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*All things arise and cease due to
interdependent causes and conditions*

~Δ~

Understanding the Laws of Karma

Compiled by

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From *The Secret Doctrine* by H.P.B. Covina, CA: Theosophical University Press, 4th ed., 1947. Facsimile of 1888 original ed. Numbering, boldface, and notes in brackets, added.

Karma and the doctrine of rebirth, I:171

1 • "In reference to the Monads, the reader is asked to bear in mind that Eastern philosophy rejects the Western theological dogma of a newly-created soul for every baby born, as being as unphilosophical as it is impossible in the economy of Nature.

2 • "There must be a limited number of Monads evolving and growing more and more perfect through their assimilation of many successive personalities, in every new Manvantara. This is absolutely necessary in view of the doctrines of Rebirth, Karma, and the gradual return of the human Monad to its source--*absolute* Deity.

3 • Thus, although the hosts of more or less progressed Monads are almost incalculable, they are still finite, as is everything in this Universe of differentiation and finiteness."

Karma and compensation, I:173

4 • "Further, when Globe A of the new chain [4th, Earth] is ready, the first class or Hierarchy of Monads from the Lunar chain [3rd] incarnate upon it in the lowest kingdom, and so on successively. the result of this is, that it is only the first class of monads which attains the human state of development during the first Round, since the second class, on each planet, arriving later, has not time to reach that stage.

5 • "Thus the Monads of Class 2 reach the incipient human stage only in the Second Round, and so on up to the middle of the Fourth Round. But at this point--and on this Fourth Round in which the human stage will be *fully* developed--the "Door" into the human kingdom closes [*Judgement Day, "Door" to the Great Initiations opens*]; and hence forward the number of "human" Monads, *i.e.*, Monads in the human stage of development, is complete.

6 • For the Monads which had not reached the human stage by this point will, owing to the evolution of humanity itself, find themselves so far behind that they will reach the human stage only at the close of the seventh and last Round.

7 • "They will, therefore, not be men on this chain, but will form the humanity of a future Manvantara and be rewarded by becoming "Men" on a higher chain altogether, thus receiving their Karmic compensation.

8 • "To this there is *but one solitary exception*, for very good reasons, of which we shall speak farther on. But this accounts for the difference in the races." [*The exception refers to the "anthropoid and other apes."* I:183]

Karma and evolution, I:180

9 • "In reality the Moon is only the satellite of the Earth in one respect, viz., that physically the Moon revolves round the Earth. But in every other respect it is the Earth which is the satellite of the Moon, and not *vice versa*. Startling as the statement may seem it is not without confirmation from scientific knowledge.

10 • "It is evidenced by the tides, by the cyclic changes in many forms of disease which coincide with the lunar phases it can be traced in growth of plants, and is very marked in the phenomena of human gestation and conception . . .

11 • "And should an objector insist that this fact alone is sufficient evidence that the Moon is truly the Earth's satellite on other planes of action, one may reply by asking whether a mother, who walks round and round her child's cradle keeping watch over the infant, is the subordinate of her child or dependent upon it; though in one sense she is its satellite, yet she is certainly older and more fully developed than the child she watches.

12 • "It is, then, the Moon that plays the largest and most important part, as well in the formation of the Earth itself, as in the peopling thereof with human beings.

13 • "The "Lunar Monads" or Pitris, the ancestors of man become in reality man himself. They are the "Monads" who enter on the cycle of evolution on Globe A, and who, passing round the chain of planets, evolve the human form as just been shown.

14 • "At the beginning of the human stage of the Fourth Round on this Globe, they "ooze out" their astral doubles [sweat-born] from the "ape-like" forms which they had evolved in Round III. And it is this subtle, finer form, which serves as the model round which Nature builds physical man.

15 • "These "Monads" or "divine sparks" are thus the "Lunar" ancestors, the Pitris themselves. For these "Lunar Spirits" have to become "Men" in order that their "Monads" may reach a higher plane of activity and self-consciousness, *i.e.*, the plane of the Manasa-Putras, those who endow the "senseless" shells, created and informed by the Pitris, with "mind" in the latter part of the Third Root-Race. . .

16 • "It now becomes plain that there exists in Nature a triple evolutionary scheme, for the formation of the three *periodical Upadhis*;* or rather **three separate schemes of evolution**, which in our system are inextricably interwoven and interblended at every point. These are the **Monadic (or spiritual)**, the **intellectual**, and the **physical** evolutions. These are the finite aspects or the reflections on the field of Cosmic Illusion of ATMAN, the seventh, the ONE REALITY." * [In chemistry, hydrogen is the *upadhi* (vehicle or basis) of air, fire, and water. II:105]

CYCLIC EVOLUTION AND KARMA, I:634-638

17 • "The ONE LIFE is closely related to *the one* law which governs the World of Being--KARMA. Exoterically, this is simply and literally "action," or rather an "effect-producing cause." Esoterically it is quite a different thing in its far-fetching moral effects. It is the unerring LAW OF RETRIBUTION. . . .

18 • "At the first flutter of reascent life, Svabhavat, "the mutable radiance of the Immutable Darkness unconscious in Eternity," passes, at every new rebirth of Kosmos, from an inactive state [Pralaya] into one of intense activity [Manvantara]; that it differentiates, and then begins its work through that differentiation. This work is KARMA.

19 • "The Cycles are also subservient to the effects produced by this activity [The One becoming the Many, united by Karma].

"The one Cosmic atom becomes seven atoms on the plane of matter, and each is transformed into a center of energy; that same atom becomes seven rays on the plane of spirit, and the seven creative forces of nature, radiating from the root-essence . . . follow, one the right, the other the left path, separate till the end of the Kalpa, and yet are in close embrace [evolution and involution]. What unites them? KARMA.

20 • "The atoms emanated from the Central Point emanate in their turn new centers of energy, which, under the potential breath of *Fohat*, begin their work from within without, and multiply other minor centers.

21 • "These, in the course of evolution and involution, form in their turn the roots or developing causes of new effects, from worlds and "man-bearing" globes, down to the genera, species, and classes of all the *seven* kingdoms (of which *we know only four*). For "the blessed workers have received the *Thyan-kam*, in the eternity.

22 • "'Thyan-kam" is the power or knowledge of guiding the impulses of cosmic energy in the right direction.

23 • "The whole of the *visible* Kosmos consists of "*self-produced* beings, the creatures of *Karma*. . . .

24 • "There are "Cycles of matter" and there are "Cycles of Spiritual evolution." Racial, national, and individual cycles." [Karma unites the "Noumenal Forces" and "Phenomenal Forces."]

Karma as the Law of Harmony, I:643

25 • "It is not, therefore, Karma that rewards or punishes, but it is we, who reward or punish ourselves according to whether we work with, through and along with nature, abiding by the laws on which that Harmony depends, or--break them [the spiritual virtues and ideals].

26 • "With right knowledge...a confident conviction that our neighbors will no more work to hurt us than we would think of harming them, the two-thirds of the World's evil would vanish in thin air." [Thus, goodwill is the key to world peace.] ~ Δ ~