

of the sun's corona of Light will reach the Earth. Thus the sunlight will slowly - from century to century - gain in clarity and strength. This slowly increasing brightness of the sunlight will be observable from the Earth.¹

In the future, the wave of Light that eliminated the ravaged Kingdom, and which envelops the entire Globe outside the atmosphere of the Earth as an insulation layer, will prevent the unattached accumulations of Darkness that drift about on and around the Earth, both inside and outside the atmospheric layers - from penetrating, darkening and completely destroying the innermost dwelling places of the spheres. Such destruction has often occurred in the past, thus obliging God time and again to purify and restore them.

Apart from the fact that Darkness, guided by the intelligence of the Eldest, has in many ways hampered and prevented the advance of the Light in a spiritual sense, it has also without guidance blind and aimlessly wrought disturbance on the Globe itself through the many dreadful natural disasters that from the earliest times have caused death and destruction, which the Youngest could not prevent.

These natural disasters are mainly due to the radiations of Darkness of the Globe itself, which attract the accumulations of Darkness that are present in layers of varying density within the atmosphere of the Earth. The severity of the eruption depends on the innate power and density of the two mutually attracting and approaching forms of Darkness. At the eruption, which takes place the moment the radiations of the Globe meet with the attracted accumulation of Darkness, the two forms of Darkness are depolarized and can then be eliminated by the Light-ether.

Even though the Elder has returned to God's Kingdom, all the various forms of natural disaster will persist. But there is a possibility that they will diminish, in direct proportion to the depolarization and elimination of the Darkness.

Part of the depolarized - neutralized - Darkness was eliminated through absorption by the radiations of Light that were spread widely from the spirit-bodies of the incarnated Youngest before the ravaged Kingdom was annihilated by the wave of Light. But at the disappearance of the ravaged Kingdom,² the wave of Light

¹) See Summary, p. 294.

²) In the year 1911.

which has replaced it as a huge insulation layer around the Earth, also takes part in the elimination of the neutralized Darkness. From the insulation layer of Light the disincarnated Youngest have extruded fine strands of Light through those strata of Darkness that rest directly on and around the Globe; these strands of Light are led - also by the Youngest - to areas of neutralized Darkness in order to absorb it and in this way to remove it from the Earth, following which this Darkness is drawn into the great purifying circulation through God's flaming Being by the Light-currents of the ether.

The depolarized Darkness that after a certain time has not been absorbed and eliminated will gradually be mixed once more with the polarized Darkness, and thus after a period of latency - neutralization - revert to its original forms.

Although large quantities of neutralized Darkness are constantly eliminated by the Light, the process is exceedingly slow, since the Light can absorb *only* the depolarized Darkness that is produced by natural disasters such as, for instance, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, thunderstorms and the like, or by many other manifestations of the numerous and highly varied forms of the powers of Darkness.

(Regarding the depolarization of *spiritual* Darkness, see Commentary, pp. 173-74).

Between the lowest and the highest frequencies of oscillation (i.e., rates of vibration) of Darkness extends an extremely wide range of rapidity, concentration and radiation that manifests itself in numerous material and immaterial forms, for example: 1) energy, i.e., electricity, electromagnetism, steam power, and so forth; 2) radiation, i.e., sunlight (solar rays of the lower and lowest frequencies originate from the sun's core of Darkness), phosphorescent light, artificial light (produced by electricity, gas, oil, etc.), heat, radioactivity, and so forth; 3) matter and substance; and a great many other forms as yet unknown to human beings.

At the time when God assumed the guidance of the creatures of His fallen children, He also took charge of the work of restoring order to the chaotic conditions that the incursions of Darkness had caused on the Globe; and as the Earth was gradually supplied with more and more Light - partly through the Passage of Light, partly through the ethereal radiations of Light from the aura of the spirit-bodies of the Youngest - Darkness was brought more and more under the regulating influence¹ of the Light and was thus forced to

¹) The Light that is supplied to the Earth in the above manner thus takes part, together with the Earth's ethereal corona of Light, in the great ordering, adjusting, segregating and harmonizing work in the earthly world of Darkness.

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serve the Light by helping to restore the destruction that had been wrought through the downfall of the Eldest. Thus: the more regular a law is – whether it is a law of energy, radiation, matter and substance, or whether it is a law that directly concerns reproduction and propagation – the greater is the influence of the Light; whereas the more the law in question is encumbered with irregularities and exemptions, the smaller is the influence of the Light. And when human free will must be taken into consideration, Darkness generally has the greater influence on the established order. An easily understandable example of a law that is not completely regular, and in which human free will intervenes, is the following:

If the processes of conception and birth conformed to laws established by God or if they had been brought completely under the control of the Light, a strictly determinate and standardized period of time would elapse between the instant of conception and the completion of birth. No abnormalities would occur during pregnancy, no premature or abnormal births would then ever take place, and the infants would in all respects be completely healthy, well-formed and capable of surviving. But since God did not make these laws, and since the bad habits and unhealthy way of life of human beings make conception and birth highly dependent on the influence of Darkness, the regulating influence of the Light has still far from reached full effect on these processes.

In the course of time the Light has gained a far more regular and ordering influence on procreation in the animal world – especially in the case of animals living in the wild state – than in relation to human beings; for animals, having no independent free will, simply give way to their urges and instincts and thus submit without resistance, albeit slowly, to the increasing influence of the Light. Whereas on the account of the spirit that is bound to the human body, human beings live a conscious life and have a free will for good or for evil. And so long as human beings do not understand how to use their free will' in the proper way, so long as they allow Darkness to dominate them instead of voluntarily submitting to the Light, so long as the Light only imperfectly regulate the laws that determine, for example, the propagation of the human race and the liberation of the human body from abnormality and deformity.

All that to human beings may appear as the intervention of supernatural powers, all that human beings of undeveloped intellect and perception are unable to explain, has in the course of time been regarded as miracle, superstition, fantasy and the like. All these apparently inexplicable phenomena occur in accordance with regular psychic and astral laws – when they are authentic; but since human

¹⁾ See Speech of God's Servant, p. 136.

beings have only a limited knowledge – in many cases no knowledge at all – of the various manifestations of psychic and astral powers, they neither will nor can understand that a natural explanation underlies the apparently "supernatural".

These laws for transcendental phenomena are known, and were known, both to the spirits of the Light and to those of Darkness, for which reason these laws, although permanent and regular in themselves, have often been used in an unlawful manner. One result of the use of these laws by an earthbound spirit without God's permission was, for example, the discovery of the healing waters of the spring at Lourdes. This event, which is known to many contemporary human beings, will as a typical example be further elucidated, since it has been described by some as a miracle and by others as pure superstition.

The French peasant girl Bernadette,¹ who was the intermediary between the sensory and the transcendental worlds when the existence of the spring at Lourdes was revealed, has given a fully truthful account of what she saw and heard. However, contrary to Bernadette's belief, the female apparition that appeared before her was not the mother of Jesus. This spirit, who was acquainted with the astral and psychic laws, appeared visibly and audibly without God's permission before the young girl, who was a clairvoyant and clairaudient medium. In her last incarnation this spirit had been a prominent Frenchwoman, whose conduct had in many ways been highly damaging to France. The anger and hatred of the people, combined with her own consciousness of guilt, had bound her, after the death of her earthly body, to wander about year after year on the astral plane of the Earth, unable to ascend to her home in the spheres. On her restless wanderings she discovered an underground stream that was visible to her and whose water contained certain radioactive substances. Since she knew that the water if used at the site – the radiations being very transient – would alleviate a number of bodily sufferings, and even partially or completely cure certain diseases, she believed that she could atone for some of her guilt toward the people of France by revealing her discovery to them. She therefore addressed herself to Bernadette, who as stated above was a medium, and in order to gain greater credence imparted her message in such a way that she could be mistaken for the Virgin Mary. Her words were: "I am the Immaculate Conception." She knew that this description befitted her no more than it did the mother of Jesus, but excusing herself by the so-called Jesuit adage that the end justifies the means, she had no hesitation in leading people to perceive her as the "immaculate virgin who conceived without sin" – the mother of Jesus. As must all others who are guilty of

¹⁾ Those who have no knowledge of the spring at Lourdes are referred to the book "Lourdes" by the French author Emile Zola and "Lourdes" by the Danish author Johannes Jørgensen. Reference can also be made to the book "Lourdes" by Dr. Boissarie and to "Les Apparitions de Lourdes" by J. B. Estrade. – Publisher's note.

falsehood, she has had to atone in full for this deception; but the nature of her atonement is a matter between her and God.

Much use is made of the healing waters from the spring at Lourdes. It should be pointed out, however, that these healings do not result from the radioactive radiations alone, but are in many cases due to autosuggestion on the part of the patient. The absolute faith in being healed that many of them possess, together with their fervent prayers and intercessions for help that are answered by God, draw the healing rays of the Light-ether toward the patients, and the desired healing is then partially or completely achieved. Even if such prayers and intercessions are directed to the Virgin Mary, God will answer them when they are offered with fervour and in sincere trust. But only a few of the body's ailments can be cured in this way; and not all accounts of healings experienced at the spring are in accordance with the truth.

In view of the foregoing, the healings that occur through the application of water from the spring at Lourdes¹⁾ can be regarded neither as miracles nor as cures based entirely on superstition, any more than can the discovery of the spring. The apparently supernatural in this case does have a natural, lawful background; but the laws under which the existence of the spring was made known to mankind were employed in an unlawful manner, that is without God's permission.

People have very often placed on beings from the transcendental world demands whose fulfilment was, and still is, in violation of the laws given by God. Thus it has happened, for example, that members of a spiritualistic circle have often demanded of spirits who manifested themselves during the circle's sésances that they should prove their existence, their personal identity and their spiritual strength, or demonstrate that they were emissaries from God, and so forth, by performing materializations, dematerializations, and many other "feats" of this kind. Doubtless without being aware of these spiritualists have thus often demanded that their spiritual communicators should act against the Laws given by God. And when the spirits have not wished to act against these laws, and thus failed to produce the desired evidence, these people have forthwith labelled the spirits of their mediums as frauds, without being willing to investigate or respect the reasons for their refusal. Conduct of this kind by human beings is as foolish as that of a thief who would say to an honest person: "Go and steal, and I shall believe in your honesty".

Human beings must learn in the future to respect the psychic and the astral laws, even though they do not understand them; learn that they must not demand, but only pray; learn to receive with gratitude the proofs that are given from the transcendental world according to the insight and wish of God; learn that the spirits of the Light

¹⁾ Or from other similar springs.

not behave as lawbreakers simply because certain people will not understand until they have seen or received that which they themselves demand. And of one thing can human beings be certain: the greater their demands, the less will they be given from the transcendental world. Only they who seek in prayer, with faith and in a completely unselfish manner, only they can achieve close contact with the spirits of the Light and receive the necessary help to find that for which they seek.

The laws of lesser, greater or complete regularity that directly concern purely earthly conditions, whether relating to energy, to radiation, to matter and substance, and so forth, or whether to the psychic and astral laws that govern the contact of the transcendental world with the physical, all these laws are only provisional - temporary - which is to say that they apply only by virtue of the existence of the Earth, and only for so long as the Globe exists.

Through that intelligence with which God has enriched human beings, and through instruction from the incarnated Youngest, some of the forces of Darkness - electricity, electromagnetism, steam power and so forth - have been put to use in the earthly world and must therefore, being partly under human control, in many ways contribute to the easing and improvement of life on Earth.

Many toxic substances - organic and inorganic - that originate from Darkness have similarly been put to use in the service of the Light, for example as medicines and disinfectants, or utilized in many other ways, for example as pigments, etching reagents and so forth.

Several explosive substances that in the service of Darkness are used to cause death and destruction - for example as weapons of war - are also used to serve the progress of the Light, for example in the levelling of the ground, blasting of obstructions, drilling and so forth.

Also through the diseases of the body is Darkness forced to assist in maintaining the overall balance. An acute illness can relieve the sufferer of accumulations of Darkness - strain, germs, bacteria and the like - that threaten to destroy the body. The cure, which among other things is due to the healing influence of the corona of Light and the Light-ether, restores health to the body - the accumulated Darkness is eliminated and the balance thereby restored.

Through the Laws of Retribution and Reincarnation, which are also temporary, and which God has given to promote the progress of mankind on Earth, the spiritual destruction and disturbance that Darkness constantly causes among human beings is equalized and counterbalanced in many ways.

Through the Law of Retribution each evil thought and every evil or criminal act reverts to the person who conceived the thought or committed the act; in this way the originator must endure the same spiritual or physical sufferings as those intended for or brought upon others. Balance is then restored through the sufferings endured by the originator.

Catastrophes that are due to the influence of Darkness on the existing order, and which intervene in the lives of human beings by causing disturbance and destruction, are similarly utilized by God to restore balance under the Law of Retribution, thus forcing Darkness also in these cases to serve the cause of the Light. For instance, people who directly or indirectly become victims of earthquakes, mine or traffic accidents or of fire disasters, of the devastations of war, such as maiming, disease, starvation, loss of property and so forth will always, because of the spiritual and physical suffering endured, have the guilt of misdeeds, killings, murders and other crimes committed in previous lives counterbalanced and annulled, so that their future lives on Earth become brighter and happier. For it must be clear to all: that no human being endures any greater spiritual or physical suffering² than that brought upon himself or herself in previous lives, and since God never lacks the means to intercede when this is necessary, people who have no guilt from previous earthly lives that can be expiated in the above manner will never be exposed to this kind of suffering. (See pp. 252-53).

God's mercy and compassion transcend the Law of Retribution. All who fully repent of their evil and sinful actions can through the remorse obtain God's permission to atone for their sins by one or more acts of love or compassion toward those against whom they have sinned.

Even death must serve life and the Light, since the spirit that is released at death, possessing the results of the accumulated experiences of the recently ended life on Earth stands prepared to acquire new experience and new learning through new earthly lives.

And when the many incarnations of humanity have come to an end, according to the Law of Balance of the Light, God will through a mighty cataclysm cause the remainder of the Darkness that has not yet been depolarized to assist in the dissolution of the Globe, which through the downfall of the Eldest was brought under the dominion

¹) See Speech of Christ, pp. 111-115.

²) Sufferings of any kind that human beings bring upon themselves, for example by thoughtless or unhygienic ways of life, indifference, carelessness, wantonness, needless overexertion, and so forth, are not counterbalanced; in such cases human beings must suffer the consequences.

of Darkness. Then will the perfect and final balance have been achieved: humanity will have been released for ever from the Earth - for millions of years the stage for human sin and grief and suffering; the Globe will disintegrate; the Darkness depolarized through the cataclysm will be absorbed and transported by the cycle of Light to its ultimate purification through God's flaming Being - and the saga of the Earth will have come to an end.

All that has been stated concerning the oscillations, depolarization, radiations and various other manifestations of Darkness as well as the descriptions of the regulating and balancing influence of the Light have only been given in broad outline, since specific knowledge of the various branches of the natural sciences is required in order for the transcendental world to furnish a more thorough and detailed explanation. But people with scientific training who wish to proceed from this given basis can always be assured of receiving valuable help from their spiritual leaders - the disincarnated Youngest. Much that can be brought to light and utilized by human intelligence is still unknown and unresolved, while similarly a number of the powers of Darkness still remain to be brought under human control and made useful in many ways.

Since the Earth is a world of Darkness, human intelligence will be engaged mainly in utilizing the products of Darkness. But human beings will gradually learn to discern and determine where the influence of the Light intervenes in the existing order.

From the moment in the remote prehistoric past when the Eldest decided to oppose the incarnated Youngest in order to obstruct their guidance of humanity, the Elder has like God¹ laid plans in outline for the incarnations of the Youngest and the human spirits. In accordance with these plans the Eldest or the Elder himself sought to lead human beings astray and away from the paths of life desired by God.

The Elder has in the same way predetermined the fate of entire peoples, entire nations, in order to lead as many as possible away from the paths of the Light.

Since all thoughts² - evil as well as good - are received and reflected by the ether, the Elder's predetermining thoughts of future events were recorded as images in the ether of Darkness that surrounds the Globe.

¹) See Commentary, p. 184.

²) The thoughts of God and the disincarnated Youngest are not recorded in the ether that surrounds the Globe.

Three different types of ether-image occur: future-images, present-images and after-images.

1) *Future-images* are the aforementioned records of the Elder's predeterminations for the fate and conduct of individual human beings and of entire nations. These future-images, which were meant to bring misfortunes and sufferings upon humanity, like everything else originating from Darkness, have, also, been forced to serve the cause of the Light in accordance with the Law of Balance. The incarnated Youngest - the leaders and guardian spirits of mankind - have thus been able to discern from these future-images what plots and designs threatened their charges at the hands of the Eldest. They have been able to determine, from the faintness or clarity of these future-images, whether the recorded events lay far out in the future or whether they were imminent, and have accordingly been able to take precautions if possible to avert or mitigate the destructive future events that threatened the individual or humanity at large.

Where nations were concerned the Elder normally outlined his predeterminations for several centuries into the future, so that by the time he returned to God he had recorded in the ether of Darkness that surrounds the Earth many future-images of the manner in which the lives of all the peoples and the nations on Earth for many years ahead should develop according to his will. But when some years before his return he understood that the Light must ultimately defeat him, he devised further appalling occurrences for the future of nations in the form of devastating wars, assassinations, yet more wars, misfortune and misery, etc., reasoning that hatred, envy and lust for power among human beings would help him draw Darkness closer about the Earth, and thus, despite the counteraction of the Youngest, postpone the day of victory of the Light over him. The Youngest, who were all aware of both these and the earlier predeterminations, did all they could to prevent them from occurring on the plane of the Earth as real events. At the time¹ that Christ succeeded in winning back his eldest brother, several of these ominous events had already come to pass as realities upon the plane of the Earth, while others were about to do so. The Youngest tried in many ways to divert or moderate the existing and impending conflicts between the governments of the various nations, and thus, if they were possible, to prevent the outbreak of the appalling wars in which such conflicts would otherwise result. But the many and energetic attempts by the Youngest to guide the leaders and the rulers into peaceful settlements of their standing disputes remained without

¹) In the year 1912.

result, and numerous of the Elder's ether-recordings were called forth into reality in the earthly world by the will for evil of human beings themselves. But although the Elder carries the chief responsibility for the recorded predeterminations, human beings must also bear grave and onerous guilt for the horrors, murders and misdeeds that were committed through human malice, hatred, greed and lust for power, and which could have been avoided had human beings striven for the good and the true in life instead of heeding the promptings of revenge and injustice. And if the Youngest are to prevent the remaining threatening ether-recordings from being called forth into reality upon the plane of the Earth at the time appointed by the Elder, human beings, and especially their *leaders and rulers*, must assist by paying greater heed to the admonitions of their conscience, since the efforts of the Youngest will otherwise be in vain; for God compels no human being to turn away from Darkness, and He compels no one to do that which is right.

The Elder's future-images have often been seen by clairvoyant human beings, but through abnormal refractions in the ether these images have from time to time been perceptible to people who were not mediums. Several people have thus simultaneously seen ether-images - forewarnings - for example of marching soldiers, scenes of battle, murders and the like. The images have appeared in the open air (not unlike earthly mirages such as Fata Morgana) or in enclosed spaces, for example in the rooms of palaces, manor houses and ordinary dwellings that later became the scene of the crime foreboded by the ether-images.

Through similarly abnormal refractions in the sound-waves of the ether, sounds belonging to the future have been audible in the earthly world as omens, for example the sounds of battle, the crash of as yet imaginary train collisions, screams, sighs, groans, the sound of firm, stealthy or dragging footsteps and a great deal more.

No detailed explanation of these phenomena will be given, since they will all gradually cease as Darkness is eliminated.

Not all criminal deeds have their origin in the Elder's ether-recordings. In many cases they are due to the mutual hatred, envy and so forth of human beings. In the same way, by no means all the misfortunes that have occurred, and will continue to occur, can be blamed on the Elder. Many are due to human recklessness, indolence, negligence, dereliction of duty and so forth. Human beings who in these or in other ways cause the maiming or death of themselves or of others must bear the full responsibility themselves, and cannot lay the blame upon the Elder.

2) *Present-images*, in other words recordings in the ether of human thoughts that likewise in many ways affect the life of the individual and the existence of all humanity.

Since all thoughts are received and transmitted by the ether-waves, people influence each other for good or for evil. Impure and evil thoughts are attracted by wicked and feeble persons, so that they often commit acts under the influence or compulsion of thoughts conceived by others. The one who transmitted² the thoughts must in such cases share the responsibility with the one who committed the act. But only God can determine whether the act resulted from the individual's own thoughts, or from thoughts that were attracted to or forced upon that person.

The principal psychic law, on which the telepathic power of thought is based, will not be disclosed to mankind from the transcendental world, since the ethical standard maintained by human beings is not yet high enough to preclude all misuse of this knowledge.

Through experimentation, human beings may possibly come to recognize and determine for themselves some of the more elementary laws for telepathy of thought.

3) *After-images* are reflections of human actions performed according to a conscious thought-plan, or according to thoughts that arise instantaneously from within the self, or that are attracted to or imposed on the self from the outside.

The moment a thought becomes action the thought-image fades and vanishes, and as the action is carried out, it is recorded or reflected in every detail. However, the image of the action seldom corresponds exactly to the image of the thought, since people virtually never carry out their actions precisely according to the thoughts that precede them, even if the conscious thought-plan is prepared with the greatest care, since many events unforeseen by human beings often interfere at the moment of action, whereby much can be changed or prevented.

The after-images that reflect evil human actions, such as murder or similar misdeeds, are often fixed for long periods of time in the accumulations of Darkness at the place where the crime was committed. These images dissolve and vanish when the perpetrators of the action have fully repented of their sin. But when those who have committed the crime do not repent during their earthly existence, during the period of time for contemplation and repentance that

¹) Mass suggestion through thought can give rise, for example, to patriotism, war for revolutionary movements, the founding of religious sects, and so forth.

²) Since the thought has its seat in the large nerve-centre of the spirit-body, it is the psychical brain that is influenced, it being both the transmitter and the receiver of thought.

allotted to each released spirit at the time of death of the physical body, the image remains until the sin has been atoned for in some way in a new incarnation. It has therefore often happened that an after-image of this kind has remained in the same place for centuries.

In contrast to the thoughts, which are borne away by the ether-waves, the images of evil and vile actions are reflected in the accumulations of Darkness and remain there until they fade and disappear. Images of good deeds are reflected in the radiations of Light from the spirit-body.

The radiations of Darkness from after-images often produce a distinct feeling of uneasiness in sensitive people when they are present in places where crimes have been committed. Clairvoyants have often seen and described after-images of scenes of battle, murder, robbery and other evil deeds.

After-images of good or insignificant actions are dissolved and gradually fade away as the action withdraws in the individual's memory; but when the human spirit is released at death from the earthly body, everything - good and evil - remains recorded in the consciousness of the spirit.

In the same way that after-images are preserved in the accumulations of Darkness, sounds that stem from crimes already committed, such as screams, blows, the impact of an axe, stampings, shuffling footsteps and so forth, are preserved for long periods in accumulations of Darkness as after-sounds. These sounds may on occasion become audible in the earthly world in places where crimes were committed. The sounds can be so "real" that they can be heard by people who are not mediums. These sounds will cease as the respective accumulations of Darkness are eliminated.

Since human thought is a reflection of God's Thought, human beings are able by the existence of their thought to give form and shape to the products of their imagination, so that these can appear visibly on the astral plane. In contrast to the spiritual beings that God has created, the forms of human fantasy are not everlasting but only ephemeral, their existence being subject to dissolution and destruction.

The higher the spiritual self that is bound to the human body, the clearer and more firmly constituted are its thought-images or phantoms; but in most cases people do not shape or finish their thoughts completely, for which reason that which appears or is brought forth in the spiritual-astral substance normally resembles only misty, elusive and colourless sketches. All authors, painters, sculptors, and others who wish to translate their thoughts with the help of earthly materials, so that in some way they can be perceived and understood by their fellow human beings, consciously or subconsciously form or create in their thought one or more images of

that which they wish to make accessible to sense perception. The clarity, brightness of colour and durability of the images and phantoms are dependent on the artist's ability to work with the spiritual-astral material. They normally fade away when the individual relinquishes the initial thought in order to let new images and new phantoms emerge.

Since clairvoyants can normally see these thought-phantoms but are not always able to differentiate within their field of vision between a phantom and a human spirit, numerous legends and fantastic tales of the so-called "elemental spirits" have come into existence in the course of time.

Ever since the earliest ages after the time when God had endowed humanity with spiritual life, i.e., thought and will, human beings – especially the most primitive the least developed people – have imagined nature to be populated with invisible beings whom they believed capable of intervening in earthly existence in various ways and of making themselves visible to the human eye. The forests, seas, rivers, lakes, mountains and so forth all had their own spirits – good-natured or evil-minded, helpful, mischievous or vindictive beings. In the forms created by human thought they were visible to clairvoyants. Many even believed that the elemental spirits ruled over and regulated the thriving of nature, that animal and plant life was dependent on the vigilance of these creatures. Since all natural life is subject to established laws, it is easy to see that all such beliefs belong to the world of fantasy. Gradually as human spirits mature, as their insight deepens and they lose all belief in independently thinking and acting elemental spirits, and as these spirits therefore no longer occupy their thoughts, the phantoms will dissolve and disappear.

Since all formerly earthbound spirits have been removed from the Earth, possessions by these spirits can no longer take place. If a person now appears to be possessed, the reason for that person's malicious, evil or irrational behaviour must be sought elsewhere. Three categories are described in the following:

1) *One of the Eldest* is bound to that person's body. (Many of the Eldest are at present still incarnated among human beings).

2) *Split personality*, i.e., memories from previous lives on Earth emerge in the person's consciousness, causing the individual to regress to one or more of its earlier personalities. This can occur where the insulation layer between the spirit and the body has been damaged by the incursions of Darkness, often brought about by the individual's own evil thoughts and sinful way of life; or this may be due to the misuse of mediumistic talent.

While the spirits of the dead remained on the plane of the Earth, split personalities¹⁾ often originated from their malignant possession of human beings.

¹⁾ Split personalities were not and are not always authentic, since they are often the result of a human desire to attract attention or to appear interesting.

The "dead" would thrust aside the spirit bound to the relevant body and then assume its place. But since the parasitic spirit was not bound by the life-giving cord, its energy would sooner or later weaken, thus obliging it to return the borrowed body to its rightful owner, who would only partly have been able to make contact with the brain of its physical body during the possession. The spirit that had thus been temporarily thrust aside would usually remember that it had shared its physical body with one or more intruding personalities. But in some cases the person had no recollection of having been seized by a parasitic spirit.

3) *Radiations from accumulations of Darkness* that gather around the individual, attracted by the Darkness emitting from that individual's personality. The encounter between these two forms of Darkness will then result in evil and impure thoughts or in criminal acts.

There is often a fourth category, in which the spirit that is bound to the physical body is not normally responsible for what happens. For example, if the physical brain¹⁾ has been damaged in some way by concussion, sickness or old age, the spirit cannot enter into communication with the brain and therefore loses some and occasionally all controlling power, and the person is no longer "himself", i.e., he loses his individual personality.

At the time when the Youngest at God's request decided to let themselves be incarnated on Earth, the human beings were still few in number, but they lived scattered over large parts of the Globe.

Since the Eldest had endowed them with almost no means of sustaining and defending themselves, their struggle for survival carried off thousands upon thousands of them at a very young age.

Several of the human types then existing were of such a low order that there was but the smallest possibility of leading these human creatures forward to greater spiritual maturity and greater bodily refinement, for which reason the Youngest from the outset declined to be incarnated among them. A few types were then selected, and the Youngest embarked on the monumental task of leading human beings out of Darkness and forward toward their Father's Kingdom.

Thus there are races of human beings in whose midst the Youngest have never been incarnated. The spiritual level that has now been attained by a number of these primitive beings is reached with the help of the divine element²⁾ that is given to every human being at the T.A

¹⁾ See Summary, p. 288, regarding the afflicted, abnormal brain.

²⁾ See Commentary, p. 189.

moment of conception, and which always at each new incarnation endows the human spirit with a further spiritual enhancement. Newly created and young spirits are mostly incarnated among these primitive or fairly primitive peoples. Gradually, as God's need of these peoples for the first incarnations of human spirits diminishes, they will slowly become extinct.

When the first incarnations among the more primitive peoples have been concluded, as the spirit matures and its will becomes stronger, it is incarnated among more highly developed and finally among the most advanced human races. This happens so that the spirit, in every aspect of life, can learn to overcome evil in all its various forms. The human spirit must in this way experience all that is offered by life on Earth and thereby achieve a many-sided development of thought and will, although allowance must be made for the natural limitation that follows from the fact that a male spirit is always bound to a male body, and a female spirit to a female body. (However, exceptions to this rule have occurred with the unlawful incarnations of the Eldest. See Commentary, pp. 201-02).

Through millions of years, inconceivably slowly, step by step and generation after generation the Youngest led human beings forward, gradually providing them with new and greater knowledge, and with more and more aids and implements for use in everyday life.

In the beginning and through many ages the Youngest in their human existence were only little higher than human beings in intelligence and in spiritual development. Through their sense of beauty the female Youngest that were bound to earthly women endowed their progeny with ever greater bodily refinement.

At a certain time in the prehistoric past the Eldest began in manifold ways to oppose and hinder the Youngest in their efforts by constantly drawing across the Earth more and more of the Darkness from the ravaged Kingdom, and by directing it to the places where the greatest human progress was evident. **LEMURIA**

As stated previously, the first truly civilized realm,¹ which developed after millions of years, was situated in the Pacific Ocean. But many thousands of years before this realm was destroyed and disintegrated into island groups, the process of civilization² had started in other places on Earth, for example on the Island in the Atlantic Ocean, in the eastern part of Central Africa and in a few places in Asia.

¹) Ardor has mentioned only the prehistoric civilizations because human beings possess no historical accounts or traditions from those times; only legends exist.

²) The Ice Ages that laid waste some parts of the Earth are not mentioned by Ardor, since they did not directly interfere with the work of the Youngest.

After the demise of the Island, the work of the Youngest was transferred mainly to northern and to eastern Africa and to the interior and southern parts of Asia.

At that time the majority of human beings still led a predominantly nomadic life, with no formal leadership. (The elders of the tribes usually acted as leaders in any tribal affairs). Laboriously they migrated with their cattle over vast distances; and thus were widely spread across the Earth many of the families that through the repeated incarnations of the Youngest had been endowed with greater nobility and beauty, both spiritually and physically, than had their forefathers. These families intermingled again with the peoples already living in the places where the wanderers settled for longer or shorter periods of their nomadic lives. The spiritual level of these peoples was higher or lower according to whether or not the Youngest had been incarnated among them. Through blood relations between the nomads and the original settlers there arose new human types, new races; some families were improved by this interbreeding, others degenerated and met with extinction.

When also the African realm perished and its inhabitants fled to various other places, the Youngest transferred their efforts to northeastern Africa - the area later to become Egypt - while a new process of civilization was begun in the southern part of Europe, and the work already under way in Asia was continued.

Until about half a century before the destruction of the Atlantic Island, the Youngest, despite the opposition of the Eldest, had brought all the peoples of the Earth, with the exception of the most primitive, forward in a reasonably straight line. But from the moment when the Eldest presumptuously began to incarnate themselves, they were able to offer an even stronger resistance to the Youngest, since the Eldest as human beings more easily gained power over their weak and immature fellow beings, with the result that the slow and relatively even progress of civilization and of the Light was supplanted by an erratic sequence of advance and retreat. For since the Eldest, as related in Ardor's Account, sought incarnation as human beings primarily where they could best achieve high positions¹ that would presumably satisfy their lust for earthly power and their urge to dominate, and since the great spiritual strength that was due to their inadequate insulation layer was especially prominent against the background of the low spiritual level of the weakly devel-

¹) This does not mean that *all* rulers were of the Eldest; both human spirits and the Youngest have often been bound to human beings who held high office, both ecclesiastical and secular.