

- Psychologists warn, that psychically unstable patients can be damaged by this ritual treatment.
- People in pastoral care point to the fact, that practices with a spiritual-occult background may for a long time influence the life of the faithful on a spiritual level.

Why is Reiki so widely spread in our country today?

- With the growing esoteric trend of the 80'ies, Reiki was also made known throughout Europe.
- The health craze led to a multitude of therapies swamping our society.
- With a growing esoteric movement everything that leads to an amalgamation of culture or religions was and will be encouraged.
- Christians were intentionally deceived, by calling Usui a Christian monk and presenting Reiki as another method of the Christian healing ministry.

How are Christians to deal with Reiki?

- The intention to purchase a „divine gift“ is deemed to be a serious sin: see Acts 8,20: „May your silver perish with you because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money“.
- The Reiki initiation is really an occult ritual. It thus is in contradiction to the baptismal promise and the seal of baptism.
- Within a Reiki environment Buddhist gods are being revered, thus the practice of Reiki for a Christian means sinning against the first commandment.
- Summary: In its essence the practice of

Reiki contradicts the fundamental perception of the Christian Faith. Reiki can thus not be practised by practising Christians.

- Church owned locations should therefore not be made available for Reiki meetings, whether for teaching, initiation or practice.

Sources (selection):

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On the subject of New Age, there is an informative document issued by the Church:

“Jesus Christ, the bearer of the waters of life”. Considerations on New Age from a Christian viewpoint. Rome 2003. This document can be downloaded via the following internet address: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/interelg/documents/rc_pc_interelg_doc_20030203_new-age_en.html

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Catchword

Reiki

... a gentle way to healing from the Far East, or occultism in an iridescent garment?

Over the last years Reiki has been enjoying great popularity and continues to spread more and more, even in ecclesiastic circles. What is Reiki and is this practice compatible with Christian Faith?

Rei	靈	rain] enchantment to obtain rain
	巫	open mouths	
		witch	
Ki	氣	vapour] divine energy
		rice	

The Chinese-Japanese character for Reiki is composed of the signs for *enchantment to obtain rain* and *divine (universal) energy*.

What is Reiki?

- Reiki (Japanese) means: divine or cosmic energy.
- Reiki goes back to the Japanese Mikao Usui (approx. 1865- approx. 1929).
- Reiki was made known throughout Europe in the 1980'ies.
- Today Reiki is being taught and practised in many different modified versions.

What kind of ideas are behind Reiki?

- Reiki builds upon far eastern philosophies and religions, which teach that everything is steeped in and surrounded by a divine power.
- Health and illness are supposed to depend on a correct and harmonious flow of a divine cosmic power.
- Reiki healers believe, that they can absorb this cosmic power and pass it on with their hands.

What is Reiki meant to effect?

- Reiki is meant to heal spirit, soul and body.
- Reiki is meant to recreate the „energy flows“ of the body and to loosen barriers or blocks.
- Reiki is also meant to lead to a spiritual awakening.

Who can practice Reiki?

- Reiki cannot be learned, as an ordinary therapy can be learned.
- According to the Reiki healers, Reiki can only be practised by someone, who has been ritually „initiated“ by a „master“. At the ground level of the Reiki system, there are three initiation steps, which can be received against a monetary remuneration.



Mikao Usui is considered to be the inventor of Reiki. Sometimes the legend that Usui was a Christian monk at a monastic school is still being disseminated. In reality Usui never had any contact with Christianity. He was in fact a follower of the esoteric Tendai Buddhism. Searching for a source of healing

power, he apparently had an experience of enlightenment on Mount Kurama, near Osaka. The most elevated Buddha of the sun - who even nowadays is deemed to be the highest deity of Buddhism - initiated him and enabled him to absorb the divine energy and to pass it on.

- Over and above the basic initiation, there are further steps, which lead to the higher master degrees.

How is Reiki practised?

- Reiki healers believe, that they can pass on cosmic power by putting their hands on people.
- Reiki healers usually deem a diagnosis unnecessary, because the Reiki power itself „knows“ in which parts of the body it is needed.
- Reiki healers are of the opinion, that they can „send“ Reiki towards others, even over long distances.
- Reiki healers believe that by cult formulas - so called mantras - or secret signs („power enhancing signs“) the effectiveness of Reiki can be increased.

What kind of World View is behind Reiki?

- Mikao Usui was a follower of the esoteric Tendai Buddhism.
- Reiki's roots are coming from the Chinese Wu-Shamanism.
- Reiki initiations are tantric initiations.
- Reiki mixes elements of esoteric Buddhism with the Shintoistic belief in spirits.
- Reiki is a religious movement with the character of a religious amalgamation. It serves the goals of New Age.



The goddess Cannon is revered as one of the Reiki goddesses.

Is Reiki a meaningful alternative or complementary therapy?

- Consumer protection organisations warn: Reiki is no meaningful alternative healing method.
- Reiki is not suitable to treat illnesses.
- Positive effects can be traced back to the placebo effect.
- Reiki is an occult-magical ritual of spirit healing with a far eastern background.

Can Reiki be dangerous as well?

- Doctors claim that Reiki is dangerous, when people are blindly trusting in this method alone and in the case of a serious illness therefore reject other methods for too long. This might lead to a dangerous delay in applying trustworthy and effective therapies.