

# LIVING TRADITIONS TEAR SHEET

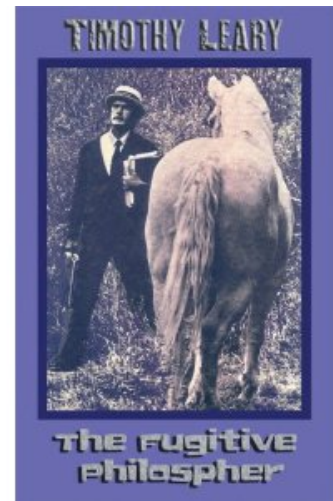
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**Timothy Leary:  
The Fugitive Philosopher  
Compiled by Beverly A Potter  
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Timothy Leary (1920 – 1996) was a psychological, philosopher, social reformer, revolutionary and author. His life was certainly one of great achievement and great intrigue. Timothy Leary: The Fugitive Philosopher mixes together a biography with aspects of his research and discoveries. While Leary could certainly be considered the father of the modern psychedelic movement, his work should not be reduced to this alone. Leary explored all aspects of consciousness expansion and developed many significant theories for understanding how the mind works such as the 24 neural circuits.

Chapters offering Leary's biography are interspersed with pithy quotes, excerpts from his works and expositions of his various ideas. Leary believed that there were always "out castes" who were selected by the gene pool to have neural circuits which would create the future.



Leary's biography continues with an examination of his youth and reflections on how political institutions and the military manipulated the psychological profiles and tests he had created. Leary's interpersonal diagnosis was very well received but those in power became annoyed when he used it to teach people how to treat themselves.

Leary suggested three ways that change occurs:

Mutation: a species getting smarter.

Metamorphosis: individuals get-

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ting more intelligent.

Migration: to find new space to live out your new capacity.

At Harvard Leary explore game theory and suggested students apply what they learn in practicals ways such as actually working directly with alcoholics. While this was considered radical nothing prepared his students for Leary's psychedelic discovery. Leary realized that it was possible to break free from the games that rule life with substances such as LSD and psilocybin. These substances all increased intelligence. As Leary used these substances with prisoners and divinity students the powers that be became very uncomfortable. It is one thing to explore drugs as a doctor within a controlled setting, it is another to set people free ! As Leary turned on everyone from Joseph Rhine, a well-respected parapsychologist to beat poet Allen Ginsburg.

After no university wanted his type of research, he founded the wild experiment that was Millbrook. Leary disagreed with Aldous Huxley's more cautious approach and took a more libertarian approach of cognitive freedom for all ! He argued for the fifth freedom, that of the right to manage your own nervous system. At the same time he did suggest we take into account "set and setting" and be properly prepared for the use of psychedelics in a sacred manner.

This approach antagonized the status quo and he had legal battles galore, a prison term, an escape and time in Algeria and Switzerland and a return to prison. It was certainly a high adventure with much intrigue. Leary's life is a fascinating one, fuelled by a willingness to take risks in the quest for a truly free mind. Timothy Leary: The Fugitive Philosopher offers an excellent biography interspersed with quotes, excerpts and enough tasty samples of his ideas that you will surely want more.

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