

The Order of The Way
A Prospective Member's Guide

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**For those who may have an interest in
following the philosophy of The Way**

Produced by the Fellowship of The Way

**Tenth edition
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Foreword

This guide is a brief introduction to the philosophy of The Way. We hope that it will be useful if considering applying for membership. That choice, as all things in The Way, is ultimately up to you. We are under no obligation to prove anything or become involved in pointless argument, as the duty of checking for evidence and further proofs is yours alone.

We will of course be glad to provide you with further information over time as you get to know The Way, and as The Way gets to know you. If you have a genuine question to ask, please do so clearly and concisely, as respect is our byword, as well as being a two-way street. Contact details are provided at the end of this guide.

R. G. Crosbie

Tenth Degree in The Way

The primary principles of The Way

The Way is probably the oldest philosophy known to man. It is not a belief system, but based on the principles of provable truth, knowledge, logic and reason. We search for truth and knowledge by the following of reasoned thought only. While religions involve a devotion to a deity or deities and use faith as a guide, this philosophy involves a devotion to the pursuit of truth, knowledge, logic and reason. It involves no belief, as belief is the opposite of all of these things.

Although not a religion, the philosophy itself is based on the original teachings of Joshua Ben Miriam, more commonly known as Jesus the Christ, along with those of the five Christs who came before him. Jesus was one of seven High Lords of the Veil who would come to show mankind The Way; which is truth, knowledge, logic and reason. These individuals were wise men, not deities, which they came to be regarded as, long after their deaths and when they could not refute these claims made about them by the developers of various belief systems.

The beginnings of the philosophy can be traced back to a way of life that evolved very slowly since the first true man stood upright and gained reason. Each of the High Lords, or teacher-kings, learned from and contributed to the collective knowledge in their respective times, so that man could better understand his place in the greater scheme of things, and therefore improve as a species, which is the purpose of life itself.

Organisation

In The Way we work in small groups, usually consisting of thirteen families or individuals, in a protecting and supporting way, in a one-for-all and all-for-one basis.

The idea of working in thirteens is that there are twelve plus one (12+1) individuals, with the 'one' being appointed by the group to adjudicate on decisions, break deadlock, or to make representation for the group in consultation with other such appointees of other groups. This ensures that governance and representation is done at a local level, and not dispersed to some unknown individual or hierarchy who perhaps does not even know the individuals or the issues that are important to them.

Therefore, in the main, practically all issues apart from matters of Law and rule changes are decided by the local Way Chapter. Where issues of a more serious or urgent nature need to be adjudicated upon, the matter is passed for discussion to more experienced Degree members for direction, if they feel that the issue requires the attention of the higher levels.

This is where we would see that the lack of control over people's own lives has gone wrong in most if not all of our societies, as people feel that they do not have their local issues dealt with by people who actually know what is happening at that level. For this reason, we represent the structure of the Order as being like an inverted pyramid, with the weight of the numerous smaller thirteen-person groups balancing on the judgement of those who know most about the workings of the philosophy and its rules and outlook.

Our Teachings

At the centre of the teachings of The Way lie the teachings of the aforementioned teachers, along with the combined philosophy of a historical but often very secret brotherhood known as the Brotherhood of Nazarenes. The wider Way following consists of a number of brotherhoods and organizations, of which the Order of The Way is just one.

As a point of interest and an explanation of our use of the word Nazarene, most people in these modern times believe Jesus to have lived in Nazareth, and that this is therefore the reason that he was named a Nazarene and where the name came into common usage. However, the place now known as Nazareth was not known by that name until well after his time, and was so named by the religious groups that assumed his authority, in order to conceal his being a member of the Brotherhood of Nazarenes. The name Nazarene simply means 'revealer of truth', or 'teacher' and relates only to those who follow The Way, though the term is regularly conflated with the idea of being a Christian because of the influence of later religious adaptation and merger.

This is just one of the reasons that you will encounter what may appear to be religious themes within The Way philosophy itself, as all mainstream religions, and consequently all their sub-groups, originated from the altered and original Way teachings.

The Way does not rely on beliefs and imagination to explain or begin to understand anything, and for that reason we are not considered a religion in the everyday sense of being beholden to the wishes of any deity. What we know, we know, and if we do not actually know something we realise and accept that we do not know anything, until we have full and adequate knowledge to understand it properly. Anything else is belief, which is the presumption of knowing without actually doing so. To pretend or to convince yourself that you know something you in fact do not know, will inevitably lead to incorrect conclusions, with all its attendant costs and consequences. This makes no sense to us, so therefore we avoid belief at all costs. It does not mean that we don't make mistakes, as everyone does, due to incorrect impressions and faulted judgement, but recognising that we may be prone to errors allows us to adjust our thinking accordingly.

What we are is a group of friends, a society, concerned about the human population and the infrastructure that supports it. The 'Purpose' that we speak of is the salvation of mankind, and not the usual idea of paradise after you're dead, but the salvation of the species itself. Only knowledge and good reason can save mankind from his own stupidities and deficiencies. We therefore recognise the problems facing the world at this time, regardless of type.

In many cases, people of high fervour or personal conviction, who are all too often driven by fear, will more often than not destroy whatever they imagine threatens their ideology. Sadly, the pages of history are littered with such actions, and in the near future the price for this madness will be horrific, as the accumulated hatreds and unfounded confusions generated by false ideologies will literally cause a worldwide eruption of resentment and violence. This is bound to happen, despite the supposed rules and codes of conducts of these ideologies not to kill each other or do harm. Even the most stupid amongst men and women should see this by now, but if you personally choose to fail to see what is happening to our world, for whatever reason or no reason at all, then reality determines that you deserve all you receive. Anyone of reasoning mind should see and understand these things, and see what belief in the unbelievable has bestowed upon us.

Our general outlook is that we hope for the best and plan for the worst, so that we do not lose out either way, as we can lose nothing by paying attention to what is being shown to us. Should time and experience show us something different, then we take account of the newer situation, and adjust our thinking accordingly.

We have no rituals, prayers or deities, even though we are involved in man's physical and spiritual purpose at a deep level. Spirit is something which is contained in all living things and the degree and quality of humanity in any individual person determines their overall disposition towards truth and reason, logic and fact.

Our philosophy is based on truthful and honest teachings, and on the acquiring of knowledge for the betterment of mankind and the world within which we all live. We place the truths of what we know to date before people, so that they are free to examine, consider, seek to know more, and go and check for themselves as to how probable or provable what we say might be. We, in like manner, recognise that others will inevitably know of things that are currently unknown to us, and that it is by way of our collective knowledge that we grow mutually stronger, and consequently more able to support each other in a positive way. This way, we all decide what truths we will live by, as we are ultimately responsible for our own salvation, in both a physical, moral, and spiritual sense. Our duty is one of service, trust and honour, in the pursuit of that collectively honest and clear-minded goal.

Rules and Code of Conduct

Those who follow The Way undertake to correctly understand and follow certain natural rules or guidelines so that they can have a better understanding of not only their own individual purpose, but also the combined purposes of all those elements that they rely upon in their lives upon the Earth.

Our rules or guidelines are a useful map to follow in life in practically all circumstances. They are designed to assist those who would consider living and thinking in such a manner, to consider their own place within their own lives and within the wider world upon which we all depend. Your responsibility is to yourself firstly, and then to all others. If you cannot or will not be responsible for yourself, how can you be expected to be responsible for others? We consider that this is the only way to attain to walking on the path of enlightenment, as knowledge and realisation are the keys of life itself.

If you are interested in knowing more, our guiding principles and membership criteria are available on our main website at <http://theorderoftheway.org/the-way/> Please take your time in reading and considering the information provided, so that you can become better informed and confident in making the decision to become a member. We expect our members to be always willing to learn and to advance their thinking on a day by day basis, as this is the only way to develop their individual humanity, and therefore the well-being of the world as a whole.

Membership

All applications for membership are subject to prior approval, which if granted is on the basis of the applicant entering as a new or novice member for an initial period of three months. Although in certain circumstances this period can be varied, the principle behind this rule is to allow the applicant time to become familiar with the wider philosophy, and for the existing membership to get to know them.

As there is no sense in having members who don't wish to learn and improve, those who show no sign of advancement after three months will be asked to explain why they have not advanced their understanding, and, depending on the circumstances, may be asked to leave. We teach what we learn to others on a voluntary basis, so genuine effort must be applied. Their membership details will be then removed and they may not subsequently reapply.

Should you decide to apply for membership, please do so at the following link:

<https://theorderoftheway.org/applying-for-membership/membership-application/>

If you have specific questions prior to application, please use the contact page at <https://theorderoftheway.org/contact/>

Updating of Information

This information guide is regarded as a living document, and will be updated as from time to time.

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