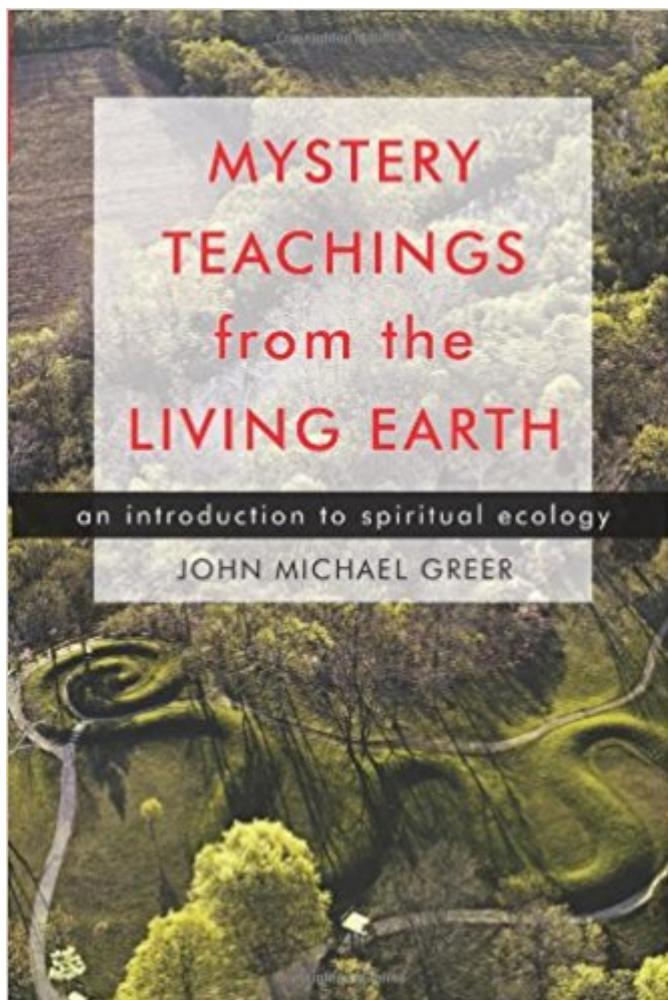


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# Mystery Teachings From The Living Earth: An Introduction To Spiritual Ecology



## **Synopsis**

The authentic teachings of the mystery schools offer a profoundly different way of making sense of the universe and our place in it. In *Mystery Teachings from the Living Earth*, ecologist and Druid initiate John Michael Greer offers an introduction to the core teachings of the mysteries through the mirror of the natural world. Using examples from nature as a touchstone, Greer takes readers on a journey into the seven laws of the mystery traditions: the Law of Wholeness the Law of Flow the Law of Balance the Law of Limitsthe Law of Cause and Effect the Law of Planes the Law of EvolutionGreer explains each law, offering meditation, an affirmation, and a theme for reflection, to show how the seven laws can bring meaning and power into our everyday lives. *Mystery Teachings from the Living Earth* reveals one of the great secrets of the mysteries--that the laws of nature are also the laws of spirit.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

John Michael Greer is the current Grand Archdruid of the Ancient Order of Druids in America (AODA). He has studied the Western Mystery Traditions for decades and is the author of numerous articles and eighteen books, including *The Druidry Handbook*. He lives in Maryland with his wife Sara. Visit him at: <http://theearchdruidreport.blogspot.com/>

John Michael Greer has authored a remarkable collection of some twenty books and many articles over his decades-long career. As a peak-oil historian, novelist, longtime blogger, archdruid of an

American-based Druid order (the AODA), practicing mage and cultural critic, Greer continues to deliver deep insight and uncommon sense, salted with his own wry brand of humor. This latest book is a worthy addition to his growing body of work, and its comparative brevity (140 pages) should in no way obscure its value. In a very real sense, what is left unwritten here is for us to fill in with what we actually do with his provocative ideas. Greer draws on tested hermetic and mystery traditions (hence the title) and more recently the text of W. W. Atkinson's book *The Kybalion* (1912) to recast seven ancient principles of spiritual law in ecological terms. (It may not be mere coincidence that this year is the centenary of that earlier book's publication.) With an explanatory section and accompanying meditation for each law, Greer expands on each principle to demonstrate how it plays out in daily experience. These deceptively simple principles have not changed in millennia, and civilizations including our own ignore them at their own peril. With environmental degradation at an all-time high, Greer's revisioning of these principles as the underpinnings of ecology is insightful, timely and valuable. Just as valuable, given the current hype and hysteria over the supposed 2012 apocalypse (how quickly we forget all the previous ones that didn't happen!), is how Greer takes apart the misunderstanding and half-application of some of these principles in poorly-founded New Age thinking and careless interpretations of end-time mythologies. In its place these principles continue to offer sound (though less sensational) guidance. Finally, in three chapters on the spiritual ecology of magic, initiation and history, Greer links the limits and potentials expressed in spiritual law to inherent human capacities for development and change. As Greer observes, "the laws of nature are the laws of spirit." As we come to terms with the hard limits of industrial civilization and a finite planet, ideas like these point the way to surviving and thriving through both the easy and rough times ahead.

Greer does an excellent job explaining reality as we know it, especially from a magical or spiritual perspective. He delineates the known laws of reality, how they interact, how modern spiritualism has deflated and over-inflated some of them, and how they can be tapped in a sane way to improve life for yourself and others. He explains what he calls the ecology of spirit, magic, initiation, and history. What Greer does well is relate what many think of as insanity or preternatural occult practice to the reality of the everyman. He comprehensively and intelligently establishes a link between the world we think of as "normal" and the spiritual reality of things that is just as normal yet unseen--or, more appropriately, unrecognized and/or rarely thought of. This is one of those beautifully written books that raises your perception of things and invites you to reread it at times. Greer has never disappointed me as a reader. All of his books are thoughtful, well-written, respectful of diverse

beliefs, and packed with knowledge. Always interesting. I cannot recommend this book enough. I also highly recommend *Monsters: An Investigator's Guide to Magical Beings*, *A World Full of Gods: An Inquiry into Polytheism*, *Art and Practice of Geomancy*, *The: Divination, Magic, and Earth Wisdom of the Renaissance*, *The New Encyclopedia of the Occult*

Nothing Geer says is new, but it is presented in a very direct format. Geer cuts thru all the mystery and bs that surrounds mystery teachings of all sorts. In fact I think the guidelines he presents can be applied to any self-help teachings. His first offering of advice is sound No matter what you want to improve in your life and/or spirituality. Simply put- stop a monent and look at who you want to learn from. Is the person with the well known name really a better teacher than some unknown local sage? Does supporting the lavish lifestyle of someone, make their words more wise and 'true'? No matter where you live (and I have lived in some very rural areas) you can find a teacher to guide you along your path who does not require you to mortgage your home in exchange. Have an open mind and you will find what you need in a teacher. Also, we have access to guidance thru our own observation and connections with the world around us. These methods of attaining knowledge are as valid as the knowledge that can be attained from another person. More so at times, depending on the other person we allow to guide us. Enjoy your journey :)

Greer = genius. At this point I think I have almost everything he has written and am looking to start collecting hard backs so they will last further into the future. I cannot possibly recommend his work enough. I also am a regular reader of his blog. His writing is very challenging - many sacred cow will be lead to the slaughter. Be prepared.

Excellent work, simple profound, down to earth and to the point. Having studied New Thought philosophy, and found it lacking in regard to our current environmental, economic and social crises, I found articulate answers to my concerns about our relationships with the more than human world, and the value of recognizing limits.

Meets my expectations

A succinct and many layered introduction to the western mysteries. A must read for anyone interested in whole systems approach to thinking.

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