

# KNOW THYSELF

INTERNATIONAL  
THEOSOPHICAL CREATIVE  
ARTS AWARDS 2027

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

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ΓΝΩΘΙ ΣΕΑΥΤΟΝ

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ĀTMA-JÑĀNA

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# CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

# KNOW THYSELF

What does it truly mean to know oneself? Is self-knowledge simply an understanding of our thoughts, emotions, memories, and personality, or does it point to something deeper and more enduring? Across cultures and throughout history, philosophers, mystics, and spiritual traditions have regarded the quest for self-knowledge as one of humanity's highest aspirations and the foundation of wisdom, ethical living, and spiritual awakening.

Within the Theosophical tradition, self-knowledge is understood not merely as the observation of changing psychological states but as the direct realisation of the Higher Self—the immortal spiritual principle illuminated by Ātman. As expressed in the writings of H. P. Blavatsky, including *The Voice of the Silence*, this perspective holds that genuine self-knowledge transcends the illusory realm of personality immersed in māyā and reveals the deeper reality of our divine nature.

This understanding differs significantly from many dominant modern psycho-philosophical approaches, which tend to interpret self-knowledge primarily as awareness of mental states, beliefs, desires, emotions, or cognitive processes. While thinkers such as Descartes emphasised inward introspection and Hume associated the self with impressions arising from sensory experience, many philosophical and spiritual traditions have instead understood the true self as grounded in a reality that transcends materialism and reductionism.

We invite proposals that examine self-knowledge from explicitly non-materialist perspectives. Drawing inspiration from the three objects of the Theosophical Society, we welcome submissions that focus on Theosophy as well as ancient and modern wisdom traditions. We particularly encourage works rooted in Theosophical, philosophical, religious, mystical, and contemplative approaches that explore consciousness, the soul, spirit, the Higher Self, or transcendent reality.

All submissions must be original works that meaningfully engage with the theme *Self-Knowledge in Non-Materialist Traditions*. Works must be new and original, never released, or have been created or first released/published/exhibited on or after 1 July 2023.

# **SUGGESTED TOPICS AND QUESTIONS**

We particularly welcome contributions addressing the following:

- What is the Self, and how can it be known?
- If the self is impermanent, what is there to know?
- What is the nature of knowledge itself, and can we truly know that we know ourselves?
- How does one practice self-knowledge, and how might one live a life grounded in it?
- Is self-knowledge primarily introspective (based on internal observation) or extroceptive (arising through transformed perception of the world and others)? Or an interrelated process, dependent both on introspective and extroceptive approaches?
- What is the relationship between self-knowledge and the soul? If only the soul can truly know the Self, what is the nature of the soul, and why is the transient personality incapable of this realisation?

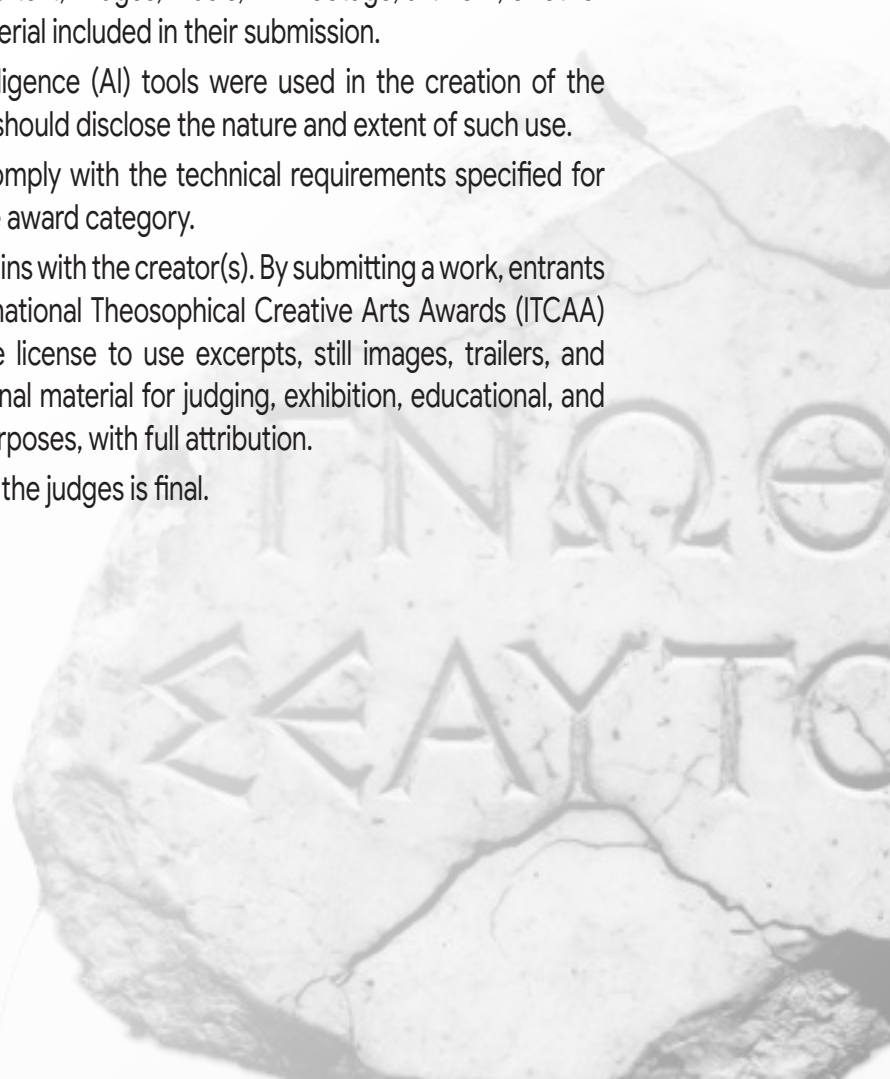
## **Tradition-specific explorations** (comparative or focused):

- Self-Knowledge in Theosophy
- The ancient wisdom, the ageless wisdom, perennial philosophy & self-knowledge.
- Self-knowledge in the Platonic, Neoplatonic, Stoic, and other Hellenic schools of thought.
- Self-knowledge in Śaṅkara's Bhāṣyas and Advaita Vedānta.
- Self-Knowledge in the Upanisads.
- Self-knowledge in other Vedāntic traditions (Viśiṣṭādvaita, Dvaita, etc.)
- Self-knowledge in Buddhism (e.g., anātman, no-self doctrines, and their relation to insight/wisdom)
- Self-knowledge in other ancient and indigenous wisdom practices (e.g., Hermeticism, Sufism, Taoism, or African/Indigenous contemplative traditions)
- Practices and disciplines of self-knowledge (meditation, inquiry, prayers, contemplation, guru-disciple transmission, etc.)
- Comparative studies between non-materialist and materialist/psychological accounts of the self
- Epistemological and ontological implications of non-materialist self-knowledge
- The transformative, ethical, or soteriological dimensions of self-knowledge

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# SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

- All submissions must be original works that meaningfully engage with the theme **Self-Knowledge in Non-Materialist Traditions**.
- **Books must be submitted in English.** All other categories may be submitted in any language but must include English subtitles.
- Each submission must include:
  - the title of the work;
  - a synopsis or artist's statement (250–500 words) describing the work and its relationship to the theme;
  - a short biography of the creator(s) (up to 150 words).
- All contributors, including authors, editors, translators, illustrators, performers, musicians, photographers, designers, producers, animators, archives, institutions, sponsors, and funding bodies—should be appropriately credited and acknowledged.
- **Non-fiction books** must include a complete bibliography and be fully referenced, preferably using the Harvard Referencing System. Documentary films and other research-based works should acknowledge their principal sources where appropriate.
- Authors and creators are responsible for obtaining permission to use any copyrighted text, images, music, film footage, artwork, or other third-party material included in their submission.
- If artificial intelligence (AI) tools were used in the creation of the work, entrants should disclose the nature and extent of such use.
- Entries must comply with the technical requirements specified for their respective award category.
- Copyright remains with the creator(s). By submitting a work, entrants grant the International Theosophical Creative Arts Awards (ITCAA) a non-exclusive license to use excerpts, still images, trailers, and other promotional material for judging, exhibition, educational, and promotional purposes, with full attribution.
- The decision of the judges is final.



# INTERNATIONAL THEOSOPHICAL CREATIVE ARTS AWARDS 2027

# TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

- **Books:** All books must be submitted in **PDF format** and must indicate whether they are **published or unpublished**. Published books should include the publisher, year of publication, ISBN (if applicable), and edition.
- **Films, Documentaries, Animations, and Creative Media:** Audiovisual works should be submitted via a **public or private online link** (e.g. YouTube, Vimeo, Google Drive, or equivalent). Entrants must indicate whether the work has been **released or remains unreleased**, together with the original release date (if applicable).
- **Paintings and Visual Art:** Submissions should include either a **high-resolution digital image** (PDF, JPG, or PNG) or an online link. Entrants should provide the title, medium, dimensions, year of completion, and indicate whether the work has been **previously exhibited or published**, including the date and venue (if applicable).
- **Supporting Documents:** All submissions must include a synopsis or artist's statement, a short biography of the creator(s), and any required acknowledgements or bibliographical references in **PDF format**.
- **Publication / Release Status:** Every submission must clearly state whether the work is **published, released, exhibited, or unpublished/unreleased**, together with the relevant publication, release, or exhibition date(s), where applicable.

## ADDITIONAL SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- **Publication and Release Status:** All submissions must clearly indicate whether the work has been **published, released, exhibited, broadcast, or remains unpublished/unreleased**, together with the relevant publication, release, exhibition, or premiere date(s), where applicable.
- **Books:** Book submissions must state whether the work is **published or unpublished**. Authors of unpublished books should indicate whether they wish their work to be considered for a possible publication opportunity by the International Theosophical Creative Arts Awards (ITCAA) or one of its publishing partners, where applicable.
- **Screening and Exhibition:** By submitting a work, entrants in the Film, Documentary, Animation, and Creative Media categories grant the ITCAA permission, should their work receive an award or special recognition, to screen the work, in whole or in part, at the awards ceremony, associated events, educational programmes, or online public or private screenings organised by the ITCAA. All screenings will be fully credited to the creator(s).
- **Promotional Use:** Entrants also grant the ITCAA permission to use excerpts, still images, trailers, book covers, artwork, or other promotional material from shortlisted and winning entries for publicity, educational, and promotional purposes, with full attribution to the creator(s).

# INTERNATIONAL THEOSOPHICAL CREATIVE ARTS AWARDS 2027

## JUDGING PROCESS

All eligible submissions will be evaluated by an international panel of judges drawn from diverse backgrounds, professions, cultures, and life experiences.

The International Theosophical Creative Arts Awards (ITCAA) believes that the highest purpose of literature and the creative arts is to inspire, uplift, and awaken the human spirit. Accordingly, entries will be judged primarily on their capacity to communicate meaningful ideas, inspire reflection.

Works will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

- Relevance to the annual theme.
- Originality and creativity.
- Inspirational and transformative impact.
- Clarity and effectiveness of communication.
- Overall artistic or literary merit.

To ensure fairness and impartiality, judges will declare any actual or potential conflicts of interest and will not participate in the evaluation of any submission where such a conflict exists.

## TO SUBMIT YOUR WORK

**PLEASE DO SO, VIA E-MAIL to:**  
**info@itcaa.com**

**YouTube Publication (Optional):** If you would like the International Theosophical Creative Arts Awards (ITCAA) to upload your submitted film, documentary, animation, or other audiovisual work to the official ITCAA YouTube channel, please indicate this in your submission. Your work will only be uploaded with your explicit permission.

## AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Selected works will receive official awards in four main categories, plus a Grand Prize and special recognitions. Winners will be celebrated with certificates, public honour, and promotional support through our network.

Details of prizes and other forms of recognition, in addition to certificates, will be confirmed and announced once sponsorship has been secured.

The International Theosophical Creative Arts Awards (ITCAA) is an initiative of the European School of Theosophy dedicated to encouraging educational and original literary and artistic creations inspired by Theosophy. At its heart, the ITCAA seeks to uplift humanity by bringing ancient wisdom into fresh, living forms of art and literature that inspire, awaken, and nourish the human spirit.

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**SUBMISSIONS  
ARE NOW OPEN**

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**and will be accepted until:  
30 JUNE 2027**

