

MISA and the Esoteric Tradition of Sacred Sexuality

A Modern Appropriation of TaNTRA,
TaOISM, and Western Esotericism

Movement for Spiritual Integration into the Absolute

- A Romanian tantric magic group that has been under scrutiny by the government since its founding in 1990
- 1991-Press attacks begin
- 2004-MISA entered International Yoga Federation
- 2004-Romanian police search group facilities
- 2005-Founder Gregorian Bivolaru receives asylum in Sweden
- 2012-MISA facilities raided in Italy
- 2016-Gregorian Bivolaru detained in France

MISA background in Romania

- 1960s Parapsychology emerges in Romania, acupuncture
- 1978-Nicolae and Murielle Stoian discover TM and begin to hold TM events in Bucharest
- 1980-the Stoians petition Ceausescu for support based upon claimed “non-religious” benefits of TM practice
- 1982-Ceausescu withdraws policy allowing TM and other Eastern nrms to operate in Romania. On August 27, 1982, the government authorities issued order 1253 banning all yoga and martial arts courses and practices in any public place.
- 1989-Romanian revolution opens Romania to revival of Eastern and other nrms: Zen, Hare Krishna, The Family, Sahaja Yoga, Bahai’a
- Astrology experiences a wave of popularity
- MISA organized out of first International Yoga Congress

Gregorian Bivolaru

- Begins practicing yoga in 1969
- 1970s arrested for teaching yoga and subversion
- 1982-yoga is suppressed along with TM
- 1984-Bivolaru is again arrested
- 1989, Gregorian Bivolaru is confined in a psychiatric hospital for what amounts to “political disobedience.”
- 1990-founds MISA
- 2004-leaves Romania for Sweden
- 2005-receives asylum in Sweden
- 2013-sentenced (in absentia) in Romania

Sacred Sexuality in MISA

- Draws inspiration from three traditions:
 - Taoist Alchemy
 - Western Esotericism
 - Hindu Tantra

Taoist Alchemy

Introduced in the West in the 1970s

Primary interest in immortality

Mantak Chia



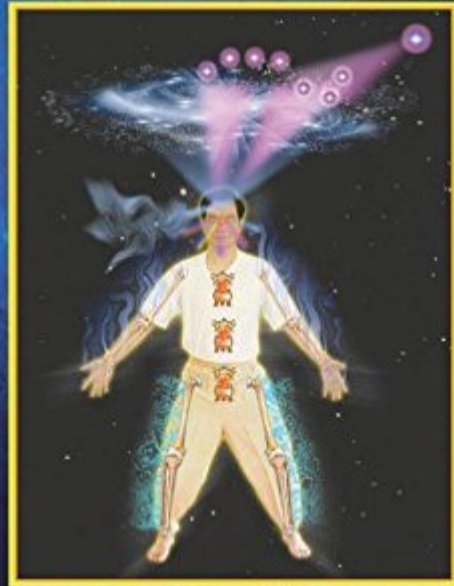
**AWAKEN
HEALING ENERGY
THROUGH
THE TAO**



MANTAK CHIA

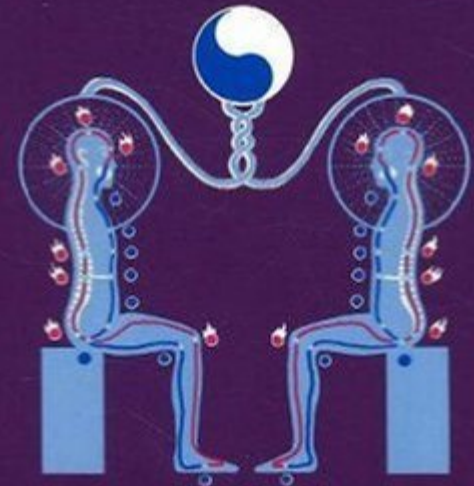
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Five Senses**

*Advanced Practices for
Becoming a Taoist Immortal*



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**TAOIST
SECRETS OF LOVE
CULTIVATING MALE
SEXUAL ENERGY**



**MANTAK CHIA
MICHAEL WINN**

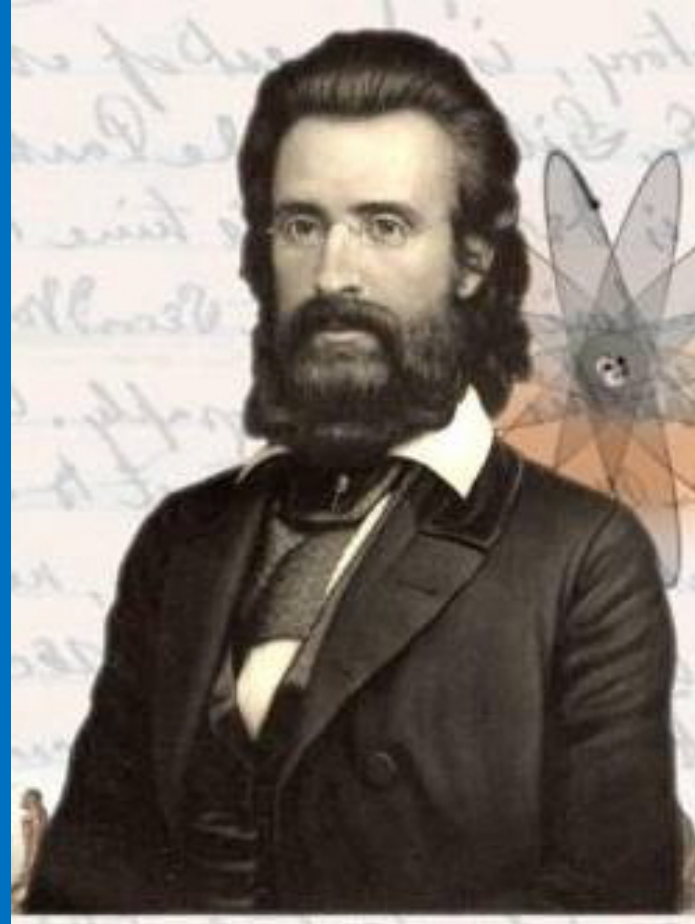
Western Esotericism

- Emerges 17th century in Europe--Rosicrucianism
- in the U.S. in 19th century—Mesmerism
- Popularized in Spiritualism

Andrew Jackson Davis

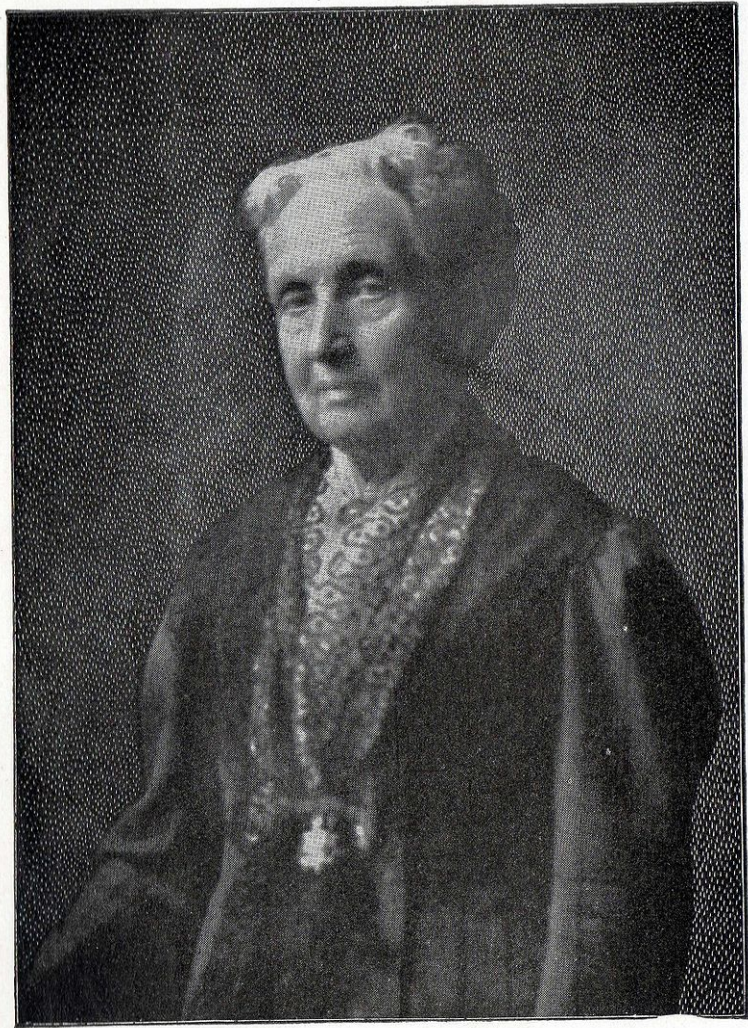
Introduces discourse on sacred
sexuality into Spiritualism

Conjugal Love
Soul mates



Spiritualism

- Mixes a variety of movements and causes
 - Free speech
 - Free love
 - Sexual counseling for married couples
- Spiritualism provides context for the birth of modern esoteric practices relative to sexuality



Alvie B. Stockman.



KAREZZA

ETHICS OF MARRIAGE

BY
ALICE B. STOCKHAM, M. D.

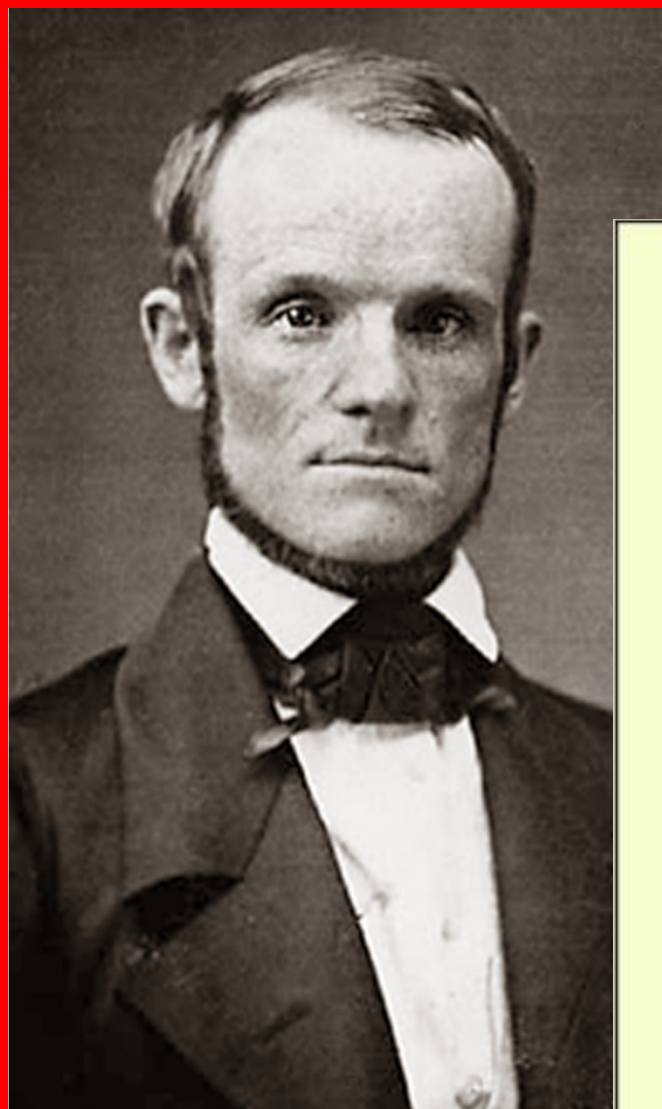
WITH UP
"POBOLACH," "THE LEVER'S WORLD,"
ETC., ETC.

There is no reward and no penalty for students on
condition of passing to any party, either in book
or person.



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Male Continence

John Humphrey Noyes



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Made in the United States of America

**Paschal Beverly
Randolph
(1825-1875)**

Author: *Magica Sexualis*

Founder: Rosicrucian
Fraternity (1850s)



The OTO tradition

Teachings on Sex Magick are institutionalized in the Ordo Templi Orientis in Germany

They are independently rediscovered by Aleister Crowley in Egypt in 1909, which leads to his aligning with the OTO and eventually becoming its leader.

Sex as means of arousing magical energy



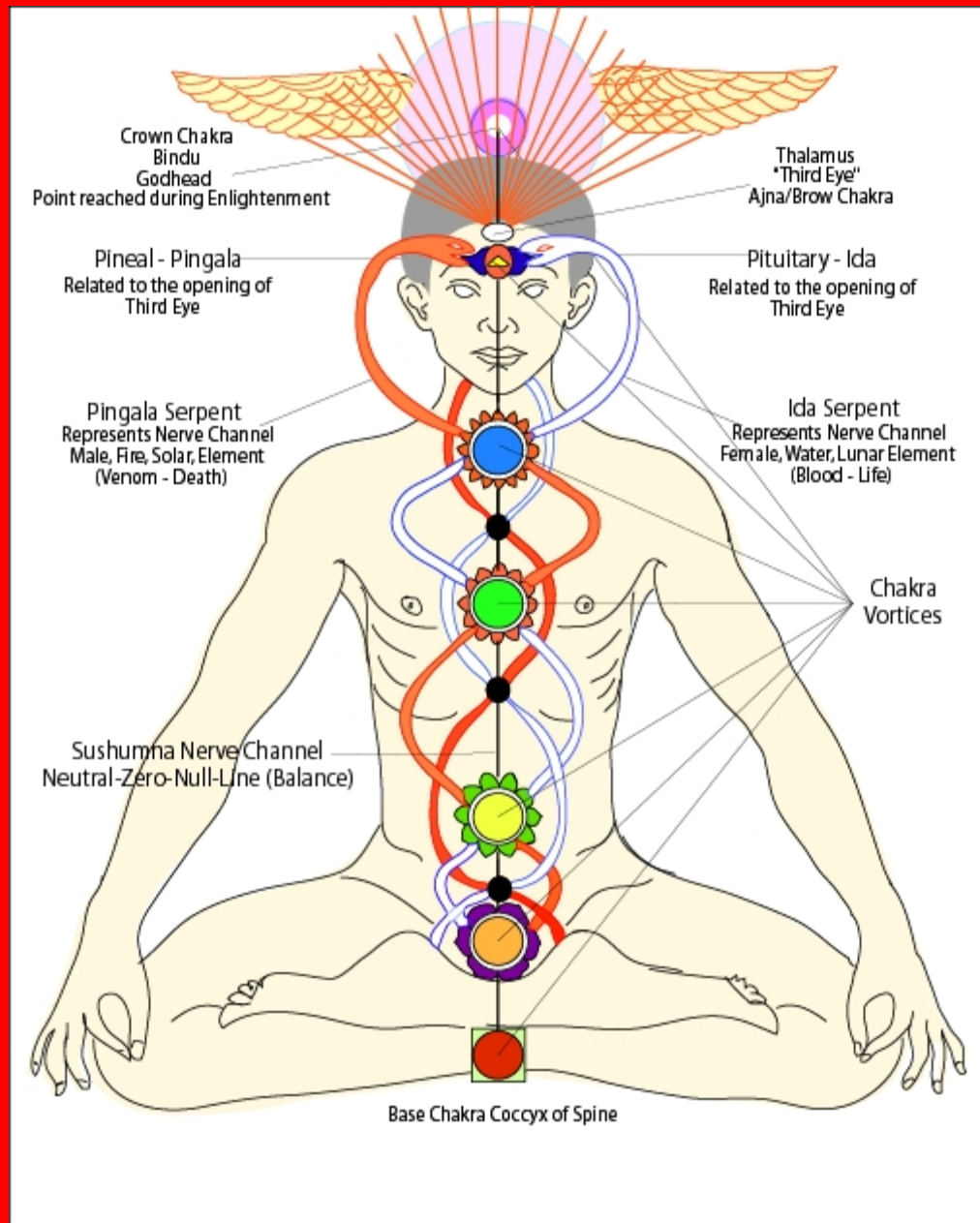
Tantric Tradition

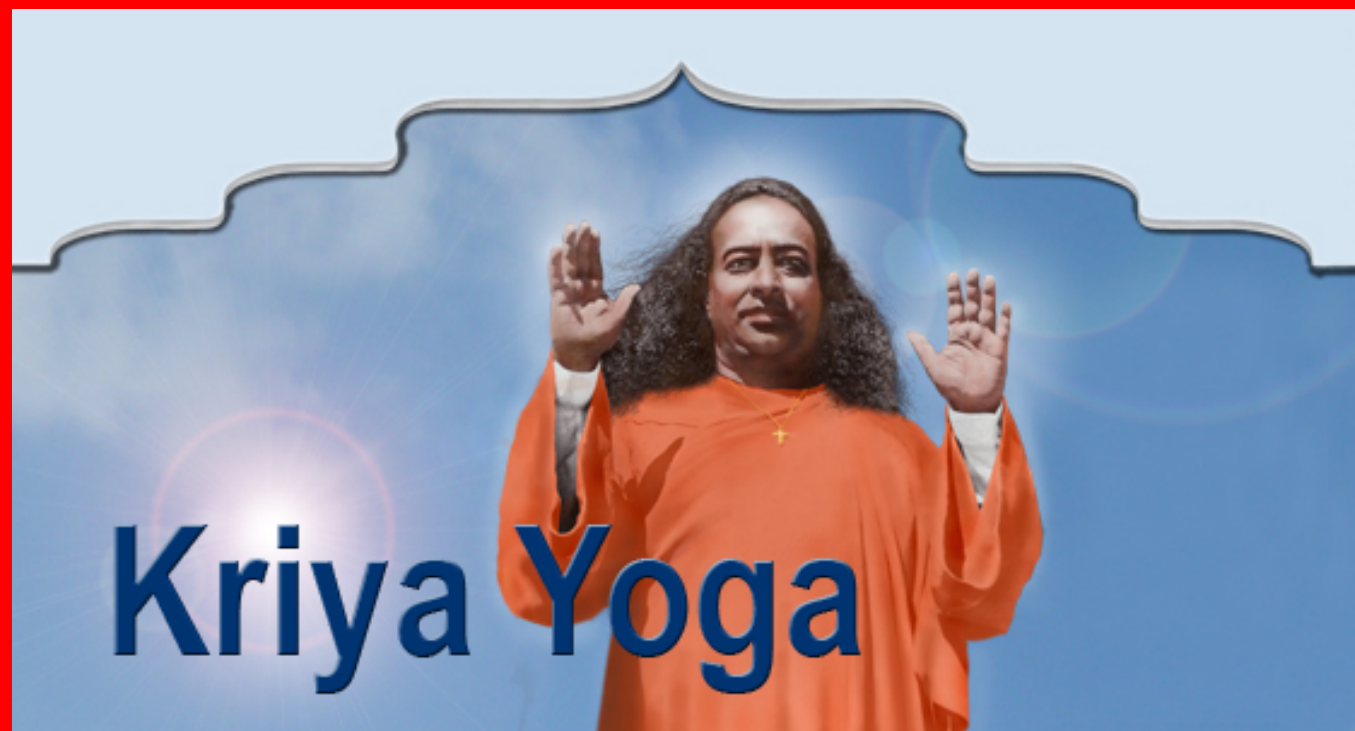
- Based in the idea of escaping the cycle of karma (consequences) and reincarnation
- Trapped by karma, the common approach is to withdraw from the world, cease actions that produce consequences—violence, material attachments, family entanglements, consuming non-vegetarian foods, and sex.
- Ideal-naga sadhu



Tantra as response to Saivite Tradition

- Rather than withdraw, Tantra uses various forbidden items as tools to reach liberation—most notably sex
- Integral to tantra is a understanding of the invisible aspects of the body's anatomy and its energy system focused in the seven chakras, and the connecting pathways through which energy, in the form of kundalini flows.

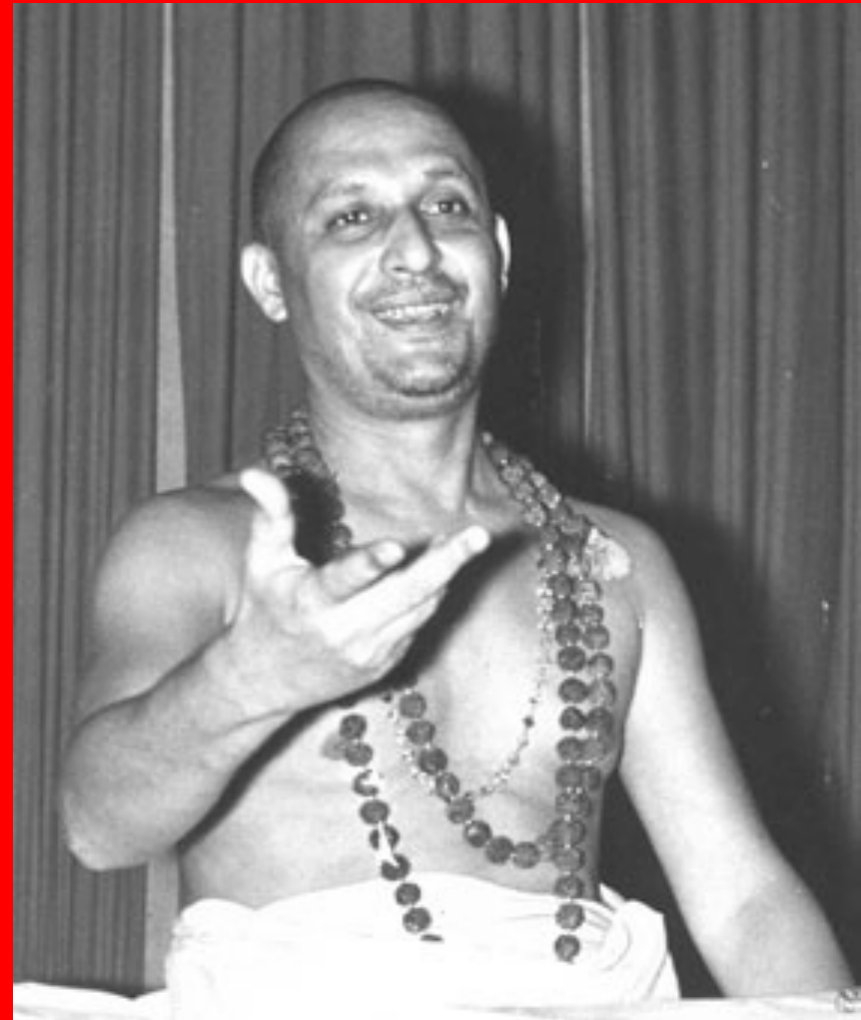
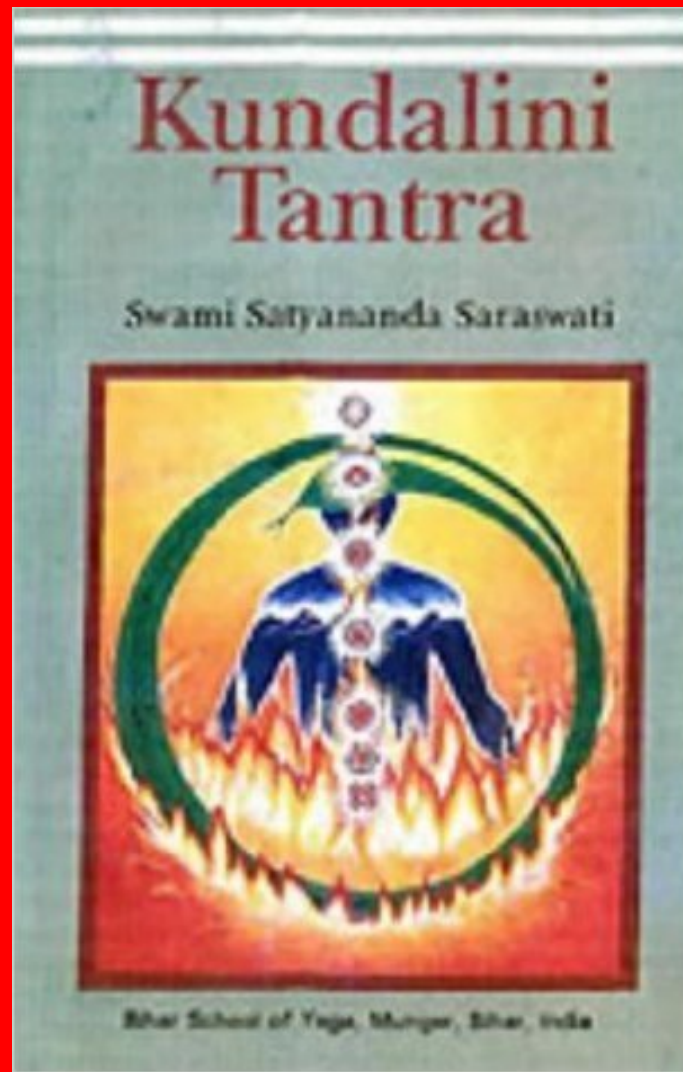


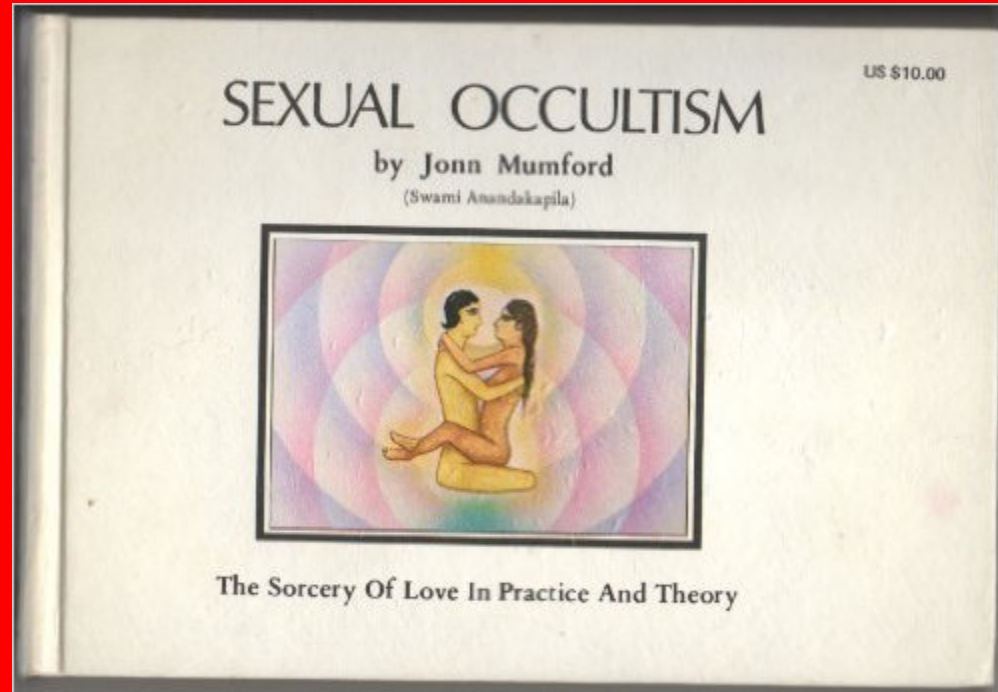


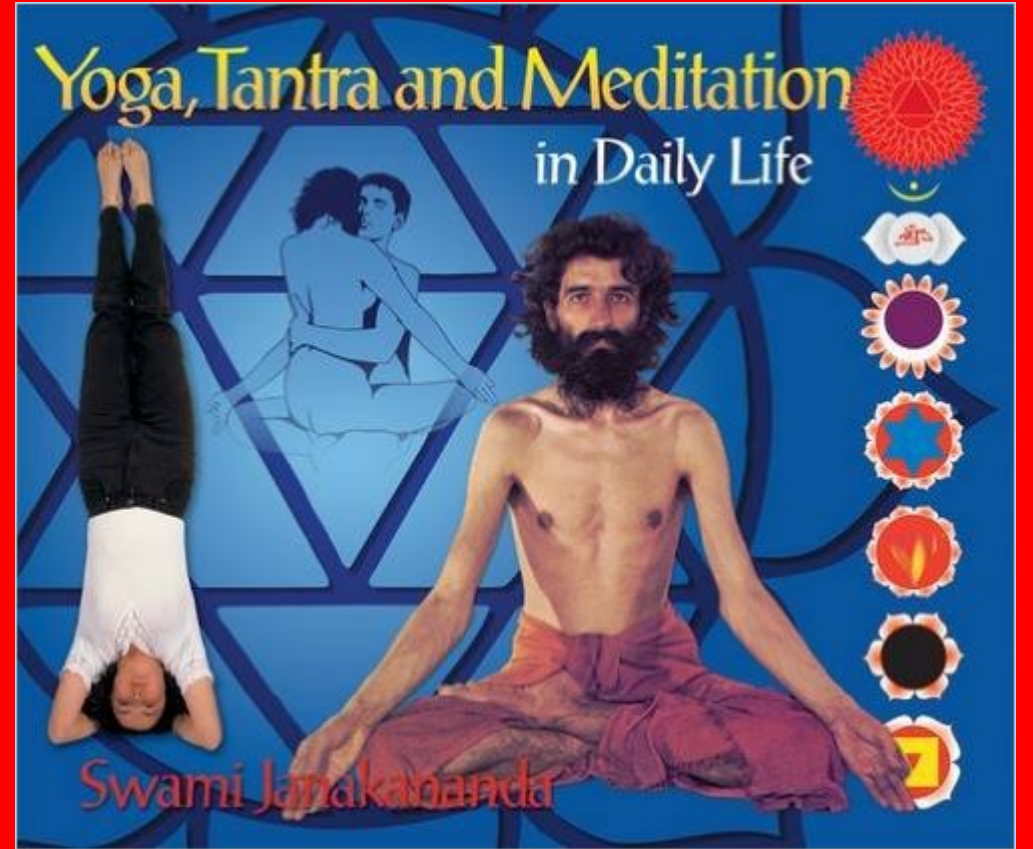
The Essence of Kriya Yoga



Paramhansa Yogananda







MISA

- Founded following the downfall of the Ceaușescu government (1989)
- Msia offers a full range of classes in yoga, tantra, and Kashmir Saivism (a tradition often associated with Tantrism), and promotes a sets of behaviors that include vegetarianism, and the avoidance of tobacco and alcohol.
- Central focus, however, is placed on Tantra yoga practice. It promotes Tantra terms of its immediate personal and social value, but immediately place new students in an environment that emphasizes the teachings long-term spiritual role in the holistic transformation of individual practitioners.

Modern emphasis

- Personal success, health, happiness
- No traditional rituals or temple structure, though MISA maintains the acknowledgement of primary Saivite Hindu deities—Shiva and Shakti
- Sexual liberation, status and role of women
- Esoteric environment (with much information restricted to participating members)
- Male continence
- Advanced practice

Male Continence

- Technique that (narrowly understood) allows males to reach orgasm without ejaculation. On the average, takes two years to master.
- Once mastered, influences all of one's life
- There is female counterpart, but it is relatively easily mastered
- Integral to the teaching is kundalini yoga—release of energy seen as latent and which, when activated, travels up the spinal column to the crown chakra.

Responding to Critics

- Oppose understanding of sexuality implied in Tantric practice. Tantric sexuality is viewed as disconnected from the main reason of couple relationship: love.
- Tantra is seen as subversive of both traditional Christian perspectives on sexual behavior and Marxist perspectives that suppress sexual pleasures to revolutionary priorities.
- Sex for pleasure instead of procreation
- Openness to multiple sexual partners (Polyamorous relationships)
- Individualism and general opposition to authority
- Passing of teachings/practice to minors
- Miss Shakti contest

An old Spiritual Path in a New Environment

MISA as a modern Shakti
faith

