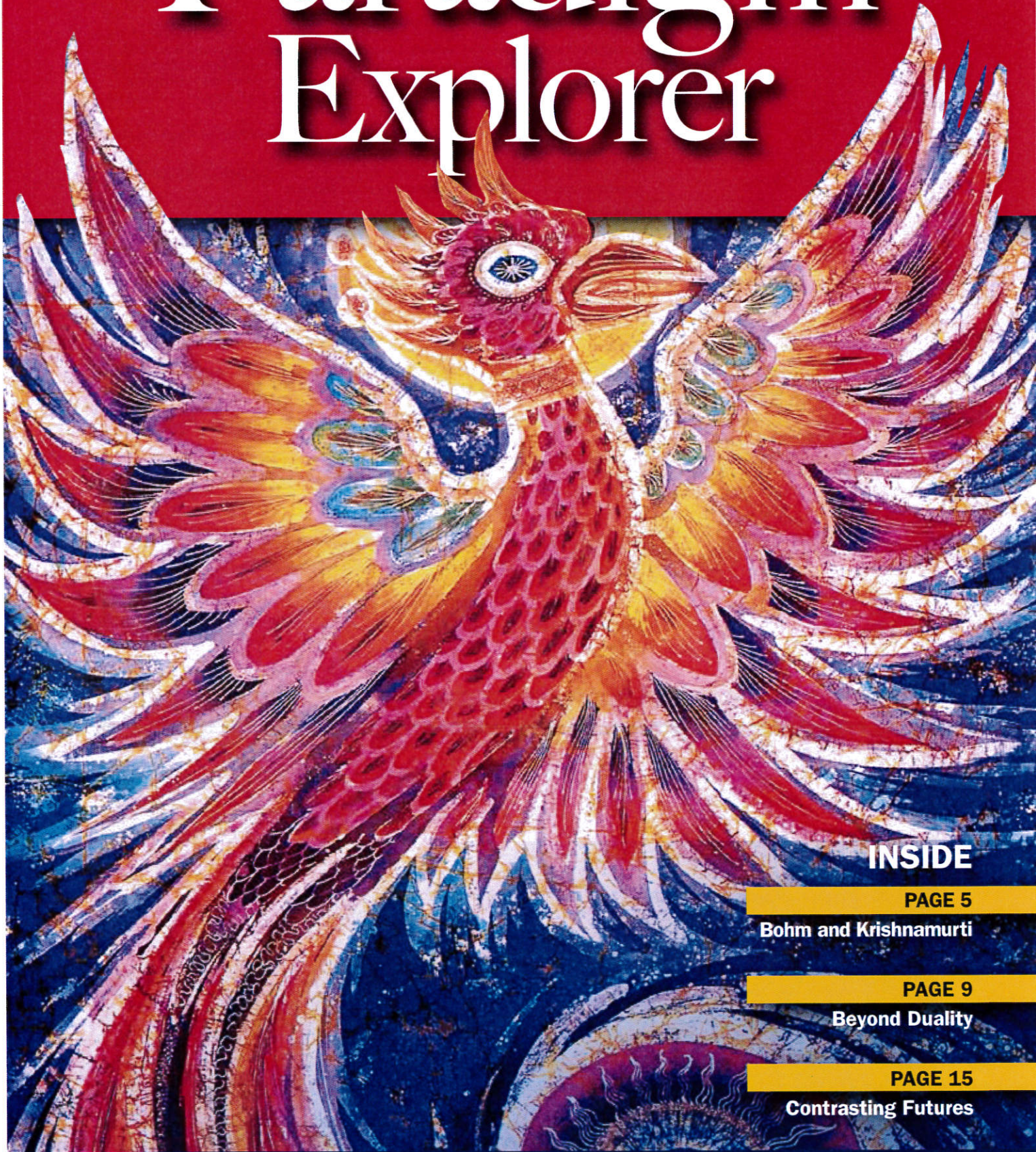


# Paradigm Explorer



## INSIDE

PAGE 5

Bohm and Krishnamurti

PAGE 9

Beyond Duality

PAGE 15

Contrasting Futures

spiritual discovery that is shared with the reader. The all-pervasiveness of love and light is a central theme, also reflected in Julian of Norwich. She asked about the Lord's meaning and receives the response: know it well, love was his meaning. Who reveals it to you? Love. What did he reveal to you? Love. Why did he reveal it to you? For love. Remain in this, and you will know more of the same.' As with other books in the field, transformation is of the essence, and sometimes the questions are disarmingly direct. How have you helped others? What did you learn in this life? In what way did you give of yourself? We are told that God evaluates the human heart, and on page 139 there is a comprehensive list of themes related to spiritual transformation, which again the seasoned reader will recognise from other sources. It is significant that Gandhi is quoted as saying that Christianity has yet to be lived in its essence, although many saints have done just this. The point is both emulation but also in terms of one's unique personality and circumstances.

### ■ Quand les Défunts Viennent à Nous

Evelyn Elsaesser (SMN)

Editions Exergue 2017, 225 pp., 18, p/b.

Evelyn has been involved in research into the near death experiences for more than 25 years, and in this important study she addresses what has come to known as after death communications, which gives us another angle on death, dying and the survival of consciousness. It is full of illuminating case histories and builds up a detailed account of their phenomenology and impact. Because of her background, Evelyn is able to situate these in a wider context, and includes interviews with other specialists on the consequences of ADCs for the grieving process, all of which has wider educational implications. She discusses parallels between the various experiences surrounding death. In considering the authenticity of such experiences, Evelyn points out that this is not an isolated phenomenon and that different types of experiences are arguably consistent and self-reinforcing. It also seems that not only can the living help those who have passed on, but the reverse also applies. The relationships continue to evolve, but take on a different form. This book is sure to be translated into English in due course, and I will let readers know. In the meantime, francophones can learn a great deal from this careful and considered study.

### ■ Private Dowding

Wellesley Tudor Pole

White Crow Books 2012 (1917), 91 pp., £11.99, p/b.

Readers can learn more about the remarkable life of Wellesley Tudor Pole in the main review section. This book originates from his time as an officer during World War I when he found himself communicating with a recently killed soldier, Thomas Dowding. There was huge interest in mediumship during that period, with so many young men

being killed, including Raymond Lodge, the son of the physicist Sir Oliver Lodge, resulting in a highly evidential account. This book describes Dowding's death and experiences in the immediate aftermath in a vivid manner and contains a number of lessons about life, for instance the need to love deeply, 'love God by pouring yourself away. Love your fellows by giving them all you possess of light and truth.' This involves the emptying of one's self of self. A second series of communications occurs two years later, and there is an instructive chapter on the passing of Major P. Readers may also be interested in *Writing on the Ground*, one of WTP's final works on his perception of the life of Jesus, elements of history including Atlantis, key questions for human life and his reflections on the Baha'i faith, especially his encounter with Abdu'l Baha. It finishes with the reflection 'the more love we reflect and share with one another, the greater will be the supplier available to us.'

## GENERAL

### ■ #republic

Cass R. Sunstein

Princeton 2017, 310 pp., £24.95, h/b.

Harvard law professor and bestselling author of *Nudge* has produced another game changing book about divided democracy in the age of social media. Although his thesis of fragmentation and polarisation is best illustrated by his chapter on polarisation entrepreneurs on terrorist sites, he argues convincingly that the issues are far more widespread, and affect us all. He quotes John Stuart Mill, writing in 1848, that it is essential for us to be exposed to people and ideas dissimilar to ourselves, what Sunstein calls competing perspectives. Facebook holds out the prospect of the Daily Me newsfeed based on filtering one's preferences and views, but this process creates 'echo chambers' of self similarity and group identity based on like-mindedness. This can be a self-reinforcing process as we become less open to arguments from a different perspective. Sunstein gives the telling example of the polarising issues of GMOs and climate change, where the dominant scientific position on the former is mainly espoused by Republicans, while on the latter it is by Democrats.

This shows how prior ideological commitments tend to shape our views, with, as David Hume observed, reason being the slave of our passions and reflecting our confirmation bias. The author draws an important distinction between our roles as citizens and consumers in relation to free speech and free choice. His proposals encourage a commitment to public forums and democratic deliberation or deliberative democracy, where we are exposed to opposing viewpoints and serendipitous encounters in order to encourage us out of our self-created information cocoons. As Benjamin Franklin observed when referring to the American Constitution, its status as a republic must be carefully guarded and nurtured. As the author's colleague Lawrence Lessig remarks,

we need a public informed enough to govern itself in order to uphold democratic ideals. Essential reading for our time.

### ■ The Paradox of our National Security Complex

Richard Otto

Chronos Books (John Hunt) 2017, 359 pp., \$32.95, p/b.

This is a chilling and well-informed book, written by an attorney, about how secrecy and security diminish liberty in the US and threaten their democratic republic. The author uses the term 'national security complex' for what Eisenhower initially called the military-industrial complex. It describes the evolution of this system, then other chapters discuss JFK's quest for peace, the controversy surrounding his assassination and the role of dissenters in uncovering government secrets. As the author points out, annual military expenditure in the US is of the order of \$1 trillion, along with a significant proportion of the research budget also devoted to military projects, representing a significant diversion of labour and financial resources to maintain and even enlarge this colossal war machine. Furthermore, the US is the leading exporter of military hardware and weaponry used by governments to oppress their people and bomb their neighbours. Paradoxically, the corresponding escalation in global violence produces not only the refugee crisis we are witnessing, but also brings further insecurity in its wake. The author is surely correct in saying that the pursuit of the politics of power and empire building have led to the sacrifice of their image as a defender of liberty.

American exceptionalism seems able to overlook the barbaric track record of the CIA, which, since the 1950s, has been involved in sabotage, covert paramilitary operations, assassinations and murders, kidnapping, overthrowing of legitimate governments and dissemination of propaganda. A former director called it the department of dirty tricks, and it is based on secrecy, and almost complete lack of oversight and the notion of 'plausible deniability', for instance in false flag operations. It is nothing less than an official criminal organisation, and no overall assessment of American foreign policy should omit the CIA and associated agencies such as the NSA in its consideration of the nature of the US government. It has infiltrated the powerbase, and hawks are hugely influential in formulating government policy. It is clear from the author's analysis that JFK was pursuing a foreign policy deeply uncongenial to these people, who then orchestrated not only his assassination, but also framed the cover story of the lone assassin used as a basis for the Warren Commission. Forensically, it is clear that the six bullets came from four different locations and three different directions. The use of the term conspiracy theory is invoked to debunk other approaches, not only in this instance, but also in relation to 9/11, which the author does not cover. I refer readers to the forensic books on this topic written by