

# Is the Formation of Spiritual Culture Intentional or Unconscious? Or a little of both?

A spiritual culture **evolves** by the interaction of **two factors**:

1. *intentional development by spiritual leaders,*
2. *unconscious growth, driven by what is emotionally satisfying*

**87:7.1-3** ... a religious cult cannot be manufactured; it must grow. ... The more this ritual has been an unconscious growth, the stronger it has gripped its devotees. (It functions by) fostering and gratifying emotion.

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Yet, the revelators use many verbs to describe how a religious culture is initiated, "**built, reformed, established**" by spiritual leaders ...

<sup>92:5.10</sup> 2. *Era of the Melchizedek missionaries.* ..... These missionaries ... formed the foundations on which later teachers of truth were to **build** the religions of Urantia.

<sup>97:10.7</sup> ... This has ever been the error of the religious leaders: Seeing the evils of institutionalized religion, they seek to destroy the technique of group functioning. In place of destroying all ritual, they would do better to **reform** it. In this respect Ezekiel was wiser than his contemporaries; ... he set about to **establish** the faithful observance of a superior and purified ritual.

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A spiritual culture can be **created, selected, associated, organized** and **perfected** by spiritual leaders.

<sup>96:5.3</sup> ... these (Melchizedek) teachings ... guided Moses in the **creation** of the improved religion and ritual of the Israelites. Moses was an **organizer**; he **selected** the best in the religion and mores of Egypt and Palestine and, **associating** these

practices with the traditions of the Melchizedek teachings, **organized** the Hebrew ceremonial system of worship.

<sup>(1056.6) 96:4.4</sup> During this lengthy sojourn before Sinai the religious ceremonials of the newly evolving Hebrew worship were further **perfected**.

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By **selecting, harmonizing** and **systematizing** religious beliefs and practices, spiritual leaders can **associate** and **organize** them, and thus **conceive, create** and **perfect** an evolving spiritual culture.

*They can **utilize** such practices to **devise** and **build** an emerging culture.*

<sup>121:6.3</sup> ... these problems were taken in hand by Philo of Alexandria, who proceeded to **harmonize** and **systemize** Greek philosophy and Hebrew theology into a compact and fairly consistent system of religious belief and practice. And it was this later teaching ... which Paul **utilized** as the foundation on which to **build his more advanced and enlightening cult** of Christianity.

<sup>87:7.4</sup> The early Christian cult was the most effective, appealing, and enduring of any ritual ever **conceived or devised**,

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**And, so, perhaps expressed most simply...**

<sup>94:7.2</sup> Gautama **formulated** those theories which **grew** into the philosophy of Buddhism after six years of the futile practice of Yoga.

So, it seems that a spiritual culture initially is **formulated** by leadership, and then it **grows**, evolves unconsciously, ... with ongoing input from subsequent spiritual leaders.