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All things arise and cease due to interdependent causes and conditions

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Understanding the Workings of Karma

Compiled by Bing Escudero

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

All beings subject to karma, I:221

- 1 "The sixth and seventh groups [Elemental & Monadic Essence] partake of the lower qualities [Plasmic & Dense Physical] of the Quaternary. They are conscious, ethereal Entities, as invisible as Ether, which are shot out like the boughs of a tree from the first central group of the four, and shoot out in their turn numberless side groups, the lower of which are the Nature-Spirits, or Elementals of countless kinds and varieties; from the formless and unsubstantial—the ideal THOUGHTS of their creators—down to the Atomic, though, to human perception, invisible organisms.
- 2 "The latter are considered as the "Spirits of Atoms" for they are the first remove (backwards) from the physical Atom--sentient, if not intelligent creatures. They are all subject to Karma, and have to work it out through every cycle. For, as the doctrine teaches, there are no such privileged beings in the universe, whether in our or in other systems, in the outer or the inner worlds, as the angels of the Western Religion and the Judaean.
- 3 "A Dhyan-Chohan has to become one [attaining the perfective goal, virtues & ideals of a Chain of evolution]; he cannot be born or appear suddenly on the plane of life as a full-blown angel. The Celestial Hierarchy of the present Manvantara will find itself transferred in the next cycle of life into higher, superior worlds, and will make room for a new hierarchy, composed of the elect ones of our mankind.
- 4 "Being is an endless cycle within the one absolute eternity, wherein move numberless inner cycles finite and conditioned. Gods, created as such, would evince no personal merit in being gods."

Karma as immutable law, I:274-276

- 5 "Everything in the Universe, throughout all its kingdoms, is CONSCIOUS: *i.e.*, endowed with a consciousness of its own kind and on its own plane of perception."
- 6 "The whole Kosmos is guided, controlled, and animated by almost endless series of Hierarchies of sentient Beings, each having a mission to perform, and who--whether we give to them one name or another, and call them Dhyan-Chohans or Angels--are "messengers" in the sense only that they are the agents of Karmic and Cosmic Laws.

- 7 "They [Hierarchies of sentient Beings] are neither "ministering" nor "protecting" angels; nor are they "Harbingers of the Most High," still less the "Messengers of wrath" of any God such as man's fancy has created. To appeal to their protection is as foolish as to believe that their sympathy may be secured by any kind of propitiation; for they are, as much as man himself is, slaves and creatures of immutable Karmic and Kosmic law.
- 8 "The reason for it is evident. Having no elements of personality in their essence they can have no personal qualities, such as attributed by men, in their exoteric religions, to their anthropomorphic God--a jealous and exclusive God who rejoices and feels wrathful, is pleased with sacrifice, and is more despotic in his vanity than any finite foolish man.
- 9 "Man, being a compound of the essences of all those celestial Hierarchies, may succeed in making himself, as such, superior, in one sense, to any hierarchy or class, or even combination of them. "Man can neither propitiate nor command the *Devas*," it is said.
- 10 "But, by paralyzing [controlling, neutralizing, transcending] his lower personality [physical, plasmic, emotional, and rational mental], and arriving thereby at the full knowledge of the non-separateness of his higher SELF [Whose Aspects are Will, Wisdom, Wholeness] from the One absolute SELF, man can, even during his terrestrial life, become as "One of Us."
- 11 Thus it is, by eating of the fruit of knowledge which dispels ignorance, that man becomes like one of the Elohim or the Dhyanis; and once on *their* plane the Spirit of Solidarity and perfect Harmony, which reigns in every Hierarchy, must extend over him and protect him in every particular."

Karma and evil, I:416

- 12 "In human nature, evil denotes only the polarity of matter and Spirit, a struggle for life between the two manifested Principles in Space and Time, which principles are one per se, inasmuch as they are rooted in the Absolute.
- 13 "In Kosmos, the equilibrium must be preserved. The operations of the two contraries produce harmony, like the centripetal and centrifugal forces, which are necessary to each other-mutually inter-dependent--"in order that both should live." If one is arrested, the action of the other will become immediately self-destructive."

Karma, the Greek Nemesis, I:641

- 14 "There is a predestination in the geological life of our globe, as in the history, past and future, of races and nations. This is closely connected with what we call *Karma*, and Western Pantheists, "Nemesis" and "Cycles."
- 15 "The law of evolution is now carrying us along the ascending arc of our cycle, when the effects will be once more re-merged into, and re-become the (now neutralized) causes, and all things affected by the former will have regained their original harmony. This will be the cycle of our special "Round," a moment in the duration of the great cycle, or the Mahayuga."

Root-Racial karma and prophecy, I:646

- 16 "It is neither prevision, nor prophecy; no more than is the signaling of a comet or star, several years before its appearance. It is simply knowledge and mathematically correct computations which enable the WISE MEN OF THE EAST to foretell, for instance, that England is on the eve of such or another catastrophe; France, nearing such a point of her cycle, and Europe in general threatened with, or rather, on the eve of, a cataclysm, which her own cycle of racial Karma has led her to.
- 17 "The reliability of the information depends, of course, on the acceptation or rejection of the claim for a tremendous period of historical observation. Eastern Initiates maintain that they have preserved records of the racial development and of events of universal import ever since the beginning of the Fourth Race--that which preceded [Third Root-Race] being traditional."

Karma and the "Fall," II:192-193

18 • "The "Fall" occurred . . . in the early Third [Root-] Race disappeared to make room for that portion of mankind which had "separated" [the male and female]. This is how the Commentary explains the details that preceded the "Fall":--

"In the initial period of man's Fourth [Round] evolution, the human kingdom branched off in several and various directions. . . . Upon seeing this, the kings and Lords of the Last Races [the Third and the Fourth Root-Races] placed the seal of prohibition upon the sinful intercourse [bestiality]. It interfered with Karma, it developed new (Karma). They (the divine Kings) struck the culprits with sterility. They destroyed the Red and Blue Races."

19 • "The rib is bone, and when we read in *Genesis* that Eve was made out of the rib, it only means that the *Race with bones* was produced out of a previous Race and Races, which were "boneless." This is an esoteric tenet spread far and wide, as it is almost universal under its various forms." $\sim \Delta \sim$