

THE ONCE UNIVERSAL COSMOGONY AND ITS DESCRIPTION IN THE SECRET DOCTRINE

A set of references to the basic concepts

References are given to “The Secret Doctrine” by H.P. Blavatsky (e.g. [SD 1, 341] – Vol. 1, page 341):
[Spiritual Literature in Different Languages \(including Russian and English\)](#)

1. Preface

The fragments of the systems that have now reached us are rejected as absurd fables. Nevertheless, occult Science – having survived even the great Flood that submersed the antediluvian giants and with them their very memory, save in the Secret Doctrine, the Bible and other Scriptures – still holds the Key to all the world problems. Let us apply that Key to the rare fragments of long-forgotten cosmogonies and try by their scattered parts to re-establish **the once Universal Cosmogony of the Secret Doctrine**. The Key fits them all. No one can study ancient philosophies seriously without perceiving that the striking similitude of conception between all – in their exoteric form very often, in their hidden spirit invariably – is the result of no mere coincidence, but of a concurrent design: and that **there was, during the youth of mankind, one languages, one knowledge, one universal religion**, when there were no churches, no creeds or sects, but when every man was a priest unto himself. And, if it is shown that already in those ages which are shut out from our sight by the exuberant growth of tradition, human religious thought developed in uniform sympathy in every portion of the globe; then, it becomes evident that, born under whatever latitude, in the cold North or the burning South, in the East or West, that thought was inspired by **the same revelations**, and man was nurtured under the protecting shadow of **the same TREE OF KNOWLEDGE** [SD 1, 341].

2. Logos vs. Logoi or Builders

2.1. The “Supreme ALL”

... Such active “Creators” are known to exist and are believed in, because perceived and sensed by the inner man in the Occultist. Thus the latter says that an **ABSOLUTE** Deity, having to be unconditioned and unrelated, cannot be thought of at the same time as an active, creating, one living god, without immediate degradation of the ideal.* A **Deity** that **manifests in Space and Time** -- these two being simply the forms of THAT which is the Absolute ALL -- can be but a **fractional** part of the **whole**. And since that “all” cannot be divided in its absoluteness, therefore that sensed **creator** (we say **Creators**) can be at best but the mere aspect thereof [SD 2, 158].

To use the same metaphor – inadequate to express the full idea, yet well adapted to the case in hand – these creators are like the numerous rays of the solar orb, which remains unconscious of, and unconcerned in, the work; while its mediating agents, the rays, become the instrumental media every spring – the Manvantaric dawn of the Earth – in fructifying and awakening the dormant vitality inherent in Nature and its differentiated matter [SD 2, 159].

... Therefore, when the Pantheists echo the Upanishads, which state, as in the Secret Doctrine, that **“this” cannot create**, they *do not deny a Creator*, or rather a *collective aggregate of creators*, but only **refuse**, very logically, to **attribute “creation”** and especially formation, **something finite to an Infinite Principle**. With them, **Parabrahmam** is a **passive** because an **Absolute Cause**, the unconditioned Mukta. It is only limited Omniscience and Omnipotence that are refused to the latter,

because these are still **attributes** (as reflected in man's perceptions); and because **Parabrahm**, being the “**Supreme ALL**”, the ever invisible spirit and Soul of Nature, **changeless and eternal**, **can have no attributes**; absoluteness very naturally precluding any idea of the finite or conditioned from being connected with it. And if the Vedantin **postulates attributes** as **belonging simply to its emanation**, calling it “Iswara plus Maya”, and Avidya (Agnosticism and Nescience rather than ignorance), it is difficult to find any Atheism in this conception. Since there **can be neither two INFINITES nor two ABSOLUTES** in a Universe supposed to be Boundless, this Self-Existence **can hardly be conceived of as creating** personally. In the sense and perceptions of finite "Beings," THAT is Non-“being”, in the sense that it is the one BE-NESS; for, in this ALL lies concealed its coeternal and coeval emanation or inherent radiation, which, upon becoming **periodically Brahma** (the male-female Potency) becomes or **expands** itself into the **manifested Universe**. **Narayana** moving on the (abstract) **waters of Space**, is transformed into the **Waters of concrete** substance moved by him, who now becomes the **manifested WORD** or **Logos**. [SD 1, 7]

Thus there is **but one Absolute** Upadhi (basis) in the spiritual sense, from, on, and in which, are built for Manvantaric purposes the countless basic centres on which proceed the Universal, cyclic, and individual Evolutions during the active period [SD 2, 34].

“The informing Intelligences, which animate these various centres of Being, are referred to indiscriminately by men beyond the Great Range (“Beyond” the Great Range, means, in our case, India, as being the Trans-Himalayan region for the Cis-Himalayan region) as the Manus, the Rishis, the Pitris**, the Prajapati, and so on; and as Dhyani Buddhas, the Chohans, Melhas (fire-gods), Bodhisattvas,*** and others, on this side. The truly ignorant call them gods; the learned profane, the one God; and the wise, the Initiates, honour in them only the Manvantaric manifestations of THAT which neither our Creators (the Dhyani Chohans) nor their creatures can ever discuss or know anything about. The **ABSOLUTE is not to be defined**, and no mortal or immortal has ever seen or comprehended it during the periods of Existence. The mutable cannot know the Immutable, nor can that which lives perceive Absolute Life.”

Therefore, man cannot know higher beings than his own “progenitors”. “Nor shall he worship them”, but he ought to learn how he came into the world [SD 2, 34].

... in Occult metaphysics there are, properly speaking, **two "ONES"** – **the One** on the unreachable plane of Absoluteness and Infinity, on which no speculation is possible, and the **Second "One"** on the plane of **Emanations**. The former can neither emanate nor be divided, as it is eternal, absolute, and immutable. The **Second**, being, so to speak, the **reflection of the first One** (for it is the **Logos**, or Eswara, in the Universe of Illusion), can do all this.** It emanates from itself – as the upper Sephirothal Triad emanates the lower seven Sephiroth – the seven Rays or Dhyani Chohans; in other words, the Homogeneous becomes the Heterogeneous, the "Protyle" differentiates into the Elements [SD 1, 129].

But just as the opposite poles of subject and object, spirit and matter, are but aspects of the One Unity in which they are synthesized, so, in the manifested Universe, there is "**that**" which **links spirit to matter**, subject to object.

This something, at present unknown to Western speculation, is called by the occultists **Fohat**. It is the "bridge" by which the "Ideas" existing in the "Divine Thought" are impressed on Cosmic substance as the "laws of Nature." Fohat is thus the dynamic energy of Cosmic Ideation; or, regarded from the other side, it is the intelligent medium, the **guiding power of all manifestation**, the "**Thought Divine**" transmitted and made manifest through the **Dhyani Chohans**,* the **Architects of the visible World**. Thus from Spirit, or Cosmic Ideation, comes our consciousness; from Cosmic Substance the several vehicles in which that consciousness is individualised and attains to self – or reflective – consciousness; while Fohat, in its various manifestations, is the mysterious link between Mind and Matter, the animating principle electrifying every atom into life.

The following summary will afford a clearer idea to the reader.

- (1.) The **ABSOLUTE**; the Parabrahm of the Vedantins or the one Reality, SAT, which is, as Hegel says, both Absolute Being and Non-Being.
 - (2.) The **first manifestation**, the impersonal, and, in philosophy, **unmanifested Logos**, the precursor of the "manifested." This is the "First Cause," the "Unconscious" of European Pantheists.
 - (3.) **Spirit-matter**, LIFE; the "**Spirit of the Universe**," the **Purusha** and **Prakriti**, or the **second Logos**.
 - (4.) Cosmic Ideation, **MAHAT** or **Intelligence**, the Universal World-Soul; the Cosmic Noumenon of Matter, the basis of the intelligent operations in and of Nature, also called MAHA-BUDDHI.
- The ONE REALITY; its dual aspects in the conditioned Universe [SD 1, 16].

2.2. Logos

Explaining some of the "heresies" of his day, Justin Martyr shows the **identity of all the world religions** at their starting points. The first beginning opens invariably with the unknown and **PASSIVE deity**, from **which emanates a certain active power** or virtue, the Mystery that is sometimes called **WISDOM**, sometimes the **SON**, very often God, Angel, Lord, and **LOGOS**. The latter is sometimes applied to the very first emanation, but in several systems it proceeds from the first androgyne or double ray produced at the beginning by the unseen. Philo depicts this wisdom as male and female [SD 2, 489].

"The universe", says every Philosophy and Cosmogony, "hath a **Ruler** (Rulers collectively) set over it, which is called the **WORD (Logos)**; the fabricating Spirit is its **Queen**: which two are the First Power after the **ONE**" [SD 2, 36].

The "Heavenly Man" (**Tetragrammaton**) who is the Protogonos, Tikkoun, the firstborn from the passive deity and the first manifestation of that deity's shadow, is the universal form and idea, which **engenders** the **manifested Logos**, Adam Kadmon, or the four-lettered symbol, in the Kabala, of the Universe itself, also called the **second Logos**. [SD 2, 25]

At the commencement of a great Manvantara, Parabrahm manifests as Mulaprakriti and then as the **Logos**. This Logos is equivalent to the "Unconscious Universal Mind," etc., of Western Pantheists. It constitutes the Basis of the SUBJECT-side of manifested Being, and is the source of all manifestations of individual consciousness. Mulaprakriti or Primordial Cosmic Substance, is the foundation of the OBJECT-side of things – the basis of all objective evolution and Cosmogony. Force, then, does not emerge with Primordial Substance from Parabrahmic Latency. It is the transformation into energy of the supra-conscious thought of the Logos, infused, so to speak, into the objectivation of the latter out of potential latency in the One Reality. Hence spring the wondrous laws of matter [SD 2, 24].

... This relates to the **Logos of every Cosmogony**. The unknown Light – with which he is said to be co-eternal and coeval – is reflected in the "First-Born," the Protogonos; and the **Demiurgos** or the Universal Mind directs his Divine Thought into the Chaos that under the fashioning of minor gods will be divided into the seven oceans – Saptamudras. It is Purusha, Ahura Mazda, Osiris, etc., and finally the gnostic Christos, who is in the Kabala, Hokhmah or Wisdom the "Word" [SD 2, 703].

It is a well-known fact – to learned Symbolists at all events – that in every great religion of antiquity, it is the **Logos Demiurge** (the **second logos**), or the first emanation from the mind (Mahat), who is made to strike, so to say, the key-note of that which may be called the correlation of individuality and personality in the subsequent scheme of evolution. The **Logos** it is, who is shown in the mystic symbolism of cosmogony, theogony, and anthropogony, playing two parts in the drama of Creation and Being, i.e., that of the purely human personality and the divine impersonality of the so-called **Avatars**, or divine incarnations, and of the universal Spirit, called Christos by the Gnostics, and the Farvarshi (or Ferouer) of Ahura Mazda in the Mazdean philosophy. On the lower rungs of theogony the celestial Beings of lower Hierarchies had each a Farvarshi, or a celestial "Double." It is the same, only a still more mystic, reassertion of the Kabalistic axiom, "Deus est Demon inversus"; the word "demon", however, as in the case of Socrates, and in the spirit of the meaning given to it by the whole of

antiquity, standing for the guardian Spirit, an "Angel", not a devil of Satanic descent, as theology will have it [SD 2, 478].

The reader must bear in mind that there is a **great difference** between the **LOGOS** and the **Demiurgos**, for one is Spirit and the other is Soul; ...

Moreover, **Man** was regarded in several systems as the **third Logos**. The esoteric meaning of the word Logos (speech or word, Verbum) is the rendering in objective expression, as in a photograph, of the concealed thought. The **Logos is the mirror reflecting DIVINE MIND**, and the **Universe is the mirror of the Logos**, though the latter is the esse of that Universe. As the Logos reflects all in the Universe of Pleroma, so man reflects in himself all that he sees and finds in his Universe, the Earth. It is the three Heads of the Kabala: "Unum intra alterum, et alterum super alterum" (Zohar, Idra Suta, sec. VII). "**Every Universe** (world or planet) has its **own Logos**," says the doctrine. The **Sun** was always called by the Egyptians "**the eye of Osiris**," and was himself the Logos, the first-begotten, or light made manifest to the world, "which is the Mind and divine intellect of the Concealed." It is only by the sevenfold Ray of this light that *we can become cognizant of the Logos through the Demiurge*, regarding the **latter** as the **creator of our planet** and everything pertaining to it, and the **former as the guiding Force** of that "Creator" – good and bad at the same time, the origin of good and the origin of evil. This "Creator" is neither good nor bad per se, but its differentiated aspects in nature make it assume one or the other character. With the invisible and the unknown Universes disseminated through space, none of the sun-gods had anything to do. The idea is expressed very clearly in the "Books of Hermes," and in every ancient folk lore. It is symbolised generally by the **Dragon** and the **Serpent** – the Dragon of Good and the Serpent of Evil ... [SD 2, 25].

The Zohar gives it very suggestively. When the "**Holy One**" (**the Logos**) desired to create man, he called the **highest host of Angels** [SD 2, 491].

In the ancient Cosmogonies, the visible and the invisible worlds are the double links of one and the same chain. As the invisible **Logos**, with its **seven hierarchies** (represented or personified each by its chief angel or rector), form one POWER, the inner and the invisible; so, in the world of Forms, the **Sun** and the **seven chief Planets** constitute the visible and active potency; the latter "Hierarchy" being, so to speak, the visible and objective Logos of the invisible and (except in the lowest grades) ever-subjective angels [SD 2, 23].

... In order to make my meaning clear I may point out here that the **Logos** has **seven forms**. In other words, there are **seven kinds of Logoi in the Cosmos**. Each of these has become the central figure of one of the seven main branches of the ancient Wisdom-religion [SD 2, 636]. (See also **Fohat** and the **divine Builders** [SD 2, 590]).

2.3. Architect

Whatever may be the destiny of these actual writings in a remote future, we hope to have proven so far the following facts:

- (1) The Secret Doctrine teaches no Atheism, except in the Hindu sense of the word nastika, or the rejection of idols, including every anthropomorphic god. In this sense every Occultist is a Nastika.
- (2) It admits a **Logos** or a **collective "Creator"** of the **Universe**; a **Demiurgos** -- in the sense implied when one speaks of an "**Architect**" as the "**Creator**" of an **edifice**, whereas that **Architect** has never touched one stone of it, but, while furnishing the plan, left all the manual labour to the masons; in our case the plan was furnished by the Ideation of the Universe, and the constructive labour was left to the Hosts of intelligent Powers and Forces. But that **Demiurgos** is no **personal deity**, - i.e., an imperfect extra-cosmic god, - but only the aggregate of the **Dhyan-Chohans** and the other forces [SD 1, 279].

In every Cosmogony, **behind** and higher than the creative deity, there is a **superior deity**, a planner, an **Architect**, of whom the **Creator** is but the **executive agent**. And still higher, over and around, within and without, there is the UNKNOWABLE and the unknown, the Source and Cause of all these Emanations [SD 1, 43].

Light is the great Protean magician, and under the divine will of the **architect**, or rather the **architects**, the "**Builders**" (called **One** collectively), its multifarious, omnipotent waves gave birth to every form as well as to every living being. ... Within its beams lie the beginnings of all physical and chemical action, and of all cosmic and spiritual phenomena; it vitalizes and disorganizes; it gives life and produces death, and from its primordial point gradually emerged into existence the myriads of worlds, visible and invisible celestial bodies [SD 1, 579].

The previous Globes disintegrate and reappear transformed and perfected for a new phase of life. In the Kabala, worlds are compared to sparks which fly from under the hammer of the **great Architect – LAW**, the law which rules all the **smaller Creators**. [SD 1, 199]. Kabbalistically speaking, the "**Architect**" is the generic name for the Sephiroth, the **Builders of the Universe**, as the "Universal Mind" represents the collectivity of the Dhyani Chohanics Minds [SD 1, 579].

SYMBOL ☉: This first, or rather ONE, principle was called "the circle of Heaven," symbolized by the hierogram of a **point** within a **circle** or equilateral triangle, the **point** being the **LOGOS**. Thus, in the Rig Veda, wherein Brahma is not even named, Cosmogony is precluded with the Hiranyagarha, "the Golden Egg," and Prajapati (Brahma later on), from whom emanate all the hierarchies of "Creators." The Monad, or point, is the original and is the unit from which follows the entire numeral system. This Point is the First Cause, but THAT from which it emanates, or of which, rather, it is the expression, the Logos, is passed over in silence. In its turn, the **universal symbol**, the **point** within the **circle**, was **not** yet the **Architect**, but the **cause** of that **Architect**; and the latter stood to it in precisely the same relation as the point itself stood to the circumference of the Circle, which cannot be defined, according to Hermes Trismegistus [SD 1, 426].

NAME: In the cosmogonies of all the nations it is the "Architects" synthesized by **Demiurgos** (in the Bible the "Elohim"), who fashion **Kosmos** out of **Chaos**, and who are the **collective Theos**, "male-female," **Spirit** and **matter**. "By a series (yom) of foundations (hasoth) the Alhim caused earth and heaven to be" (Gen. ii., 4). In the Bible it is first Alhim, then Jahva-Alhim, and finally Jehovah --after the separation of the sexes in chapter iv. of Genesis. It is noticeable that nowhere, except in the later, the last Cosmogonies of our Fifth race, is the **ineffable** and **unutterable NAME***** – the symbol of the Unknown Deity, which was used only in the **MYSTERIES** – used in connection with the "**Creation**" of the **Universe**. It is the "Movers," the "Runners," the theoi (from [[theein]], "to run"), who do the work of formation, the "Messengers" of the manvantaric law, who have now become in Christianity the "messengers" (malachim); and it seems the same in Hinduism or early Brahmanism. For it is not Brahma who creates in the Rig Veda, but the Prajapati, the "Lords of Being," who are the Rishis; the word Rishi (according to Professor Mahadeo Kunte) being connected with the word to move, to lead on, applied to them in their terrestrial character, when, as Patriarchs, they lead their hosts on the Seven Rivers.

*** It is "unutterable" for the simple reason that it is non-existent. It never was a name, nor any word at all, but an Idea that could not be expressed. A **substitute** was created for it in the century preceding our era [SD 1, 346].

... the **creative Logoi** have their understanding opened, and they see in the ideal world (hitherto concealed in the divine thought) the archetypal forms of all, and proceed to copy and build or fashion upon these models forms evanescent and transcendent. *At this stage* of action, the **Demiurge**** *is not* yet the **Architect**. Born in the twilight of action, he has yet to first perceive the plan, to realise the ideal forms which lie buried in the bosom of Eternal Ideation, as the future lotus-leaves, the immaculate petals, are concealed within the seed of that plant [SD 1, 380].

In the earliest Hindu exoteric cosmogonies, it is **not** even the **Demiurge** who **creates**. For it is said in one of the Puranas that: "The **great Architect** of the **World** gives the first **impulse** to the **rotatory** motion of our **planetary** system by stepping in turn over each planet and body." It is this action "that causes each sphere to turn around itself, and all around the Sun." After which action, "it is the Brahmandica, the Solar and Lunar Pitris (the Dhyani-Chohans)" who take charge of their respective spheres (earths and planets), to the end of the Kalpa." The **Creators** are the Rishis; most of whom are credited with the authorship of

the mantras or Hymns of the Rig Veda. They are sometimes **seven**, sometimes ten, when they become prajapati, the "**Lord of Beings**"; then they rebecome the seven and the fourteen Manus, as the representatives of the seven and fourteen cycles of Existence ("Days of Brahma"); thus answering to the seven AEons, when at the end of the first stage of Evolution they are transformed into the seven stellar Rishis, the Saptarishis; while their human doubles appear as heroes, Kings and Sages on this earth [SD 1, 442].

2.4. Angelic Hierarchy (Creator, Builders)

The Buddhists maintained that *there is no Creator, but an infinitude of creative powers*, which collectively form the one eternal substance, the essence of which is inscrutable -- hence not a subject for speculation for any true philosopher [SD 1, 4].

The Stanza [V] proceeds with a minute classification of the Orders of **Angelic Hierarchy**. From the group of Four and Seven emanates the "mind-born" group of Ten, of Twelve, of Twenty-one, etc., all these divided again into sub-groups of septenaries, novenaries, duodecimals, and so on, until the mind is lost in this endless enumeration of celestial hosts and Beings, *each having its distinct task* in the ruling of the visible Kosmos during its existence [SD 1, 129].

The Secret Doctrine, in the Stanzas given here, **occupies** itself chiefly, if not entirely, with our **Solar System**, and especially with our **planetary** chain. The "Seven Sons," therefore, are the creators of the latter [SD 1, 60].

Stanza III describes the **Re-awakening** of the **Universe** to life after **Pralaya**. It depicts the emergence of the "Monads" from their state of absorption within the ONE; the earliest and highest stage in the formation of "Worlds," the term Monad being one which may apply equally to the vastest Solar System or the tiniest atom.

Stanza IV shows the differentiation of the "Germ" of the Universe into the septenary hierarchy of conscious **Divine Powers**, who are the *active manifestations* of the *One Supreme Energy*. They are the **framers, shapers**, and ultimately the **creators** of all the **manifested Universe**, in the only sense in which the name "**Creator**" is intelligible; they inform and guide it; they are the intelligent Beings who *adjust* and *control evolution*, embodying in themselves those manifestations of the ONE LAW, which we know as "The Laws of Nature."

Generically, they are known as the **Dhyan Chohans**, though each of the various groups has its own designation in the Secret Doctrine.

This stage of evolution is spoken of in Hindu mythology as the "**Creation**" of the **Gods** [SD 1, 22].

Round, or life-cycle on this planet, must occupy the same place in the same order – save details based on local conditions and time – as in the preceding Round. Again, it must be explained and remembered that, as the work of each Round is said to be apportioned to a different group of so-called "**Creators**" or "**Architects**," so is that of every globe; i.e., it is under the supervision and guidance of special "**Builders**" and "**Watchers**" – the various **Dhyan-Chohans** [SD 1, 233].

The "**Builders**," the "Sons of Manvantaric Dawn," are the real **creators** of **the Universe**; and in this doctrine, which deals only with our Planetary System, they, as the **architects of the latter**, are also called the "**Watchers**" of the Seven Spheres, which exoterically are the Seven planets, and esoterically the seven earths or spheres (planets) of our chain also [SD 1, 53].

There are **three** chief **groups** of **Builders** and as many of the Planetary Spirits and the Lipika, each group being again divided into Seven sub-groups. It is impossible, even in such a large work as this, to enter into a minute examination of even the three principal groups, as it would demand an extra volume. The "**Builders**" are the representatives of the **first** "Mind-Born" Entities, therefore of the primeval Rishi-Prajapati: also of the Seven great Gods of Egypt, of which **Osiris** is the chief: of the Seven Amshaspendis of the Zoroastrians, with Ormazd at their head: or the "Seven Spirits of the Face": the Seven Sephiroth separated from the first Triad, etc. ... They **build** or rather **rebuild** every "**System**" after the "Night." The

Second group of the **Builders** is the **Architect** of our **planetary chain** exclusively; and the **third**, the progenitor of our **Humanity** - the Macrocosmic prototype of the microcosm [SD 1, 128].

3. Water

These are the **Spirit** and **Nature**, which two form our illusory universe. **The two inseparables** remain in the Universe of Ideas so long as it lasts, and then merge back into Parabrahm, the One ever changeless. "The Spirit, whose essence is eternal, one and self-existent," emanates a pure ethereal LIGHT – a dual light not perceptible to the elementary senses – in the Puranas, in the Bible, in the Sepher Jezirah, ... in the Chaldean Book of Numbers, in the esotericism of Lao-tse, everywhere [SD 2, 37].

But there are two distinct aspects in universal Esotericism, Eastern and Western, in all those personations of the **female Power** in nature, or nature – the noumenal and the phenomenal. One is its purely metaphysical aspect, as described by the learned lecturer in his "Notes on the Bhagavat-Gita;" the other terrestrial and physical, and at the same time divine from the stand-point of practical human conception and Occultism. They are all the symbols and personifications of **Chaos**, the "**Great Deep**" or the **Primordial Waters of Space**, the impenetrable VEIL between the INCOGNISABLE and the LOGOS of Creation. "Connecting himself through his mind with Vach, Brahma (the **Logos**) created the **primordial waters**" [SD 1, 431].

In all **Cosmogonies** "**Water**" plays the **same** important **part**. It is the base and source of material existence. Scientists, mistaking the word for the thing, understood by water the definite chemical combination of oxygen and hydrogen, thus giving a specific meaning to a term used by Occultists in a generic sense, and which is used in Cosmogony with a metaphysical and mystical meaning [SD 1, 64].

Water is the symbol of the **female element** everywhere; mater, from which the letter M, is derived pictorially from **MM** a water hieroglyph. It is the universal matrix or the "Great Deep." **Venus**, the great Mother-Virgin, issues forth from the Sea-wave, and Cupid or Eros is her son. But Venus is the later mythological variant of Gaia (or Gaea), the Earth, which, in its higher aspect is Nature (Prakriti), and metaphysically Aditi, and even Mulaprakriti, the root of Prakriti or its noumenon [SD 2, 65].

...The "Swan or goose" (Hansa) is the symbol of that male or temporary deity, as he, the emanation of the primordial Ray, is made to serve as a Vahan or **vehicle** for that **divine Ray**, which otherwise could not manifest itself in the Universe ...It is Brahma, then, who is **Kala-Hansa**, and the Ray, the **Hansa-Vahana**. As to the strange symbol chosen, it is equally suggestive; the true mystic significance being the idea of a universal matrix, figured by the **primordial waters** of the "deep," or the opening for the reception, and subsequently for the issue, of that one ray (the **Logos**), which contains in itself the other seven procreative rays or powers (the logoi or **builders**). Hence the choice by the Rosecroix of the aquatic fowl -- whether swan or pelican,* with seven young ones for a symbol, **modified and adapted to the religion of every country**. En-Soph is called the "Fiery Soul of the Pelican" in the Book of Numbers.

Whether the genus of the bird be cygnus, anser, or pelecanus, it is no matter, as it is an aquatic bird floating or **moving on the waters like the Spirit**, and then issuing from those waters to give birth to other beings. The true significance of the symbol of the Eighteenth Degree of the Rose-Croix is precisely this, though poetised later on into the motherly feeling of the Pelican rending its bosom to feed its seven little ones with its blood [SD 1, 80].

"And the **Spirit** of **GOD** moved upon the **face** of the **Waters**" (v. 2), or the **great Deep** of the Infinite **Space**. And this **Spirit** is Narayana, or Vishnu [SD 1, 336].

The Pythagorean Monad is also said to dwell in solitude and darkness like the "germ." The idea of the "breath" of Darkness moving over "the slumbering **Waters of life**," which is primordial matter with the latent Spirit in it, recalls the first chapter of Genesis. Its original is the Brahminical **Narayana** (the **mover on the Waters**), who is the personification of the eternal Breath of the unconscious All (or Parabrahm) of the Eastern Occultists. The **Waters of Life**, or **Chaos** – the female principle in

symbolism – are the **vacuum** (to our mental sight) in which lie the **latent Spirit** and **Matter**. This it was that made Democritus assert, after his instructor Leucippus, that the primordial principles of all were atoms and a vacuum, in the sense of space, but not of empty space, as "Nature abhors a vacuum" according to the Peripatetics, and every ancient philosopher [SD 1, 64].

Compare to: “**Fohat**” sets in motion the primordial World-germs, or the aggregation of Cosmic atoms and matter, some one way, some another, in the opposite direction” [SD 2, 672].

In this sense **fire** and **water** stand for the **spirit** and **matter** [SD 1, 379]

4. Dragons and Serpents

“The “**Dragon of Wisdom**” is the One, the “Eka” (Sanskrit) or Saka. It is curious that **Jehovah's name** in Hebrew should also be One, Echod. “His name is Echod”: say the Rabbins. The philologists ought to decide which of the two is derived from the other – linguistically and symbolically: surely, not the Sanskrit? The “**One**” and the **Dragon** are expressions used by the ancients in connection with their respective **Logoi**. Jehovah – esoterically (as Elohim) – is also the Serpent or Dragon that tempted Eve, and the “Dragon” is an old glyph for “Astral Light” (Primordial Principle), “which is the Wisdom of Chaos”. Archaic philosophy, recognizing neither Good nor Evil as a fundamental or independent power, but starting from the Absolute ALL (Universal Perfection eternally), traced both through the course of natural evolution to pure Light condensing gradually into form, hence becoming Matter or Evil. It was left with the early and ignorant Christian fathers to degrade the philosophical and highly scientific idea of this **emblem (the Dragon)** into the absurd superstition called the “Devil”. They took it from the later Zoroastrians, who saw devils or the Evil in the Hindu Devas, and the word Evil thus became by a double transmutation D'Evil in every tongue (Diabolos, Diable, Diavolo, Teufel). But the Pagans have always shown a philosophical discrimination in their symbols. The **primitive symbol** of the **serpent** symbolised **divine Wisdom** and **Perfection**, and had always stood for **psychical Regeneration** and **Immortality**. Hence -- Hermes, calling the serpent the most spiritual of all beings; Moses, initiated in the wisdom of Hermes, following suit in Genesis; the Gnostic's Serpent with the seven vowels over its head, being the emblem of the **seven hierarchies** of the **Septenary** or **Planetary Creators**. Hence, also, the Hindu serpent Sessa or Ananta, “the Infinite” a name of Vishnu, whose first **Vahan** or **vehicle on the primordial waters** is this **serpent**.* **Yet they all made a difference between the good and the bad Serpent.**

* Like the logoi and the Hierarchies of Powers, however, the "Serpents" have to be distinguished one from the other. Sessa or Ananta, "the couch of Vishnu," is an allegorical abstraction, symbolizing **infinite Time in Space**, which contains the germ and throws off periodically the efflorescence of this germ, the manifested Universe; whereas, the gnostic Ophis contained the same triple symbolism in its seven vowels as the One, Three and Seven-syllabled Oeohoo of the Archaic doctrine; i.e., the **One Unmanifested Logos**, the **Second manifested**, the triangle concreting into the Quaternary or Tetragrammaton, and the rays of the latter on the material plane [SD 1, 73].

Jesus accepted the **serpent** as a synonym of **Wisdom**, and this formed part of his teaching: “Be ye wise as serpents”, he says. “In the beginning, before Mother became Father-Mother, the fiery Dragon moved in the infinitudes alone” (Book of Sarparajni.). The Aitareya Brahmana calls the Earth Sarparajni, “the Serpent Queen”, and “the Mother of all that moves”. Before our globe became egg-shaped (and the Universe also) “**a long trail of Cosmic dust (or fire mist) moved and writhed like a serpent in Space**”. The “**Spirit of God moving on Chaos**” was symbolized by every nation in the shape of a **fiery serpent** breathing fire and light **upon the primordial waters**, until it had incubated cosmic matter and made it assume the annular shape of a **serpent** with its **tail in its mouth** – which symbolises not only Eternity and Infinitude, but also the globular shape of all the bodies formed within the Universe from that fiery mist. The Universe, as well as the Earth and Man, **cast off periodically, serpent-like, their old skins**, to assume new ones after a time of rest. The serpent is, surely, a not less

graceful or a more unpoetical image than the caterpillar and chrysalis from which springs the butterfly, the Greek emblem of Psyche, the human soul. The "Dragon" was also the **symbol** of the **Logos** with the Egyptians, as with the Gnostics. In the "Book of Hermes, "Pymander, the oldest and the most spiritual of the Logoi of the Western Continent, appears to Hermes in the shape of a Fiery Dragon of "Light, Fire, and Flame". Pymander, the "Thought Divine" personified, says: The Light is me, I am the Nous (the mind or Manu), I am thy God, and I am far older than the human principle which escapes from the shadow ("Darkness", or the concealed Deity). I am the germ of thought, the resplendent Word, the Son of God. All that thus sees and hears in thee is the Verbum of the Master, it is the Thought (Mahat) which is God, the Father ** [SD 1, 74].

* The **Astral Light**, or the Aether, of the ancient pagans (for the name of Astral Light is quite modern) is **Spirit-Matter**. Beginning with the pure spiritual plane, it becomes grosser as it descends until it becomes the Maya or the tempting and deceitful serpent on our plane.

** By "God, the Father," the seventh principle in Man and Kosmos are here unmistakably meant, this principle being inseparable in its Esse and Nature from the seventh Cosmic principle. In one sense it is the Logos of the Greeks and the Avalokiteswara of the esoteric Buddhists.

Because the "**Waters**" is another name of the "Great Deep," the primordial Waters of space or Chaos, and also means "**Mother**," Amba, meaning Aditi and Akasa, the Celestial Virgin-Mother of the **visible universe**. Furthermore, the "**Waters of the flood**" are also called "the **GREAT DRAGON**," or Ophis, Ophio-Morphos [SD 1, 460].

5. Tree and Serpents (Dragons)

The Symbol for Sacred and Secret Knowledge was universally in antiquity, a **Tree**, by which a Scripture or a Record was also meant. Hence the word Lipika, the "writers" or scribes; the "**Dragons** (or **Serpents**)," symbols of **wisdom**, who **guard the Trees of Knowledge**. ... Juno giving to Jupiter, on her marriage with him, a Tree with golden fruit is another form of Eve offering Adam the apple from the Tree of Knowledge [SD 1, 129].

It is easy to see whence the primal idea of this dual, Janus-like character of the **Serpent**: the good and the bad. This symbol is **one of the most ancient** ... and the general association of the **Serpent with the tree**. The **legends** about the various things it represents are numberless; but, as most of them are **allegorical**, they have now passed into the class of fables based on ignorance and dark superstition. For instance, when Philostratus narrates that the natives of India and Arabia fed on the heart and liver of serpents in order to learn the language of all the animals, the serpent being credited with that faculty, he certainly never meant his words to be accepted literally. (See De Vita Apollonii, lib. 1, c. xiv.) As will be found more than once as we proceed, the "**Serpent**" and "**Dragon**" were the names given to the "**Wise Ones**," the **initiated adepts** of olden times. ... The **Nagas** of the Hindu and Tibetan adepts were **human Nagas (Serpents)**, not reptiles. Moreover, the Serpent has ever been the type of **consecutive** or **serial rejuvenation**, of **IMMORTALITY** and **TIME** [SD 1, 404].

The numerous and extremely interesting readings, the interpretations and facts about Serpent **worship**, given in "The Natural Genesis," are very ingenious and scientifically correct. But they are far from covering the whole of the meanings implied. They divulge only the **astronomical** and **physiological** mysteries, with the addition of some **cosmic** phenomena. ...As a symbol, the **Serpent** had as **many aspects** and **occult meanings** as the **Tree** itself; the "Tree of Life," with which it was emblematically and almost indissolubly connected. Whether viewed as a metaphysical or a physical symbol, the **Tree and Serpent**, jointly, or separately, have never been so degraded by antiquity as they are now, in this our age of the breaking of idols, not for truth's sake, but to glorify the more gross matter [SD 1, 405].

Thus, in the beginning of their joint existence as a **glyph of Immortal Being**, the **Tree and Serpent** were divine imagery, truly. The **tree was reversed**, and its **roots were generated in Heaven** and

grew *out* of the *Rootless Root of all-being*. Its trunk grew and developed, crossing the planes of Pleroma, it shot out crossways its luxuriant branches, first on the plane of hardly differentiated matter, and then downward till they touched the terrestrial plane. Thus, the *Asvattha, tree of Life and Being*, whose destruction alone leads to immortality, is said in the Bhagavatgita to grow with its roots above and its branches below (ch. xv.). The *roots* represent the *Supreme Being*, or *First Cause*, the *LOGOS*; but one has to go beyond those roots to unite oneself with Krishna, who, says Arjuna (XI.), is "greater than Brahman, and First Cause . . . the indestructible, that which is, that which is not, and what is beyond them." Its boughs are Hiranyagarbha (Brahma or Brahman in his highest manifestations, say Sridhara and Madhusudana), the highest Dhyana Chohans or Devas. The Vedas are its leaves. He only who goes beyond the roots shall never return, i.e., shall reincarnate no more during this "age" of Brahma [SD 1, 406].

Though one and the same thing in their origin, *Spirit* and *Matter*, when once they are on the plane of differentiation, begin each of them their evolutionary progress in contrary directions – Spirit falling gradually into matter, and the latter ascending to its original condition, that of a pure spiritual substance. Both are inseparable, yet ever separated. In polarity, on the physical plane, two like poles will always repel each other, while the negative and the positive are mutually attracted, so do Spirit and Matter stand to each other – *the two poles* of the same homogeneous substance, the *root-principle of the universe* [SD 1, 248].



The trunk of the *ASVATTHA* (the tree of Life and Being, the *ROD* of the *Caduceus*) grows from and descends at every Beginning (every new manvantara) from the two dark wings of the Swan (*HANSA*) of Life. The *two Serpents*, the ever-living and its illusion (*Spirit* and *matter*) whose two heads grow from the one head between the wings, descend along the trunk, interlaced in close embrace. The two tails join on earth (the manifested Universe) into one, and this is the great illusion, O Lanoo!

Every one knows what the *Caduceus* is, already *modified* by the *Greeks*. The *original* symbol – with the *triple head of the serpent* – became altered into a rod with a knob, and the two lower heads were separated, thus disfiguring somewhat the original meaning. Yet it is as good an illustration as can be for our purpose, this laya rod

entwined by

Fig. 1 two serpents. Verily the wonderful powers of the magic caduceus were sung by all the ancient poets, with a very good reason for those who understood the secret meaning [SD1, 550].

It is only when its pure boughs had touched the terrestrial mud of the garden of Eden, of our Adamic race, that this Tree got soiled by the contact and lost its pristine purity; and that the Serpent of Eternity – the *heaven-born LOGOS* – was finally *degraded* [SD 1, 407].

The *Serpent* became the type and *symbol of evil*, and of the Devil, only during the *middle ages*. The early Christians had their dual Logos: the Good and the Bad Serpent.... either the early Christians, up to the VIth Century, were bond fide pagans, or that dogmatic Christianity was borrowed wholesale, and passed in full into the Christian Church – Sun, Tree, Serpent, Crocodile and all [SD 1, 410].

Instead of becoming a neophyte, and gradually obtaining his esoteric knowledge through a regular initiation, an Adam, or Man, uses his intuitional faculties and, prompted by the serpent (Woman and matter), *tastes* of the *Tree of Knowledge* – the esoteric or Secret Doctrine – *unlawfully* [SD 2, 202].

In the "*Popol Vuh*" the Third Race of men is created out of the tree Tzita and the marrow of the reed called Sibac. But Sibac means "*egg*" in the mystery language of the Artufas (or Initiation caves). In a report sent in 1812 to the Cortes by Don Baptista Pino it is said: "All the Pueblos have their Artufas -- so the natives call subterranean rooms with only a single door where they (secretly) assemble. ... These are impenetrable temples ... and *the doors are always closed to the Spaniards*. ... They adore the Sun and Moon ... fire and the great *SNAKE* (the creative power), whose eggs are called Sibac." [SD 2, 181].

The *serpent*, the *Tree of Knowledge* of Good and Evil, and the *Tree of Life*, are all symbols transplanted from the soil of India. The Arasa-Maram, the *banyan tree*, so sacred with the *Hindus* (since Vishnu during one of his incarnations, reposed under its mighty shade and there taught human philosophy and sciences), is called the *Tree of Knowledge* and the *Tree of Life*. Under the protecting foliage of this king of the forests, the *Gurus teach their pupils* their first lessons on immortality and initiate them into the mysteries of life and death. ... To the present day Foh-tchou,* who lives in his Foh-Maeyu, or *temple of Buddha*, on the top of the "Kouin-long-sang," the great mountain, produces his greatest religious miracles *under a tree* called in Chinese Sung-Ming-Shu, or the *Tree of Knowledge* and the *Tree of Life*, for ignorance is death, and knowledge alone gives immortality. This marvellous display takes place every three years, when an immense concourse of Chinese Buddhists assembles in pilgrimage at the holy place.

Now it may become comprehensible why the earliest *Initiates* and *Adepts*, or the "*Wise Men*," for whom it is claimed that they were initiated into the mysteries of nature by the UNIVERSAL MIND, represented by the highest angels, were named the "*Serpents of Wisdom*" and "*Dragons*"... "*The Tree of the Knowledge* of the Good and the Evil grows from the roots of the *Tree of Life*" [SD 2, 215].

... the (Christian) *Cross* was an evolution from the "*tree and the serpent*," and thus became the salvation of mankind. ... The symbol of the "*Tree*" standing for various *Initiates* was almost universal. *Jesus* is called "*the tree of Life*," as also all the *adepts of the good Law*, while those of the *left Path* are referred to as the "*withering trees*" [SD 2, 216].

As in the Gogard, among the luxuriant branches of all those mundane trees, the "Serpent" dwells. But while the Macrocosmic tree is the Serpent of Eternity and of absolute Wisdom itself, those who dwell in the Microcosmic tree are the Serpents of the manifested Wisdom. One is the One and All; the others are its reflected parts. The "*tree*" is *man* himself, of course, and the *Serpents* dwelling in *each*, the conscious *Manas*, the connecting link between Spirit and Matter, heaven and earth [SD 2, 98]. See: *Selden Codex* et al.

The *Cross* and the *Tree* are *identical* and *synonymous* in symbolism [SD 2, 588].

Nagals and Nargals

But as to the Nagals and Nargals, whence came the similarity of names between the *Indian Nagals* and the *American Nagals*?

"The Nargal was the Chaldean and Assyrian chief of the Magi (Rab-Mag), and the Nagal was the chief sorcerer of the Mexican Indians. Both derive their names from Nergal-Serezer, the Assyrian god, and the Hindu Nagas. Both have the same faculties and the power to have an attendant daemon, with whom they identify themselves completely. The Chaldean and Assyrian Nargal kept his daemon, in the shape of some animal considered sacred, inside the temple; the Indian Nagal keeps his wherever he can -- in the neighbouring lake, or wood, or in the house in the shape of some household animal"[SD 2, 213].

Such *similarity cannot* be *attributed* to *coincidence*. A new world is discovered, and we find that, for our forefathers of the Fourth Race it was already an old one. *That Arjuna*, Krishna's companion and chela, is said to have descended into *Patala*, the "antipodes," and therein married Ulupi,* a *Naga* (or Nagini rather), the daughter of the king of the Nagas, Kauravya.**

* Ulupi has an entirely Atlantean ring about it. Like Atlantis, it is neither a Greek nor a Sanskrit name, but reminds one of *Mexican* names.

** "Mahabharata," Adiparva, Sloka, 7788, 7789. The "Bhagavata Purana," ix., xx., 31, as explained by Sridhera, the commentator, makes Ulupi the daughter of the king of Manipura; but the late Pundit Dayanand Saraswati, certainly the greatest Sanskrit and Puranic authority in

India on such questions, personally corroborated that Ulupi was daughter of the **king** of the **Nagas** at **Patala**, or **America**, 5000 years ago, and that the **Nagas** were **Initiates** [SD 2, 214].

And now it may be hoped the full meaning of the serpent emblem is proven. It is neither that of evil, nor, least of all, that of the devil; but is, indeed, the [[SEMES EILAM ABRASAX]] ("the eternal Sun-Abrasax"), the **Central Spiritual Sun** of all the Kabalists, represented in some diagrams by the circle of Tiphereth [SD 2, 214].

6. Time and Space

“Both **time** and **space** are infinite and eternal” ... “We must therefore assume that the starry heaven is not merely in space, what no astronomer doubts, but also in time, without beginning or end; that it never was created, and is imperishable” [SD 2, 154].

Esoterically – **Time** and **Space** are forms of the **One incognizable Deity**. As an Aditya, Indra is son of Kasyapa, as also Vaivasvata Manu, our progenitor. In the instance given in the text, he is Kasyapa-Aditya, the Sun, and the Sun-god, from whom all the "Cosmic" Demons, Dragons (nagas), Serpent, or Snake-gods, and Danavas, the giants, are born. The meaning of the allegories given above is purely astronomical and cosmical, but will serve to prove the identity of all [SD 2, 382].

Remembering that the Puranas insist on the **identity** of **Vishnu** with **Time and Space***; and that even the Rabbinical symbol for God is MAQOM, "**Space**," it becomes clear why, for purposes of a manifesting Deity -- Space, Matter, and Spirit -- the one central point became the Triangle and Quaternary (the perfect Cube), hence **Seven**.

* **Vishnu** is all – the worlds, the stars, the seas, etc., etc. “Vishnu is all that is, all that is not . . . but is not Vastubhuta”, “a substance” (Vishnu Purana, Book II. ch. xii). “That which people call the **highest God** is not a substance but the cause of it; not one that is here, there, or elsewhere, not what we see, but that in which all is – **SPACE**” [SD 2, 611].

6.1. Rotatory motion and Swastica

The **Swastica** is certainly one of the **oldest symbols** of the **Ancient Races**. In our century, says Kenneth R. H. Mackenzie (Royal Masonic Cyclopeadia) it (the Swastica) "has survived in the form of the mallet" in the Masonic Fraternity. Among the many "meanings" the author gives of it, we do not find, however, the most important one, masons evidently not knowing it [SD 2, 556].

There was a time, when the Eastern symbol of the **Cross** and **Circle**, the **Swastica**, was **universally adopted**. With the esoteric (and, for the matter of that, exoteric) Buddhist, the Chinaman and the Mongolian, it means "the **10,000 truths**." These truths, they say, belong to the mysteries of the unseen Universe and primordial Cosmogony and Theogony. "Since Fohat crossed the Circle like two lines of flame (horizontally and vertically), the hosts of the Blessed Ones have never failed to send their representatives upon the planets they are made to watch over from the beginning." This is why the **Swastica** is always placed – **as** the **ansated Cross** was in Egypt – on the breasts of the defunct mystics. It is found on the heart of the images and statues of **Buddha**, in **Tibet** and **Mongolia**. It is the seal placed also on the hearts of the living Initiates, burnt into the flesh, for ever, with some. This, because they have to keep those truths inviolate and intact, in eternal silence and **secrecy** to the day these are perceived and read by their chosen successors – new Initiates – "worthy of being entrusted with the ten thousand perfections... One finds it with the old **Peruvians**, the Assyrians, Chaldeans, as well as on the walls of the old-world cyclopean buildings; in the **catcombs** of the **New world**, and in those of the Old (?), at Rome, where, because the first Christians are supposed to have concealed themselves and their religion, it is called Crux Dissimulata [SD 2, 585].

Few world-symbols are more pregnant with real **occult** meaning than the **Swastica**. It is symbolized by the figure 6; for, like that figure, it points in its concrete imagery, as the ideograph of the number does, to the Zenith and the Nadir, to North, South, West, and East; one finds the unit everywhere, and that unit reflected in all and every unit. It is the emblem of the **activity** of **Fohat**, of the continual **revolution** of the "**wheels**," and of the Four Elements, the "Sacred Four," in their mystical, and not alone in their cosmical meaning; further, its four arms, bent at right angles, are intimately related, as shown elsewhere, to the Pythagorean and Hermetic scales. One initiated into the mysteries of the meaning of the Swastica, say the Commentaries, "can trace on it, with mathematical precision, the **evolution of Kosmos** and the whole period of Sandhya." Also "the relation of the Seen to the Unseen," and "the first procreation of man and species." [SD 2, 587]

Thor is said to smite the head of the Serpent with his hammer ... a form of **Swastica** or four-footed Cross. ... In the primitive sepulchres of Egypt the model of the Chamber had the form of a Cross.** The pagoda of Mathura ... the birth-place of Krishna, was built in the form of a Cross ... [SD 2, 588].

From the beginning of man's inheritance, from the first appearance of the **architects** of the **globe** he lives in, the unrevealed Deity was recognised and considered under its only philosophical aspect -- **universal motion**, the thrill of the creative Breath in Nature. Occultism sums up the "One Existence" thus: "Deity is an arcane, living (or moving) FIRE, and the eternal witnesses to this unseen Presence are Light, Heat, Moisture," – this trinity including, and being the cause of, every phenomenon in Nature [SD 1, 2].

6.2. Crocodile

... the **Logoi of all countries and religions are correlative** (in their sexual aspects) with the female Soul of the World or the "**Great Deep**"... And all of them had the aquatic animals and **plants** sacred to them, the ibis, the swan, the goose, the **crocodile**, and the **lotus** [SD 1, 353].

... It becomes the task of the fifth Hierarchy -- the mysterious beings that preside over the constellation **Capricornus, Makara**, or "**Crocodile**" in India as in Egypt -- to inform the empty and ethereal animal form and make of it the Rational Man. This is one of those subjects upon which very little may be said to the general public. It is a MYSTERY, truly, but only to him who is prepared to reject the existence of **intellectual** and conscious spiritual Beings in the Universe... [SD 1, 233].

6.3. 8 directions and The Poles

The **Planetary Spirits** are the **informing** spirits of the **Stars** in general, and of the **Planets** especially. They rule the destinies of men who are all born under one or other of their constellations; the second and third groups pertaining to other systems have the same functions, and all rule various departments in Nature. In the Hindu exoteric Pantheon they are the **guardian deities** who preside over the **eight points** of the **compass** – the four cardinal and the four intermediate points – and are called Loka-Palas, "**Supporters or guardians of the World**" (in our **visible Kosmos**), of which Indra (East), Yama (South), Varuna (West), and Kuvera (North) are the chief; their elephants and their spouses pertaining of course to fancy and afterthought, though all of them have an occult significance. [SD 1, 128].

The **two poles** are called the right and left ends of our globe – the right being the **North Pole** – or the head and feet of the earth. Every beneficent (astral and cosmic) action comes from the North; every lethal influence from the South Pole. They are much connected with and influence "**right**" and "**left**" **hand magic** [SD 2, 400].

7. Spider and Web

10. "FATHER-MOTHER SPIN A **WEB** WHOSE UPPER END IS FASTENED TO **SPIRIT** (Purusha), THE LIGHT OF THE ONE DARKNESS, AND THE LOWER ONE TO **MATTER** (Prakriti) ITS (the Spirit's) SHADOWY END; AND THIS **WEB** IS THE UNIVERSE SPUN OUT OF THE TWO SUBSTANCES MADE IN ONE, WHICH IS SWABHAVAT (a)"

(a) In the Mandukya (Mundaka) Upanishad it is written, "As a **spider** throws out and retracts its **web**, as herbs spring up in the ground . . . so is the Universe derived from the undecaying one" (I. 1. 7). Brahma, as "the germ of unknown Darkness," is the material from which all evolves and develops "as the **web** from the **spider**, as foam from the **water**," etc. This is only graphic and true, if Brahma the "Creator" is, as a term, derived from the root brih, to increase or expand. **Brahma "expands"** and becomes the **Universe woven out of his own substance**. [STANZA III (The Web of Being); SD 1, 83].

"Once disintegrated into its primal constituent by getting within the attraction and reach of a focus, or centre of heat (energy), of which many are carried about to and fro in space, a body, whether alive or dead, will be vapourised and held in "the bosom of the Mother" until **Fohat**, gathering a few of the clusters of Cosmic matter (nebulae) will, by giving it an impulse, set it in motion anew, develop the required heat, and then leave it to follow its own new growth.

The expanding and contracting of the **Web** – i.e., the world stuff or atoms – expresses here the pulsatory movement; for it is the regular contraction and expansion of the infinite and shoreless **Ocean** of that which we may call the noumenon of matter emanated by Swabhavat, which causes the universal vibration of atoms. But it is also suggestive of something else. It shows that the ancients were acquainted with that which is now the puzzle of many scientists and especially of astronomers: **the cause of the first ignition of matter** or the world-stuff, the paradox of the heat produced by the refrigerative contraction and other such Cosmic riddles ... [SD 1, 84].

One has to learn the reason of a **symbol** before one depreciates it. The dual element of Air and Water is that of the ibis, swan, goose and pelican, of **crocodiles** and **frogs**, lotus flowers and water lilies, **etc.**; and the **result** is the **choice of the most unseemly symbols** among the modern as much as the ancient mystics [SD 1, 358].

8. Venus and Ankh

Every active power or **force** of the earth comes to her **from one** of the **seven Lords**. Light comes through **Sukra (Venus)**, who receives a triple supply, and **gives** one-third of it **to the Earth**. Therefore the two are called '**Twin-sisters**,' but the **Spirit of the Earth** is **subservient** to the '**Lord**' of **Sukra**. Our wise men represent the two Globes, one over, the other under the double Sign (the primeval Svastika bereft of its four arms, or the cross. Venus is the most occult, powerful, and mysterious of all the planets; the one whose influence upon, and relation to the Earth is most prominent [SD 2, 29].

Venus (the planet) is symbolised by the sign of a globe over the cross, which shows it as presiding over the natural generation of man. The Egyptians symbolised Ankh, "life," by the ansated cross ♀, which is only another form of Venus (Isis) ♀, and meant, esoterically, that mankind and all animal life had stepped out of the divine spiritual circle and fallen into physical male and female generation [SD 2, 30].

See also [Sp 1].

9. Number 7

We may now examine other ancient Scriptures and see whether they contain the **septenary** classification, and, if so, to what degree ... As much, if not much more, even than in the Jewish Bible, scattered about in the thousands of Sanskrit texts, some still unopened, others yet unknown, as well as in all the Puranas, the numbers **seven** and **forty-nine** (7 x 7) play a most prominent part [SD 2, 611].

Now add to this the following verse from the Esoteric volumes: "**Space and Time are one**. Space and Time are nameless, for they are the incognizable THAT, which can be sensed only through its **seven rays** – which are the Seven Creations, the Seven Worlds, the Seven Laws," etc., etc., etc. ...[SD 2, 611]

“**Seven** seems to have been the **sacred** number par excellence **among all civilised nations of antiquity**. Why? Each separate people has given a different explanation, according to the peculiar tenets of their (exoteric) religion. That it was the number of numbers for those initiated into the sacred mysteries, there can be no doubt. **Pythagoras** . . . calls it the “Vehicle of Life” containing body and soul, since it is formed of a Quaternary, that is Wisdom and intellect, and of a Trinity or action and matter. The Emperor Julian, “In matrem, etc.,” expresses himself thus: 'Were I to touch upon the initiation into our Sacred Mysteries, which the **Chaldees Bacchized**, respecting the seven-rayed god, lighting up the soul through him, I should say things unknown to the rabble, very unknown, but well known to the blessed Theurgists.'” (p. 141).

And who, acquainted with the **Puranas**, the Book of the Dead, the **Zendavesta**, the Assyrian tiles, and finally the Bible, and who has observed the constant occurrence of the number seven, in these records of people living from the remotest times unconnected and so far apart, can regard as a coincidence the following fact, given by the same explorer of ancient Mysteries? Speaking of the prevalence of seven as a mystic number, among the inhabitants of the "Western continent" (of **America**), he adds that it is not less remarkable. For:

“It frequently occurs in the **Popul-vuh** . . . we find it besides in the seven families said by Sahagun and Clavigero to have accompanied the mystical personage named **Votan**, the reputed founder of the great city of Nachan, identified by some with **Palenque**. In the seven caves* from which the ancestors of the Nahuatl are reported to have emerged. In the seven cities of **Cibola**, described by Coronado and Niza. ... In the seven **Antilles**; in the seven heroes who, we are told, escaped the Deluge ...”

“Heroes,” moreover, whose number is found the same in **every** “**Deluge**” story – from the seven Rishis who were saved with Vaivasvata Manu, down to Noah's ark, into which beasts, fowls, and living creatures were taken by “Sevens”. Thus we see the figures 1, 3, 5, 7, as perfect, because thoroughly mystic, numbers playing a prominent part in every Cosmogony and evolution of living Beings. In **China**, 1, 3, 5, 7, are called "celestial numbers" in the canonical “Book of Changes”. (Yi King, or transformation, as in "Evolution").

The explanation of it becomes evident when one examines the ancient Symbols: all these are based upon and start from the figures given from the Archaic Manuscript in the poem of Book I. ⊕, the symbol of evolution and fall into generation or matter, is reflected in the **old Mexican** sculptures or paintings, as it is in the **Kabalistic Sephiroth**, and the **Egyptian Tau**. Examine the Mexican MSS (Add. MSS. Brit. Mus. 9789)*; you will find in it a **tree** whose trunk is covered with ten fruits ready to be plucked by a male and female, one on each side of it, while from the top of the trunk two branches shoot horizontally to the right and left, thus forming a **perfect T (tau)**, the ends of the two branches, moreover, each bearing a triple bunch, with a bird -- the bird of immortality, Atman or the divine Spirit -- sitting between the two, and thus making the seventh. This represents the same idea as the Sephirothal Tree, ten in all, yet, when separated from its upper triad, leaving Seven. These are the celestial fruits, the ten or ⊕, **10**, born out of the two invisible male and female seeds, making up the 12, or the Dodecahedron of the Universe ... [SD 2, 35-36].

10. Transformation of Earth and Root Races

10.1. The crucial world Epochs

Divine Dynasties

... But since traditions and even Chronicles of such dynasties of divine Kings – of gods reigning over men followed by dynasties of Heroes or Giants -- exist in the **annals** of every nation, it is difficult to understand how all the peoples under the sun, some of whom are separated by vast oceans and belong to different hemispheres, such as the ancient **Peruvians** and **Mexicans**, as well as the Chaldeans, could have worked **out the same "fairy tales" in the same order of events**.* However, as the Secret Doctrine teaches history -- which, for being esoteric and traditional, is none the less more reliable than profane history -- we are as entitled to our beliefs as anyone else, whether religionist or sceptic. And that Doctrine says that the Dhyani-Buddhas of the two higher groups, namely, the "**Watchers**" or the "**Architects**," furnished the **many** and various **races** with divine **kings** and **leaders**. It is the latter who taught humanity their arts and sciences, and the former who revealed to the incarnated Monads that had just shaken off their vehicles of the lower Kingdoms -- and who had, therefore, lost every recollection of their divine origin -- the great spiritual truths of the transcendental worlds [SD 1, 267].

Lipika, the day "Be-With-Us"

The Lipika separate the world (or plane) of pure spirit from that of Matter. Those who "descend and ascend" – the incarnating Monads, and men striving towards purification and "ascending," but still not having quite reached the goal – may cross the "**circle of the Pass-Not**," only on the day "**Be-With-Us**"; that day when man, freeing himself from the trammels of ignorance, and recognising fully the non-separateness of the Ego within his personality – erroneously regarded as his own – from the UNIVERSAL EGO (Anima Supra-Mundi), merges thereby into the One Essence to become not only one "with us" (the manifested universal lives which are "ONE" LIFE), but that very life itself.

Astronomically, the "**Ring PASS-NOT**" that the Lipika trace around the Triangle, the First One, the Cube, the Second One, and the Pentacle to circumscribe these figures, is thus shown to contain the symbol of **31415** again, or the coefficient constantly used in mathematical tables (the value of, **pi**), the geometrical figures standing here for numerical figures. According to the general philosophical teachings, this **ring is beyond the region of what are called nebulae in astronomy** [SD 1, 129].

The **Lipika** (a description of whom is given in the Commentary on Stanza IV. No. 6) are the **Spirits** of the **Universe**, whereas the **Builders** are only **our** own **planetary deities**. The former belong to the most occult portion of Cosmogogenesis, which cannot be given here. Whether the Adepts (even the highest) know this angelic order in the completeness of its triple degrees, or only the lower one connected with the records of our world, is something which the writer is unprepared to say, and she would incline rather to the latter supposition. Of its highest grade one thing only is taught: the **Lipika** are **connected** with **Karma** -- being its direct **Recorders**.**

** The Symbol for Sacred and Secret Knowledge was universally in antiquity, a **Tree**, by which a Scripture or a Record was also meant. Hence the word **Lipika**, the "writers" or scribes; the "**Dragons**," symbols of **wisdom**, who guard the **Trees of Knowledge**; the "golden" apple Tree of the Hesperides; the "Luxuriant Trees" and vegetation of Mount Meru guarded by a Serpent. Juno giving to Jupiter, on her marriage with him, a Tree with golden fruit is another form of Eve offering Adam the apple from the Tree of Knowledge [SD 1, 128].

The "**Great Day of BE-WITH-US**", then, is an expression the only merit of which lies in its literal translation. Its significance is not so easily revealed to a public, unacquainted with the mystic tenets of Occultism, or rather of Esoteric Wisdom or "Budhism". It is an expression peculiar to the latter, and as hazy for the profane as that of the Egyptians who called the same the "**Day of COME-TO-US**" [SD 1, 134].

10.2. The continents of the last three Root-races

Lemuria. The third Continent, we propose to call "Lemuria". The name is an invention, or an idea, of Mr. P. L. Sclater, who asserted, between 1850 and 1860, on zoological grounds the actual existence, in prehistoric times, of a Continent which he showed to have extended from Madagascar to Ceylon and Sumatra. It included some portions of what is now Africa; but otherwise this gigantic Continent, which stretched from the Indian ocean to Australia, has now wholly disappeared beneath the waters of the Pacific, leaving here and there only some of its highland tops which are now islands [SD 2, 7].

Atlantis. "Atlantis" is the Fourth Continent. It would be the first historical land, were the traditions of the ancients to receive more attention than they have hitherto. The famous island of Plato of that name was but a fragment of this great Continent. (See "Esoteric Buddhism.") [SD 2, 8].

America, Europe and Asia. The Fifth Continent was America; but, as it is situated at the Antipodes, it is Europe and Asia Minor, almost coeval with it, which are generally referred to by the Indo-Aryan Occultists as the fifth. If their teaching followed the appearance of the Continents in their geological and geographical order, then this classification would have to be altered. But as the sequence of the Continents is made to follow the order of evolution of the Races, from the first to the fifth, our Aryan Root-race, Europe must be called the fifth great Continent. The Secret Doctrine takes no account of islands and peninsulas, nor does it follow the modern geographical distribution of land and sea. Since the day of its earliest teachings and the destruction of the great Atlantis, the face of the earth has changed more than once. There was a time when the delta of Egypt and Northern Africa belonged to Europe, before the formation of the Straits of Gibraltar, and a further upheaval of the continent, changed entirely the face of the map of Europe. The last serious change occurred some 12,000 years ago, and was followed by the submersion of Plato's little Atlantic island, which he calls Atlantis after its parent continent. Geography was part of the mysteries, in days of old. Says the Zohar (iii., fol. 10a): "These secrets (of land and sea) were divulged to the men of the secret science, but not to the geographers" [SD 2, 8-9].

10.3. The Root Races

"Vaivasvata, thus, though seventh in the order given, is the primitive Root-Manu of our fourth Human Wave (the reader must always remember that Manu is not a man but collective humanity), while our Vaivasvata was but one of the seven Minor Manus, who are made to preside over the seven races of this our planet. Each of these has to become the witness of one of **the periodical and ever-recurring cataclysms** (by *fire* and *water*) that **close the cycle of every Root-race** [SD 2, 309].

As to the question of the **four distinct races of mankind** that preceded our Fifth Race, there is nothing mystical in it, except the ethereal bodies of the first races; and it is a matter of legendary, nevertheless, very correct history. **That legend is universal.** And if the Western savant pleases to see in it only a myth, it does not make the slightest difference. The *Mexicans* had, and still have, the tradition of the **fourfold destruction of the world by fire and water**, just as the *Egyptians* had, and the *Hindus* have, to this day. (Lemuria was destroyed by fire, Atlantis – by water) [SD 2, 311, 316].

Thus, [SD 2, 323]:

The earliest pioneers of the Fourth Race were not Atlanteans, nor yet the human Asuras and the Rakshasas which they became later. In those days large portions of the future continent of Atlantis were yet part and parcel of the Ocean floors. "Lemuria", as we have called the continent of the Third Race, was then a gigantic land.* It covered the whole area of space from the foot of the Himalayas, which separated it from the inland sea rolling its waves over what is now Tibet, Mongolia, and the great desert of Schamo (Gobi); from Chittagong, westward to Hardwar, and eastward to Assam. From thence, it stretched South across what is known to us as Southern India, Ceylon, and Sumatra; then embracing on its way, as we go South, Madagascar on its right hand and Australia and Tasmania on its left, it ran down to within a few degrees of the Antarctic Circle; when, from Australia, an inland region on the Mother Continent in those ages, it extended far into the Pacific Ocean, not only beyond Rapa-nui (Teapy, or Easter Island) which now lies in latitude 26 S., and longitude 110 W. (See Addenda to this

Book II., Section, “Proofs of the Submerged Continents”). This statement seems corroborated by Science, – even if only partially; as, when discussing continental trends, and showing the infra-Arctic masses trending generally with the Meridian, several ancient continents are generally mentioned, though inferentially. Among such the “Mascarene continent”, which included Madagascar, stretching north and south, is spoken of, and the existence of another ancient continent running “from Spitzbergen to the Straits of Dover, while most of the other parts of Europe were sea bottom”, is taught. The latter corroborates, then, the Occult teaching which shows the (now) polar regions as the earliest of the seven cradles of Humanity, and as the tomb of the bulk of the mankind of that region during the Third Race, when the gigantic continent of Lemuria began separating into smaller continents. This is due, according to the explanation in the Commentary, to a decrease of velocity in the earth's rotation:

* As shown in the Introduction, it stands to reason that neither the name of Lemuria nor even Atlantis are the real archaic names of the lost continents, but have been adopted by us for the sake of clearness. Atlantis was the name given to those portions of the submerged Fourth-Race continent which were “beyond the pillars of Hercules”, and which happened to keep above water after the general cataclysm. The last remnant of these – Plato's Atlantis, or the “Poseidon” (another substitute or rather a translation of the real name) – was the last of it some 11,000 years ago. Most of the correct names of the countries and islands of both continents are given in the Puranas; but to mention them specially, as found in other more ancient works, such as the Surya Siddhanta, would necessitate too lengthy explanations. If, in earlier writings, the two seem to have been too faintly disconnected, this must be due to careless reading and want of reflection. If ages hence, Europeans are referred to as Aryans, and a reader confuses them with the Hindus and the latter with the Fourth Race, as they live (some of them) in ancient Lanka – the blame will not fall on the writer.

“When the Wheel runs at the usual rate, its extremities (the **poles**) agree with its middle circle (equator), when it runs slower and tilts in every direction, there is a great disturbance on the face of the Earth. The waters flow toward the two ends, and new lands arise in the middle belt (equatorial lands), while those at the ends are subject to pralayas by submersion ...”

And again [SD 2, 323]:

“... Thus the wheel (the Earth) is subject to, and regulated by, the Spirit of the Moon, for the breath of its waters (tides). Toward the close of the age (Kalpa) of a great (root) race, the regents of the moon (the Pitar fathers, or Pitris) begin drawing harder, and thus flatten the wheel about its belt, when it goes down in some places and swells in others, and the swelling running toward the extremities (poles) new lands will arise and old ones be sucked in”.

We have but to read astronomical and geological works, to see the meaning of the above very clearly. Scientists (modern Specialists) have ascertained the influence of the tides on the geological distribution of land and water on the planets, and the shifting of the oceans with a corresponding subsidence and rise of continents and new lands. Science knows, or thinks it knows, that this occurs periodically.

It is asked by some Theosophists: “What will Atlantis be like when raised?” they understanding from a few words in “Esoteric Buddhism” that “old continents” that have been submerged will reappear. Here, again, there is a slight misconception. Were the same identical lands of Atlantis that were submerged to be raised again, then they would, indeed, be barren for ages. Because the Atlantic sea-bottom is covered with some 5,000 feet of chalk at present, and more is forming – a new “cretaceous formation” of strata, in fact – is no reason why, when the time for a new continent to appear arrives, a geological convulsion and upraising of the sea bottom should not dispose of these 5,000 feet of chalk for the formation of some mountains and 5,000 more come to the surface. The racial cataclysms are not a Noah's deluge of forty days – a kind of Bombay monsoon.

Further on [SD 2, 326]:

That the periodical sinking and re-appearance of the mighty continents, now called Atlantis and Lemuria by the modern writers, is no fiction, will be demonstrated in the Section in which all the proofs of the same have been collated together. The most archaic Sanskrit and Tamil works teem with references to both Continents. The seven sacred Islands (Dwipas) are mentioned in the Surya Siddhanta, the oldest astronomical work in the whole world, and in the works of Asura Maya, the Atlantean astronomer whom Professor Weber has made out re-incarnated in Ptolemy. Yet, it is a

mistake to call these “sacred islands” Atlantean – as done by us; for, like everything else in the Hindu Sacred Books, they are made to refer to several things. The heirloom left by Priyavrata, the Son of Swayambhuva Manu, to his seven sons – was not Atlantis, even though one or two of these islands survived the subsidence of their fellows, and offered shelter, ages later, to Atlanteans, whose continent had been submerged in its turn. When originally mentioned by Parasara (Vishnu Purana) the seven refer to an esoteric doctrine which is explained further on. Of all the seven islands, Jambu-dwipa is the only one that is terrestrial, for it is our globe. In the Puranas every reference to the North of Meru is connected with that primeval Eldorado, now the North Polar region; which, when the magnolia blossomed there where now we see an unexplored endless desert of ice, was then a continent again. Science speaks of an ancient continent which stretched from Spitzbergen down to the Straits of Dover. The Secret Doctrine teaches that, in the earliest geological periods, these regions formed a horse-shoe-like continent, whose one end, the Eastern, far more northward than North Cornwall, included Greenland, and the other contained Behring Straits as an inland piece of ground, and descended southward in its natural trend down to the British Isles, which in those days must have been right under the lower curve of the semi-circle. This continent was raised simultaneously with the submersion of the equatorial portions of Lemuria. Ages later, some of the Lemurian remains re-appeared again on the face of the Oceans. Therefore, though it can be said without departing from truth that Atlantis is included in the Seven great insular continents, since the Fourth Race Atlanteans got some of the Lemurian relics, and, settling on the islands, included them among their lands and continents, yet a difference should be made and an explanation given, once that a fuller and more accurate account is attempted, as in the present work. Easter Island was also taken possession of in this manner by some Atlanteans; who, having escaped from the cataclysm which befell their own land, settled on that remnant of Lemuria only to perish thereon, when destroyed in one day by its volcanic fires and lava. This may be regarded as fiction by certain geographers and geologists; to the Occultists it is history. What does Science know to the contrary? "Until the appearance of a map, published at Basle in 1522, wherein the name of America appears for the first time, the latter was believed to be part of India ... Science also refuses to sanction the wild hypothesis that there was a time when the Indian peninsula at one end of the line, and South America at the other, were connected by a belt of islands and continents. The India of the pre-historic ages ... was doubly connected with the two Americas. The lands of the ancestors of those whom Ammianus Marcellinus calls the “Brahmans of Upper India” stretched from Kashmir far into the (now) deserts of Schamo. A pedestrian from the north might then have reached – hardly wetting his feet – the Alaskan peninsula, through Manchooria, across the future Gulf of Tartary, the Kurile and Aleutian islands; while another traveller, furnished with a canoe, and starting from the South, could have walked over from Siam, crossed the Polynesian Islands and truded into any part of the continent of South America.” (But see “Five years of Theosophy”, art. “Leaflets from Esoteric History”, pp. 338 and 340.) This was written from the words of a MASTER – a rather doubtful authority for the materialists and the sceptics. But here we have one of their own flock, and a bird of the same feather – Ernest Haeckel, who, in his distribution of races, corroborates the statement almost verbatim: ... “It would seem that the region on the earth's surface where the evolution of these primitive men from the CLOSELY RELATED CATARRHINE APES (!) took place, must be sought either in Southern Asia or Eastern Africa [which, by the bye, was not even in existence when the Third Race flourished – H.P.B.] or in Lemuria. Lemuria is an ancient continent now sunk beneath the waters of the Indian Ocean, which, lying to the South of the Asia of today, stretched on the one hand eastwards to upper India and Sunda Island, on the other westward as far as Madagascar and Africa”. (See supra and compare “The Pedigree of Man”, p. 80-81.)

In the epoch we are treating of, the Continent of “Lemuria”, had already broken asunder in many places, and formed new separate continents. There was, nevertheless, neither Africa nor the Americas, still less Europe in those days, all these slumbering yet on the Ocean floors. Nor was there much of present Asia; for the cis-Himalayan regions were covered with seas, and beyond this stretched the “lotus leaves” of Sveta-dwipa, the countries now called Greenland, Eastern and Western Siberia, etc., etc. The immense Continent, which had once reigned supreme over the Indian, Atlantic, and Pacific Oceans, now consisted of huge islands which were gradually disappearing one after the other, until the final convulsion engulfed the last remains of it. Easter Isle, for instance, belongs to the earliest

civilisation of the Third Race. Submerged with the rest, a volcanic and sudden uplifting of the Ocean floor, raised the small relic of the Archaic ages untouched, with its volcano and statues, during the Champlain epoch of northern polar submersion, as a standing witness to the existence of Lemuria. It is said that some of the Australian tribes are the last remnants of the last descendants of the Third Race.

In this we are again corroborated to a degree by materialistic Science. Haeckel, when speaking of Blumenbach's brown or Malay race and the Australians and Papuans, remarks: "There is much likeness between these last and the Aborigines of Polynesia, that Australian island-world, that seems to have been once on a time a gigantic and continuous continent". ("Pedigree of Man", p. 82).

It certainly was, since it stretched, during the Third Race, east and west, as far as where the two Americas now lie, and since the present Australia is but a portion of it, as are also a few surviving islands sown hither and thither on the face of the Pacific and a large bit of California, which belonged to it. Funnily enough, Haeckel, in his fantastic "Pedigree of Man", considers "the Australians of to-day as the lineal descendants, almost unchanged (!), of that second branch of the primitive human race ... that spread northwards, at first chiefly in Asia, from the home of man's infancy, and seems to have been the parent of all the other straight-haired races of men. ... The one, woolly-haired, migrated in part, westwards" ... (i.e., to Africa and northwards to New Guinea, which countries had then, as said, no existence as yet) ... "the other, straight-haired, was evolved farther to the north in Asia ... and peopled Australia ..." (p. 81). "Behold", writes a MASTER, "the relics of that once great nation (Lemuria of the Third Race) in some of the flat-headed aborigines of your Australia" ("Esoteric Buddhism", p. 65). But they belong to the last remnants of the Seventh Sub-race of the Third. Prof. Haeckel must also have dreamt a dream and seen for once a true vision!

It is to this period that we have to look for the first appearance of the Ancestors of those, who are termed by us the most ancient peoples of the world – now called respectively the Aryan Hindus, the Egyptians, and the oldest Persians, on the one hand, and the Chaldees and Phoenicians on the other. These were governed by the DIVINE DYNASTIES, i.e., kings and rulers who had of mortal man only his physical appearance as it was then, but who were Beings from spheres higher and more celestial than our own sphere will be, long Manvantaras hence. It is useless of course to attempt to force their existence on sceptics. Their greatest pride consists in proving their patronymic denomination as catarrhinides; which fact they try to demonstrate on the alleged authority of the Cocyx appended to their os sacrum, that rudimentary tail which, if they only had it long enough, they would wag in joy and for ever, in honour of its eminent discoverer. These will remain as faithful to their ape-ancestors as Christians will to tailless Adam. The Secret Doctrine, however, sets right on this point theosophists and students of Occult Sciences.

If we regard the Second portion of the Third Race as the first representatives of the really human race with solid bones, then Haeckel's surmise that "the evolution of the primitive men took place ... in either Southern Asia or ... Lemuria – Africa, whether Eastern or Western being out of question – is correct enough, if not entirely so. To be accurate, however, in the same way that the evolution of the First Race (from the bodies of the pitars) took place on seven distinctly separated regions of the (then) only Earth at the arctic pole – so did the ultimate transformation of the Third occur: it began in those northern regions, which have just been described a few pages back as including Behring's Straits, and what there then was of dry land in Central Asia, when the climate was semi-tropical even in the Arctic regions and most adapted to the primitive wants of nascent physical man. That region, however, has been more than once frigid and tropical in turn since the appearance of man. The commentary tells us that the Third Race was only about the middle point of its development when:

"The axle of the Wheel tilted. The Sun and Moon shone no longer over the heads of that portion of the SWEAT BORN; people knew snow, ice, and frost, and men, plants, and animals were dwarfed in their growth. Those that did not perish REMAINED AS HALF-GROWN BABES IN SIZE AND INTELLECT. This was the third pralaya of the races".

Which means again, that our globe is subject to seven periodical entire changes which go *pari passu* with the races. For the Secret Doctrine teaches that, during this Round, there must be seven terrestrial pralayas, three occasioned by the change in the inclination of the earth's axis. It is a law which acts at its appointed time, and not at all blindly, as science may think, but in strict accordance and harmony

with Karmic law. In Occultism this inexorable law is referred to as “the great ADJUSTER”. Science confesses its ignorance of the cause producing climatic vicissitudes and such changes in the axial direction, which are always followed by these vicissitudes; nor does it seem so sure of the axial changes. And being unable to account for them, it is prepared rather to deny the axial phenomena altogether, than admit the intelligent Karmic hand and law which alone could reasonably explain such sudden changes and their results. It has tried to account for them by various more or less fantastic speculations; one of which would be the sudden, and as imaginary, collision of our earth with a comet (De Boucheporn's hypothesis), as the cause of all the geological revolutions. But we prefer holding to our esoteric explanation, since FOHAT is as good as any comet, having, in addition, universal intelligence to guide him.

Thus, since Vaivasvata Manu's Humanity appeared on this Earth, there have already been four such axial disturbances; when the old continents – save the first one – were sucked in by the oceans, other lands appeared, and huge mountain chains arose where there had been none before. The face of the Globe was completely changed each time; the survival of the fittest nations and races was secured through timely help; and the unfit ones – the failures – were disposed of by being swept off the earth. Such sorting and shifting does not happen between sunset and sunrise, as one may think, but requires several thousands of years before the new house is set in order.

The Sub-races are subject to the same cleansing process, as also the side-branchlets (the family-Races). Let one, well-acquainted with astronomy and mathematics, throw a retrospective glance into the twilight and shadows of the Past. Let him observe, take notes of what he knows of the history of peoples and nations, and collate their respective rises and falls with what is known of astronomical cycles -- especially with the Sidereal year, equal to 25,868 of our solar years.* If the observer is gifted with the faintest intuition, then will he find how the weal and woe of nations is intimately connected with the beginning and close of this sidereal cycle. True, the non-occultist has the disadvantage that he has no such far distant times to rely upon. He knows nothing, through exact Science, of what took place nearly 10,000 years ago; yet he may find consolation in the knowledge or – if he so prefers – speculation on the fate of every one of the modern nations he knows of – about 16,000 years hence.

* There are other cycles, of course, cycles within cycles – and this is just that which creates such a difficulty in the calculations of racial events. The circuit of the ecliptic is completed in 25,868 years. And, with regard to our Earth, it is calculated that the equinoctial point falls back fifty minutes ten seconds, annually. But there is another cycle within this one. It is said that "as the apsis goes forward to meet it at the rate of eleven minutes twenty-four seconds, annually," (see the article on Astronomy in Encyclopaedia Britannica), “this would complete a revolution in one hundred and fifteen thousand three hundred and two years (115,302). The approximation of the equinox and the apsis is the sum of these motions, sixty-one minutes thirty-four seconds, and hence the equinox returns to the same position in relation to the apsis in 21,128 years”. We have mentioned this cycle in *Isis Unveiled*, Vol. I., in relation to other cycles. Each has a marked influence on its contemporary race.

At more length the history of the preceding Continents and Root Races are considered in [N. Roerich's "The Great Seven Mysteries of the World"](#).