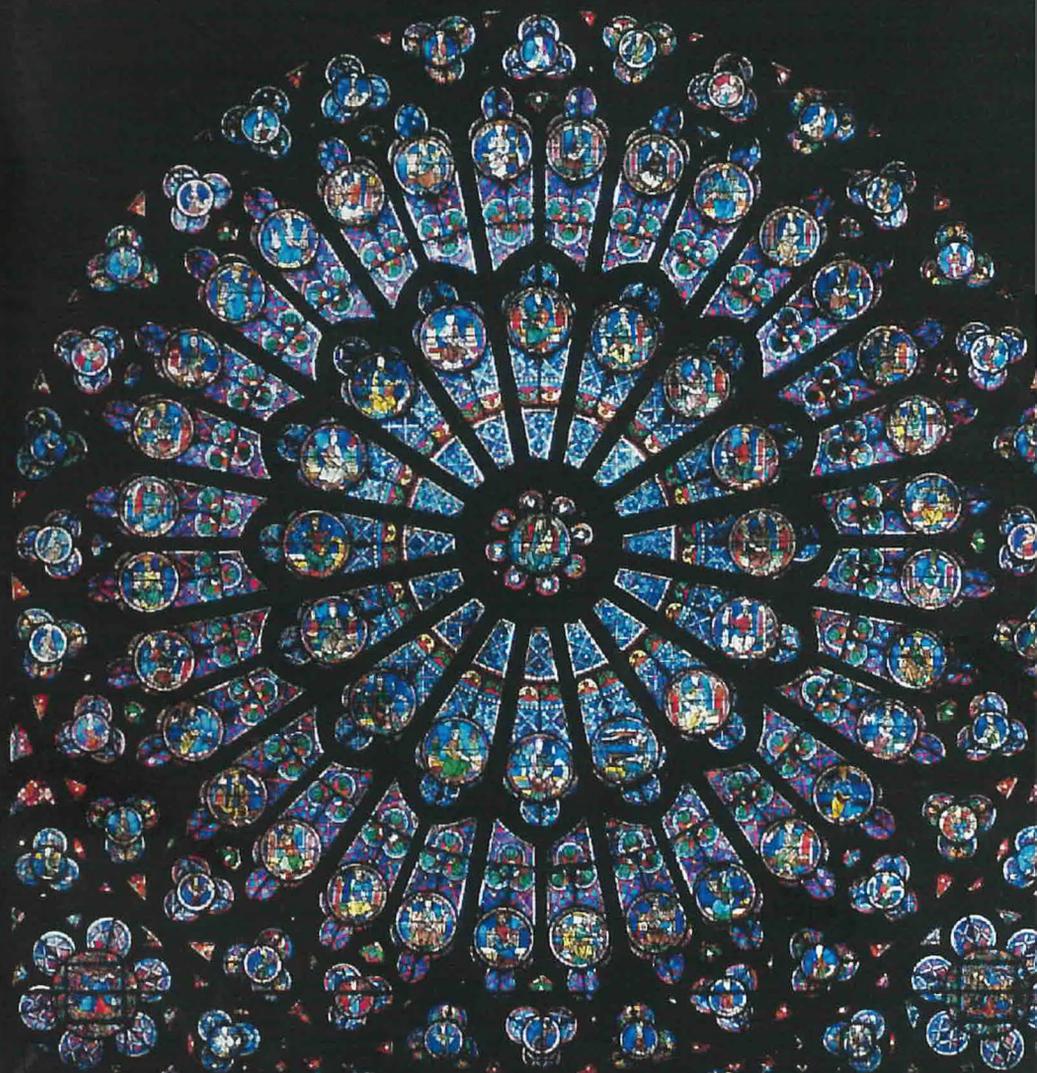


ESOTERICA

PHILOSOPHY • SCIENCE • SPIRITUALITY

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The Journal of the Foundation for Theosophical Studies

Cover image: **NORTH ROSE WINDOW**

NOTRE DAME DE PARIS

France c 1250

The North Rose Window of Notre dame de Paris is one of the best examples of stained glass design in the world. The window was designed in the Rayonnant (meaning 'radiating') style by Jean de Chelles around 1250. This marked a major design style shift from the High Gothic towards a more decorative tracery patterning. This style continued until the completion of Notre Dame in 1345.

The north window has a lighter stone rib design to allow more light into the building to compensate for facing north. The south rose window was added some time later and although similar in design the rib stone mullions are thicker. This gives the window the impression of greater solidity whereas the north rose appears to be more graceful and elegant.

Some authorities believe that the two windows facing each other symbolise the in and out breath of the human heart. The north rose has the appearance of an expanding effect while the south rose creates the impression of a contracting design. The overall design of the cathedral further replicates the major spaces, structures and higher functions of the human body.

The circular design with its focus to the centre with lines radiating outwards suggest the mystical centre of the Soul. It reflects the beauty and near symmetrical design of the rose in nature. The circular radiating design echoes elements of other international architectural and design features.

The mandala design used to focus the mind in the Hindu and Buddhist faiths during meditation is similar to the rose window. Some believe the Knights Templar were instrumental in the development of the Gothic cathedrals in France and show the influence of Islamic architecture. The Rose Window may have been indirectly influenced by the circular and geometrical patterns used in the design of the mosque central dome symbolising heaven.

Whatever the truth regarding early influences the Gothic rose window of European cathedrals is a unique testament to the skill of the French mediaeval stone masons and the architect philosophers who lay behind the original inspirational plans.

CONTENTS

From the Editor's Desk <i>Eric McGough</i>	4
THE MAGIC IN ART <i>By Barry Seabourne</i>	5
Theosophical Society World Congress	7
ART: PRIMAVERA by Sandro Botticelli	8
THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF HUMANITY <i>By Phillip Lindsay</i>	10
ART: BEATA BEATRIX by Dante Gabriel Rossetti	18
THE MIND OF WATER <i>By Chad Manion</i>	20
Appreciation	25
ART: LOVE OF SOULS by Jean Delville	26
GOD, PRAYER AND THEOSOPHY <i>By Stephen Freeman</i>	28
Esotericism & Psychology Conference information	31
ART: PARZIVAL by Jean Delville	32
Obituaries	34
Book Reviews	36
Trans-Pennine Weekend 15-17 April 2011	39
Diary of Foundation Speakers	40
Winter/Spring 2011 London Programme of Events	41
Summer School Summaries	46
Summer School Application Forms & information	48
Further information	50

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Being snowed in at my home for ten days before and over Xmas gave me time to reflect on the nature of change. In the eighteen years that I have lived in my present home I have never seen more than a smattering of snow in the garden, but this year there was at least sixteen inches. I am sure that most UK residents will have their 'snow stories' from this dramatic change to our usual winter experience.

This is the first edition of *Esoterica* in 2011 and I am changing the look of the magazine by introducing a series of classic art images from the world's master artists. Every time I have visited the National Gallery I am left feeling uplifted, inspired, and more spiritually aware. Such is the impact on the human spirit when confronted by such awesome works of creative genius. Art is truly a doorway to the soul. I have received a lot of positive comments about the modern art in our magazine over the last year and I hope that this year's offerings will inspire and uplift you also. The paintings in this issue of *Esoteric* have been selected by Barry Seabourne who has also written the notes – my thanks to Barry.

I would also like to extend my thanks and gratitude for the letters of appreciation for *Esoterica* and also for the very welcome donations to the Foundation's fund from readers. As the Foundation for Theosophical Studies is a charity with very few avenues of funding, every donation is highly appreciated. Even more important to the Foundation is the growing awareness in the general reader of just how important and informative Theosophy is in today's materialistic world. In each edition you will see a list of Sunday evening talks to be held at the Foundation headquarters on Gloucester Place, London. These talks bring spiritual seekers to the atmospheric lecture room where some of the world's greatest speakers on spirituality and the unique theosophical teachings have addressed audiences for 8 decades. Can't get there? Never mind, no need to miss out, you can order the talks to listen to in the comfort of your own home. Contact Barry Thompson books@theosoc.org.uk or phone 020 7563 9816. You might also like to try www.theosophytalks.co.uk where you can choose to listen to theosophical talks on line or download them for later listening. 'Theosophy talks' is a free service provided by the Bangor lodge of the Theosophical Society in Wales. I would also recommend www.theosophy.org.uk where the Foundation provides on-line audio and video podcasts.

In this edition of *Esoterica* you will find an article by Phillip Lindsey on the 'Hidden History of Humanity' in which he traces the coming of man to the Earth and the evolution of consciousness through the great races. Phillip's article is taken from his book by the same name. Chad Manion's article on 'The Mind of Water' is very informative and thought provoking on this important subject. Steve Freeman takes a look at 'God, Prayer, and Theosophy' giving us valuable insights on how Theosophy differs from traditional, religious beliefs. We begin this edition with Barry Seabourne, who helps us to see how important art is to our daily life and our spiritual progress in 'Art and the Search for the Sacred - all in all, a philosophical feast.

As the Sun retraces its path northwards bringing new hope, new awakenings, and more light to our daily lives, so we look forward to another year – indeed, another decade! I wish you greater awareness in tune with the life that is burgeoning around us.

Eric McGough

THE MAGIC IN ART



By Barry Seabourne

INTRODUCTION

The word ART comes from the Greek word for magic. This is because certain individuals could create, with a particular skill and perception, images, sounds and forms that have the potential to transform the lives of others.

Art can have many levels of meaning and forms of expression. It is similar to the confusion created when we try to define or discuss words such as God or Truth. Each individual at their core holds a different view or concept that depends on various factors. These would include the cultural influences on your life as well as a long list of other factors that make you who you are!

Art is the product or process of deliberately arranging symbolic elements in a way that influences and affects one or more of our centres - the intellectual, the sensorial, the emotional and the spiritual. Art encompasses a diverse range of human activities, creations and modes of expression. These can include music, literature, film, photography, sculpture, and painting.

OVERVIEW

Art can be created with the intention of stimulating thoughts and arousing the emotions. It is the means whereby the unseen spiritual world is given expression in the human and material world.

Art is the way in which we express our humanity. Art forms attempt to communicate that which is within to the outside world through one or more of the senses. Art today has come to mean any form of human expression that an individual would like to create. In one sense this brings tremendous freedom to create from one's deeper perceptions, feelings and concepts.

This creates the sense that almost anything goes and allows the actual creative process to be accessed easily. Quality and vision may be lost in this process and the art form can be trivialised.

Art moves away from the sublime and the sacred towards the cultural and idiosyncratic level.

Today we have an art 'market' that deals with all extremes, levels and tastes from the very destructive, banal and egoistic fantasies to the creation of highly creative and original, and occasionally, profound works.

In other words art today expresses what it is to be alive in the 21st Century as art over the past centuries can show us the spirit of the age in which they were created.

Art is concerned and connected to many different types and areas. In painting art historians have carefully identified major stylistic developments such as Renaissance, Baroque, Modern and so on. Then there are generic divisions such as portraiture, landscape

and history. As we look into the area in more detail there are specific movements where artists look into specific areas of interest such as Surrealism or Photorealism.

Over the past few hundred years we have become more aware of how different cultures create signs, symbols and other art objects that have value to them.

Philosophically we need to look at fundamental areas so that we can focus in to how we find the type of images that bypass irrelevant and lead us towards the essential.

FIVE AREAS

Five main areas can be identified that help us categorise the art form that leads us towards the kind of art that resonates with our deeper needs and aspirations – for each of us the type and nature of these creations can be very different. For those who share a similar spiritual journey there can be a convergence of shared taste.

1. SACRED

Art aims to connect with and give expression to the highest realms in order to give expression to the ultimate and absolute energies in the Universe

2. CULTURE

Art is in the world and of the world. It is concerned with expressing the variety of human beliefs of different cultures and different people. It can be driven by religious, economic, political and social factors.

3. LIFE

Art is life itself. It expresses the beauty and pathos of life forms and nature in and around this planet. It sees the natural creativity and energy of the world in which we are a part. At the higher levels it is where art becomes part of the individual as they evolve and develop.

4. COMMUNICATION

Art is essentially a tool for communication. This can be at the personal, group, national or international level. We try to break through barriers so that share ideas, visions and imagination with other people. This is where we create to enhance the progress of humanity.

5. SCIENCE

Here we attempt to create and design within a technological framework. This is art as function and practical necessity to improve the lives of as many people as possible on the planet. This area overlaps with various areas of engineering and scientific innovators and technicians.

It is unusual for art to exist at only one level. There is usually some kind of overlap. Religious art may combine SACRED with CULTURE. The reactions while trying to suggest an ultimate spirituality may in fact really be operating within a specific culture. Art can sometimes be used as propaganda to try and persuade people to believe one thing or the other. In this instance CULTURE and COMMUNICATION may be involved.

THE HIGHER PURPOSE

The highest art can speak to those inner areas within us where words can fail and the deeper place within our unique soul can be touched.

Art itself can take many forms and mean many different things to many different people. But art can also be a part of the human journey. Its purpose and nature will change and evolve as we will over the coming centuries.

Perhaps the ultimate meaning of 'art' is that we attempt to live our lives towards the artistic goal of beauty and aesthetics as a means of communication between us.

Art can help us to exist at a higher level where magic still has an enhancing purpose to uplift us to find enchantment in our lives.

Our aim should be to use our higher creative faculties and the inner processes of intuition, awareness and skill to become the work of art ourselves.

Barry Seabourne ©

THEOSOPHICAL SOCIETY WORLD CONGRESS

The X World Congress of the Theosophical Society held in Rome from 10 to 15 July 2010 gathered over 500 theosophists from 39 different Countries. The subject of the Congress: "Universal Brotherhood without Distinction: a Road to Awareness" was examined in depth thanks to several lectures and works on different levels in a serene, fraternal and constructive atmosphere.

In order to make the above-mentioned materials available to those who attended the Congress in Rome, the theosophists around the world and all those who may be interested in it the Italian Theosophical Society created a specific section inside its official website by uploading the videos of the Congress.

As well as offering the materials of the event the videos gave living witness to the atmosphere of those days in Rome.

We hope you will enjoy them.

Antonio Girardi
(*General Secretary Italian Theosophical Society.*)

In order to access the materials enter the Italian Theosophical Society Official Website on <<http://www.teosofica.org>> www.teosofica.org; click on the icon "X World Congress"; then register as a new user (if it has not been previously done yet).



Facing page:

PRIMAVERA (c. 1477)

Sandro Botticelli

Italian

1445 - 1510

This large painting is housed in the Uffizi Gallery in Florence and is one of the most important paintings in the whole of Western European art. It was painted between 1472 and 1482 and commissioned by Lorenzo de Medici as a wedding gift for his cousin's forthcoming marriage. The painting is inspired by the Platonic and Neo-Platonic philosophy of perfect love.

Lorenzo had established an Academy of Platonic Philosophy at the Villa Carregi just outside Florence where philosophers, artists, writers and poets would discuss the purposes and meaning of life. The leader of the group was Marsilio Ficino. He had been employed by Cosimo to find sacred books and bring them to Florence and translate them into Latin. His work was instrumental in the creation of the period we now call the Renaissance. It was Ficino and other members of the Villa Carregi who provided Botticelli with the iconography of the Primavera (sometimes called De Amore).

The painting is in the form of a narrative and should be read from right to left. It contains various levels of meaning from the aesthetic and decorative to the cosmic and deeply philosophical.

The figures are Zephyr, the Wind God (or Mars or Winter); Chloris who symbolises the escape from the 'death' of winter and the awakening of life or Spring; Flora the symbol of Spring in its fullness and the beginning of the new life.; Venus, Goddess of Love with Cupid her son above who is blindfolded symbolising the blindness of love; the three dancing Graces; and then Mercury.

Mercury or Hermes was the messenger of the Gods and the 'Revealer of Secret Knowledge'. He holds the Caduceus with which he separates the clouds above him. His aim is to allow the light of truth to enter this sacred grove of Venus. This painting holds a secret that can only be discovered by those who holds the key of knowledge to unlock its deeper meaning.

THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF HUMANITY: EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH THE ROOTRACES



By Phillip Lindsay

The secret history of the world is revealed in many traditions, the durations of which far surpass the miniscule figures used in modern times. H.P. Blavatsky (HPB) brought together many of these historical and chronological strands in her magnum opus, *The Secret Doctrine* (1888), a major foundation stone for the emerging Aquarian cycle. Throughout HPB's works are scattered details of this ancient history – culled from the Vedas, Upanishads, the Zend Avesta, Old Testament and so forth.

(In the interests of simplicity, I have elected to keep this article relatively footnote-free; most references are from HPB and can be found in my writings where they are fully referenced and footnoted.)

In the denial or ignorance of its true origins lies the source of disempowerment for Humanity; in not knowing its divine source, the nature of the human soul or the very lengthy evolution of human consciousness that stretches back some 21 million years.

Who today really reflects about our true history and ancient past, preoccupied in a very busy world trying to survive? Most accept the culturally conditioned views of the Bible and/or modern science, both of which do not offer more than 5-10,000 years for the origin of human civilisation. These figures are however being pushed further back into hundreds of thousands or millions of years in some cases, which is very encouraging. There are also excellent authors like Michael Cremona who are bridging from the ancient Vedic teachings to modern science, challenging many of the latter's pre-conceptions.

The Hidden History of Humanity Vol. 1 (HHH-1) is based upon the works of HPB and brings to light for the first time many key points, including the chronology and unfoldment of the ancient civilisations of Lemuria and Atlantis. Further planned volumes will bridge to several aspects of mainstream science - to blend the esoteric teaching with the best discoveries in academia; this has already been attempted (*HHH-1*) with the examination of the *geological key* to *The Secret Doctrine*.

HHH-1 also contains an esoteric interpretation of the first six chapters of Genesis, a blueprint for human evolution and the rootraces. Several breakthroughs were made in this area, particularly with regard to the 'ages' of the biblical Patriarchs and the cycles of the races.

In the Fifth Rootrace, resonant with the number 5 and *manas* or mind, there has been achieved a perfection, refinement and quintessential expression of the concrete mind. Although this has brought many benefits in science and technology, its shadow expression via the lower critical mind, tends to separativeness; it does not recognise whatever cannot be perceived by the five tangible senses.

The sixth sense or intuition is something that is in its early stage of development and hence the perception of the more subtle aspects of human evolution are ignored. There are many crystallised belief systems with regard to our history that influence current world thinking and they are compounded by an unquestioning acceptance of subjects such as

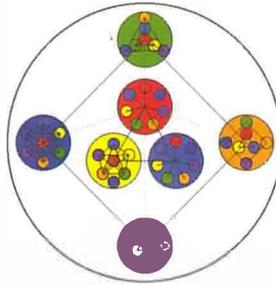
scientific dating methods and the evolution of humans from apes - under the 'authority' of modern science or religion; there are also many vested interests who are committed to keeping history in a straitjacket of conformist 'consensus thinking'.

Worlds within Worlds

The esoteric teachings of HPB tell us that the Earth (along with the other planets), incarnates over many vast cycles called 'rounds' or *manvantaras*, in the Hindu parlance. Just as the human soul does so on its tiny scale, so the greater lives that ensoul the planets, our 'Gods', seek perfection and eventual liberation within the *Plan and Purpose* of the greater entity which they inhabit, the Solar System. This solar system is of course the incarnation of a far greater Life that is associated with the star Sirius, but that is another story!

The planets are called 'schemes' because behind the visible outer planet are a series of worlds in more subtle matter called 'globes' and 'chains' (7 globes in a chain, 7 chains in a scheme), that represent past and future incarnations of the life we call a 'planetary logos'.

Currently in the Earth Scheme, we are said to be half way through our evolution, in the 4th globe of the 4th chain, of the 4th scheme – and in the 4th round or vast cycle that lasts 617 million years! The 'globe period' thus far elapsed is about 1.973 billion years and this is the 24th globe or incarnation of a total of 49 globes in the Earth Scheme. We are halfway through our journey and the solar system as a whole is said to be at about this point also. Mind boggling time scales are they not? Yet the deeper one studies this material, the more logical and reasonable do these durations seem.



The Globes and Chains of the Earth Scheme

The Seven Root races

On each globe, seven root races are slated for unfoldment, providing the 'physical body' of incarnational experience for our Earth Logos. Human souls from this perspective are the 'light cells' within this greater body. Within each root race are seven sub races and within each sub race are seven branch races, providing a myriad human expression down the ages.

Understanding how life really comes into manifestation requires occult or esoteric knowledge plus that rare sixth sense/intuitive factor, also called buddhic (as in Buddha) awareness. Hence life always emerges from the subtle and the unseen to the material or physical.

Through the vast ages and cycles that saw humanity come into being, the first two and a half rootraces were etheric; the blueprint for future humanity was being gradually developed from its spiritual prototype.

Individualisation in Lemuria

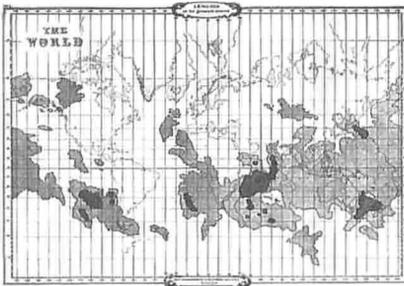
Half way through the Third Rootrace (known as Lemuria), at the appointed time and in the correct karmic cycle, a magnificent pre-ordained spiritual event occurred on this planet; it was the coming of the 'Lords of Flame' who were to impart the 'spark of mind' to Humanity; a 'humanity' who were really only members of the animal kingdom with animal *instinctual* awareness and in reality, no mind. This period is known as *individualisation* and some of the greatest mysteries on Earth are connected to this era.

The Lords of Flame are also known as 'Kumaras' and emanated from a *chain* within the Earth Scheme, associated with the planet Venus. The contents of each planetary scheme are a microcosm of the entire solar system - as all the planets 'sing together' within the symphony of the Sun. The presence of the '108 Kumaras' created a great influx of force so powerful that a mighty storm raged over the planet, destroying most of the animal kingdom - dinosaurs and 'humans' alike:

"The advent of the Lords of the Flame, the electrical storm which ushered in the period of man, was distinguished by disaster, chaos, and the destruction of many in the third [animal] kingdom of nature. The spark of mind was implanted and the strength of its vibration, and the immediate effect of its presence caused the death of the animal form, thus producing the immediate possibility of the newly vitalised causal [soul] bodies vibrating to such purpose, that new physical vehicles were taken."²

This event occurred in the Jurassic Age 21 million years ago, the true chronology for the death of the dinosaurs. This esoteric dating differs of course from the scientific dating of 65 million years ago and this is a problem that will be resolved; it also brings into contrast the commonly held view that a fiery meteorite was responsible for this cataclysm.

Individualisation occurred in the third *branchrace* of the third *subrace* of the Third Rootrace (Lemuria), expressed as 3.3.3, the number 3 relating to the mother or form aspect that births the new. Australia is the largest surviving remnant of this once vast 'super continent' that stretched at one time in its evolution from Madagascar in the west to South America in the east.



Lemuria at its greatest extent

Sexual Separation of Hermaphrodite Humanity

From about 21.5 to 18.5 million years ago, various groupings of human souls had their 'spark fanned' by the guides of the race, up until the fifth subrace of the Third Rootrace (3.5) – which saw the process of human *individualisation* for a large number of Earth Chain humanity completed.

Also, over that few million year period, the separation into two sexes of the hitherto hermaphrodite and self-perpetuating Humanity occurred. There is much to be pondered here around the acquisition of mind and the separation of the sexes.

Over the next few million years, Humanity will reach a synthesis in consciousness of *manas* and *buddhi* that will be reflected by a return to an androgynous physical body. In the words of an ancient commentary, 'the circle hath been well nigh trod and the end approacheth the beginning'; the full circle will have been scribed and liberation for the Earth Logos will subsequently ensue.

Shamballa and South America

The early Lemurian period signalled the establishment of the spiritual centre on Earth known as Shamballa, where the 'Lord of the World' presides and directs the plan and purpose of the incarnation of our Earth Logos. This being is also known as Sanat Kumara, the Ancient of Days or Melchisedek, one of the original Kumaras who came to help 'kick start' Earth evolution. Sanat Kumara is also known as "The Watcher" and is described most poignantly, 'He will remain at his post until the last weary pilgrim returns home' – that is, until the last human soul has achieved perfection and hence liberation.

From hereon in, the fledgling Humanity of the time were under the guidance of divine beings said to emanate from 'celestial spheres far higher than our own', giving instruction in building, agriculture, language and so forth. The human bodies of the time were much more refined since the human kingdom was created, yet were still gigantic and clumsy, requiring instruction in Hatha Yoga in order to coordinate the etheric body with the physical; this was the first spiritual goal for humanity and represented the First Initiation.

The first outpost of Shamballa in those days was 'in the middle' of what we now call South America. The Science of Initiation was introduced by Shamballa's Masters and Adepts in order to hasten evolution, due to our Earth Scheme having fallen behind in a previous cycle called the 'Moon Chain'. Earth does in fact have two major groupings of souls, those who 'individualised' on the Moon and Earth chains respectively.

Moon chain souls are far more developed in their mental capacity and to a degree spiritually also, though there is a rapid acceleration by their Earth chain counterparts in this, our current Fifth Rootrace, the race where the mental principle has reached its apotheosis. It is said that the difference between capital and labour on our planet is one expression of the difference between Moon chain (capital) and Earth chain (labour) souls.

Another important crisis that occurred in Lemuria was that some groups of humans procreated with animals, creating all kinds of hybrids and monsters. This went against the 'evolutionary plan' and occurred partly because Humanity had just emerged from the animal kingdom with the primeval 'urge to merge' still very strong, and an undeveloped mentality that lacked discrimination. Yet it was primarily related to the fact that there was a refusal of certain groups of souls to incarnate because the future forms that they were to inhabit were

too 'coarse'; this incurred a particular type of karma for this group of souls, not the 'mindless' perpetrators.

The major outcome of this event is that the modern apes descend from those hybrid creatures and proof of this esoteric fact will eventually cause a revolution in scientific thinking. Can we imagine how different the world will be when the current teaching on human evolution in all educational institutions may shift to the esoteric view?; a whole slew of other facts will emerge once this impasse has been breached, primarily the knowledge of the existence and purpose of the human soul, a far more noble origin for Humanity than the one currently held.

Madagascar was once part of the Lemurian continent and boasts dozens of species of 'Lemur' monkeys. Likewise in some ancient parts of Lemuria in Indonesia, the highly intelligent Orangutang ape ('forest person'), is the most poignantly human reminder of this ancient transgression; it is notable how prominent they have been of late with regard to conservation.

In the mythology of the ancient Cyclopes, the three giants with one eye are said to represent the last three subraces of that newly 'conscious' Lemurian race. At the peak of their development this race has been described as, 'towering giants of godly strength and beauty, and the depositaries of all the mysteries of Heaven and Earth.'

Of course the giants of both Lemuria and Atlantis would have been able to build large structures and lift enormously heavy stones, but later in Atlantis they also had at their disposal a technology based on sound, creating a vacuum and allowing stones weighing many tons to be lifted effortlessly.

The Atlantean Rootrace

Gradually over the next few million years, as the Atlantean or Fourth Rootrace came into fuller expression, this 'all-seeing eye' at the top of the head receded into the brain where its remnant, the pineal gland, sits today. At the same time, two eyed sight started to evolve in Atlantis, representing the development of mind. From one point of view, the Lemurians were far more spiritual, whilst the Atlanteans were deeply immersed in matter. The ancient story of 'the fall' is simply the 'fall into matter' by human souls and not necessarily a 'fall' from spiritual grace.

"There were four-armed human creatures in those early days of the male-females (hermaphrodites); with one head yet three eyes. They could see before them and behind them. A KALPA long cycle] later (after the separation of the sexes) men having fallen into matter, their spiritual vision became dim; and coördinately the third eye commenced to lose its power... When the Fourth (Race) arrived at its middle age the inner vision had to be awakened, and acquired by artificial stimuli, the process of which was known to the old sages... The third eye likewise, getting gradually PETRIFIED, soon disappeared."³

The time of Individualisation in Lemuria (3.5) witnessed the virtually simultaneous appearance of the Fourth Atlantean Rootrace, its existence seeded and developed from within the previous fourth subrace of the Third Rootrace (3.4). As outlined in *HHH*, the numerical connections and resonances within the universal septenary system are most important to bear in mind and

correspond to the various conditionings of the seven rays. (Esoteric Astrology is the astrology of the seven rays.)

These two races co-existed and warred with one another for many millions of years, the last of the Lemurians disappearing around four million years ago with the sinking of their last abode through volcanic activity.

The reader may consider reflecting for a moment on these enormous time cycles that would be branded ludicrous or completely fanciful by most people. But how do they know and upon what do they base their derision of these time scales? Paradoxically, scientists who scoff at these cycles, do so very unscientifically, with no investigation and an unquestioning acceptance of status quo thinking. Little does Humanity realise its ancient origins and the many civilisations that have come and gone, achieved great heights and fallen to equally great depths.

The Fourth Rootrace (the Atlanteans) saw a huge acceleration of consciousness take place, caused mainly by a large influx of souls from the Moon chain; they had been held over in a state of 'pralaya' (interlude), awaiting Earth-Chain humanity to catch up in their mental development, relatively speaking; the Moon chain souls are in general far more advanced and brought the karma of that particular evolution with them; this planet is unusual in this respect.

In Atlantis many scientific technologies were developed or even 'gifted' by the guides of the race; astronomy and astrology were evolved, the arts were developed and so forth. In *HHH*, it is estimated that this period was around 10 million years ago. Other 'gifts' were the artificial awakening of psychic perception within the race, yet this was ultimately misused and abused.



Easter Island statues

Parallel with these developments, a greater sophistication of the mental principle resulted in physical bodies becoming more refined and smaller, yet still gigantic, ten metres or about thirty feet in height! According to HPB, the statues on Easter Island were constructed by Atlantean giants in the image of themselves and measured almost twenty-seven feet in height and eight feet across the shoulders!

(Let us also reflect that the size of the members of the reptile and human kingdoms have decreased in steady proportion to each other from ancient times until now.)

Toward the middle period of the Atlantean civilisation, in the fourth branchrace, fourth subrace of this Fourth Rootrace (4.4.4) emerged a great crisis caused by the abuses of magic, selfishness and materialism. The watching guides of the race who 'walked amongst humanity' and who were leaders and kings of nations had to draw a line in the sand, saying: "This is the way of light, there is the way of darkness - Humanity, make your choice." The reader must bear in mind two facts here:

First, that this period not only represented the middle point of the seven rootraces but also the middle point of the entire globe, chain and scheme periods; in other words, it represented the deepest point of incarnation into matter for the Planetary Logos of Earth over an extraordinarily vast period.

Second, 4.4.4 was rapidly approaching 4.5 - the fifth subrace of the Fourth Rootrace, the seed for the Fifth Rootrace, also known from the Hindu philosophy as the Aryan race.

The Fifth Rootrace and Beyond

At this critical juncture in history, the cream of the Fourth Rootrace were emerging as candidates for the golden age (or Satya Yuga) of the Fifth Rootrace; they were in direct conflict with those who wanted to maintain their old ways of black magic, materialism and the acquisition of luxury and anything they desired (sound familiar?); they were completely immersed in the Kali Yuga period of the Atlantean rootrace – the age of death and destruction. This conflict finally came to a head and a mighty war was fought, epitomised in the spiritual classic, *The Mahabharata*, of which the *Bhagavad Gita* is the golden kernel.

According to the ancient scriptures, the war was partially fought with flying craft known as 'Vimana', today known as UFO's. That technology, along with knowledge of pyramid building, has been around for a very long time. After the war was fought, the first Atlantean flood engulfed the Earth, resulting in a large portion of Atlantis sinking entirely beneath the sea; both the war and the flood occurred about four million years ago. There were three more Atlantean floods up until relatively recently; this has been a source of confusion for scholars chronologically, mistaking Plato's Atlantis as the only Atlantis and the only sinking - when in fact it was spread over several sinkings of many islands and continents around the globe.

This period has also generated confusion for Western and Hindu pundits regarding the history of India. The Kali Yuga period that started in 3102 BC, is for our current Fifth Rootrace, yet all the events of the Kali Yuga for the (Fourth) Atlantean rootrace four million years ago have been wrongly ascribed to 3102 BC!

Presiding over world affairs back then was Vaivasvata Manu, responsible for the incoming Fifth Rootrace and epitomised in the Old Testament as Noah. (A Manu is a highly evolved spiritual being who sets the archetype and destiny for a race.) The symbolism of animals boarding the ark two by two, relates to Manu sailing the Earth rescuing the remnants of Humanity who escaped the floods by reaching the highest land; it is said by one of the Masters that 'humanity was salvaged in spite of themselves. (!)

In the intervening few million years the Manu created a new race from those survivors that was finally released from the heights of the Himalayas into India about one million years ago. India is the first subrace of the Fifth Rootrace (5.1) and is the cradle of all the western subraces that have followed after: The Ancient Egyptians (5.2), the Arab-Semitic (5.3), the Latin-Celtic (5.4) and the Teutonic-Nordic (5.5). Currently the Anglo-Saxons (German/British) are the fifth *branchrace* of the fifth subrace (5.5) of the Fifth Rootrace and this can be expressed as 5.5.5.⁴

This Fifth Rootrace is actually the third rootrace when we count Lemuria as the first truly human rootrace. Note that the three major rootraces elapsed thus far – and crises of Humanity - are reflected in 333, 444 and 555. These are not just fanciful or clever figures but numbers of deep philosophical import. The three periods also represent the three initiations or expansions of consciousness – representing control over the physical, emotional and mental

bodies respectively; they also represent three releases of intense spiritual power from the 'crown chakra' of the world – Shamballa.

Today in Earth's 5.5.5 'crisis', it is entering 5.5.6 – the sixth branchrace of the fifth subrace of the Fifth Rootrace; it is the seed for the coming rootrace, that will eventually be based in South America over the next 25,000 years.⁵ The United States is playing a critical role as a bridge between the old race (Britain 5.5.5 etc) and the Sixth Rootrace, said to be initially based in Brazil, returning to the 'middle of South America' where the old power spots are gradually reawakening.⁶ Humanity is in a period not dissimilar from the end of the Atlantean period hence the confusion of the Kali Yuga cycles for different rootraces alluded to earlier.

World Wars I & II are occultly regarded as one war, a recapitulation of the ancient Mahabharata conflict, with the same forces ranged against each other: "The Lords of the Dark Face versus the Lords of Shining Countenance" as the Old Commentary has it. (Interesting to note how prominent UFO's have been in human consciousness since the close of WWII.)

Hence the world is only just emerging from this period, upon the upward swing of the pendulum - from the middle period of development for the entire scheme, chains, globe periods and rounds. The war between these opposing forces still rages upon the mental plane - as Humanity find their way through the 'darkness before the dawn', toward the approaching Aquarian cycle, reminding us of Blake's immortal words, "I will not cease from mental fight, nor shall my sword sleep in my hand ..."

This 2160 year Aquarian cycle will be coinciding with a 25,000 year Aquarian cycle on a greater zodiacal wheel, said to be a very rare occurrence and the source of much spiritual opportunity, ushering Humanity to the beginning of the Sixth Rootrace. The Sixth Rootrace is where the intuition or that sixth sense will be developed and will express itself through the qualities of the heart and right human relationships. Humanity during the shorter cycle will reclaim knowledge of some of the lost Atlantean technologies, create new forms of music and art, as well as gain an understanding of the nature of the soul, reincarnation and its true place in history.

The Aquarian cycle will be an age of Science, exoteric and esoteric, where the universal spiritual laws will come into a much closer alignment with our earthly laws and a period of peace could well reign in a new Satya Yuga or 'golden age'.

Phillip Lindsay © 2010.

Phillip Lindsay has been teaching Astrology and the Ageless Wisdom, working internationally as an astrological counsellor for over twenty five years. His recently published books include, *The Shamballa Impacts*, *Masters of the Seven Rays*, *The Initiations of Krishnamurti*, *Soul Cycles of the Seven Rays*, *The Destiny of the Races and Nations* and *The Hidden History of Humanity*.

His website www.esotericastrologer.org is dedicated to showcasing the leading thinkers in the world today on the subject of Esoteric Astrology and the Seven Rays. His current project is The Hidden History of Humanity Project (www.hiddenhistoryhumanity.com), for which several further volumes are planned. Phillip can be reached for personal horoscope consultations at phillip@esotericastrologer.org

¹ See *The Hidden History of Humanity Vol I*, by Phillip Lindsay, at

² *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, Alice A. Bailey. p.425.

³ *The Secret Doctrine II*, H.P. Blavatsky. P.294.

⁴ The timescales for all these races are in numerous tables in *The Hidden History of Humanity*, by Phillip Lindsay.

⁵ See the revised and updated 2009 version of *The Shamballa Impacts*, by Phillip Lindsay.

⁶ *Ibid.*



Facing page:

BEATA BEATRIX (c.1872)

Dante Gabriel Rossetti

English

1828 - 1882

Rossetti saw this work as a memorial to his recently deceased wife, Elizabeth Siddal, who had died in 1862. The main inspiration for the work was the poet Dante Alighieri (1265-1321). In his honour Rossetti adopted the name 'Dante'. The death of Lizzie became the source of a number of paintings and drawings executed during the 1860's.

In this painting Dante is at the top right as he looks across at Beatrice to left. The Ponte Vecchio in Florence over the River Arno can be seen in the distance. Dante's book *La Vita Nuova* (The New Life) written in 1295, was the source of his admiration for the Italian poet. Dante's book was about his idealised love of Beatrice. This was an apt choice for Rossetti who had loved Lizzie from the moment they had met earlier in the 1850's and felt an affinity with Dante's love for Beatrice.

The death of Lizzie is projected onto Beatrice in this work symbolising a sudden spiritual transfiguration with a golden halo emanating above her head. A bird acts as the messenger of death and drops a white poppy into her open hands. This symbolised the source of the laudanum that had taken her life.

The shadow of the sundial rests on the number 'nine'. This was the number Dante mystically associated with Beatrice. It also shows the time of Lizzie's death. In the background the shadowy figure of Dante gazes towards the figure of Beatrice echoing Rossetti's deep loss and sadness at the death of Lizzie.

THE MIND OF WATER

By Chad Manion



Twenty years ago, in the summer of 1988, the world of science was shaken at its roots by one of the most controversial research papers ever published in the acclaimed journal, "Nature".

A charismatic French scientist named Jacques Benveniste, had just discovered that pure water could somehow remember what it had previously contained. Benveniste began with a substance that caused an allergic reaction, which he diluted over and over again, until there was nothing left except water, and then he observed that the pure water still managed to cause an allergic reaction when it was added to living cells.

If the experiment was correct then it would mean rewriting the laws of physics and chemistry. This claim sent shock waves throughout the scientific community, which would never be the same again. Was he an unrecognized genius who was ahead of his time, who had stumbled upon something that was destined to change the way we view the world, or was he a deluded scientist who made an error?

Benveniste was a committed scientist, who at the zenith of his career at the French National Institute for Health and Medical Research, was willing to risk his reputation to report a phenomenon he did not understand: diluted solutions and the memory of water. Twenty years after his research was published, many other leading minds picked up the torch to assess the debate surrounding the healing properties of ultra-dilute solutions, homeopathy, and ultimately the nature of water itself and living memory. Most notable among the new scientific researchers were Rustum Roy, Konstantin Korotkov, Alexander Saiakov and Masaru Emoto who focussed on water from every possible angle.

This would lead to an even greater understanding of the phenomenon of healing through water. Although water has historically been used in many cultures and traditions in ceremonies, rituals and shamanic practices to heal the sick, it has never been understood why. For example in Christian scriptures water is viewed as more than a mere physical substance, it is a concept closely linked to the idea of life. It is no coincidence that the opening lines of scripture mention water as the origin of life. This matches the well known theory in biology on the origin of life beginning in water.

Water is the most common substance on earth. It is with us every moment of our lives, but do we know the secrets of this element? Why did life begin in water? Where did it come from? Why does water have the ability to cure ailments? Why did the ancients across cultures use it in ceremonies? Did our ancestors know something about the properties of water that we do not? These unanswered questions led a team of top ranked scientists in many countries, to conduct specialised research for almost twenty years into the properties of water – its chemical composition and structure.

Water as a sacred healing ingredient was first studied by the famous Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu over 2,500 years ago, who wrote: - *"Nothing is softer and more yielding than water, yet nothing can resist it. In the world there is nothing more submissive and weak than*

water. Yet it wears down the hard and for attacking that which is strong nothing can surpass it. Though none can overcome it yet anyone can conquer it. That which is yielding conquers the strong and the soft overcomes that which is hard. Everyone knows this but no one dares to live by it. One cannot reflect in streaming water. Only those who know internal peace can give it to others."

This principle of harmony and flow formed the basis of Chinese medicine which is still valid 2,000 years later. Many scholars and teachers of the esoteric arts held the view that water has unique properties and perhaps may even be a form of living consciousness. Almost 4,000 years ago, the ancient Egyptian high priest Ptahotep, outlined in his famous manuscript the scientific principles of healing through water, which became the foundation for energy medicine throughout the ancient world. The principles he laid out, discussed the fundamental properties of water which has a way of retaining energy, which can then be used for delivering health benefits.

Water is known to be unique and possess unusual properties compared to other liquids. No modern scientist has understood why water's density increases below freezing point and becomes less above it. Any substance contracts when it is cooled but water does the opposite and expands.

Water chemically is a miracle substance made of two highly flammable elements – hydrogen and oxygen, which independently may be combustible, but together make the best fire extinguisher. Water or H₂O, is a combination of three nuclei and ten electrons, which possesses special properties that make it unique among more than 15 million chemical species. Every one of water's properties is unique, and does not easily fit into the general laws of physics.

20 years after Benveniste's paper, a revolutionary new hypothesis emerged that could explain water's unpredictable behaviour. Water possesses the ability to retain memory. Experiments conducted across the globe by leading experts drawn from a variety of scientific disciplines, revealed that water receives information and makes an imprint of any outside influence, remembering everything that has occurred in the space that surrounds it. Thus any substance coming into contact with water, leaves behind a trace similar to a footprint in the sand. Had our ancestors guessed this when they used silver vessels to turn ordinary water into healing water?

According to acclaimed material physicist Professor Rustom Roy of Pennsylvania State University, *'water is the single most malleable computer which is capable of retaining and responding to information from the outside'*. As water receives and records information, it acquires new properties yet its chemical properties remain unchanged. This confirms and proves what shamans and mystics have known and practiced throughout the ages. Water receives energy which it stores and transfers to any who consume it. This is what the renowned Greek philosopher Anaxagoras taught, when he expounded the view that *'life exists everywhere but expresses itself gracefully and carries its seeds in water'*. Could he possibly have been talking about DNA when he mentioned the seeds of life? It is widely known that DNA is the blueprint of life which originated in water, and water is needed for the structure of the DNA helix to form. By the statement *'life expresses itself in water'*, was Anaxagoras referring to the imprint of memory in water, perhaps capable of storing the entire history of the planet?

World-class biochemists and others versed in the science of photochemistry, understand that water stores “photons” or “packets” of energetic information. All living cells, composed of between 70% and 90% water, emit biophotons which cannot be seen by the naked eye, but which can be measured by special equipment. If there is “negative” energy or radiation entering cells, then the water in those cells tends to replicate or retransmit this bad information to adjacent cells, complicating the natural replication of healthy cells. The ability of water to store and retransmit such information, for good or for bad results, is therefore an undeniable characteristic of our biological system.

Critics of this theory have sought to debunk the concept of water memory, by arguing that it is the chemical composition of water which is the most important factor – a claim which formed the basis of the pharmaceutically driven modern medical system. Yet research has now irrefutably established and conclusively proven, that this claim by critics is totally invalid, and consequently the basis of the western medical system is built on a fragile premise.

Well over 20 highly ranked, peer-reviewed publications from St. Petersburg University and Arizona State University, have now verified and confirmed the theory, that water does have the ability to retain memory, and not owing to its chemical make-up. The most notable research conducted by Professor Rustum Roy, proved that the structure of water is more important than its chemical composition. Memory itself is formed by the arrangement of its structure - how the molecules are organised. It is possible to see how its molecules join together in groups called clusters. The shape and arrangement of these clusters serve as cells, in which water records the whole history of its relationship and interaction with the outside world like a magnetic tape.

The most important research finding was that water responds to every known stimulus. Water chemically remains the same, but its structure like any nervous system reacts to irritation. Russian physicist Konstantin Korotkov, developed specialised instruments that made it possible to examine and study the structure of water in detail. In one well known and documented experiment, it was observed that in each of water’s memory cells there are 440,000 information panels, each of which is responsible for its own type of interaction with its environment.

The formation of structure determines what type of memory is retained by water. Each cluster or group of molecules depending on the shape can last a very long time. The stability of the cluster structure confirmed the hypothesis, that water is capable of retaining a memory based on the information received from the environment. Water is a liquid crystal with a pliable lattice matrix that is capable of adopting many structural forms. The structure of water gives it an infinite capacity to store information within its matrix. Professor Roy commented that: *‘water is the single most malleable computer with an intriguing memory and to understand its memory will hold clues to unlocking its secrets. By decoding its structure we can alter and perhaps programme it’.*

This evidence provides the basis for homeopathy, and explains why ancient shamans were able to heal with nothing more than water. It is possible to understand why energy healing works – healers charge water by programming or altering the state and structure of water molecules through thought waves. Thoughts carry energy, and the frequencies of these waves make an imprint in the water, which can form a structure that acts as a memory. When this water is consumed by a sick patient it transfers its properties to him/her thereby

resulting in relief from symptoms. Einstein was the first to lay down the principle that energy is fundamental to life, and all matter is made of energy which can be transferred by a medium such as light, sound and water.

Water is living memory and a conductor of energy which carries the frequencies that it is exposed to. Many ancient practitioners of esoteric healing arts have understood this phenomenon. After numerous experiments were conducted exposing water to a range of influences, it was found that the most powerful influences on water were electro-magnetic fields, radio/microwaves, light, heat, thoughts and intention. This is an interesting find which proves that our thoughts have power, and if human thoughts can alter or affect the physical structure of water, they can certainly have an effect on us. This was the secret the Tibetan mystery schools knew when they taught young initiates to heal with nothing more than thought. Lamas in Tibet would train pupils to meditate and use concentration to send thought waves to each other in order to heal.

Of all the influences, human emotion and focussed intention carries the most visible long-term effect on the memory structure of water. This could explain the famous historical event of Christ turning water into wine, without changing its chemical composition by adding any sugar or lactose, but purely by the power of thought frequency and focussed subtle energy. Science has now proved that energy imprints can change the structural properties of matter, and provides a valid theoretical basis for phenomena that were viewed as miracles or unverifiable anomalies.

The most notable experiment on water memory, studied the effects of different emotions on water. Test subjects were asked to project emotions into containers of water before consuming them. It was found that emotions like love, gratitude, peace and blessings raised the energy levels, and improved the taste and quality of water, thereby improving the health of participants upon consumption. While negative emotions like hatred, anger and fear reduced the energy level, and radically altered the structure of water, thereby leading to health problems among the subjects. This would also prove why blessings or positive intentions have the most dramatic effect on one's health and well-being.

A leading author called Masaru Emoto who studied the reaction of water to different stimuli, photographed the crystalline structure of frozen samples of water. This revealed that positive human emotions tended to produce more symmetrical and elegant crystal structures, while negative emotions had the opposite effect. If water has a memory that responds to emotions, it must also have a consciousness that needs to be studied. This was the conclusion of Professor Korotkov, who believes that one must always approach water with care and loving intentions. If emotions have such a profound effect on living matter they need to be monitored more carefully. It would be more beneficial to be in a state of bliss or gratitude when approaching water. This also shows why happy people are also healthy people.

A growing body of recent scientific evidence is now confirming traditional intuitive knowledge of water's role, as a bridge between the energetic and material worlds, and its function as a collector, transmitter and receiver of energy patterns and information. Recent evidence indicates water's capacity to effectively store energy patterns with which it comes in contact, and retains the energetic imprint of different vibrational frequencies for extended periods of time. This lines up with Benveniste's work on homeopathic medicine, which

relies on water's capacity to store within its structural matrix the energetic imprint or vibrational signature of physical substances.

The study also proved an important principle in quantum physics called entanglement. This refers to the influence one particle has on another particle, regardless of geographical distance, time or space. When subjects in the earlier experiment were asked to project thoughts into one vessel of water, the same effect was noticed on all nearby vessels of water. This could mean one of two things – firstly the non-locality of memory: water may have a collective memory structure that is entangled with all other bodies of water. Secondly, remoteness of influence: it is not the water structure that is important but the extent of human thought field or remote communication. Our thoughts could be travelling across a great distance, and may have a regional impact or field of influence stretching across a certain radius. The human brain itself is a water vessel composed of 80% water. This could explain how communication occurs between two individuals separated in space and time. This is fundamental to many unexplained phenomena such as the power of spirituality and prayer, the effect of remote intention and the functioning of the mind/body information network.

A common observation of water during a solar flare, reveals that the structure of water becomes agitated at least 5 minutes before a solar flare, almost as if the water had a premonition of a sun storm. Or, perhaps the fact that water is made of 2 molecules of hydrogen and the sun is a massive body of hydrogen, could explain why quantum entanglement between hydrogen molecules work. This concept of entangled water or the non-locality of mind, may someday prove the basis of telepathic occurrences or remote communication. Altering the structure of one single body of water somehow seems to alter the collective memory of water across distance.

Subtle or vibrational energy was also tested, and seen to have significant impact on water structure. Water is known to have the ability to retain and amplify electromagnetic and subtle energy field signals, indicating water is a critical link between energy and matter as Einstein predicted. Emoto's lab experiment claimed to detect the impact of energy healing on water. After healers projected their energy towards water ... the water that was healed with subtle energy had noticeable crystal formations, while the untreated water's internal structure was chaotic.

A true understanding of the nature of water is central to uncovering the nature of mind. If water can retain memory – surely it can also hold keys to our own existence. Leonardo da Vinci once said: *'Water is the driving force of all nature. In rivers, the water that you touch is the last of what has passed and the first of that which comes; so with present time.'* It is interesting to see that modern science is progressively starting to acknowledge what has hitherto been ignored, and starting to see the importance of consciousness.

In twenty years the convention that criticised Benveniste and homeopathy, is now beginning to recognise his work as the effort of genius. It has taken conventional science a while to catch up with alchemical wisdom, and for pragmatic minds to change on the basis of overwhelming evidence. The proof of water consciousness has always existed, but only now is the convention open-minded enough for the validation to happen. William Blake once remarked that, *"The man who never alters his opinions is like standing water and breeds reptiles of the mind."*

In conclusion, water is the universal medium for all biological activity. Nearly two-thirds of the human body and one-half of each of our organs by volume, consist of water. In a world where water is scarce, the knowledge of its memory and structure would go a long way to preserving life and the welfare of society. In the near future water may come to play a key role in the progress of civilization, as it had in the past. Life always tends to follow the flow of water. As Lao Tzu commented, *"Running water never rots and that water that flows in harmony creates a world at peace."* In the same line Lao Tzu also warned future societies that those who forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one, run the risk of mortgaging the future to the winds of fortune. It is now time to remember this, and perhaps time for society to head towards a unified understanding of ancient wisdom with modern logic, and return to life in accordance with natural principles.

Chad Manian

APPRECIATION

Thanks to all those who have kindly sent in donations to the Foundation in appreciation of Esoterica.

The Foundation for Theosophical Studies, being an educational charity, is pleased that the printer we use – Premier Print Group – has sent money to a children's reading charity this Christmas.



We are making a charity donation this Christmas!

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Facing page:

LOVE OF SOULS (1900)

Jean Delville
Belgian
1867 – 1953

This painting by Delville shows two people in a delicate embrace flowing up into the Universe. This is a pure and spiritual love that points towards an inner union of male and female.

Delville believed that visible reality was only a symbol, and that we exist in three planes: the realm of facts (the physical world), the realm of laws (the astral and spiritual plane), and the realm of causes (the Divine). The two higher planes of existence were the only significant ones. He saw Beauty as "one of the manifestations of the Absolute Being that emanates across the intellectual plane to shine once again across the natural plane, where it darkens into matter."

His work contained many elements from the worlds of the occult and magical to the idealism of various spiritual philosophies. His aim was to create art that would uplift people to higher spiritual levels. He also thought that the true artist was an initiate who would present images which would guide, teach and transform humanity

GOD, PRAYER AND THEOSOPHY



By Stephen Freeman

Our Father, which art in Heaven . . .

Most of us are very familiar with these opening lines of the Lord's Prayer, directed to the Christian Deity, which, although invisible, is believed by many people to be omnipresent, omnipotent, and inclined to be favourably disposed and responsive to supplications of those who believe in 'His' existence. This cosmic God is held to be the Creator of all phenomena, and is characterised as being of Human, but Divine essence, and all human beings are held to have been made 'in His image'. Religious belief in this anthropomorphic Deity, has without question proved to be a source of strength and comfort to many millions of Christians for two millennia, and prayers to this God appear sometimes to be answered, and to this day the Roman Catholic Church accepts evidence of alleged miracles performed by deceased 'saintly' persons as part of the process of their canonisation.

Theosophy and God

But an omnipotent, anthropomorphic Creator-God figure is not consistent with theosophical thought, and the true approach to the 'God Question' is outlined in a letter written by Mahatma Koot Humi (KH) and dated October, 1882 (1). The letter was written to theosophist A. O. Hume, and in it KH took the theosophist to task because he still held in his mind the standard Christian image of an anthropomorphic Christian God.

"To regard God as an intelligent Spirit, and accept the same time his absolute immateriality is to conceive of a nonentity, a blank void; to regard God as a Being, an ego . . . is most consummate nonsense; to endow him with intelligence in the face of blind, brutal Evil, is to make of him a fiend – a most rascally God."

KH argues that instead of there being an anthropomorphic, thinking God, there is an unknowable infinite mind which '*displays . . . no more than the regular unconscious throbbings of the eternal and universal pulse of Nature.*' The working of the infinite mind can be seen in the fact of universal perpetual motion;

" . . . which never ceases, never slackens nor increases its speed . . . but goes on like a mill set in motion . . . we say this perpetual motion is the only and eternal and uncreated Deity we are able to recognise."

This is remarkably similar to the present-day Standard Model of the universe as described by Science, which has observed that every material thing, from far-flung galaxies to sub-atomic particles, is in perpetual motion. Particle physicists now recognise that so-called empty space is not empty at all, but instead is a seething mass of sub-atomic particles constantly popping into and out of existence. Sub-atomic matter is vivified by electrical and nuclear energies

drawn from seemingly empty space, but which we now know comprises invisible 'dark energy' which accounts for about 70% of the average density of the universe. It is this dark energy which KH terms 'Force' in this delightful piece of prose in which he describes the emergence of 'the myriad manifestations of life':

"Out of the invisible and subjective they have entered our little area of the visible and objective. Children of Akasa, concrete evolutions from the ether, it was Force which brought them into perceptibility and Force will in time remove them from the sight of man."

This working of Nature is the only true Act of Creation.

H. P. Blavatsky, in typically robust manner, summed up the theosophical concept of Deity in the following words: (2)

"We leave it to the hymn-makers to call the visible sky or heaven, God's Throne, and our earth his mud foot-stool. Our DEITY is neither in a paradise, nor in a particular tree, building or mountain; it is everywhere, in every atom of the visible as of the invisible Cosmos, in, over, and around every invisible atom and divisible molecule, for IT is the mysterious power of evolution and involution, the omnipresent, omnipotent, and even omniscient creative potentiality."

Theosophy and Prayer

Nevertheless, prayer for help and healing is still a fundamental concept in practically all societies, and the efficacy of such prayers has occasionally been the subject of investigation by scientifically-minded people. For example, in the nineteenth century, Francis Galton (3), applying statistical analysis to reports of the effectiveness of prayer by the clergy, found no salutary effects. He had drawn upon the work of previous investigators who had found that the Royal Family did not enjoy better health or greater longevity than their subjects, even though they were regularly the object of national prayers.

However, in a more recent study (4), conducted in the United States in the 1980s, a group of seriously ill patients in a coronary care unit at San Francisco General Hospital, were found to have less congestive heart failure, had fewer cardiac arrests, and were less often intubated and ventilated after being prayed for, than a comparable study group for whom no intercessory prayers were made. The health benefits were slight, but statistically significant. None of the patients in either group knew whether or not they were being subjected to intercessory prayers by a number of 'born again' Christians, and other members of Protestant and Roman Catholic church communities. This result would suggest that prayer may sometimes be efficacious, though it by no means 'proves' the existence of the Christian God.

As theosophists, what are we to make of such a study?

First of all, HPB (5) has said that prayer opens the spiritual sight of man, for prayer is desire, and desire develops WILL, and Esoteric Science teaches that every sound in the visible world awakens its corresponding sound in the invisible realms, and arouses to action some force or other on the occult side of nature. She describes prayer as an occult process which CAN bring about physical results (6). However, HPB denied the efficacy of prayer when it takes the form of an outward petition to an unknown God, instead she describes WILL-PRAYER, which she describes as, *'more of an internal command than a petition'*

HPB (7) is very specific about the proper process of prayer, saying that *'... the theosophist addresses his prayer to his Father which is in secret . . . that Father is in man himself, the inner man is the only god we have cognisance of.'*

She was very specific about the necessity for privacy and secrecy in prayer, and had little respect for outward, public displays of religious supplication. Instead, she insisted, the individual must focus upon their inner-self for prayer to be effective.

The last word on the subject, of course, has to go to HPB when she neatly describes the true nature of Deity and prayer. She wrote (8)

*"... God is a universally diffused, infinite principle, and how can man alone escape from being soaked through, **by** and **in** the Deity? We call our 'Father in Heaven' that deific essence we are cognisant within us, in our hearts and spiritual consciousness, and which has nothing to do with [any] anthropomorphic conception . . ."*

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LIVING THEOSOPHY

Everyone shares responsibility for the present and future well being of the human family and the larger living world.

The spirit of human solidarity and kinship with all life is strengthened when we live with reverence for the mystery of being, gratitude for the gift of life, and humility regarding the human place in nature.

From Living Theosophy by Linda Oliveira

ESOTERICISM & PSYCHOLOGY

THE BRIDGE BETWEEN SPIRITUALITY & SCIENCE

'A THEOVERSITY WEEKEND'

OXFORD CONFERENCE 18 – 19 MARCH 2011

Christ Church College, Oxford



*The Great Quadrangle,
Christ Church College*



The Great Hall

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Oxford Tour / Arrival & Registration
Supper in the Great Hall (see inset photo above)
Celtic Harp Recital by John Dalton

SATURDAY 19 MARCH

Speakers: John Gordon - Lawrence Newey - Dr. Julian David - Dr. Orlando Fernandez

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Fees include accommodation for residential delegates (where specified), lecture programme and all meals including breakfast, morning coffee, lunch, afternoon tea and supper.
All fees are payable in advance - vegetarian meals can be catered for.

Oxford City Tour not included but can be arranged privately or booked at the Information Centre, Broad Street.
For more information visit: www.visitoxford.org – or telephone 01865 252200

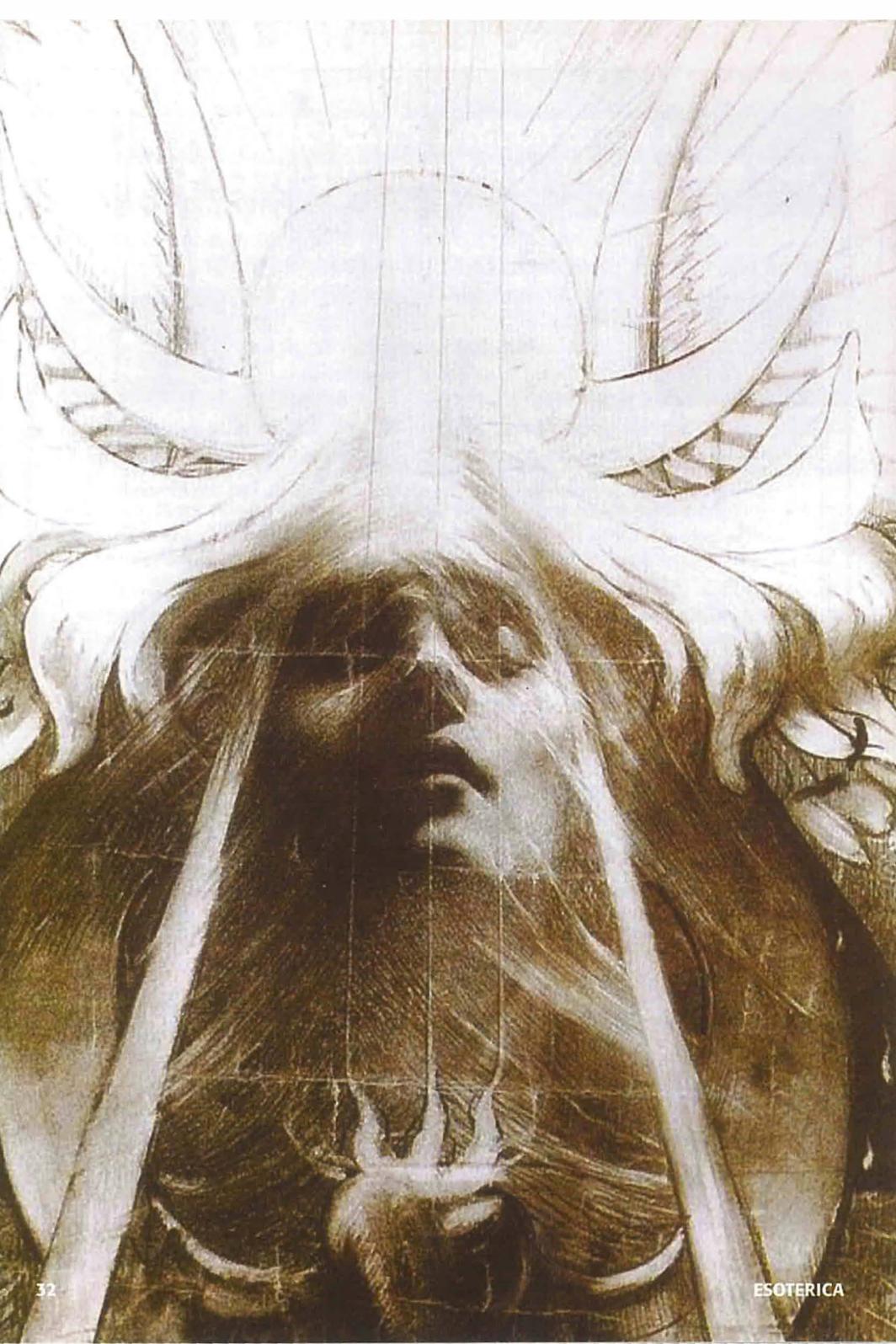
Bursaries: A small number of bursaries are available towards the cost of this conference – ring 0800 612 5474

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For more information on our residential courses
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For more information on the Theosophical Society and the Foundation for Theosophical Studies please visit:
www.theosophical-society.org.uk and www.theosophy.org.uk or phone 020 7563 9817



Facing page:

PARZIVAL (1890)

Jean Delville
Belgian
1867 – 1953

The subject of this work is drawn from the story of Parzival written by Wolfram von Eschenbach in the form of a poem (c. 1225) based on the story of Chretien de Troyes *Perceval, The Story of the Grail*.

This drawing shows Parzival as he finds the Grail and experiences the radiating light. The way Delville visualised the ecstatic experience has a visionary sense as light and rays of energy flow from and around him.

This drawing expresses Delville's own visionary and spiritual experiences as it has an individuality which can only be seen occasionally in earlier religious and sacred art.

It is an example of Deville's art during the late 1800's that was associated with the Symbolists who looked inwards towards inner feelings, spiritual visions and the interpretation of literary subjects as their inspiration.

Jean Delville became interested in spiritual and esoteric subjects during the 1880's. Around 1887 he went to Paris where he met Peladan, a mystic and occultists, who believed that the ideal artist was a 'spontaneously developed initiate, whose mission was to send light, spirituality and mystically into the world'.

Around 1895 Delville joined the Theosophical Society in Belgium and by 1910 he had become the National Secretary.

OBITUARY

Peter Brown : An Appreciation

Peter's sudden death in October came as a great shock to us all. He will be hugely missed by those who knew him – not only as a dear friend, but as the cornerstone of our Basingstoke group. He put his heart and soul into everything he did, and always with a ready smile. His was a calm and steadying influence, but at the same time he had a lively sense of humour – most notably on the trips and outings he helped to organise from time to time.

He was a keen student of the Secret Doctrine and strongly of the belief that it should be studied with a view to awakening the intuition. He was forward thinking and, in an article published in *Insight* in the summer of 2008, introduced the Scientific and Medical Network to members of the TS as a significant contributor to the 'Esoteric Sciences of the 21st Century'. His knowledge and insights over a wide range of topics always enriched our discussions, and his talks were equally illuminating. His inspiration will live on.

Peter and his wife Marlene joined the Theosophical Society in 1991 and were enthusiastic and committed members of Basingstoke Lodge from the outset. Peter willingly took over the role of Secretary after a few years, Marlene eventually became President, and together they devoted themselves to the good of the Lodge, until Marlene's prolonged spell of hospitalisation and convalescence in 2009/10. This meant that they were both absent from meetings for well over a year, and were sorely missed. Throughout this time however, Peter continued to give advice and support by telephone and e-mail. It was with great delight that they were finally welcomed back 'into the fold', though sadly Marlene's ill-health had forced her to relinquish her post. We were looking forward to next year with renewed energy, and Peter was already discussing ideas for our new programme.

Peter served on both the National Council and the Executive Committee, and was an active member of the Executive Committee of the Southern Federation. He was also Registrar for the Secret Doctrine and Science Weekend Courses at Tekels Park for a number of years. Others will know more of his and Marlene's close association with Tekels Park and Camberley Lodge, and their attendance at Summer School – to mention just a few of their Theosophical activities, interests and service.

Our thoughts are with Marlene and family. We know it was a comfort to them to see so many theosophical friends at Peter's funeral and thanksgiving for his life. The service included uplifting readings which reflected his love of poetry, and was a moving, loving tribute to his achievements in many different areas.

Our blessings go with him as he continues his spiritual journey into the Light.

Members of Basingstoke Lodge

'Death is not extinguishing the light
It is putting out the lamp
Because the Dawn has come.

OBITUARY

Colin Byrom

Colin Byrom joined the Theosophical Society through its Blackburn Lodge in December 1990. He was a good student of theosophy regularly attending the weekly lodge meetings, Federation Conferences, and Summer Schools. He was our resident expert on all matters Christian, often coming up with a quote or explanation that complemented our studies. From first joining the Lodge Colin considered himself our resident comedian, and after the meetings always had a tale to relate.

Over time Colin belonged to various Christian churches, ever seeking to get deeper into the meaning of the teachings. Sometimes leaving if he found hypocrisy or lack of integrity in the church elders. He was an avid reader and collector of books, having wide interests, including philosophy and languages. After much searching he discovered Theosophy and from then on it became a complementary guide to his spiritual journey.

Colin worked for the Blackburn Lodge and was for some time our National Councillor. He held the office of Lodge Treasurer and later Auditor, a post that he held until his passing.

Blackburn Lodge officers

LORD

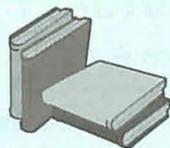
Make me an instrument of thy peace
Where there is hatred let me sow love;
Where there is injury, pardon;
Where there is doubt, faith;
Where there is despair, hope;
Where there is darkness, light;
And where there is sadness, joy.

O divine master grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
To be understood, as to understand;
To be loved as to love.

For it is in giving that we receive; it is in pardoning that we are pardoned;
And it is by dying that we awaken to eternal life.

Attributed to –St Francis of Assisi

BOOK REVIEWS



THE VIEW BEYOND

Sir Francis Bacon: Science, Alchemy, Mystery

Edited by Dave Patrick: Forewords by Ervin Laszlo, Mark Rylance, and Rose Elliot

One of the anniversaries we celebrate in 2011 is the 450th birthday of Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1626), who was born on February 2nd, 1561 new style. Bacon is one of the most intriguing figures in British literary history. Even his parentage is disputed, and rumours abound that he was perhaps the child of Elizabeth and Leicester. To a loyal group of devotees, he is the undoubted author of the whole canon of Shakespeare's plays and poems and maybe other works of literature as well. Behind the idea is his relationship to the Comte de St-Germain, said to be the same soul, and both of them incarnations of the Master 'R'. To the mainstream historian, he is both a writer of enormous significance even without having the Shakespeare plays within his oeuvre, and has great claims to be the father of modern scientific method and even of empirical science.

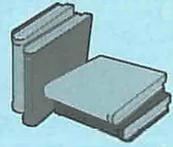
Bacon is also someone on whom Madame Blavatsky and the Theosophists, Rudolf Steiner and Alice Bailey all held strikingly different views – and Freemasonry a whole lot more. Bacon is also mentioned in the 'Master' context by the spirit teacher White Eagle and his medium Grace Cooke.

Polair Publishing are following up a book of essays they published in 2009 on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle entitled THE VIEW with a matching volume on Bacon, published on January 22nd this year. The new book is called THE VIEW BEYOND: SIR FRANCIS BACON – ALCHEMY, SCIENCE, MYSTERY and it includes a remarkable range of articles put together by the same editor as THE VIEW, Dave Patrick. To Theosophists, it may be most interesting as the only volume to compare the views of Blavatsky, Steiner and Bailey and to try and synchronise them. Theosophical writers represented in the book include Tim Wyatt and the late John Waterman. It also includes studies of Bacon by mainstream academics and chapters on such puzzles as the Oak Island mystery – where there are apparently Masonic records so cleverly buried that no-one has been able to excavate them, and according to some commentators these actually include autograph manuscripts of Shakespeare plays. It contains two astrological articles on Bacon and chapters by present-day musicians and musical theorists and another on Bacon's influence on psychical research. There are forewords by Ervin Laszlo, the actor Mark Rylance and the cookery and astrology writer Rose Elliot.

THE VIEW BEYOND (ISBN 978-1-905398-22-5) runs to 288 pp and is available through bookshops or from the publisher, Polair Publishing, P O Box 34886, London W8 6YR, for £12.99 plus £2 postage.

Information kindly supplied by Colum Hayward.

BOOK REVIEWS



GOOD AND EVIL

An individual interpretation of the Secret Doctrine by Helena P. Blavatsky By Tatyana N. Mickushina

This book is a notable contribution to the growing library of books exploring and illuminating the astounding literary work of Helena P. Blavatsky. Tatyana Mickushina has plumbed the very depths of *The Secret Doctrine* to bring to light the truth about the age old question of Good and Evil. We are taken through a history of humanity's earthly evolution; through the rise and fall of the great races and continents and the spiritual beings that came to our aid, blending into and guiding our evolution. Tatyana deals expertly with the myths of the 'Fall' and the angel 'Lucifer' then goes on to examine the *Book of Revelations*.

This book is a must for all deep students of the Ageless Wisdom with its fascinating thread of ancient knowledge expertly pieced together for the reader's benefit. Having once started reading 'Good and Evil' I was compelled by its fast moving narrative to read every last word.

As Tatyana quotes; from a very ancient law: "There is a need of commensuration of the opposite yet equally true principles. *The truth must be kept secret. The truth must be told.*"

This book can be ordered from Amazon -

<http://www.amazon.co.uk/Good-Evil-Individual-Interpretation-Blavatsky/dp/1453626840>

Eric McGough

President,
Theosophical Society in England.

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