

Avatar Path

The Way We Came

Harry Palmer



In 1986 a teacher named Harry Palmer created a self-evolvement course that equipped people with the tools to explore consciousness to its very limits—from the most fixed, opinionated reality to the broad expansiveness of source awareness. Since that time the course has spread to more than 72 countries, has been translated into 21 languages and has produced tens of thousands of graduates.

Since their discovery, the efficiency and effectiveness of the Avatar® Materials have been clarified and refined, but their underlying purpose remains unchanged: to teach people an effective technique for improving their lives according to their own selfgenerated blueprint.



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The Way We Came

by Harry Palmer



All our love to the people who contributed to the creation of this book.

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Publisher's Note and Disclaimer:

The characters and events described in this book are intended to entertain and teach rather than present an exact factual history of real people or events.

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The Avatar Path: The Way We Came

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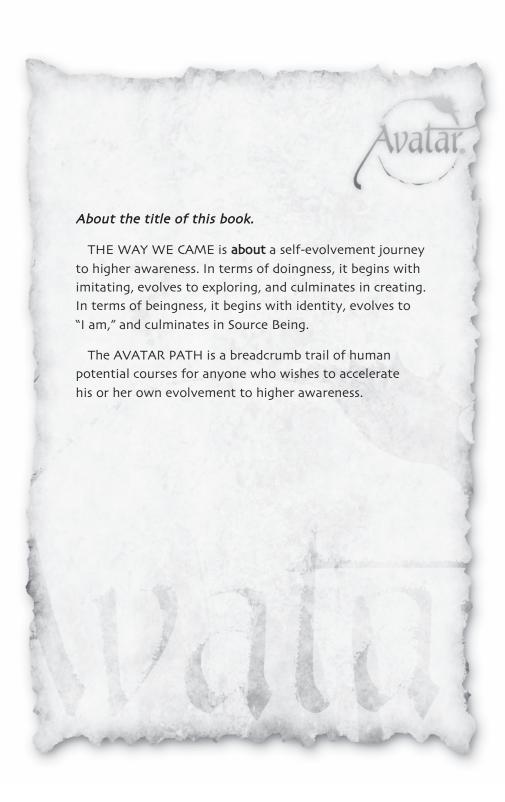
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Prologue

Like most journeys, self-evolvement has a starting point. That starting point is the recognition that some (or even most) of your guiding values and beliefs are based on imitation of parents, teachers, peers, satisfied customers, celebrities, authorities, the successful, or even the world's failures.

The life you are living is a copy of someone else's. It is a patchwork quilt of borrowings and unconscious influences. When you recognize this, really see it, something independent of any mental embellishment awakens—a new self. You can call this new self, "I am." This ineffable spirit—authentic YOU—wakes up with a desire to explore its potential.

The articles and stories in the pages that follow are intended to illuminate archetypes in consciousness that will assist your growth. As you read, several things will happen: the expectations and opinions of others will be recognized and re-considered; personal values will be re-examined; and patterns of behaviors will change. And most importantly, YOU, that ineffable explorer, will begin awakening as a Source Being. This is a heroic journey.

ineffable: incapable of being expressed in words.

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The only provisions you need are courage, honesty, and perseverance. If people or circumstances have conspired to convince you that you lack these supplies, caches have been left along the way for you to find.

Right up front, I'll tell you a secret. As secrets go, this one is in the top ten. If it doesn't ring true for you right now, that's okay. Part of this journey is recovering the viewpoint that recognizes the truth of this powerful secret. The secret is nothing can harm a Source Being.

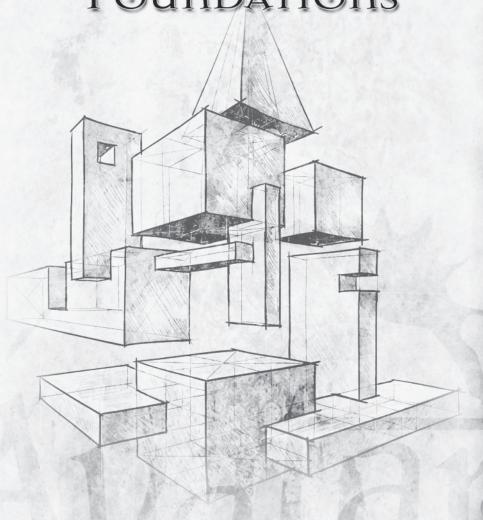
This isn't an easy truth to accept. The universe's position is that it can roll over you, grind your flesh up, or incinerate your consciousness any time it pleases. It can visit pain and suffering, or pleasure and happiness at its whim. It can snuff out your life unexpectedly. At any moment it can humble you into insignificance by its awesome magnificence. And always it demands that you follow certain of its rules or perish.

But what perishes? You are not a meat body. You are not thoughts. No thought or word can describe you. Thoughts and words are concepts and you are not a concept. You are not anything that can be named. What are you?

The universe can be broadly described in terms of matter, energy, space, and time, but you are not any of these. All definitions and descriptions are part of the universe. You are part of... well that's the question, isn't it?

Воок і:

Solid Foundations



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THE STORY OF AVAILANT THE AVAILANT MATERIALS

Eastern techniques of meditation describe four stages of mental engagements:

The first is forcible engagement. This 'mounts' the mind or directs the mind at some object.

The second is interrupted mental engagement. This is the process of noticing, stop noticing, and then noticing again in greater detail.

The third is uninterrupted engagement of the mind, which is concentration.

The fourth is a spontaneous engagement of the mind on a connection that just appeared. Ah ha!

Realizations (or insights) are spontaneous engagements of the mind.

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One of the abilities that you can profitably improve is directing your attention. If you have not done the Basic Attention Management Mini-Course, it is recommended. It will increase the amount of free attention that is available to you by recovering attention that you have misplaced or abandoned.

Visit www.TheAvatarCourse.com/attention for a free download of this mini-course.

Chapter I

Hunting Realizations

Realization is the *experience* of moving from a fixed viewpoint on a subject or event into a broader more understanding viewpoint. It is the moment in which something perplexing is worked out; it is a pleasant shock, a light penetrating the darkness, a discovery, the revelation of a solution. It's a moment of epiphany, an insight. "I just realized I was dreaming," or "I just realized that it wasn't my mother's fault." Realizations are the building blocks of self-evolvement, each one you have is a step toward greater wisdom and freedom.

Realizations may arrive gradually like the morning dawn, or suddenly like flashes of lightening; some take years of study to fully reveal themselves, others are instantly *gobsmacking* (shocking, surprising).

Realizations are unique experiences—

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world lessons. They are the keys and combinations that specifically unlock the reasons behind your thinking and being.

Someone else's realization may be interesting or educational, but they will not sort out or tame the mental territory that is uniquely yours. Your own realizations are more than insights, more than words; they are a release of transforming and restorative energy, a sigh of relief.

Stories can trigger realizations—not so much by the data conveyed in the story as by the personal connection that you make with the story. The classic Indian story of blind men describing an elephant illustrates this personal connection: the blind man who feels a leg says the elephant is like a pillar; the one who feels the tail says the elephant is like a rope; the one who feels the trunk says the elephant is like a tree branch; the one who feels the ear says the elephant is like a hand fan; the one who feels the belly says the elephant is like a wall; and the one who feels the tusk says the elephant is like a solid pipe. Realizations only occur within the framework of your own reality.

Preconceptions and assertions prevent realizations. Sometimes the action of pursuing other people's attention or admiration conflicts with the vulnerability required for facing something unknown. Posturing and striving for recognition have stunted the personal growth of more than a few—realizing for the applause of an audience creates stress rather than relief. It can be frightening to examine something without a prepared answer, to look without already knowing, but the rewards are priceless realizations.

Realizations result in beneficial changes in your health, your relationships, and your perspectives of life. Realizations give rise to qualities like responsibility, maturity, compassion, tolerance, patience, discernment, and confidence.

Your progress toward higher awareness can be measured by the number of honest realizations you have. Things begin (or cease) to make sense, horizons expand, and there is a pattern to events. The possibility of steering your own life and living deliberately becomes real. Hidden influences are dissolved into light.

So OK, realizations are good things. Where do they come from and how do you find them?

Realizations reside in the unknowns and misunderstandings of consciousness. An unknown is something that isn't recognized—an event, a person, a connection, or a condition, i.e., a missing piece. A misunderstanding is a failure to interpret something correctly. Making known what was previously unknown, or correcting something that was previously misunderstood, are the processes that result in realizations. *Oh hey, I know what that is. I see it now.*

Realizations happen in the safety of a friendly environment or in moments of reflective solitude. (They are slow to appear when being vulnerable is dangerous.) Surrendering one's attachment to right and wrong brings a fresh clarity; respecting differences in viewpoints loosens the grip of unawareness, and practicing compassion and reverence deepens one's insights.

Sadly, some will only deal in the realizations of others, written neatly in books of doctrine. It is easier than risking the humiliation of being singled out. Stay with the herd. Follow the examples. Sacrifice your own discoveries for the praise of being able to parrot someone else's thoughts. This is the path of self-solidification, not self-evolvement.

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So the first step of hunting realizations is mustering your courage. You may have to look into places that you would rather not.

Three-Ticket-Special

One summer, when I was a kid, we went to the county fair. (I grew up in rural Pennsylvania where there was no TV, no crowds, just tractors and cows.) So twenty acres of tents, and shooting galleries, and sideshows—not to mention a Ferris wheel, a dozen carnival rides, and a noisy, brightly lit midway—was about the most open-mouthed excitement I had experienced.

At the very end of the midway was an attraction called the Haunted Castle of Horrors. The barker's spiel promised: *frightening sights beyond human imagination, inhuman oddities, bloodthirsty apparitions, enter at your own risk.* On either side of the castle's entrance were two twenty-foot oil paintings on hanging canvases, depicting two passenger trains, loaded with zombies, about to collide.

Tickets only a dime, one thin dime. At the ticket window it was another story. Tickets were three for a quarter. Step right up, sonny, three trips that you will never forget and only two bits. Hoping he wouldn't recognize me for a hayseed, I fished another dime and nickel out of my hand-me-down coveralls.

I stood in front of the castle door listening to the shrieks and noises from inside. My knees were trembling and my steps shortened to about an inch. A rough shove, and I was through the door into a narrow, dark hallway. Around the first corner was a torture scene of a skeleton being stretched on a rack; rats huddled near by. The floor started

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shaking and a blast of air that smelled like old inner tubes hit me in the face. I stumbled on.

Around the next corner, a door slammed behind me. In the dim lights, I could see that I was standing between railroad tracks. Suddenly a train horn blew, a bell began ringing, and what looked like the headlight of a train appeared ahead of me. To the right and left were walls and I couldn't go back; I was trapped. The train noises grew louder and faster, and then the ghost train passed right through me (or so it seemed) leaving flashes of coach windows on the walls.

Around another corner, it felt like I was walking on sponges. I kept moving as fast as I could, hurrying past several rooms of stuffed animals, mummies in coffins, and macabre execution scenes. Jarring sounds: fingernails scraping a chalkboard, pebbles rattling in a pail—I covered my ears and ran.

Finally a huge, whirling, black-and-white hypnotic disk, which seemed to draw me forward, appeared, and a door opened. I was back out in the glare of the midway, mouth open, white as a sheet.

How long until customers used the second ticket depended upon how frightened they were. It took me over an hour, and for some, I imagined, they would never return. I walked up the crowded midway, watched a man win a teddy bear for his girl friend, checked out the Four-H sausage concession, and strolled through a poultry tent of blueribbon winners. Finally, trying to appear to be just wandering casually, I was back in front of the Haunted Castle of Horrors.

The second time through I paid more attention. I took the rattles and shakes and loud noises less personally. It wasn't as if anyone was trying to

scare me, they were just trying to be scary. I started to relax, took second looks at things, and even enjoyed myself. This time when I stepped back on the midway, I had been entertained and was smiling.

Consciousness thinks; awareness watches.

Ten minutes and a funnel cake later I cashed in the third ticket. On this trip I took my time. I studied the costumed mannequins without fear. I noticed things I had not noticed before; some of the stuffed animals were the worse for the wear, rips and patches of hair were missing. I studied how the displays worked, and even peeked behind the scenes. In the end, I realized that the only reason anything in the Haunted Castle of Horrors was scary was because I expected it to be scary. In reality, it was just a moderately sized trailer, sectioned off with plywood walls, behind a tip-up front painted to look like a castle.

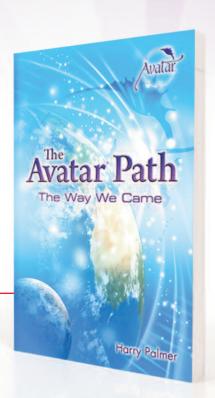
The point that I am making is that when you go hunting for realizations about why your life is the way it is, or what you could do to improve it, buy the three-ticket-special.



Avatar Professional Course students. Orlando, FL, October 2009

Accelerate your personal and spiritual growth – read this book today.

How does Avatar differ from other practices or self-help technologies? Avatar is not going to tell you what to believe. It will reveal to you what you already believe and why.



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