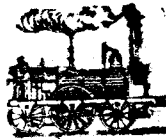


VALERIE BONWICK:

"Teachings of the Sea Gods"
1987, 384 PAGES

The Advent of Ethereal Man



- and Man was seeded on the planet.

Instinct and intelligence,
Held in balance by knowingness.
Soul-forms clad in robes of Light.

Upon their awakening from pralaya,⁵ a virgin world awaited those entities who would form the nucleus of Earth's first race of Man. They had been summoned out of their sleep to experience and explore the planet's expanding realms of consciousness. The goals allotted to them were intended to enhance their understanding, to expand their awareness and to intensify the quality of their near perfect being to a more fully heightened consciousness. It was intended that in so doing they would develop a potentially perfect evolution which would far excel that of the citizens of any worlds in the cosmos that had thus far been settled, colonized or conquered. The history of the evolution of the races of Man concerns both Man's triumphs and his failures in the pursuit of those goals.

Wise Ones from many cosmic cultures collaborated to oversee the seeding of this new world with the entities who were chosen to form the nucleus of the first race, but to spearhead the project which was approached both as a sacred trust and soundly based on scientific principle, the Wise Ones of Venus were chosen by the Appointed Assembly⁶ to serve as its leaders.

Drawn from various and differing races from across the heavens, the first entities to be seeded on planet Earth were chosen for their innocence. Having been cleansed of

⁵ Skt. A period of rest or sleep between planetary incarnations.

⁶ The Appointed Assembly is composed of those spiritually elevated Beings who are chosen to represent their home-planets in council.

any remaining impediment dross during their suspension in pralaya, they represented the best of their kind, whom it was decided would not only benefit from the Earth-born experience, but could also contribute greatly to the quality of that experience in the fulfillment of that goal which is called the Divine Plan. Thus the first race of Man was seeded and the great experiment begun.

Lords of the Rays

All entities began life anew on Earth as sparks of Divine Being and were energized and individualized further by seven vortices or chakras⁷ within their own being. These centres served as receivers and transmitters of power from the Lords of the Rays who receive, step down and relay the energy of the Rays which is transmitted by the Greater Seven. The Greater Seven embody and direct currents of energy involving lifeforce, without which Man cannot survive, yet neither can his physique withstand such an intense concentration of energies unless it is first channelled through the receptive awareness and moderated transmission of the Lords of the Rays. The Greater Seven also personify influences which serve Man's evolutionary goals and in so doing, further the Divine Plan. The Plan includes original ideology related to the race of Man and to which mankind's present evolutionary pattern approximates as close as possible.

The earliest members of the planet's first race appeared as radiant shimmering forms of Light which was tinted by rays of color expressing their personal quality traits. Their forms as yet, were untainted by dross and not hidden by flesh.

⁷ Skt. Literally, "wheel." Some authorities translate chakras as "wheels of fire" which they are not, until they are awakened and rotating.

Eden

* The whole planet was a garden waiting in preparation for the coming of Man, unsullied and undefiled, it supported more species of life than any other inhabited world in the heavens and provided greater opportunity to express Divinity than had ever before been made possible. The "Garden of Eden" might just as well have been called the "Garden of Earth." "Eden" is probably the closest-sounding version of the name used for our home-planet by the Wise Ones. Eden's tranquil landscapes and the exciting beauty of its more dramatic regions provided a harmless environment of unsurpassed beauty for all living beings.

* Numerous species of the Plant and Animal Kingdoms were brought from other worlds expressing different atmospheres and environments from ours and especially adapted to thrive in the conditions which then prevailed on Earth. We would like to emphasize that it would be as well that none of us, you or we, lose sight of the fact that such a wealth of opportunity is always balanced by a burden of responsibility which cannot be avoided.

In essence, the Garden of Eden was also a state of mind reflected onto the material plane. Perhaps in the years that lie ahead, as Man's mind approaches at-one-ment with Divine Mind, he will judge his expression of worldly success according to how close he can come to restoring the planet to a garden. When you remove the hyphens which divide the word "at-one-ment" you are left with the significant term, "atonement."

Mankind's Elusive Ancestor

You will find no bones or artifacts of Ethereal Man to please those among you who rely upon material proofs alone, but this should not be a source of frustration to you. It is a very good reason for you to develop your own gifts

of seership so that you can verify personally the information which we share with you now.

Ethereal Man was exactly what is implied by the title, Man dwelling on the physical plane and expressing himself as life-forms composed of etheric matter. The records tell us that:

"In those enviable far off days, Man did not burn and he could not drown. He had no need of solid food for he drew in his vitality from the atmosphere and could travel effortlessly by mindpower, directed by wish-fulfillment alone."

Thus it was in the beginning.⁸

We would like to share with you an account of the root races, attempting to relive in part the history of our mutual ancestors, yours and ours. As Man's history unfolds, it is a chronicle in truth of the triumphs and disappointments experienced in stabilizing the race of Man on Earth. In reviewing mankind's history, we also share in some small measure the traumatic changes experienced by the planet. This reinforces our realization that the advent of Man was no accident, preparations were painstaking. Consider for instance:

- The meticulous preparation made by the Indwelling Intelligence within whose aura we pursue our reason for being;

⁸ The foregoing lines bring to mind Krishna's words to Arjuna, from Sir Edwin Arnold's translation of *The Bhagavad Gita*. "I say to thee weapons reach not the life; / Flame burns it not, water cannot o'erwhelm, / Nor dry winds wither it. Impenetrable, / Unentered, unassailed, unharmed, untouched, / Immortal, all-arriving, stable, sure, / Invisible, ineffable, by word / And thought unencompassed, ever all itself, / Thus is the Soul declared!"

ties to Polaria were primarily due to his affection for companions from parallel evolutions who already dwelt there.

When researching the akashic records¹ of the early races, it is important to recapture their attitude to their world as it was then. We may not be able to share completely in their way of thinking, triumph in their successes or suffer with them in their failures, it is far more likely that we will understand their temptations, but we must make the attempt.

It was intended in the years to come however, that mankind would recover proof, buried deep under the ice though it may be now, of technically advanced expeditions mounted by highly cultured visitors who have periodically patrolled Earth since the advent of Man. They have left data, artifacts and records intentionally on the planet, so that the seed of Man may recover the heritage of his own history when the time is ripe.

Polarian Man

It is natural that Questers should be interested in what Early Man looked like, how he thought and his attitude towards his fellow creatures on the planet, but we must be careful in describing him and his reactions to the world around him. The average Polarian was a simple being, but not simple minded, all the potential for his future intellectual expansion was already in place, although not as yet in use. He expressed unselfconscious innocence with a childlike, but not childish enthusiasm for learning, learning which he acquired effortlessly by using his powers of observation.

Polarian Man had no need of sleep. He was active from dawn to dusk, but he used the hours of repose from activity

¹ All events that have taken place, and continue to take place on the planet are recorded on etheric matter – Akasha (Skt.)

to recharge his vitality while his friends were sleeping and to absorb any fresh knowledge he had acquired since his last period of rest.

In temperament, the Early Polarian like Ethereal Man, was curious about life and inquisitive regarding the life-patterns of other species of life on the planet. He was joyful and delighted from the beginning to join in any playfulness that presented itself. He was also fascinated by the work performed by his companions of the Deva Evolution, particularly those who had individualized on earlier worlds and he learned positively and well from them.

Originally the Polarians were (androgynous) in form and they remained so during the Polarian Age. The average Polarian was fully telepathic, to the point that he had no need of verbal speech, nor did he develop a formal language at this time. At first, Man was content to absorb new knowledge without question, the satisfaction that it brought him was enough in itself, but later on, his curiosity led him to become less of an observer and more of a participant and he began to experience sensations other than interest and the joy of being. Newly experienced emotions began to take precedence over those that had been previously explored, regardless of quality.

Understanding – Involvement – Empathy

Perhaps it was Man's effort to understand what he saw around him more clearly, that first led him to become so deeply involved with the problems of his companions on the physical plane, that he forgot to distance himself from the results of his empathic skills. By neglecting this preventive measure, their reactions became his and he experienced emotional response such as indignation, love and anxiety for the first time. Later on, he also registered the baser emotions of hate, lust and fear.

The demarcation line between the ethereal and the physical form was far less clear than now. Members of the Animal Kingdom for instance, although well adapted to dwell on the physical plane in a physical form, were far less solid in outward appearance and in bone structure than they were to become later on in the Polarian Age.

This can be particularly misleading if you are pursuing the study of fossils as related to a species' first appearance on the planet, for more often than not, fossilized remains do not occur neatly in the chronological order that the species first appeared on Earth, but rather in the order that they became solid enough to leave records of their presence in fossilized form.

Metamorphosis

Gradually, as time went by, Man acquired a more sophisticated understanding of the range of emotions expressed by various members of the Animal Kingdom. He related to particular animal species in order to experience empathically the characteristic traits for which they were noted and to appreciate more efficiently the variety of emotions that he observed around him, he drew closer to the physical plane. Eventually he became proficient at "holding" an assumed shape which he had chosen to bring into being temporarily, by directing his creative power which was in turn, activated by his desire.

When man created a desire-form he was not limited to copying the physical characteristics of his favorite Deva or animal companions, he was also capable as he achieved greater proficiency, of creating a desire-form that was modelled upon the appearance of Extra-Terrestrials who visited the planet to monitor his progress.

He soon became accustomed to assuming a physical representation of his choice and unfortunately, very often chose to retain it beyond the length of time during which he could discard his desire-form with ease. In this way he acquired habits, the results of which were far beyond his comprehension at that time and would be the cause of tragedy in the future.

Immortality?

You might well ask the question, "Was Ethereal Man immortal prior to his entrapment in a physical form?"

That question was still in obedience during the Polarian Age, because the outcome was dependent upon the evolutionary path which was yet to be trodden by Man himself.

We are each one of us immortal insofar as the eternal spark within us is concerned, but "immortality" as it is defined in the Human mind seems to be determined first, by continuity of consciousness and second, by the immutability of the flesh. T. A.

Early Ethereal Man was not subject to the second qualification until he himself acquired a dense physical form much later on, therefore, that particular requirement did not yet apply. But true immortality, which also involves continuity of consciousness was then and is now, still in the process of being won. It will not be beyond mankind's reach until planet Earth rests from her labours and the last of her children who have not graduated off-planet, slip into pralaya.

The Polarians' near-immortality was subject to their individual frequency of vibration and their chosen field of expression. In mimicking the lower forms of life around them on the physical plane, they lowered their vibration and became subject to a drain on their creative energy. Yet, until their surrender to the downward pull of two new *

Face to Face with Mortality

Unfortunately, in his preoccupation with form, Man's awareness of impending danger was blurred at best. He failed to register warning signs that heralded the oncoming tragedy of entrapment until it was upon him. In his failure to control his empathic sense, he ended by being controlled by it. He had traversed a retrogressive road which led him from the role of passive observer on the physical plane, to that of active participant and eventually to that of victim.

Tragically, adding to the loss of their two highest chakras, the vitality of the original five chakras that remained also suffered from depletion in response to Man's lowered rate of vibration. This was a contributing factor to the Polarians coming face to face for the first time with their own mortality.

Most members of the Polarian Race found themselves ejected violently from their physical forms and suffering from shock, they became involuntary, disembodied entities. Unable to disengage themselves voluntarily from their dense forms, they were lost in the blind panic and pain that engulfed their fellow creatures and were swept along in the tragic exodus from the physical plane.

Man and Angel at the Crossroads

Although the majority of the race of Man found their way with the help of the Wise Ones onto the newly manifested astral plane at that time, other groups took distinctly differing evolutionary paths and the initial divisions between what is now the spirit realm, the evolution of Angels and members of the race of Man who had adapted to expressing themselves in dense life-forms, came into being.

Most entities belonging to a relatively evolved subrace of the Polarian Root Race survived on the physical plane.

Although they also had become somewhat entrapped by their self-created dense forms, they had made substantial progress in their understanding of life-expression. They had begun to comprehend to a greater extent the need for detachment than most of mankind. Because they remained able to disassociate themselves empathically from the carnage that resulted from the cataclism, this small, brave group of Polarians continued on to form the nucleus of the next root race.

The above does not imply that no other Polarian groups survived on the planet, in fact many small groups continued to live in isolated pockets for quite some time, expressing themselves as Ethereal Man entrapped, unfortunately and sometimes painfully, in primitive life-forms.

All Polarians learned at great cost to themselves, that a desire-form created as a temporary diversion or even as a learning tool which cannot be dissolved at will by its creator, eventually acquires its own needs and demands which its creator will end by serving, whether out of choice or not.

The above is a disturbing fact that any selfseeking practitioner of black magic has discovered to his or her own cost throughout the history of mankind.

The planetary crisis increased the everwidening gap between the majority of the Polarian Root Race and the minority representing Ethereal Man whom mankind reveres today as the Angels.

The Angels refrained from descending into matter and by their own self-restraint, imposed by choice, they retained control of their original state of pure being and remained on the evolutionary path which had been planned for the race of Man.

In escaping subjection to the downward pull of the two lowest chakras which they neither developed nor ac-

disdain, because I do not think that any of you are as naive as the first representatives of the race of Man.

Man's Day of Opportunity

It was within his day of opportunity that Polarian Man encountered his pitfall. He was to have gained life-experience (by developing a deeper understanding of all creatures on the planet,) but unfortunately he became emotionally ensnared by his empathic involvement. Therefore, attachment was the pitfall encountered by Polarian Man and resulting from this attachment, he acquired an all-pervasive fear which contributed to a crisis of cataclysmic proportion, during which most of the Polarian Race were swept from the physical plane with the majority of their fellow creatures.

Attachment is still a difficult habit to break. Think of the most obvious habits which are so difficult to overcome, smoking tobacco for instance, over-consumption of alcohol and drug dependency, including medically prescribed drugs. The attachment to possessions and possessiveness must also be considered, it is because their effects are often so insidious that they become habitual.

I am sure you will think of many more attachments than there are room for on this page, but one which I particularly caution you against if it intrudes too much upon your day-to-day life is, attachment to the past. You cannot achieve your goals if you are always looking back in re-examination of bitterness, however valid the reason. You cannot go forward if you cling to regret for deeds done or undone or for what has been, however happy that past may have been. By carrying the past as a passenger in your consciousness, the importance of the presents nullified and you rob your future of its true impetus.

Fear is still being perpetuated and is perhaps the most constant emotion on the planet today. Fear of being alone, fear of losing one's livelihood, fear of ill-health, fear of old age, fear of crime, fear of war, one could continue ad infinitum.

Most of these fears are well founded, yet they do not need to play such an influential part in the everyday life of the Quester if his or her powers of positivity are active. Who knows, if each Quester practised positivity, there might be no space left for fear to play such an important role in world affairs either.

You now recognize that the potential foundation for amorality and disease, initiated by the descent of Ethereal Man into matter and the legacy of negative attachment and inherent fear to which Man has been subject since the fall of the Polarian Age, remain effective influences which must be overcome on the planet and banished from our own life-patterns.

Therefore, exemplify fortitude, restore faith and project confidence into your personal mini-environment. By radiating these positive qualities within your own field of endeavor, you promote an influence which can establish the groundwork for treading the Path of Initiation, wherever you may be.

Second Opportunity - Heart of Man

The day of opportunity presented to the Hyperborean Root Race, was to express compassion for all their fellow creatures on the planet. Happily, compassion is a quality which is being expressed with great fortitude by a surprisingly large percentage of mankind at the present time, although the obstacles to expressing that same compassion in practical terms, sometimes appear to match growth with the quality of mercy.

blur the truth of the statement that, "a reason is not an excuse."

When you are in doubt concerning the wisdom of a course of action, question yourself as to what you intend to do, your motive for doing it and your purpose for doing it? This will help you to focus your awareness and clarify your concern.

Express in your own life, the words of the New Testament Master, who said, "I, if I be lifted up, draw all men unto me," and you will realize within your inner being, that untold entities on the physical plane can be helped to lift themselves by the efforts of each sincere Quester who succeeds in working consistently to evolve within the Light.

The same scale of reasoning applies to the power of mind when applied to protecting reason against folly. Who can tell just how significant a difference one more positive, clear mind can make when added in support of conscience?

Disregard for a moment the racial connotation attached to the title Aryan and examine the Sanskrit root from which it is taken, you will find that Arya means "noble." Apply it as a key to your personal evolutionary Path and express nobility in thought, word and deed, becoming truly Arya.

Man's Sense of Identity

Look closely at the question of mankind's individuality during the many eons that he has been wending his way back to the Source and you will notice some pertinent attitudes that hold a wealth of meaning for us today.

Polarian

It was in the early days of the Polarian Root Race, that Man began to identify with his not-self and in the exercise

of his empathic skills, he very often identified with forms of life on the physical plane he was intended only to observe. He also participated in activities he was supposed only to monitor and he sometimes identified with lower forms of life that it had been hoped he would in due time, raise to his own evolutionary stature. ← 1

Fortunately, some ethereal entities remained non-attached and continuing on their original evolutionary spiral, they established the Angel Evolution. Other ethereal entities identified with members of the Deva Evolution and so distinguished themselves in their behavior, that they qualified as leaders in the forefront of the Hyperborean Root Race.

The Polarian line of least resistance was to identify with companions, whether animal or not, with whom they wished to experience sensation empathically, regardless of the quality of that experience and through attachment to their desire-forms, they acquired fear of loss.

Hyperborean

The Hyperboreans identified with the not-self also, but with places instead of companions. Although they pursued a nomadic way of life, they became greatly attached to geographical locations that provided a safe haven for themselves and their clan. They experienced a different form of attachment from the Polarians, it remained one which eventually led to a selfish desire to own territory, when carried to the extreme.

The Hyperborean line of least resistance was to disregard personal claims outside the clan and anchor their psychological attachment to geographical location. This form of identification had a great deal to do with the rudimentary formation of subracial culture. They began to identify themselves as "the people of the hills" or "the

a proffered hand of friendship is as sure a way of receiving entry to an outer circle of a great school as any Quester could wish for, although it is not necessarily registered as such. Why else would it be called an esoteric or hidden school?

Our Understanding of Deity

We have been asked to add some words regarding our concept of Deity. Therefore, we will add comments concerning our people's philosophy while we review the teaching of the Ladder Path, for it is obvious that our concepts have to a great extent been shaped by the practice of that path, which results in what we are and the way we think and this we gladly share with you.

Mankind's mental concept of Deity sometimes tends to confine Him to the limits of Man's personal breadth of experience, yet not all of the Indwelling Deity's attention is absorbed in Man's sojourn on Earth, neither is His involvement with life on, in or surrounding the planet, total, for although we live and move within the aura of His Being, His consciousness is not limited to the fact of His Being.

When we speak of the Divine aura, we are not romanticizing, we are stating fact. It is within the layer of etheric matter surrounding the planet and encompassed within the Divine aura⁴ that one finds the akasha whereon the chronicles of Earth are imprinted.

At times, some Questers wonder whether, as we are all part of the Deity, if His greatness is diminished by mankind's sometimes involuting behavior? The macrocosm expands awareness through experience, so does a

⁴ Many readers will remember the newsreels showing the beautiful aura emanating from the planet Earth, as photographed in silhouette against the night sky during astronaut Alan Shepherd's momentous journey into space.

microcosm, the macrocosm also benefits from a weeding out, so do we. His power does not diminish when His happily evolved "children" graduate off-planet, His sphere of influence increases.

Deity does not need, nor necessarily appreciate our verbal praise or flattery, as sometimes expressed by worshippers or devotees. Deity requires positive action, exemplary behavior and as you will agree, praise is only important to you when it is bestowed by a superior, why should the Deity differ in that respect?

Law of Spiritual Economy

The Elders wish to thank those readers who have expressed their appreciation for the philosophy we shared with you earlier and whose encouragement has prompted the release of these pages.

The Law of Spiritual Economy is that which regulates hierarchical effort avoids duplication and ensures that no energy is wasted or misused. It also protects the quality of a spiritual project's influence from dilution or misunderstanding.

Although some psychic groups may have received information concerning us from their own sources since we first announced our presence, it remains news of us, not from us. It is in adherence to the Law of Spiritual Economy that we do not enter into direct communication with Questers at this time, other than the writers to whom we have entrusted our present purpose, yet our hearts and minds are with you all, every step of the Way, as is our blessing.

The Elders extend their sincere blessings to all Questers who have formed groups to exchange understanding of the spiritual training which we follow in our own lifestyles. They also monitor your progress with the greatest of loving interest as fellow pilgrims on the Way who, in preparation

The Magi or more precisely, the Cosmic Scientists involved, do not seek trainees. Only those Initiates whose characters have been tempered by the steel of adversity and are already well-trained as Masters of logic or concentration in action, can gain access to participate in this great work. They must be able to accustom themselves to separation from mankind's concept of "time."

It is also to preserve the safety of the Quester in the outside world that these secrets are so well guarded. The Initiates of the secrets and the Masters of their practice working within the power lodges do not seek to rule the world, but to serve it. The same cannot be said of many men who might attempt to compromise the Quester's integrity upon his or her return to the outside world, if they suspect possession of such secrets.

There is indeed a sense of mystery, which serves only to enhance the respectful awe accorded to any disciple who is said to have gained entrance to or received training within even the outer sanctuary of one of the ashrams.

But this sense of mystery which is so fascinating from a distance, soon loses its savor for the Quester when he learns that the deeper he penetrates into the well kept secrets of even an outer sanctuary, the less possible it is to return to the outside world when he wants to, to broadcast his "acceptance into hallowed territory" if he is not deemed ready to do so. There is not the same thrill in sharing common day-to-day labors with senior disciples who are unimpressed by occult gossip and who reserve their joyful approval for those who deserve it.

Where No Evil Dwells

Where no evil dwells, might very well define the purpose of the power lodges. This is not an empty descriptive phrase, it is fact. It is because nothing impure can remain

or survive untransmuted within a Power House, it is mandatory that no incarnate entities may enter unless of a requisite degree of evolutionary stature that will guarantee their safety. The automatic transmutation of any impurity which remains in an intruding individual's aura naturally results in the termination of their present incarnation, however sincere their purpose might be in entering the sanctum uninvited.

The work which is accomplished within the Inner Sanctuaries requires such precise and intense concentrated skill, there is no room for selfish aims or self-centredness. Only the Higher Self, concentrating all one's being in one-pointed self-sacrifice, completely unselfconscious of sacrifice, can use these techniques in safety.

The forces which are concentrated and accumulated, are transmuted by teams of Initiates, who are guided by the One Who Knows in the techniques of attracting and neutralizing harmful energies, so often released by planet Earth's inhabitants themselves. Through a miraculous al-chemic effort, these energies are transmuted into a beneficent life-support system which is employed as a counterbalance to the planet's woes. Even radiation can be converted by this method into a healing force, provided it is transmuted and released gradually. Some of these transmutations are discussed in the chapters concerning the magical work of the Triunes.²

When an emergency of great magnitude occurs in addition to the ongoing state of crisis, the Magi may judge themselves to be too few in number to accomplish the necessary conversion immediately. They then wait for that precise moment of magic when their powers reach their

² *Training of an Adept* Part Three

from root race to root race when you reincarnated in a physical form, although you retained your true degree of advancement when you dwelt on the higher planes of consciousness between incarnations. Much depends upon the needs of the incoming Age.

When you reincarnate upon the physical plane within the social structure of a new root race, you repeat your tests, trials and tribulations within the framework of the new and differing cultural environment, until you arrive at the equivalent point on the Path where you stood previously, recapitulating your experience and consolidating your previous progress.

In such a situation, your progress accelerates and you advance swiftly, with a knowingness which was previously absent. You express the level of that same initiatory degree with a greater depth of understanding backed by wider experience than would have been possible for you before. Doing so, you then continue on your chosen, ascending Path of Progression to become an Adept or Master and graduate off-planet if that is your choice.

Sound judgement supports this practice. The psychological environment changes, sometimes subtly, sometimes violently with each new World Age and in practising and exemplifying that which has been learned already, within a fresh initiatory structure, an Initiate gains in both experience and understanding and the Age in its infancy, is enriched by an Adept or a Master who not only expresses wisdom distilled from experience, but also embodies continuity of the planet's consciousness.

Maturity

There may be times in your life when you experience self-doubt. Perhaps there is really nothing to complain about, yet the sameness of your day-to-day effort acquires a stale-

ness that overshadows your soul-work. In some ways, the advancement of recent technology which has made widespread dissemination of spiritual teaching possible, has also contributed to a feeling of ineffectuality.

Media coverage in its various forms reports important news, provides footage of dramatic news, covers exciting world wide news, but never dull news, lending a false air of non-importance to the average Quester's life. This influence sometimes undermines ones attitude of self-worth, until quite recently a woman was often queen of her home and a man's home was his castle, providing a secure anchor on the material plane which endowed one's life with its own sense of importance.

Purists maintain quite correctly, that the foregoing situation often led to crytallization, but there is no reason that one cannot make spiritual progress in comfortable surroundings as swiftly as in discomfort.

It is maturity of purpose that spurs you on when your clarity of vision becomes blurred by a seemingly arid stretch of the Way. Many saints and adepts also experienced arid phases in their soul-work prior to enlightenment, perhaps in greater anguish because entrapped in a life situation with fewer alternative choices than you.

In more dramatic terminology, this was sometimes called: "the dark night of the soul."

Whether in a test of your faith, devotion to the Deity or your diligence in service, you are in good company, all Adepts and Masters have trodden these steps of the Way before you.

It is obviously important to any of you seeking to reach your spiritual goals that you assume responsibility for the results of your efforts, positive or negative, in success or failure. This is a test of your integrity and the mark of a mature individual and without maturity of purpose, you cannot reach your goal. You cannot escape responsibility,

indulge in a declaration of criticism. Based upon the accuracy of your judgement and the sensitivity of your intuition, the value of your future service to mankind is determined. By the positivity of your thinking, you help to reverse the accumulation of wrongful thought and reduce the karmic burdens of the future.

The comments of one of humankind's most enlightened Teachers⁴ comes to mind at this time, he stated very simply that, "All that we are is the result of what we have thought, it is founded on Thought, it is made up of our thoughts. If a man acts or speaks with an evil thought, pain follows him as the wheel follows the foot of the ox that draws the chariot."

Predetermination

→ Your actions on the physical plane may be predetermined by your karmic opportunities, but you are personally responsible for your reactions in greater or lesser degree.

You bear full responsibility for your thoughts, both positive and negative. The importance of what is involved is clear, if you remember that in some small measure, your thought is capable of setting creative or destructive forces in motion which you might find difficult to recall, even though their point of departure may be from within your own mind, depending of course, upon the intensity of that thought.

Manipulation

We have found that one of the advantages to living in a telepathic society is the lack of opportunity either to manipulate or be manipulated by another person. We

⁴ Gautama Buddha. (*The Dhammapada*)

have noticed that psychological manipulation seems to be quite a common practice amongst humankind.

This situation is quite impossible amongst our people, because immediately someone tries to manipulate anyone unfairly, using their time in an unprincipled way, draining their vitality, wasting their talent unduly or playing upon their emotions, that intent is "sensed" and checkmated.

A more recent development in mankind's thinking is the rather cavalier attitude displayed by those who know they are being manipulated, but are inclined to dismiss this ill-usage by saying, "So and so is only storing up karmic debt for himself or herself," thereby anticipating that one day the unprincipled citizens of this world, "will receive their just punishment," with interest, it is oftentimes hoped by the victim, either consciously or subconsciously.

But why not cancel the above situation in advance, if at all possible, by exempting yourself from being manipulated immediately you realize that such a situation is getting out of hand and in doing so, forestall karmic complexity.

Beware of False Prophets!

There is a very special individual karma, the debt of which if incurred, can only be settled upon one's return to the physical plane—a mandatory requirement which is attached to the karma of the false prophet.

The warning as recorded in the New Testament,⁵ is quite clear. You are not being warned against prophets, you are being warned against "false" prophets. We could just as well warn you against "false" teachers. We still caution our own children in their first lessons to beware, not of false teachers, because there are none left in our culture at this

⁵ The words of Jesus—*Matthew 7:15*

group he led in future, in spite of the Master's warning to the contrary.

The deluded would-be thief later went insane. This karmic penalty may not always be as violent when it is worked out on the physical plane, it applies in varying degrees according to the amount of damage inflicted upon unsuspecting Questers and the field of metaphysics.

Retribution – Reparation

A question that occurs to many Questers is, "How can I receive reparation for injuries I have suffered in my present incarnation?" Another question is, "How can people who owe me a debt repay me if they are not in incarnation?" Yet another concern is, "What if they don't possess a clear memory of being in my debt when we do meet again?" Some Questers' attitude is, "It's all very well to know that the person who hurt me so deeply will be sorry when they pass to the astral planes, but that doesn't help me now."

Fortunately, provision is made for every karmic eventuality. This ensures that the balance of justice is precise and complete and is accomplished with the maximum opportunity for us to progress. It is quite usual for groups who interacted karmically with each other in previous lives to reincarnate together with the intention of balancing that karma, but what about those persons who are karmically entangled and do not reincarnate together? In that event, a friend or someone close to you who is about to reincarnate, may volunteer to pay your debt for you in substitution if you remain in the spirit realm, you will of course, do the same for them when the opportunity arises.

We must also remember, that each and every entity eventually tries to progress when they enter the spirit realm, they may be doing their utmost already, to repay

their debts to those who are incarnate on the physical plane, even if the results are not obvious.

Retribution gives pause to those
Who pursue material gains
Regardless of pain they cause to others.

Vicarious Atonement

Vicarious atonement was first initiated upon planet Earth by the sacrifice of the Wise Ones at the end of the Polar-ian Age. Since that time, many misunderstandings and misinterpretations have flawed the pristine philosophy of the original concept.

Originally, the practice was intended as a safety valve, whereby payment of an individual's karmic responsibility could be delayed by a voluntary act of substitution from an unselfish benefactor who would temporarily shoulder that karma. By releasing the individual from the immediate burden, it provided the maximum period of time for repayment with a greater assurance of success. Remember however, one cannot delay repayment of debt indefinitely, to do so might involve one returning to pralaya unexpectedly some time in the future, if one does not settle one's debt in good time.

Vicarious atonement was initiated by the Wise Ones to save Man from returning prematurely to pralaya, but their action was not intended to serve as a permanent substitution, either to avoid or avert karmic debt indefinitely, by doing so, Man would abnegate his opportunity to evolve.

The substitution of a scapegoat in payment for one's sins } is a flawed concept, while animal or human sacrifice to } regain heaven's approval or procure the granting of some } request was a perversion of the concept to the Nth degree.