to Knowledge* was provided by a group of unseen spiritual teachers who describe themselves as Teachers of the Greater Community. Their message is universal and yet their methods are unique for our time and world.

WHY IT WAS WRITTEN

Our world is at the threshold of emerging into a Greater Community of intelligent life in the universe around us. Therefore, a more universal understanding and perspective on relationships, spirituality and human advancement are needed at this time. *Steps to Knowledge* is provided for those who show promise of being the primary contributors during the next great period in human history, where humanity begins to encounter other intelligent races from the Greater Community. This is the greatest threshold that we have ever faced. Yet from a Greater Community perspective, it is clear that humanity is not prepared. This has set the stage for a new spiritual understanding and teaching to be given to the world, for the Creator would not leave us alone and unprepared for our emergence into the Greater Community. Thus, a spiritual preparation of a very unique kind has been given which can enable men and women to gain the power, the compassion and the skill needed to serve a world in transition. To prepare these individuals to find their greater calling in life, *Steps to Knowledge* and its companion books have been provided as a guide and a resource.

HOW TO WORK WITH *STEPS*

Please consider these following recommendations to enable you to receive the maximum benefit from your study of *Steps to Knowledge*:

∞ *Steps to Knowledge* is a complete program of study. Each step takes you higher and closer to your self-discovery.

Therefore, plan to go the whole way. If you don't stop, you will advance.

☞ Though *Steps to Knowledge* is a self-study program, it is recommended that you find others with whom you can share your practice and experience. This maximizes your opportunity for learning and provides a meaningful basis for new relationships to form.

☞ Follow the “steps” in *Steps to Knowledge* exactly as they are given. Do not alter the practices in any way. This is very important. You may stay on one lesson for more than a day if you wish, but do not stay on any lesson for too long or you may lose pace with the curriculum.

☞ Do not skip ahead or alter the sequence to practice lessons that you find to be attractive. Each lesson is designed to take you one step at a time. This provides a safe and successful passage in your approach to Knowledge. Follow and utilize the step for the day. It is perfect for that day.

☞ Read the lesson both in the morning when you arise and later in the day. You may also read the lesson in the first person, on one of these occasions, if you wish to personalize the message for yourself.

☞ *Steps to Knowledge* will teach you how to practice and how to develop effective study habits. At times you may find that staying with the practices will be quite a challenge. Yet remember that *Steps* will build both your strength and self-awareness through its practices. You are able to do these practices and doing them will harmonize and transform your life.

☞ Set aside regular practice times each day. Do not let circumstances dictate your availability to practice. Practice is essential for building an environment for Knowledge to emerge. Practice times have been added at the bottom of each step to assist you in integrating the practice into your day.

☞ Keeping a journal is extremely valuable in tracking your progress and in seeing how each step plays a part in serving you every day. The journal is a powerful tool for self-discovery and will assist you in applying the steps. Keeping a journal also will greatly help you in using the REVIEW practices that occur throughout the curriculum.

☯ Be patient and allow the steps to work for you. It is amazingly powerful if you follow the sequence of the steps as they are given. This takes time. A great journey is made up of many little steps. Each one is necessary.

☯ If you miss a day, simply return to practice. Do not condemn yourself (or the program). You need only continue in *Steps* to receive its full benefit.

☯ *Steps to Knowledge* may challenge cherished beliefs and assumptions. If this occurs, accept this challenge and see what it holds for you. You must see beyond a limited viewpoint to gain a greater one. This is where satisfaction is achieved.

☯ *Steps to Knowledge* is a gift to you from God through the unseen teachers who serve humanity. It is a gift for you to receive and to give.

IN CONCLUSION

The power and scope of *Steps to Knowledge* is as great as is its purpose. Its Source is from beyond this world. It teaches that the world is in the process of entering into a Greater Community of worlds. It offers a new spiritual understanding and preparation that are needed to activate each person's spiritual powers and worldly abilities. This will redeem their past and prepare them for their future. *Steps to Knowledge* advocates a perspective greater than a purely human point of view in comprehending events within the world and beyond. It would be appropriate then to say that the curriculum in the *Steps to Knowledge* represents Universal Wisdom in the truest sense.

As *Steps* so often indicates, the Truth, however conceptualized, must be fully experienced to be realized and properly applied. This is a step-by-step process. To serve those who are called to realize their spiritual heritage and purpose in the world at this time, *Steps to Knowledge* has been given.