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THE DOCTRINE OF AVATARAS

THE DOCTRINE OF AVATARAS

by H.P.Blavatsky

Part 1 of 3

A strange story — a legend rather — is persistently current among the disciples of some great Himalayan Gurus, and even among laymen, to the effect that Gautama, the Prince of Kapilavastu, has never left the terrestrial regions, though his body died and was burnt, and its relics are preserved to this day. There is an oral tradition among the Chinese Buddhists, and a written statement among the secret books of the Lamaists of Tibet, as well as a tradition among the Aryans, that Gautama BUDDHA had two doctrines: one for the masses and His lay disciples, the other for His "elect," the Arhats. His policy and after Him that of His Arhats was, it appears, to refuse no one admission into the ranks of candidates for Arhatship, but never to divulge the final mysteries except to those who had proved themselves, during long years of probation, to be worthy of Initiation. These once accepted were consecrated and initiated without distinction of race, caste or wealth, as in the case of His western successor. It is the Arhats who have set forth and allowed this tradition to take root in the people's mind, and it is the basis, also, of the later dogma of Lamaic reincarnation or the succession of human Buddhas.

The little that can be said here upon the subject may or may not help to guide the psychic student in the right direction. It being left to the option and responsibility of the writer to tell the facts as she *personally* understood them, the blame for possible misconceptions created must fall only upon her. She has been taught the doctrine, but it was left to her

sole intuition — as it is now left to the sagacity of the reader — to group the mysterious and perplexing facts together. The incomplete statements herein given are fragments of what is contained in certain secret volumes, but it is not lawful to divulge the details.

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The esoteric version of the mystery given in the secret volumes may be told very briefly. The Buddhists have always stoutly denied that their **BUDDHA** was, as alleged by the Brahmans, an Avatara of Vishnu in the same sense as a man is an incarnation of his Karmic ancestor. They deny it partly, perhaps, because the esoteric meaning of the term "Maha Vishnu" is not known to them in its full, impersonal, and general meaning. There is a mysterious Principle in Nature called "Maha Vishnu," which is not the God of that name, but a principle which contains Bija, the seed of Avatarism or, in other words, is the potency and cause of such divine incarnations. All the World-Saviours, the Bodhisattvas and the Avatars, are the trees of salvation grown out from the one seed, the Bija or "Maha Vishnu." Whether it be called Adi-Buddha (Primeval Wisdom) or Maha Vishnu, it is all the same. Understood esoterically, Vishnu is both Saguna and Nirguna (with and without attributes). In the first aspect, Vishnu is the object of exoteric worship and devotion; in the second, as Nirguna, he is the culmination of the totality of spiritual wisdom in the Universe — Nirvana,¹ in short — and has as worshippers all philosophical minds. In this esoteric sense the Lord **BUDDHA** was an incarnation of Maha Vishnu.

This is from the philosophical and purely spiritual standpoint. From the plane of illusion, however, as one would say, or from the terrestrial standpoint, those initiated *know* that He was a direct incarnation of one of the primeval "Seven Sons of Light" who are to be found in every Theogony — the Dhyana Chohans whose mission it is, from one eternity (aeon) to the other, to watch over the spiritual welfare of the regions under their care. This has been already enunciated in *Esoteric Buddhism*.

One of the greatest mysteries of speculative and philosophical Mysticism — and it is one of the mysteries now to be disclosed — is the *modus operandi* in the degrees of such hypostatic transferences. As a matter of course, divine as well as

¹ A great deal of misconception is raised by a confusion of planes of being and misuse of expressions. For instance, certain spiritual states have been confounded with the Nirvana of BUDDHA. The Nirvana of BUDDHA is totally different from any other spiritual state of Samadhi or even the highest Theophania enjoyed by lesser Adepts. After physical death the kinds of spiritual states reached by Adepts differ greatly.

human incarnations must remain a closed book to the theologian as much as to the physiologist, unless the esoteric teachings be accepted and become the religion of the world. This teaching may never be fully explained to an unprepared public; but one thing is certain and may be said now: that between the dogma of a newly-created soul for each new birth, and the physiological assumption of a temporary animal soul, there lies the vast region of Occult teaching² with its logical and reasonable demonstrations, the links of which may all be traced in logical and philosophical sequence in nature.

This "Mystery" is found, for him who understands its right meaning, in the dialogue between Krishna and Arjuna, in the *Bhagavad Gita*, chapter iv. Says the Avatara:

Many births of mine have passed, as also of yours, O Arjuna! All those I know, but you do not know yours, O harasser of your enemies.

Although I am unborn, with exhaustless Atma, and am the Lord of all that is; yet, taking up the domination of my nature I am born by the power of illusion.³

Whenever, O son of Bharata, there is decline of Dharma [the right law] and the rise of Adharma [the opposite of Dharma] there I manifest myself for the salvation of the good and the destruction of wickedness, for the establishment of the law, *I am born* in every yuga.

² This region is the one possible point of conciliation between the two diametrically opposed poles of religion and science, the one with its barren fields of dogmas on faith, the other Over-running with empty hypotheses, both overgrown with the weeds of error. They will never meet. The two are at feud, at an everlasting warfare with each other, but this does not prevent them from uniting against Esoteric Philosophy, which for two millenniums has had to fight against infallibility in both directions, or "mere vanity and pretence" as Antoninus defined it, and now finds the materialism of Modern Science arrayed against its truths.

³ Whence some of the Gnostic ideas? Cerinthus taught that the world and Jehovah having fallen off from virtue and primitive dignity the Supreme permitted one of his glorious Aeons, whose name was the "Anointed" (Christ) to incarnate in the man Jesus. Basilides denied the reality of the body of Jesus, and calling it an "illusion" held that it was Simon of Cyrene who suffered on the Cross in his stead. All such teachings are echoes of the Eastern Doctrines.

Whoever comprehends truly my divine birth and action, he, O Arjuna, having abandoned the body does not receive re-birth; he comes to me.

Thus, all the Avatars are one and the same: the Sons of their "Father," in a direct descent and line, the "Father," or one of the seven Flames becoming, for the time being, the Son, and these two being one — in Eternity. What is the Father? Is it the absolute Cause of all? — the fathomless Eternal? No; most decidedly. It is Karanatma, the "Causal Soul" which, in its general sense, is called by the Hindus Ishvara, the Lord, and by Christians, "God," the One and Only. From the standpoint of unity it is so; but then the lowest of the Elementals could equally be viewed in such case as the "One and Only." Each human being has, moreover, his own divine Spirit or personal God. That divine Entity or Flame from which Buddhi emanates stands in the same relation to man, though on a lower plane, as the Dhyani-Buddha to his human Buddha. Hence monotheism and polytheism are not irreconcilable; they exist in Nature.

Truly, "for the salvation of the good and the destruction of wickedness," the personalities known as Gautama, Shankara, Jesus and a few others were born each in his age, as declared — "I am born in every Yuga" — and they were all born through the same Power.

There is a great mystery in such incarnations and they are outside and beyond the cycle of general rebirths. Rebirths may be divided into three classes: the divine incarnations called Avatars; those of Adepts who give up Nirvana for the sake of helping on humanity — the Nirmanakayas; and the natural succession of rebirths for all — the common law. The Avatara is an appearance, one which may be termed a special illusion within the natural illusion that reigns on the planes under the sway of that power, Maya; the Adept is re-born consciously, at his will and pleasure;¹ the units of the common herd unconsciously follow the great law of dual evolution.

¹ A genuine initiated Adept will retain his Adeptship, though there may be for our world of illusion numberless incarnations of him. The propelling power that lies at the root of a series of such incarnations is *not* Karma, as ordinarily understood, but a still more inscrutable power. During the period of his lives the Adept does not lose his Adeptship, though he cannot rise in it to a higher degree.

BLIND BELIEF AND SKEPTICISM

Skepticism and dogmatism can be described as the two sides of a widely circulating coin: the coin of spiritual ignorance.

The opposition between the two factors is more apparent than real. They sustain each other. In fact, "blind disbelief", or skepticism, is but the negative form of "blind belief", or dogmatism.

Both are automatic and unquestionable "certainties". They are used as tools by one's mental laziness, in order to establish a rule in one's psychological world which says — *"learning is unnecessary, for I already know all that there is, or there was, to learn."*

Yet mental laziness is not the only source of dogmatism and skepticism. They also result from fear. In fact, there is a false but most comforting sense of security in thinking that we know all that is necessary to know about life. Learning is often painful: while one learns, one must face the unknown. Not everyone has the amount of inner self-confidence necessary to be intrinsically confident about Life and thus truly face unknown Lessons. Hence, many people get attached to narrow mental horizons and resist accepting any new lessons, even if these lessons are be obviously useful to them — and badly needed.

Robert Crosbie wrote:

"Dogmatism is a failing of many. I think it is engendered by a feeling of insecurity, in reality, while endeavoring to assure oneself and others of the certainty of one's knowledge. Of course there are other kinds, such as the maintenance of one's own opinion simply because it is one's opinion — an egotistical assertion. Dogma is said to be that which appears good and right to one; Dogmatism, arrogance usually, is assertion. It always calls up to my mind the idea of the assertion of a statement the proof of which is unattainable. One may speak convincingly of that which to him is true, without incurring the charge of dogmatism. When we are convinced of the truth of a matter, there is no reason why we should not voice that conviction as strongly as

the case demands, but there is no reason why, in such case, we should demand acceptance of it. In our case, we do not demand acceptance of Theosophy; we point out its principles and their applications. Theosophy makes certain statements as being matter of knowledge by perfected men, but not as statements to be believed. It is shown that such knowledge, being acquired by Them from observation and experience in many bodies, can be reached by all men, and the ways to do so are pointed out. The reasonableness of the claim of knowledge takes the statement out of the realm of dogma." (1)

Indeed, Theosophy is about expanding consciousness, not about believing this or that idea in dead letter. Robert Crosbie said:

"Consciousness is ubiquitous, and can neither be localized nor centered on, nor in, any particular subject, nor can it be limited. *Its effects alone* pertain to the region of matter, for thought is an energy that affects matter in various ways, but consciousness *per se* does not belong to the plane of materiality." (2)

This level of consciousness can be referred to as related to Jnana Yoga, Dzyan, Chan, Zen, Raja Yoga, true Philosophy, Universal Wisdom or Esoteric Contemplation, among many other terms which, of course, will never replace the actual reality of the facts.

Actual learning depends on our ability to constantly widen our horizons. That expansion views liberates our small selves thanks to a paradoxical situation. Personalities are happy to see how really small and meaningless they are, once they realize they live and have ever lived next to a divine presence – the divine presence of the One Universal Truth and Law.

It is in this context that self-forgetfulness can become a true and lasting reality for us.

NOTES:

(1) "The Friendly Philosopher", Robert Crosbie, The Theosophy Company, Los Angeles, 1945, 415 pp., see p. 114.

(2) From the same book and page as previous quotation.

Cro Magnon Man and Atlantis

Dear Member of Blavatsky Net,

Since Cro Magnon Man was first discovered in 1868, he has presented fundamental puzzles for traditional scientists. Today there is still no solution in sight for the traditional anthropologists. A mere 20 years after his discovery, the Secret Doctrine by Blavatsky, published in 1888, asserted the answer to the mysterious origin of Cro Magnon Man. Since then, facts have been accumulating to further support Blavatsky's view. And more recently, starting in the 1980's and particularly in 1997, very scientific, and unexpected, evidence from DNA analysis has confirmed the accuracy of her claims and helped us to better understand the early prehistory of man. Briefly put, Cro Magnon was Atlantean. The location, dates, of his sites and the character of his culture, support the claims of Theosophy, showing that once again Blavatsky was right.

CRO MAGNON WHO?

Basic facts: Cro Magnon Man appeared abruptly in Europe and North Africa. He lasted from 40,000 years ago to about 12,000 years ago. The first recognized discovery of a Cro Magnon was in 1868, only 20 years before the Secret Doctrine was written.

Blavatsky quotes a man of science as saying:

On the contrary, one of the oldest types, that of the men of the sepulchral cave of Cro-Magnon, is that of a fine race, tall in stature, large in brain, and on the whole superior to many of the existing races of mankind. (SDii678)

The scientist is quite right. Skull types are known after the name of the place where they are first discovered and Cro Magnon was discovered in a cave in France. He is still considered by scientists today to be taller and larger brained than the average human living today.

The first puzzle causes these physical characteristics to be not pleasant for the anthropologist. To fit in more gracefully with their theories, Cro Magnon should have been shorter and smaller brained than the average for humans today. However his actual

characteristics are totally in accord with the assertions of Theosophy. They even represent yet another confirmation of Theosophical knowledge.

A second and major puzzle for anthropologists is that Cro Magnon man appears to arrive with his culture from no discernable origin. He does not show any discernable development. His culture was distinctly superior to others around him. This could be seen clearly in the nature of his tools. His art work was also seen to be superior. He painted those cave walls that we hear about and that Blavatsky commented upon. His culture does not appear to come from any source that we can identify. That culture gives all the appearance of arriving from elsewhere already developed.

If you would like a shock, check out this cro magnon drawing of a woman:



<http://atlantisquest.com/CaveDrawing.html>

She is wearing clothes! Those clothes are sewn! She is wearing shoes and a hat! But I thought these were cave men who wore animal skins? And a note on the men - they were clean shaven!

These cave men also had houses! We do not know what exactly they were made of but we do have the post holes.

You can see by now that the cro magnon man is becoming undesirable from the view point of traditional science.

But the third and worst problem of all is that science cannot determine where his bones come from. His skeletal structure does not have traces developing from any surrounding area. And at that, his skeletal structure, as mentioned, is not what science would like to find.

To show you this yet more emphatically, here are a series of quotes showing the "developed somewhere else" nature of Cro Magnon culture:

According to Prof. Francois Bordes, world renown archeologist and former director of the Laboratory of Prehistory at the University of Bordeaux, the Aurignacian [Cro Magnon] tool tradition without doubt originates outside of Europe, ready-made, although from where is still a mystery (Bordes, 1968).

Dr. John E. Pfeiffer, professor of anthropology at Rutgers University observes: "The Aurignacian is quite distinct from the Parigordian" [a separate older European style]; they arrive "from some area outside of Western Europe"; with an already "established way of life."

Archeologist Frank Hibben states that the Aurignacian industry is "indubitably non-European in origin";

These "invasions" [of earlier Cro Magnons in Europe] are all associated with waves of Cro-Magnon occupation. No formative, or "gestation," stages have ever been found on any continent for any of the Cro-Magnon tool industries.

Professional anthropologists haven't the foggiest idea of the origin of these invasions. (Bordes, 1968) They invariably appeared on the western shores of Europe and Africa, even including some of the Atlantic isles next to those continents. Always the sites are clustered in the west, the number of sites diminishing towards the east [with an exception in the Levant]. Combe Capelle sites [of more ancient European man] are more or less evenly distributed all over Europe and the Near East. This has been a mystery that has plagued anthropologists for over a hundred years. To the west, there is nought but empty ocean: how could the invasions come from there?

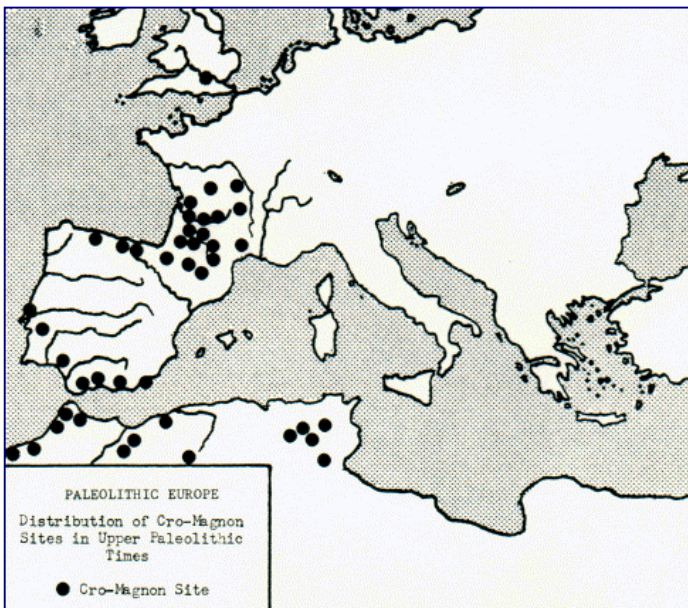
The mystery of these invasions has been so embarrassing that today anthropologists don't want to talk about it any more. Some have gotten around the problem by blurring the distinction between true "Atlantic" Cro-Magnons and the "eastern" European types. Calling all modern men "Cro-Magnon," is

merely skirting the issue; but this is not a scientific way to deal with the problem. (R. Cedric Leonard, author of Quest for Atlantis at <http://atlantisquest.com/Anthropology.html>)

DISTRIBUTION OF CRO MAGNON

To solve the mystery of Cro Magnon, there is one simple step to take - look at the distribution of his sites where his bones have been discovered.

Happily there is a good map of those locations online at <http://atlantisquest.com/Cro-Magnon.html>.



It would well pay you in understanding the issue to give a look at that map. Briefly in words it shows the distribution as occurring in France, in the Pyrenees, along the Atlantic coast of Portugal, in southern coast of Spain on either side of the Straits of Gilbralter, in northern Morocco on the Atlantic and Mediteranean coasts and along rivers. (There are some other sites outside the area of that map that will be discussed later.)

What a visual check of the map makes clear is that Cro Magnon sites hug the Western shores facing the Atlantic Ocean for Europe and northern Africa. And as referenced above, the number of sites thin out as one moves eastward. The Cro Magnon came from the West. They had developed their culture in the West.

One can compare this map to Blavatsky's view and there is a distinct correlation. She claimed that Atlantis was located in the Atlantic Ocean generally

across from the same areas that are heavily populated by sites on that map.

For example, Blavatsky asserts a land connection in ancient days between Atlantis and North Africa:

What is now N.W. Africa was once connected with Atlantis by a network of islands, few of which now remain. (SDii790)

So then the conclusion is clear. There was an Atlantis where she said and the Cro Magnons came from Atlantis. Of course science can not place their origin. Their origin is not there any more. It sank.

Of course their culture was higher than those around them. It came from Atlantis.

Now there is one more key location of Cro Magnon man - that is, the Canary Islands. The aboriginals of the Canary Islands, before Spain discovered the island and destroyed most of their populace, were called Guanches. Science recognizes that the Guanches were Cro Magnon.

Today, due to some intermarriage, some traits of the Cro Magnon still atavistically appear - individuals will sometimes be taller and blond. Mostly the culture of the Guanches was wiped out. However, some mummies remain and as shown later some valuable information will be gleaned from those mummies.

The distribution map shows sites in northern Morocco. Those are today the Berbers. The Tuaregs are also a Berber speaking group that is nomadic. Science recognizes that the Berbers are also descended from Cro Magnon man.

The Berbers were in North Africa long before the Arabs arrived. The Berbers are considered the aboriginals of the area and their origins beyond that are not known. Atlantologists regularly claim them - especially since Lewis Spence wrote in 1924 The Problem of Atlantis (later renamed as The History of Atlantis as more confirming evidence came in).

From a useful traditional source:

Despite a history of conquests, the Berbers retained a remarkably homogeneous culture, which, on the evidence of Egyptian tomb paintings, derives from earlier than 2400 B.C. The alphabet of the only partly deciphered ancient Libyan inscriptions is close to the script still used by the Tuareg. The origins of the Berbers are uncertain, although many

theories have been advanced relating them to the Canaanites, the Phoenicians, the Celts, the Basques, and the Caucasians. In classical times the Berbers formed such states as Mauretania and Numidia.

<http://www.answers.com/topic/berber-people>

OUTPOSTS OF CRO MAGNON

Leonard establishes a point that has some value for vindicating Blavatsky:

So why bother with this obscure and out-of-the-way outpost [in the Levant: Lebanon, Israel, and Palestine]? I am convinced that, at least toward the end, the Atlantean civilization was an empire. From the evidence uncovered, there were outposts, not only in the Levant, but also on the Atlantic seaboard of Africa, the Canary Islands, in northern France, in Egypt, the Bahama Islands, in Peru and Bolivia, and possibly even Antarctica.

<http://atlantisquest.com/Outpost.html>

That quote caught my eye because a very careful reading of Blavatsky will show that she also connects Peru just as Leonard does.

While that lead is too much to follow up here, there is also a second very interesting point that cannot be followed. The same outpost of Leonard will, in some distant newsletter, be shown to harbor the Natufian Cro Magnon man. And that man will be shown to have an interesting aside to tell since it started recording a calendar just about exactly when the calamity of Atlantis occurred - some 12,000 ago. But that is for a latter time.

BLAVATSKY ON CRO MAGNON

Blavatsky's next quote sums up much of her view in connecting these anthropological elements together. But just to summarize a few facts: The Basques are in the Pyrenees and derive from the Cro Magnon. The reference to "men of South France" below as refers to Cro Magnon man. The Guanches are the now deceased aboriginines of the Canary Islands and are of Cro Magnon descent. So what is the "proposition she is referring to below?

For further facts as to the isolation of the Basques in Europe and their ethnological

relations cf. Joly, "Man before Metals," p. 316. B. Davis is disposed to concede, from an examination of the skulls of the Guanches of the Canary Islands and modern Basques, that both belong to a race proper to those ancient islands, of which the Canaries are the remains!! This is a step in advance indeed. De Quatrefages and Hamy also both assign the Cro-Magnon men of South France and the Guanches to one type—a proposition which involves a certain corollary which both these writers may not care to father. (SDii790)

Obviously the proposition that they would not like to father is that the Atlanteans moved both to South France and to the Guanches in the middle of the Ocean. Otherwise, how does one group end up in those two places?.

For a similar statement she comments on Professor Retzius as giving her direct "patent" support:

The following quotation runs with No. (2), but its significance is such and the writer cited so authoritative, that it deserves a place to itself:— "With regard to the primitive dolichocephalæ [those who have a head unusually long (front to back) relative to width (as do Cro Magnons)] of America, I entertain a hypothesis still more bold, namely, that they are nearly related to the Guanches of the Canary Islands, and to the Atlantic populations of Africa, the Moors, Tuaricks, Copts, which Latham comprises under the name of Egyptian-Atlantidæ. We find one and the same form of skull in the Canary Islands, in front of the African coast, and in the Carib islands, on the opposite coast which faces Africa. The colour of the skin on both sides of the Atlantic is represented in these populations as being of a reddish-brown." (Professor Retzius, "Smithsonian Report," 1859, p. 266.)

(The Tuaricks mentioned in the above paragraph are the Tuaregs mentioned still earlier as descended from the Cro Magnons.)

If, then, Basques and Cro-Magnon Cave-Men are of the same race as the Canarese Guanches, it follows that the former are also allied to the aborigines of America. This is the conclusion which the independent

investigations of Retzius, Virchow, and de Quatrefages necessitate. The Atlantean affinities of these three types become patent. (SDii791)

Here she says it again in shorter form:

A race which MM. de Quatrefages and Hamy regard as a branch of the same stock whence the Canary Island Guanches sprung—offshoots of the Atlanteans, in short. (SDii678)

Here she is quite clear:

The Guanches of the Canary Islands were lineal descendants of the Atlanteans. This fact will account for the great stature evidenced by their old skeletons, as well as by those of their European congeners the Cro-Magnon Palæolithic men. (SDii791)

And finally, she claims all of European paleolithic man as Atlantean:

Palæolithic European man of the Miocene and Pliocene times was a pure Atlantean, as we have previously stated. The Basques are, of course, of a much later date than this, but their affinities, as here shown, go far to prove the original extraction of their remote ancestors. (SDii790)

The discussion in this newsletter will be continued in next month's issue.

Reed Carson

CORRESPONDENCE

U.L.T., One Century Old

Should One Celebrate, and How?

Dear Editor,

We are fast approaching completion of the first one hundred years since the creation of the U.L.T. on February 18th, 1909.

In fact, we are already in the process of such a completion, since the first seed for the U.L.T. was active one century ago in 1907.

Not being a corporation, the U.L.T. is mainly a common ground for the mutual help of independent students in their altruistic search and efforts.

Yet a soul-celebration of its existence should not be entirely out of consideration. We all know the importance of the one hundred years' cycle for any collective project or endeavour. Even the yearly cycle has its significance, in reality, and in 1883, during the first decade of the movement, an Adept-Teacher wrote in a Message to the Theosophical Convention in India:

"You have to make of the Anniversary ceremony celebration a grand success. You have to prove to your evil wishers and enemies that your cause being strong and having taken its stand upon the rock of truth, indeed can never be impeded in its progress by any opposition, however powerful, if you be all united and act in concert. Be true, be loyal to your pledges, to your sacred duty, (.....), to your own conscience. Be tolerant to others, respect the religious views of others if you would have your own respected."

[*"Letters From the Masters of the Wisdom"*, first series, TPH, 1973, Letter 02.]

One century after 1907-1909, the U.L.T. is present in many countries and several continents, and it has an extreme importance for the theosophical movement as a whole. That, of course, implies the existence of a correspondingly significant responsibility. "Duty is the royal talisman", and the U.L.T.'s calm and

common sense approach to the theosophical study and work has had a major, decisive influence, which must continue to grow in the next centuries.

A flame has been kept. It has been well kept –, and this is no small matter. Moreover, it is not everyday that one gets "one hundred years old", and such a luminous fact should be celebrated in our hearts.

It is not only a question of gratefulness for those Brothers who have preserved the luminous Flame so far, although gratitude is something sacred.

The challenging and enlightening process of completing the first Centenary is also an opportunity to renew our own commitment for the next one hundred years, and after.

Carlos Cardoso Aveline, from Brazil.

THE ANCIENTS VISIT S.AMERICA

Dear Editors,

First, I hope you are all well!

I see that *The Aquarian Theosophist* has now been used as a reference in the on-line encyclopedias, as in this URL:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henriette_Mertz

which links to Volume III, Supplement #5 March 17, 2003 with the beautiful article on *Jason and The Argonauts*, with Henriette Mertz's account.

Here are some additional considerations of ancient people traveling to America:

In the *Odyssey*, Book 1, Homer describes the Ethiopians *of the west*:

Poseidon had gone off to the Ethiopians, who are at the world's end, and lie in two halves, the one to the West and the other to the East.

I have no doubt that by "*Ethiopians of the west*" Homer really means the South American Indians. Eth + ops in Greek means *dark skinned*.

Strabo¹ in his book 1, 26, places these Ethiopians in the South Atlantic:

"the whole Atlantic Ocean is one unbroken body of water, and this is particularly true of the Southern Atlantic. All those voyagers have spoken of the last districts to which they came in their voyages as Ethiopian territory and have so reported them. Wherein, then, lies the absurdity, if Homer, too, was misled by a report of this character and divided the Ethiopians into two groups, placing the one group in the east and the other in the west."

http://penelope.uchicago.edu/Thayer/E/Roman/Texts/Strabo/1B2*.html

Maybe there was more advanced knowledge at the time of Homer than the time of Strabo, since Homer really knew the geography of South America?

Enrico Mattievich a physicist at Rio de Janeiro University, in his book *Viagem ao inferno mitológico* (1992) of which I've read a Greek translation, proposed that Odysseus's journey to the Underworld takes place in South America.

From the instructions Circe gave to Odysseus on how to travel to the Underworld²:

You will find the dark abode of Hades near the place where the rivers Pyriphlegethon and Cocytus flow into Acheron, and you will see a rock near it, just where the two roaring rivers run into one another.

Mattievich believes that this is the location *Pongo de Manseriche* in Peru where the Marañón River joins with the Santiago River, thus forming the Amazon River. This URL gives the map by Mattievich (see yellow circle in the map below) *Pongo de Manseriche* in local dialect means, "You'll cry until you rot yourself". It's interesting to note that Plato in his

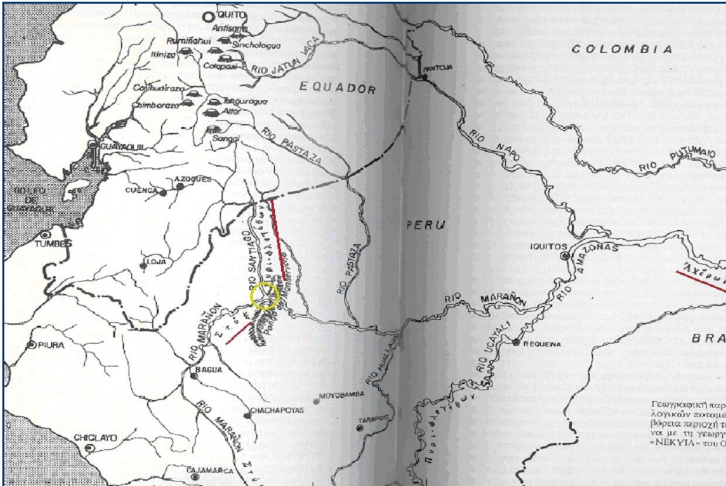
¹ **Strabo** (63/64 BC – c. AD 24) was a Greek historian, geographer and Stoic philosopher. His 17-volume work *Geographica* presented a descriptive history of many peoples and places ranging from Egypt and Ethiopia to India, and has been called a 'philosophy of geography'. (Ed.)

² What do we understand by the underworld – why is it regarded as 'heroic' those who overcome and survived it, like Odysseus? Exoterically it's the place where one comes face to face with the dead; but really the death of our personality, the lower man. (Ed.)

Phaedo identified Acheron as the second greatest river in the world, excelled only by the streams of Oceanus. The Amazon River today is considered to be the greatest river in the world.

I hope you find this interesting.

Greetings from Athens,
Costas



Answer to a query on Genii

& their effects on us

From the Editor:

Regarding that question about the genii controlling two parts of our being but not the highest part:

- one third is self-determining in relation to the stars and
- two thirds are not.

Here is what we find on pages 294 and 95 of Volume I of *The Secret Doctrine*:---

"But let us compare with the commentary just cited the words of Hermes, the "thrice great":--- "The creation of Life by the Sun is as continuous as his light; nothing arrests or limits it. Around him, like

an army of Satellites, are innumerable choirs of genii. These dwell in the neighborhood of the Immortals, and thence watch over human things. They fulfil the will of the gods (Karma) by means of storms, tempests, transitions of fire and earthquakes; likewise by famines and wars, for the punishment of impiety. ... It is the sun who preserves and nourishes all creatures; and even as the Ideal World which environs the sensible world fills this last with the plenitude and universal variety of forms, so also the Sun, enfolding all in his light, accomplishes everywhere the birth and development of creatures," . . . "Under his orders is the choir of Genii, or rather the choirs, for there are many and diverse, and their number corresponds to that of the stars. Every star has its genii good and evil by nature, or rather by their operation, for operation is the essence of the genii, . . . All these Genii preside over mundane affairs, they shake and overthrow the constitution of States and of individuals; they imprint their likeness on our Souls, they are present in our nerves, our marrow, our veins, our arteries, and our very brain substance . . . At the moment when each of receives life and being, he is taken in charge by the genii (Elementals) who preside over births,(and who are classed beneath the astral powers (superhuman astral Spirits). **They permeate by the body two parts of the Soul, that it may receive from each the impress of his own energy. But the reasonable part of the Soul is not subject to the genii; it is designed for the reception of (the) God¹ who enlightens it with a sunny ray. Now what "God" is meant here? Not God "the Father," the anthropomorphic fiction; for that god is the Elohim collectively, and has no being apart from the Host. Besides such a god is finite and imperfect. It is the high Initiates and Adepts who are meant here by those men "few in number." And it is precisely those men who believe in "gods" and know no "God," but one Universal unrelated and unconditioned Deity.**

Have a nice weekend!!

jerome

(PS) Astrologers try, quite often, to interpret Karma as a kind of "fatalism, and even a few Buddhists take this route---- especially the theravadin or Hinayana Buddhists.

¹ The God in man and often the incarnation of a God, a highly Spiritual Dhyana Chohan in him, besides the presence of his own seventh Principle.

This entry of HPB's in the Glossary (pp. 173-74) under KARMA is an answer to the pilgrims who would interpret Karma fatalistically:

KARMA: (Sk.) Physically, action, metaphysically the LAW of RETRIBUTION, the Law of cause and effect or Ethical Causation. Nemesis, only in one sense, that of bad Karma. It is the eleventh *Nidana in the concatenation of causes and effects in orthodox Buddhism*; yet it is the power that controls all things, the resultant of moral action, the metaphysical *Samskara*, or the moral effect of an act committed for the attainment of something which gratifies a personal desire.

There is the Karma of merit and the Karma of demerit. Karma neither punishes nor rewards, it is simply *the one Universal LAW* which guides unerringly, and, so to say, blindly, all other laws productive of certain effects along the grooves of their respective causations. When Buddhism teaches that "Karma is that moral kernel (of any being) which alone survives death and continues in transmigration" or reincarnation, it simply means that there remains nought after each Personality but the causes produced by it; causes which are undying, *i.e.*, which cannot be eliminated from the Universe until replaced by their legitimate effects, and wiped out by them, so to speak, and such causes --- unless compensated during the life of the person who produced them with adequate effects, during the life of the person who produced them with adequate effects, will follow the reincarnated Ego, and reach it in its subsequent reincarnation until a harmony between effects and causes is fully re-established. No "personality" --- a mere bundle of material atoms and of instinctual and material characteristics --- can of course continue, as such, in the world of pure Spirit. Only that which is immortal in its very nature and divine in its essence, namely, **the Ego, that self which is the "moral kernel" referred to and embodied karma**, "which alone survives death."

[from SD Vol. I, pp. 594-96]

ON WISDOM IN ACTION (I)

from W.Q.Judge's "Letters That Have Helped Me", p 124.

This is the right conclusion, to let all talk and other people's concerns slip by and not meddle. No one should be taking information to another, for it fans a flame, and now we have to ignore everything and just work on, be good and kind and, like St. Paul's charity, overlook all things. Retire into your own silence and let all others be in the hands of Karma, as we all are. "Karma takes care of its own." It is better to have no side, for it is all for the Master and He will look out for all if each does just right, even if, to their view, another seems not to do so. By our not looking at their errors too closely, the Master will be able to clear it all off and make it work well. The plan of quiet passive resistance, or rather, laying under the wind, is good and ought to work in all attacks. Retreat within your own heart and there keep firmly still. Resist without resisting. It is possible and should be attained. Once more, au revoir only, no matter what may happen, even irresistible Death itself. Earthquakes here yesterday: these signify some souls of use have come into the world somewhere; but where?

Well, now, just at this minute I do not know exactly what to say. Why not take up an easy and fluidic position in the matter? An occultist is never fixed on any particular mortal plan. So do not fix your mind as yet on a plan. Wait. All things come to him who waits in the right way. Make yourself in every way as good an instrument for any sort of work as you can. Every little thing I ever learned I have now found out to be of use to me in this work of ours. Ease of manner and of speech are of the best to have. Ease of mind and confidence are better than all in this work of dealing with other men—that is, with the human heart. The more wise one is the better he can help his fellows, and the more cosmopolitan he is the better, too. . . . When the hour strikes it will then find you ready; no man knows when the hour will strike. But he has to be ready. You see, Jesus was in fact an occultist, and in the parable of the foolish

virgins gave a real occult ordinance. It is a good one to follow. Nothing is gained, but a good deal is lost, by impatience—not only strength, but also sight and intuition. So decide nothing hastily. Wait; make no set plan.

PUBLISHING NEWS

New Book Catalogue

The "Theosophical Publications Catalogue" has been sent to subscribers to the two monthly "Theosophy" – A Magazine Devoted to 'The Path'.

The Catalogue is free from the ULT LA Lodge www.ult-la.org and contains half page descriptions of the major books available by mail order, including a growing selection of HPB, WQJ and Robert Crosbie's works published *in Spanish*.

In the Catalogue are details of the monthly periodical, the "Theosophy Magazine" from Bombay (\$15 per anum) and also "VIDYA" magazine.

The Catalogue is a reference point that directs attention to *the Movement*.

PROGRESS REPORT from the H.P.B. Defense Fund

on the Project "H.P.B. Authentic Letters"

In the first semester of 2005 "The Aquarian Theosophist" (A.T.) announced the creation of the "H.P.B. Defense Fund".

The aim of the Fund was to be "the vindication of H.P. Blavatsky's good name, character and bona fides". The editors explained that its sole purpose was "the publication of an authentic volume of H.P.B.'s letters".

"Such a volume" – they wrote in "The A.T. Supplement", June 2005 – "will furnish the student and inquirer with the means to discriminate the

authentic from the fraudulent, the clean from the corrupt".

The strong need for an independent and accurate edition of "H.P.B. Letters, Volume I" was created by the presence of a number of false and aggressively slanderous "letters", which had been criminally ascribed to the founder of the theosophical movement, in the volume published late 2003 by Mr. John Algeo and the T.P.H. (Adyar-USA).

Twenty per cent of the letters in that volume are indeed false. That volume seems to be an attempt to include in the very core of the theosophical literature – as if they had been written by H.P.B. herself – a vast collection with the worst slanders ever made against her, or against the movement.

The H.P.B. Defense Fund was established as a result of a sincere feeling of respect for Truth, and respect also for the main founder of the theosophical movement; and it soon received generous donations from several countries and continents, including various sections of the theosophical movement.

In June 2006, "The Aquarian Theosophist" announced in its "H.P.B. Defense Fund Report" that the Fund's goal had been reached, standing at a little over ten thousand dollar target. No more donations were necessary, therefore.

Meanwhile, the editorial work and research had already begun, and included contacts with a printer.

Since the start, editorial work has been voluntary, the Fund itself being for printing expenses only. The preparation of the originals has made progress, but it has also faced obstacles, which was not a surprise. As of February 2007, there is a team of voluntary workers who are committed to the right fulfilment of the task. With regard to the time limit for the project, the need for quality comes first; yet we think it would be appropriate to have the volume with the Authentic Letters of H.P. Blavatsky ready and published in the year 2009.

Now in February 2007, the amount available is \$10,686 U.S. dollars.

We sincerely thank the public, the donors and members of the Editorial Committee for all the support this project has received so far.

Further reports will be regularly published.

The Editors, A.T.



GLOBAL VILLAGE



ULT meetings begin promptly, are free and open to all. No membership, dues or collections – ever.

The Lodge is supported entirely by voluntary contributions.

www.ult-la.org

SUNDAYS

Morning Classes: 10:30 am to 12:00 Noon in English and Spanish, for children, young people and adults.

English Class: "Isis Unveiled by H.P. Blavatsky"

Evening Meeting. Short presentations and discussions on Theosophic themes:
7:30 PM to 8:45 PM (English)

March 07

- 4 - Sound and Vibration
- 11 - The Spring Equinox: Nature's Birthday
- 18 - William Q. Judge: Service and Work
(English-Spanish)
- 25 - Who are "the Great Teachers"?

WEDNESDAYS

Study Class, 1:00 to 2:15 PM "Patanjali's Yoga Aphorisms" (Wm. Q. Judge's rendition)
Study Class, 6:15 to 7:20 PM in Wednesday Thinkers - Basic Theosophy
Study Class: 7:30 to 8:45 PM in The Secret Doctrine by H. P. Blavatsky
(The last Wednesday of the month – Answers to Questions on the Ocean of Theosophy)



THE UNITED LODGE OF THEOSOPHISTS

1917 Walnut Street, Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania 215-563-4692
<http://www.ultphiladelphia.org>

Sunday Meeting Schedule

'The Mysteries of Mind'

March 2007

- 04 Intelligence in Nature
- 11 The Higher and Lower Mind
- 18 Psychic and Spiritual Powers
- 25 Mental Healing and Hypnosis

TALKS AND DISCUSSIONS 11 am to 12 noon, doors open at 10:30 am



Ομοσπονδία Κίρνα
United Lodge of Theosophists
U.L.T. Adira

ULT ATHENS

Mondays 5,30-7,00 p.m.:

Self-Knowledge – Patanjali's Aphorisms,
interpreted by W.Q. Judge

Wednesdays 6.00 to 7.30 p.m.:

Study on the Secret Doctrine by H.P.Blavatsky

8.00 p.m.:

Meeting on various Theosophical subjects

Sundays

Theosophical Studies Meetings are held once a month on Sundays. It is a four hour meeting with discussion on a particular topic.

Admittance free.

March 18, Sunday, 11,00 a.m. – 3,00 p.m.

The Voice of the Silence

The human soul and its struggle against the world of delusion. The paths of self-realization. Buddha, the apex of human evolution. Nirvana and Buddha of Compassion.

Event for MAY 2007:

A meeting in honour of H.P.B. will take place on May 13th. The subject will be "The Origin of Greeks".

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www.ultathens.gr email: aspa@ultathens.gr

MEETINGS AT THE ULT, LONDON CANADA

All are Welcome!

there is no obligation of any kind other than what each one determines.

Program

Wednesday Evening 7:30 - 8:45 pm

A study of the Bhagavad Gita/ The Secret Doctrine /
The Voice of the Silence

From the work of William Q Judge and Helena
Petrovna Blavatsky

Library Open at 7:00 and again at 8:45

"Each one of us stands in the midst of a great and silent evolution. Each one of us sees many expressions of different beings...We are all working toward a greater and greater realization of the whole. Sparks of the One Spirit."

Copies of the Selected Readings are available to students week before for study and preparation. Volunteers are welcome to give short talks, readings or to help in understanding the assigned reading.

Sunday Morning 11 - 12 noon

The Eternal Verities

or the Wisdom and Knowledge of Theosophy
from the Talks of Robert Crosbie

Meetings begin promptly.

The library at the Lodge is open before and after meetings. However, if you are unable to make it, you can arrange a different time to study or contemplate in the library with us. Students use the Lodge throughout the week. Call 519-432-3111 and leave a message to arrange a suitable time.

UNITED LODGE OF THEOSOPHISTS NEW YORK

PROGRAM FOR MARCH 2007

The United Lodge of Theosophists is financially sustained entirely by voluntary contributions. Its activities depend similarly on voluntary offerings in time and work. All are invited to participate, but no obligation is imposed or implied.

SUNDAY MORNINGS

11 A. M. - 12:00 Noon ----Doors open at 10:45
Discussion Group --- Exploring basic tenets of
Theosophy

Spanish Study Group ---- El Oceano de la Teosofia,
by Wm. Q. Judge

SUNDAYS EVENINGS

7:30. to 8:45 — Doors open 6:30
TALKS AND PANEL DISCUSSION

MARCH

04 --- Karma---Law of Moral Compensation
18 --- Dreams and Dreamer

EVERY MONDAY EVENING

7:30 to 9:00 --- Doors open at 6:30 P.M.
Studies in The Secret Doctrine, by H.P. Blavatsky
Group discussion, multi-media, study materials
provided

EVERY WEDNESDAY EVENING

7:30 to 8:45 --- Doors open at 6:30 P.M.
STUDY CLASS --- Echoes from the Orient, by
William Q. Judge

Meeting on the first Wednesday of every month

SPANISH STUDY GROUP --- In Ecos de Oriente, by
William Q. Judge

FRIDAY EVENINGS

7:30 to 8:45 --- Doors open at 6:30 P.M.
March 2nd, Comparative Philosophies and
Religions: Hidden Wisdom --- The Mystery Language
March 9, 16, 23, Theosophic Influences in Cinema,
Theatre, and Literature

Library — Hours: Wednesdays and Sundays
6:45 P.M. to 7:20 P.M. before evening meeting.
Books on Theosophy, Comparative Religion,
Science, Philosophy, Psychology, Education,
Archeology, and the Fine Arts. Standard
Theosophical literature for sale.

<http://www.ult.org/newyorkprogram1.html>

THE PERENNIAL WISDOM

*There Is No Religion Higher Than
Truth*



The three objects of Theosophy:

- ✿ To form the nucleus of a Universal Brotherhood of Humanity
- ✿ To promote the study of the World's religion and sciences
- ✿ To investigate the hidden mysteries of Nature & the psychic & spiritual powers in man

Events are free – all are welcome

Enquiries about Theosophy are invited

- ◆ Talks and discussions on Sundays 7 – 8¹⁵ pm
- ◆ Study group 'Key to Theosophy' Weds 7 – 8¹⁵ pm
- ◆ Study group 'Isis Unveiled II' Weds 8²⁰ – 9²⁰ pm
- ◆ Free Correspondence Course by post or email
✉ email tcc@clara.co.uk

**ULT 62 Queens Gdns London W2 3AH
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www.ultlon.freemasonry.co.uk

ULT is an independent association of students for the study of theosophy and is not affiliated to any theosophical body

SUNDAY MEETINGS:

- 4 The Strength of Perennial Ideals (talk)**
What is the mysterious attraction of solidarity, justice, equality & education of all?
- 11 Great Theosophists – Rosicrucians**
They worked to preserve esoteric wisdom in mediaeval Europe and later
- 18 W.Q.Judge: Co-Founder of the TS**
Special Meeting (2 short talks)
H.P.Blavatsky's Colleague and Friend, who linked the Mystical East to the intellectual West
- 25 Where, WHO, WHAT is GOD?**
What do we mean by God: Supreme Being? Impersonal Divine Principle?