

**SPIRIT
EVOLUTION**



THIRD SERIES

SPIRIT EVOLUTION



The Teachings and Lectures of
Helio-Arcanophus
Founder of the Atlanteans

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CONTENTS

	Page
The Spirits of the Elements	5
The Deva Kingdoms	10
How the Spirits of the Elements Work with Man	12
A Spirit Hierarchy?	16
The Positive and Negative Aspects of Creation	20
Man, Woman and the Law of Polarity	23
Father, Son and Holy Ghost?	25
Lucifer and the Axis Tilt	30
Spirit and Genetic Evolution:	
1. The Complement	34
2. Materialisation	36
Are all Forms of Life Native to this Planet?	39
The Fourth Plane	42
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse	45
Power Centres. Whence Did They Originate?	46
Further Thoughts on Power Centres	51
Hell	54
The Occult Effects of Drug Taking	56

The Atlanteans is a society whose members believe in the importance of individual thought. Within this framework we have a way of life, an understanding of the universe which acknowledges the existence of God as an Ultimate Thought. We encourage each person to seek expression as an individual and through this seeking we find a meaning to life, a flow of thought which sweeps aside frustrations and misunderstandings and allows us to develop spiritually, mentally and physically.

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The source of our inspiration, which comes from an esoteric plane, has guided us in this approach to the universe.

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Table of Contents of this version

The Spirits of the Elements	4
The Deva Kingdoms	12
How the Spirits of the Elements Work with Man.....	15
A Spirit Hierarchy?.....	20
The Positive and Negative Aspects of Creation	24
Man, Woman and the Law of Polarity.....	28
Father, Son and Holy Ghost?	30
Lucifer and the Axis Tilt	36
Spirit and Genetic Evolution	41
Are All Forms of Life Native to this Planet?	47
The Fourth Plane	51
The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse	54
Power Centres - Whence Did They Originate?.....	55
Further Thoughts on Power Centres	61
Hell.....	64
The Occult Effects of Drug Taking	67

The Spirits of the Elements

Within the infinity of the universe exist an infinite number of forms of evolution, each having its place in the universal scheme of things. Your own type of experience as a homo sapiens spirit is but one of these forms of evolution. Each individual spirit during the course of its evolution undergoes its own individual cycle of experience and no two spirits experience along identical lines. Circumstances and events may sometimes appear to be very similar in two people's lives, but no two spirits will react identically to the same set of circumstances because their evolution and understanding will differ.

A spirit experiences along its chosen path and grows in evolution until it eventually reaches a stage where it has gained complete understanding and harmony with all other forms of experience, thereby rejoining the source whence it came. In order to obtain such an understanding it is not necessary for that spirit to undergo every form of experience. When it rejoins the Godhead, although it will partake of the all-wise state existing there, it will not have entirely the same approach as that of a neighbouring thought or spirit; it will contribute a different cycle of experience and thus it will retain its individuality adding to what is already there. It will exist in complete harmony and understanding with all thought around it and, in this form, will continue to experience. Thus the Godhead itself is ever-expanding.

Bearing all this in mind, let us glance once more at a new thought or spirit in its initial stage of creation as it first leaves the Godhead. It has the gift of freewill to experience in whichever way it chooses. Some spirits choose the form of experience which all of you are undergoing now as homo sapiens, but there are also many other forms of life and expression in the universe. You could, for example, have chosen a series of lives as an animal, a flower, a tree, or even a drop of water! There are forms of evolution where it is not necessary to come into a physical body at all, yet which affect your everyday life even though you may never realise it.

Let us forget for a while the evolutionary types associated with homo sapiens — the animal and plant worlds — and consider the spirits of the elements. There are very few people in the world today who give much thought to what may appear to them to be mere processes

of nature, for they neither see nor hear the beings or intelligences which are expressing themselves through these forms of evolution. I shall use orthodox terminology here and refer to these beings as spirits of air, fire, earth and water. These are collectively known "the spirits of the elements" and individually as elementals. In using the term elemental I am not, however, referring to any astral shell, poltergeist, earth-bound spirit, thought-form, or elementary (lesser-evolved) entity. These elemental spirits originate from the Godhead in exactly the same way as yourselves, but at an early stage they elect to experience through a different form of expression from your own. Although the spirits of the elements assist the planet as a whole, they are rather more concerned with the structure of the sphere itself than the forms of evolution experiencing thereon.

The orthodox names given to the spirits of the elements by the ancients were as follows: "salamanders" for the spirits of fire, "sylphs" for the spirits of air, "ondines" or "nymphs" for the water spirits and "gnomes" for the earth spirits. I consider these names to be very appropriate because the forms of experience which elementals undergo can be roughly classified under these four headings and aligned to the four expressions behind these terms.

Some people, either by training in the art of perception or by a natural gift, are able to see these spirits and observe the part they play. The beauty and innocence of children often attract them to come forth from their own kind to make friends, so do not scold your child if he or she claims to have seen some "little people", for it may be true. People claim to see earth elementals as gnomes of varying size and appearance, while air elementals sometimes appear as fairies with wings. It must be understood, however, that it has been man who has created these images of his elemental brothers, not the elementals themselves; they merely adopt a guise by which they will be recognisable to homo sapiens for what they are.

A child would not connect a gnome with a lump of quartz or a sylph with a beam of light; the thought forms which they adopt for recognition will probably change as man's concept of them changes.

Elemental spirits do not evolve in the same manner as homo sapiens spirits. They begin their evolutionary journey as a single element or as part of the group spirit of a particular element; and as they advance they become more and more individualised. Normally, the

group spirit of an element stays together and does not individualise unless it is for some special purpose or job of work. When an elemental has learnt all that it can of its own element it begins to seek experience within the spheres of the other three elements. These it will master one at a time; so that, although many elementals are of a single nature, some have a two-fold or three-fold nature. Once an elemental gains knowledge of and masters all four elements it is said to have won its four-fold nature, which means that it has ascended to the planes of the devas and will assist in the guidance of planets.

Homo sapiens spirits are four-fold by nature, but these four aspects are not as individually accentuated as they are in a four-fold elemental or deva.

An elemental can quicken its evolution by serving a living person, as it is able to partake of certain experiences undergone by an incarnate spirit. P:6 For example, a salamander can learn patience or a sylph the meaning of emotion from being close to a human being, both qualities which they would normally lack. This has given rise to many legends about fairies gaining immortality (their four-fold nature) by "marrying" (joining with) mortals.

Elementals are not androgynous and the nearest comparison I could make is that certain of them would be regarded as being "positive" and in this way they endeavour to harmonise with their others "negative" opposite polarity amongst homo sapiens. (Here I am referring to the psychic polarity of a spirit, a subject which is covered more fully in a later chapter entitled "The Positive and Negative Aspects of Creation".) Thus a person who is on a negative vibration would be more in sympathy with an elemental on a positive vibration, whilst a man or woman with a positive vibration would attract a negative elemental, since they would be more complementary to each other.

As group elements, fire and air are represented as being positive and water and earth as negative, but this in no way affects the individual polarity of any one particular elemental any more than the polarity of a planet makes all its inhabitants of one kind. Each elemental is an individual in itself and, should it wish to be seen, it will appear in female form if it is on a negative vibration, or in a male form if it is a positive.

Here I am referring to the relationship of the spirits of the elements with man in a practical sense. The affinities which exist between occultists and their elementals are dealt with in a later chapter.

As you pass through your lives and meet different types of people with their varying sense of appreciation, understanding and affinity, you will notice that some, for example, are more attracted to water, while others dislike it. There are those who love the lash of a fast wind or the heat of the Sun on a summer's day. There are those who love mountains, while others feel instinctively hemmed in and oppressed by them. Many dislike extremes of heat or cold, while some carry their aversion to air elementals so far that the smallest draught becomes a source of annoyance to them! Study your friends' likes and dislikes; you will soon be able to ascertain which of the spirits of the elements they are in harmony with and which make them feel ill at ease.

Although humans, as individuals, will always have their affinity with one or more elements in particular, a general harmony should reign and those strange instinctive fears which haunt the minds of so many should be banished by an understanding of all four elements. Many fear-conditions concerned with the elements are of a karmic nature and stem from being drowned or crushed in a previous life, or perhaps from being burnt at the stake. Some of these are the fault of man through his misuse of the elemental facilities offered to him by nature; while others, such as land-slides, volcanoes or floods, are purely elemental and therefore are the responsibility of the elementals concerned. When man has learnt to understand and work in harmony with his elemental brothers many natural hazards will be avoided. The animal kingdoms which are in closer touch with these spirits are witness to this; animals will sense an earthquake p:7 and evacuate an area long before the instruments of man's scientific "advances" herald its approach.

Around the Earth planet the influence of elementals has been weakened somewhat, due to the incorrect overall guidance given to the planet by the present deva. When the rightful deva returns to govern Earth the elemental influences will be felt much more strongly and, in my opinion, this will benefit mankind greatly as a whole.

Although, like yourselves, these beings are composed of thought, elementals operate on a "sharper" vibration than homo sapiens and one which is somewhat radio-active by nature. They can communicate with man and achieve the best results by telepathically transmitting thought- pictures to the mind of a sensitive person or medium, which he or she in turn can translate into his or her own words. It would pay man greatly to develop this affinity with the spirits of the elements and work in co-operation and harmony with them, as he could learn much about his own planet and how to cope with it in a natural way.

You must understand that all forms of elemental life are experiencing in order to attain a state of beingness, just as you are. Whilst an elemental might undergo an entirely different set of experiences from yourselves, as it advances up the ladder of evolution to the Godhead it will gain an ever-increasing understanding of the life and experiences undergone by a spirit of your own form of evolution; just as you, in turn, will comprehend its life and expression. All forms of experience on the higher planes tend gradually to overlap each other, although they do not become as one until they eventually rejoin the Godhead. For example, the devic guidance of planets is not only undertaken by advanced spirits of the elemental type, but also by homo sapiens spirits that have reached a similar stage of evolution.

The evolution of mankind on Earth has rather clouded the enormous part that these spirits of fire, air, earth and water play in the experiences of the planet. When Earth was first born from a gaseous mass it was the elementals who formed the various chemicals and moulded the structure of the planet itself. You must remember that these spirits are not perfect, they are still learning and evolving like yourselves. They make mistakes as you do and hence the physical evolution of your planet is not always as smooth as might be desired. But they are still very actively concerned with the planet, as they have been for much longer than the comparatively short period in which homo sapiens has inhabited this sphere! Due to the connection between the experience of the spirits of the elements and the experience of homo sapiens on this planet, the two forms of evolution are very much in sympathy with one another. This is why nature rebels when a tremendous quantity of evil thought is amassed by men. An example of this was the sinking of Atlantis, brought about by the evil use of knowledge and power during the latter days of Atlantis.

You may have wondered whether it is possible for these elemental spirits to incarnate into homo sapiens physical bodies and, if so, does their native form of evolution affect the body into which they enter?

The answer is yes, they can experience through an Earth body and do so in part order to undertake a special task. Of all the elementals the fire spirits or salamanders are perhaps the most uncomfortable in Earth bodies; they find the control of the energy flow of their physical body extremely difficult for, like the element they represent, they leap to action with an explosive vigour only to burn low almost to an ember until refuelled. Fire tends to consume those obstacles which beset its path, which in physical existence is impossible; consequently, the incarnate fire elemental takes his or her fair share of knocks. Fire is the creative element.

Water elementals are more adaptable. They flow round life's obstacles and do not attempt to go over them. However, although they present a somewhat more harmonious aspect than their fiery relatives, they can stagnate, which is equally wrong.

The incarnate air elemental has boundless energy. Perhaps he or she does not show this in the obvious way for it may manifest in the quieter person as sheer stamina, but nevertheless it is present. These people do not like staying still and are always full of new ideas to forward their pursuits. They are progressive, even if they lack the practical stability of the earth elemental.

Earth elementals are stubborn and possessive yet they can be the charmers of the elemental kingdom, for they possess that infinite patience which enables them to plumb the depths of a person's character without being put off by abrupt externals. Although they may appear slow they usually get there in the end. They are the moulding and stabilising element.

Incarnate elementals of a single nature will betray their native element easily by their one-track approach to life. Incarnate devas are more able to present an appearance of the normal four-fold nature of homo sapiens, although in times of stress they tend to fall back on their original element as a form of expression.

From this lecture on the spirits of the elements I hope you will understand in a little more detail the complementary nature of the universe and the way in which different forms of evolution work together and complement each other. The spirits of the elements and homo sapiens are but two of an infinite number. Consider how this lesson can be carried into everyday life; how important it is to be complementary to your neighbour and to your environment! Through such a harmony you will find balance and understanding.

P:9

The Deva Kingdoms

Let us now look at the next stage in the evolution of an elemental. Having earth, fire, air and water experienced through all four elements — an elemental gains its four-fold nature and ascends to the kingdoms of the devas. These are the spirits which assist in the guidance of planets.

The word "deva" comes from the Sanscrit meaning "shining one" and was originally bestowed upon those beings who, in Christianity, are known as angels. Deva evolution is a form of experience quite apart from homo sapiens and devic spirits do not normally incarnate into physical bodies, although it is possible for them to do so for a specific reason.

There are many types of devas and the early Christian fathers gave them names and divided them into nine "choirs". To place such labels on them is limiting and misleading, but the early fathers were trying to say that certain types of angel or deva evolution were responsible for certain natural happenings in the evolutionary scheme of things. Cherubim, for example, are responsible for the growth and ascendancy of homo sapiens; archons are the controllers of atoms, whilst seraphim are the cleansers or fiery ones.

A planet is usually guided by a group of devas with one presiding deva.

This group will consist of devas from all the many choirs of angels. Thus the retinue of the deva of a planet such as Earth will include devas that help man, those that watch over the animal kingdoms, devas of plant and insect life, atomic devas; and those that rule the seasons and elements generally. All these various forms of evolution intertwine and are complementary; this is a lesson to be learnt by man who has lost the art of acknowledging the part played by other intelligences in the everyday running of his planet.

I use the term "guided" rather than "controlled" when I refer to devic spirits, because a deva that is functioning on the right-hand path will never force its charges to follow its way. Its guidance will be of a powerful nature, in the sense that the individual character of the deva will undoubtedly affect the overall character of the planet, but every sphere of evolution on that planet has its freewill as to how much it accepts or rejects of the deva's guiding influence.

As a planet evolves so also does the deva; thus both the guide and those growing up under its guidance will, in fact, assist each other's evolutionary progress. Similarly, the influence of one planet will affect the evolution and growth of another according to their relative positions and characters.

P:10 Over the centuries astrologers have observed the patterns of human behaviour and allied them to the influences bestowed by certain planets in the movements of their orbits. Their findings, although incomplete, can if correctly interpreted throw considerable light on to the picture. It is important to realise, however, that the influence radiated from each planet does not come from the bodily mass of the sphere itself, but rather from the devic influence or guiding intelligence behind its evolution. Here you have the spiritual explanation behind your astrological sciences.

Contrary to what you may imagine the planet Earth is by no means the least evolved in this solar system. There are several which have not yet reached Earth's stage of development; on the other hand, many are more advanced. One point which I feel I must emphasise here is that no two planets evolve in an identical manner. Some planets house forms of life of a much heavier vibration than your own, while others provide purely etheric experience depending upon their proximity to the Sun, their atmosphere and other considerations both physical and etheric.

Nor does this particular solar system provide a full complement of experience, for it is but a tiny fragment of infinity.

I have spoken on many occasions of the false rulership at present exerted over the planet Earth. Only when its rightful deva is restored to its rulership will the many forms of evolution on your planet come together in harmony and understanding. You may say to me "But how can I help a deva, surely it is far more powerful than I am ?" This may be true in the occult sense, but it is not true in the evolutionary sense. Everything each of you does in your life is either helping or hindering the deva of your planet. The only way a deva can do anything to help a planet is by instilling ideas into the minds of its charges. These may be ideas of hate, violence and chaos as with Lucifer; or ideas of love, harmony and tolerance as with Mikael. The rightful deva will not force you to take its offering; it is up to you. Should

you choose the qualities of love, harmony and tolerance, then you are helping Mikael to restore the rulership of this planet. But should you choose to respond to the spirit Lucifer's influence then you are feeding it with power and, once in its clutches, there is little the great ones can do for you as they will not wish to interfere with your freewill.

From this you can begin to see how all things influence each other.

When you as an individual perform an individual action you are affecting the overall evolution of your planet, because you are a complementary part of it. Because of that you are also affecting the entire solar system.

Your solar system is a complementary part of the universe, so what you do in your life affects the entire universe ! Hence the importance I have always placed upon the individual responsibility of each and every one of you in your present incarnation. It rests in your own hands. If you try to help your planet to gain its rightful balance and restore its deva you will be creating for the future a heritage of love, understanding and true peace on all levels.

P:11

How the Spirits of the Elements Work with Man

In the two previous lectures we have been concerned with the guidance of planets by deva spirits and the assistance given to them in their task by the elemental kingdoms. I should now like to tell you about some of the closer contacts which elementals have with homo sapiens, in particular with those who study deeply the science of occultism.

First let me explain the term "occultism" in its truest sense. It is the positive application of the power of thought and its utilisation in negotiating the various levels of thought or existence in the universe. It is not necessary to use rituals or ceremonials to make occultism effective, for it can be executed on a purely mental level. So often in this material age life is understood only in physical terms; the higher octaves, the esoteric and spiritual aspects, are entirely overlooked. The occultist is the person who uses knowledge and understanding of these other dimensions to project positive thought to assist the evolution of the planet. The sole aim of the true occultist should be to spread this understanding, help and love to mankind.

You may ask, "Can anyone become an occultist ?

"To have an understanding of the universe in depth I would consider it essential to study occult principles. But to become a practising occultist requires a particular aptitude and type of thought power as well as a certain stage of spiritual knowledge. Without this aptitude it can be harmful and can quickly cause a person to become out of balance, both on a spiritual and a material level. So, if you are interested in this work, do not attempt it unless under the guidance of a master.

The student occultist learns to raise his or her vibration in order to be able to communicate with the elemental and deva kingdoms. There are very few who actually succeed in raising themselves sufficiently to contact a planetary deva, for many initiations are needed before such an achievement can be attained. It is much easier to contact the spirits of the elements that will willingly help a student occultist provided he or she is on the right path and working along the lines of cosmic law for God the Ultimate.

Unfortunately, there are those students of occult matters who use their knowledge purely for personal gain or power. These are the so-called black occultists and you may wonder whether they are also able to call p:12 on help from the elementals. The answer to this is yes, they are; but in such cases the spirits of the elements do not give their help willingly, for they are forced into submission by the harsh and commanding actions of these followers of the left-hand path. In such cases the elemental will seize its first possible opportunity to regain its freedom by turning on its unwanted "master", thus causing a rebound of the forces he or she has used for selfish ends. From this you can understand the wisdom of not dabbling in occult forces except under the careful guidance of a master.

Elementals are a form of power which, if mishandled, rebounds on the manipulator.

Elementals that work with occultists are part of the retinue of the planetary devas. Their task, looking at it very much from a homo sapiens point of view, is to assist in the evolution of a planet by working through and with incarnate people. The four different types of elemental spirit earth, water, air and fire represent four basic principles which exist on all levels throughout the universe. In relation to man the earth elementals or gnomes represent the practical and stable side of man's nature; the water elementals or ondines correspond to the emotional and receptive side; the air elementals or sylphs reflect the intellectual and detached side; and the fire elementals or salamanders — which are considered occultly to be the most powerful elementals — represent the progressive, active and forceful aspects of man's character.

When student occultists undergo initiation they reach a stage where they are able to work with certain spirits of the elements, in accordance with the characteristics they themselves possess. I would like to qualify the meaning of the word "characteristic" as I do not necessarily mean the physical character or personality as it appears to the outside world, but rather the actual nature of the spirit itself. For example, a person who is naturally forceful and fiery would find no difficulty in winning the help and co-operation of a salamander, whereas perhaps a person who is somewhat slow and lethargic would have great difficulty in attracting the fire spirits, Vice versa, a forceful fiery person might find it difficult to gain a stabilising earth elemental. Again, a person who is very quick mentally

would have no trouble with air elementals, but a person who is not so brilliant might experience difficulty in understanding this volatile element.

Elementals will only serve willingly those whom they consider have mastered those principles which they themselves represent.

A wonderful example of the power of a master over the elements was Jesus walking on the water. He called to the spirits of the water and they immediately supported him because they recognised him. He was their master and therefore for him there was nothing to fear from storms at sea or any other such natural phenomena. Anyone who can command the ondines need have no fear of the sea or drowning.

One of the most interesting ways in which an elemental can help an occultist is by acting as what is known as a "familiar". This is a very much misused word, for in the Middle Ages it was applied to any small animal such as a cat, toad, dog or rat which happened to be in residence with a practitioner of witchcraft. That such creatures served a useful purpose for their owners I do not deny, but they were not familiars in the true occult sense. The familiar of the true white occultist is the one solitary elemental that chooses to come to that person after a certain stage of initiation and stays with him to be his guardian and protector during his physical life on Earth. So close are some links between familiar and master that they will often endure over many incarnations, one pursuing the other through the planes with devotion and service. Such an elemental serves of its own freewill by guarding its master both physically and psychically and assisting generally in any way it is able.

The spirits of the elements cannot be proved in a test tube, nor are they composed of chemical constituents which you can measure with your limited equipment and inadequate knowledge of the universe around you.

It is far easier for a practitioner on the dark path to produce evidence of elementary power, for he makes more use of it on a level of physical phenomena. The follower of the path of Light gains the assistance of the spirits of the elements to help humanity in a peaceable and natural way, without the circus display so often associated with certain schools of magic.

The first steps in occultism do not allow complete licence to the student where elementals are concerned; any elemental can only perform to the extent of the power of its master, which in some cases never progresses beyond a certain point. A great deal of nonsense has been talked about the power of an occultist, but at the same time little is generally known of the powers afforded by the elemental kingdoms.

Occultists are not the only people whom elementals help for they are naturally involved with all forms of evolution around them, but in most instances this help will manifest in a less personal way. There are some people who, although they are aware of an elemental helping them and being near them, do not practise the occult in any way; this would probably indicate that they had worked with this particular elemental in a previous life.

The spirits of the elements can also be of more assistance than spirits of departed loved ones when it comes to cosmic matters. It is not until a spirit of a deceased person reaches a much higher plane that it can draw on the same knowledge of the universe, from a cosmic point of view, as a spirit of the elements, This is why you will find that far more information of this nature will come from the occultist and medium who are in touch with the spirits of the elements than from a medium who is in communication with a departed spirit. Unless that departed spirit has reached a high stage on the ladder of evolution it will not have encompassed the breadth of understanding of other forms of intelligence in the universe around it. To see is one thing; to translate is another. With wisdom come both these gifts to the incarnate and the discarnate, for to be out of incarnation does not imply an unlimited source of knowledge.

Spirits of the elements can help psychically in many ways to broaden man's understanding of the universe. For example, a gnome can present a mental picture of the geological structure of the planet, thus helping on a scientific level. A salamander can give invaluable assistance to a person p:14 studying physics or electricity. The secret of working with elementals is to seek their help in accordance with the nature of their own element. It is often a failing with the student occultist to request a single element to do all and sundry, when in fact it is limited to working with its own element.

Having read this far many of you may wonder what an occultist does with his or her knowledge and assistance from the elemental kingdom. It is the duty of those possessing such knowledge to withstand the forces of evil by the use of occult techniques. Evil influence originates on an occult level and then seeps into the minds of those incarnate on this planet who have neither the will nor the wisdom to resist it. It must therefore be fought on an occult level and resisted on an occult level.

The struggle between the powers of Light and darkness is heightening. If man wishes to survive on Earth he must try by virtue of his own freewill to gain a new understanding and acceptance, also an acknowledgment of other forms of evolution around him and the roles they play in his life. This will help us on our side to help you through the difficult times which lie ahead.

P:15

A Spirit Hierarchy?

I am very proud of the question mark after the title of this lecture and, as I proceed, I hope you will begin to see why! The type of hierarchy we are going to consider in this lecture bears no relationship to the governmental departments of the various nations on your planet, for it has a different nature and a different *raison d'etre*. A spirit hierarchy exists because certain forms of intelligence have reached a stage of understanding where they are able to pass on what they have learnt towards the guidance of others. This statement, in itself, barely does justice to such a mighty title, yet most great things are rather disappointing when one actually comes to them, unless one understands what lies behind.

Contrary to what many people believe, the universe is orderly. When a "thought" or "spark" is given forth it carries two facets: one positive and one negative. You are the product of a thought, a thought in which either the positive or negative predominates. The whole universe is made up of positive and negative thought. Should you consider that too simple you might ponder on the fact that positive thought can be negative and negative thought can be positive! Solar systems are predominantly positive or negative; thus each system within the galaxy acts as a complement to the next. This solar system falls into the positive category and therefore its Sun is predominantly negative.

The universe in its infinity contains evolution on all levels and as this thought evolves it constantly changes. This is not quite as simple as putting one foot on to the next rung of a ladder; it is more like passing through a series of filters. As the wisdom and understanding of a spirit grows, so it becomes finer and passes through the next filter; and so on.

Eventually that spirit reaches a stage of complete understanding and is in complete harmony with all other existence in the universe. It has then passed through the finest filter of all and has rejoined the Godhead whence it was first created.

As most of you who read this lecture are aware, this planet Earth is at present under the influence of a deva that has fallen on to the wrong path, that no longer accepts God as an Ultimate Force but rather considers itself as a god in its own right. Because of this the type of influence which it passes to your planet is not as it should be. But the blame for this state of imbalance cannot be laid wholly on the wrongful devic influence, for the power of the

rightful deva of Earth could not have been usurped by Lucifer had the actions and reactions of those evolving on your planet p:16 been different. The amount of influence or power any deva has over a planet is a reflection of the evolution on the planet itself. For example, if for some inexplicable reason mankind were suddenly to pull together, dispense with all ideas of belligerence, war and suffering and fearlessly set forth to bring understanding and love to Earth, then Lucifer could no longer hold its influence over the planet. It can only retain its control by your own permission, The idea I am trying to create here is of equal responsibility, because often in the past when I have spoken on these subjects people have questioned the responsibility of man for the fate of his planet. Yet, as I see it, he has a responsibility which is very plain and very important.

The thoughts and actions of each of you do matter. You each send out an influence which has an effect upon the whole, for good or for evil.

My task in this lecture is a difficult one in that I must try to break through the barriers which have been created by thought throughout the ages. Your understanding of any form of hierarchy must obviously be influenced a great deal by what you have learnt through studying. It does not matter whether you started off in a religious vein or a scientific vein, for whichever way it was it must have led you into a conditioned way of thinking.

I have no intention of giving you a series of angelic names; if you must have labels you can go to the library and look them up. Also, there have been several lectures in which long technical occult explanations have been given, all quite correct in their way but, nevertheless, conditioned.

If you were suddenly capable of transporting yourself on to what, from an orthodox point of view, would be regarded as the fifth plane, you would not meet a series of spirits answering to the names of Metatron, Samael, Beelzebub etc. You would encounter states of thought or beingness of quite a different nature. These entities have their own individual sound or vibration, but they could hardly be translated into such limited terms as many occult schools would have you believe. Try, first, to understand this state of beingness or thought existence, for such comprehension is essential before the hierarchical picture falls into place.

I have explained to you how Lucifer, the deva guiding this planet, has rejected the Godhead. The Godhead gives you freewill with which to accept or reject it and Lucifer has chosen to reject God. But, as you will realise, it is more than just a case of Lucifer saying "Well, I don't believe in God, I think I'll make myself into a god". You see, this spirit in its seeking suddenly found what it thought was an easier way to expand, it found it could gain power for its own ego by feeding off others. Thought builds; and this type of thought grows by appealing to other spirits of an egotistical nature; it doubles up on itself until it becomes difficult for those caught in its mesh to look both ways and immediately that happens they are in difficulties.

Now I am not suggesting that all your seeking should be conducted in a meditative vein, nor that you should sit back and wait for something to happen. The process of understanding is something which can only grow slowly within you. It is like Lucifer's power in that it builds up:17 but its growth is not one which boosts the ego! It may build up in a way that gives you contentment in one respect, but fires you to help humanity in another.

To return to our subject matter: a spirit hierarchy does exist in this solar system. For the sake of symbolism, let us assume the fountainhead of the solar system to be with the Sun. The force which comes from this orb not only gives life but inspires life. After all, is not the Sun the source of all life on your planet? If your planet operated in spiritual balance many things would be quite different from what they are today; but, because it is the one out of step, the forces which come to it from the Sun lose a certain amount of their power. This is a process which continues up the tree. What you are doing here and now is affecting every other person on this planet and, because of this, the way they react to you will cause them to react to other people in a certain way; and so forth, until eventually every other person, animal, flower or form of life on this planet is affected. You, in your individual way, are affecting the planet's destiny which, in turn, affects the destiny of the solar system; then, in turn, the Sun, the galaxy and the universe. Every facet of existence in the universe affects all other facets, from the humblest to the highest and vice versa.

Perhaps now I dare mention again that question mark after the title of this lecture and you will begin to understand how important it is. There can be no ending to this lecture and no conclusion to the subject. In fact, I can only leave you half way, because it is something for

each of you to go on and on thinking about and trying to work out on your own. By all means discuss and consider it for yourself. Consider also the Godhead, that Ultimate Thought which is the creative force behind the expansion of the universe. It is continually creating new thought which goes forth, adding to all previous experience. This Ultimate Force, which is the head of the hierarchy, has no ego in the sense that its eternal power is purely a force of love, understanding and wisdom. You can see from this why I have so often referred to it as being a passive force. It is man who has tried to make God a power of vengeance that demands an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth; all very judicial and convenient, but it is time that man grew out of this way of thinking and moved forward in his understanding, When you consider the various governments of the world, the attitudes of their members and the levels of thought upon which they exist, does it not make you reflect on the evolution of the planet? Does it not create a tremendous question mark in your mind? I am not concerned with politics ; and these remarks are not meant in any way to imply that I favour one party or one regime more than another. I merely want you to relate governments all over the world to the universe and the Godhead, because I think that such a simple exercise would bring home to you very forcibly how far man has to go and how little he really understands. How often can you say that the wisest man has the greatest influence ? Over the past few years man's practical knowledge has gone forward in leaps and bounds, but my concern is that his understanding has not.

P:18 Therefore, I feel that people like yourselves — people who are prepared to try to understand — are the people who can help; because, unless knowledge is matched by understanding and wisdom, you will be letting yourselves in for even greater troubles than you have at present. Understanding the hierarchy of the universe does not mean knowing names, rituals or symbols; it means something which cannot be put into words except metaphorically. Let me end with this thought: water finds its own level, wisdom finds its own level, evolution finds its own level. It is the growing within you that is important and I beseech you to consider it very carefully. Your world is in a very precarious state and it needs understanding and action!

P:19

The Positive and Negative Aspects of Creation

The Godhead is not a triplicity as many people think. It is a duplicity in that it has a positive and negative aspect which together form a whole.

It is a state of beingness which is constantly evolving within itself and, as a part of that evolutionary expansion, it creates a continuous stream of new thought. This new thought leaves the Godhead from either its positive or its negative aspect and, once created, it seeks expression through a series of experiences in one form of evolution or another, gradually gaining in wisdom until eventually it reaches a breadth of understanding comparable to the Ultimate Thought from which it has stemmed. And so it rejoins the Godhead, adding its own individual experience to that which is already there.

Now when a spirit is created it also has a dual nature, a positive and a negative aspect, but only one part of this duality goes out to experience while the other part remains in the background. By this I do not mean that every spirit has a long piece of elastic attached to it, so to speak, which is joined to the Godhead at one point and to its other half at another! What I mean is this: whatever stage you have reached as a spirit and whether your spirit is positive or negative it has in the universe its counterpart, the opposite polarity. The factor which determines whether a spirit is predominantly positive or negative is the aspect of the Godhead from which it is created. A spirit leaving from the negative half of the Godhead is predominantly positive and, conversely, those spirits which are created from the positive aspect are predominantly negative.

Let us say that yours is a positive spirit; somewhere you have a negative half. Now that other half will always remain in the background, but it is not strictly true to say that it is still with the Godhead because it is, in fact, with you, experiencing with you. Let us put it this way: if you are incarnate as a positive spirit the negative part of your spirit will be discarnate. When you are discarnate that negative part will be with you as a complement. Now, as you ascend the planes towards the Godhead, the negative and positive aspects of your spirit become more definite; they become more accentuated or individualised and in doing so they also become more at one with each other.

A question which must come to many minds is: are twin souls the positive and negative aspects of the same spirit? The answer is no, they are not. It is possible for two spirits of similar evolution to choose to evolve together for much of their evolutionary cycle and, because of this, a close affinity grows between them; they often enter into the bodies of twins. But these are two individual spirits and not the positive and negative aspects of the same spirit.

In the higher stages of evolution where the two aspects, negative and positive, have become very marked, a certain kind of transcending force takes place and they then begin to experience as separate entities; from the fifth and sixth planes and the Ultimate itself, but from these stages and these stages only, it is possible for both sides of the polarity to incarnate at the same time. If such a spirit deemed it necessary to incarnate in this manner it would do so because it had a certain task to accomplish; both aspects would be engaged on that task in one way or another.

When the spirit of the Ultimate which looks after this particular solar system — the Solar Logos as it is sometimes termed — manifested itself through the medium of the physical body of Jesus, another spirit representing the negative or polarising aspect should have incarnated in a different part of the world at the same time. Interference from the powers of evil prevented this happening so that Jesus the man was denied a living polarity. However, due to the complete understanding between the two aspects, the positive half was still able to continue; and when Jesus reached manhood the negative aspect effected its polarity from the world of spirit.

It was from that time that Jesus was able to progress along the path of the occult and perform his many occult feats and miracles.

This is often referred to as "the overshadowing of the Christ spirit".

The Gnostics and early Christians were perfectly aware of these things and descriptions of the dual nature of the Christ spirit can be found throughout their literature. They refer to the negative aspect of the Godhead as the "Sophia" or "Wisdom". For any occultist to function to full capacity a polarity of equal evolution is needed, otherwise imbalances can be caused to both sides. Indeed, had it been a fifth or sixth plane spirit involved, it would

have been far more difficult for one part to continue without the other when it had decided, before incarnation, that for a certain purpose it was necessary for both aspects to incarnate.

Only in the Godhead itself is a state of perfect balance achieved, but it is nevertheless important that, at all times throughout an evolutionary cycle, the two aspects of a spirit should strive towards this state of balance.

If, at a comparatively high stage of evolution, the negative and positive aspects of a spirit become seriously out of balance the resulting influence will be an evil one. Some of the evil influence which is so malignant around your planet at the present time is caused by a spirit of which the positive and negative aspects are out of balance; unfortunately for those involved with this planet this is basically a negative spirit.

I say unfortunately because, when it is a negative spirit creating the force of evil, it is sometimes far more difficult to shift because it is negative and receptive.

All our representations to bring Light to your planet are just received and accepted but seldom acted upon! Where a positive spirit is creating the evil there would be a tendency to try to push back the representations of Light p:21 and this would bring the matter to a head very much more speedily. But, unfortunately, it is not so. This is the state as it exists and this is what I refer to when I speak of the influence of the spirit Lucifer. I mention this spirit with no ill-will, but with understanding and compassion.

One important question which comes to mind is whether this dual aspect of the spirit is the reason why so many occult students and mediums fail if they are not polarised at their own level. Let us take the case of someone in your own society who is practising or studying to be a medium or an occultist. In following such a path he is accentuating one aspect of himself; therefore, there is a danger of him becoming out of balance with his other half. This is one of the reasons why a person practising psychism can so easily become unbalanced; also the reason why I always place great importance on the polarisation of any psychic worker in the society.

These effects of the dual nature of a spirit have not been covered in my previous lectures for, although they are fundamental from my point of view, it is rather like your Earth

scientist suddenly discovering how to split the atom; it is simple and basic but it has taken a considerable amount of understanding and study before it could be achieved and really understood. I have, in fact, had my reasons for holding back on this whole subject for so long because I felt that, until you had a thorough background of the more general understanding of the universe, you could never fully appreciate these ideas. As time goes on you will begin to see how important this subject is when considering the picture as a whole.

P:22

Man, Woman and the Law of Polarity

Following on from my previous lecture on the positive and negative aspects of the spirit I would like now to examine this principle as it relates to man and woman incarnate on Earth.

The spirits which enter your physical bodies are sexless in your understanding of the meaning; in fact, they are androgynous. In one incarnation a spirit may choose to experience through a male body and in the next a female. Nevertheless, that spirit is a duality and so it follows that a man may have either a positive spirit with a discarnate negative aspect, or a negative spirit with a discarnate positive aspect; and a woman likewise.

Now, although it is predominantly positive or negative, a spirit should always strive to be in balance with itself as a duality, in order to achieve a harmony within itself and an understanding of God.

If a spirit becomes seriously out of balance one of two fundamental things can happen. It can either over-emphasise its ego and see itself as a master in its own eyes; or it can become apathetic and lose its evolutionary desire to advance. An over-emphasised ego can therefore be taken as a spiritual danger signal, both in oneself and in others, as can also an introverted rejection of life's continual flow. So you will see from this that, when you are in physical incarnation, not only must you strive to maintain a balance between your spirit and your physical body but your spirit must endeavour to maintain a balance between the two facets of itself.

I should now like to associate this question of polarity with men and women incarnate on the Earth planet. You may well ask what happens when a man and woman union, or marry as you would say. Should this be necessary, apart from the procreation point of view? Let us take a spirit that comes into a male body. The male body tends to encourage negativity in a spirit, which in turn causes a dominance in material matters. This is why men tend to be more dominant in earthly affairs than women and why, from an evolutionary point of view, a male incarnation can push the spirit back a little unless it is strong enough to counteract the tendency. Conversely, in a woman the positivity of the spirit becomes accentuated and this emphasises a more idealistic state and, of course, the maternal side.

Let us consider a good marriage, a good union between two people, (I use the word union after the word marriage because a marriage by either civil or religious rites on your planet is not necessarily a spiritual p:23 marriage in the eyes of God,) If two people are unioned together and they love and understand each other spiritually, mentally and physically thus finding a complete and overwhelming happiness, relaxation, love, understanding and unselfishness on all these levels, they are in fact aiding the evolutionary balance of their spirits. When two people enjoy such a state of union the predominance of the various facets in both sexes becomes balanced out. This not only helps them in their physical lives on the planet but it can considerably advance the evolution of their spirits.

That is why, often, when you find a couple who are married in such a way — and, in my humble consideration, it is very rare on your planet today — you will be able to observe that they have a broad outlook on life and an understanding and tolerance not only between themselves but of the world as a whole.

For those who do not take a partner in marriage during a particular incarnation it can be a little more difficult to achieve this evolutionary balance between the two facets of the spirit. Nevertheless, remaining single is infinitely preferable to being enmeshed in an unsuccessful marriage; many single people find a balance to their personality and spirit in a close friend or relative.

The moral for all is to keep a reasonable balance and not allow one side of your character to become over-exaggerated. As I have said many times: know yourself for what you are, know your virtues and your failings and you will thereby be aiding your own evolutionary progress.

P:24

Father, Son and Holy Ghost?

A great deal of mystery and mysticism has been placed around the life and death of Jesus Christ. I find this very sad as it was hardly what the spirit of Jesus the teacher intended. How has this mystery and the consequent divergence of views come about? There are a variety of reasons. The original teachings given by Jesus during his life in Palestine did not suit the material requirements of many of the rulers who later embraced the outer framework of Christianity.

Existing beliefs had to be accommodated, personal egos satisfied and the supremacy of the ruling classes established religiously as well as economically. Thus, those written recordings of the life and times of Jesus were conveniently "arranged" so that the more embarrassing passages were deleted on heretical grounds. In some cases whole chapters were omitted and these became either part of the apocryphal or supposed gnostic writings or were "misplaced" completely.

Christian believers inevitably turn to the Bible for proof of their theories concerning Jesus and his teaching. Let us consider this document: firstly, the Bible was not written by God but by man. You may argue that it was divinely inspired, but so also were the holy books of many other religions and, even if it were taken in its original form before the above-mentioned "alterations" had taken place, there would still be the personal interpretation and bias of the writers. Take the New Testament, for example. You might say that Paul's interpretation of the scene was considerably more dramatic than that of his contemporaries. Most of Jesus Christ's followers were fanatics, anyway; they needed to be to hold on to a new and revolutionary belief against such odds as the existing Jewish regime and the Roman empire. They were backing something that was entirely new in circumstances which were quite different from those you face in your world to-day.

The Bible was compiled many years after the death of Jesus. Have you ever asked an older person to recall in detail incidents he witnessed fifty or sixty years previously? I think you would find that there was a tendency to romanticise the more glamorous aspects, exaggerate those pertaining to personal pet beliefs and ignore the argumentative ones! Now let us consider translation. The Bible has undergone many translations from language

to language, from ancient scripts to modern speech modes; so much so that it has ceased to be a pure translation as such, but rather an interpretation given by the individual scholars p:25 according to their own schools of belief. I have already mentioned those 'originals' which have been withheld for various reasons so, taking all into consideration, we are left with a very thin thread of truth! And, if you were to question a Roman Catholic on the interpretation of certain biblical passages, you would receive quite a different answer from that which you would receive from an Evangelist. Once again it comes down to the question of personal approach.

I have been asked: "But surely there are certain fundamental beliefs amongst Christians generally. This is true, but the interpretations of those beliefs still differ considerably from sect to sect. Within the boundaries of a large religion like Roman Catholicism there are variations of the disciplines according to the intellect and circumstances of the people concerned. Doubtless, if you were to question two Catholics on their views of a particular dogma or biblical statement, the personal angle would inevitably creep in. Religions also tend to modify their outlook over a period of time. Mortifications considered desirable in the Middle Ages are no longer accepted as psychologically advantageous to the soul's well-being. Far be it from me to say that any creed is "wrong" or "right" as such. Everybody is liable to make a mistake, a misinterpretation; no living person can claim infallibility for only within the Godhead has a state of perfection been reached. The Godhead can inspire men, but men's intuitive faculties are hardly perfect enough to translate so high a message in its full wisdom; and men will naturally speak forth what they have picked up in accordance with their own stage of evolution, complete with limitations. Therefore, no man has the right to be dogmatic concerning his religion and it is interesting to note that there are very few spirits that follow the same religion in more than one consecutive incarnation.

Environment also influences religious acceptance and this can prove unfortunate for the spirit that wishes to believe in an all-merciful God but is born into one of the branches of Christianity which condemn all save the "elect".

If you did know the exact details of the life of Jesus Christ would it really help you? Truth is a strange thing. Basically it is constant; yet it appears to vary, like beauty, in the eyes of its beholders. Try to picture truth as Nelson's column. Many travellers converge on Trafalgar

Square from all directions to behold the column. Some may have seen it from a distance and have some idea of what to expect, while to others the sight before them would come as a complete surprise. Perhaps the narrower roads belie the breadth of the square beyond and the traveller is awestruck by the size of what he beholds when he compares it with the path by which he has come! Some will approach from behind, some from the side; each person will view the column from a slightly different angle. No one will really know how the statue of Nelson would appear close-up, unless he is able to elevate himself so as to be on the same level as Nelson and be free to circle around him. Even if two people view the column from exactly the same spot there will still be a variation in what they see and, certainly, in how they describe what they see. Yet all the time Nelson's column p:26 is constant. So, you see, truth varies and yet does not vary; for this reason if no other, no person can afford to be dogmatic about an understanding of the Godhead.

Having thus examined the orthodox sources of information on Jesus the man, let us return to a consideration of the spirit that inhabited the body. May I say, first, that the body of Jesus was a perfectly natural human body. It was conceived in the normal way by Joseph and Mary and there was nothing supernatural whatsoever about its structure. As Jesus grew he breathed air, ate food and did all the normal things a human being does. The only way he differed from other people was that his spirit had come into incarnation direct from the Godhead or seventh plane.

Here I must explain that, when a very highly evolved spirit (and this also applies to the higher devas or archangels) descends to take on incarnation in a human-type body, the amount of that spirit which can actually manifest is very small indeed compared with its whole. In fact, only one aspect of such a spirit comes into incarnation at any one time and this will vary according to the particular service it wishes to give, whether through music, literature, art, leadership, the occult etc. To illustrate this imagine a small bottle and a large reservoir. The bottle represents the physical body, but being limited in capacity it can only contain a tiny portion of the water in the reservoir. As the body grows and the mind develops, so more water (spirit) can be added. This is known in occultism as "bringing the spirit in closer to the body". When a master incarnates he usually decides which portion of himself is most needed.

If, like Jesus, he incarnates to teach and sacrifice himself, then this is the hardest of all tasks, as he will need to draw as much as is humanly possible from his vast storehouse to meet the demands made upon such a person by a cruel and doubting world. Therefore, most of the spirit of the Godhead which incarnated into the body of Jesus the man was actually outside it, especially during his very early years.

Being of such a fine quality from the vibration point of view, the spirit of Christ found the body into which it had incarnated heavy and difficult to handle at times, for it was dense and low in vibration in comparison with the spirit. As a consequence much discipline was needed to effect the necessary bodily control and there were many tussles before harmony was achieved. These adjustments were effected mostly during the years between the ages of twelve and thirty and took place during his travels to the many religious sects and occult orders he visited in that time. Little is supposedly known about these unrecorded periods, although one could question the fact that several people who knew Jesus and wrote his life story all omitted exactly the same portion without mention! Even if they thought he had stayed at home surely they would have recalled some slight incident over such a long period, especially a man like John who was a friend of Jesus from early years.

When the spirit felt that it had gained the necessary control over its physical vehicle Jesus embarked on his ministry. At this time he was thirty years of age. I do not intend to mention any details about his deeds p:27 in this lecture, as I have already adequately covered them on previous occasions. What I would like to consider now is the period after the crucifixion, when the Christ spirit left Jesus's body and ascended to the seventh plane whence it had originally come.

On certain occasions after the physical death on the cross appearances were made by the Christ spirit. Some people believe them to have been materialisations in the spiritualist sense; while others think they were apparitions or even hallucinations! How did they actually come about?

Christ appeared to his followers on more occasions than one and these appearances were made, in a way that is perfectly possible, by drawing power from those psychic members present at the time. Materialisation is possible without a physical manifestation of

ectoplasm as such and can be achieved by combined thought-force; a spirit of high evolution can draw from the power generated by the group harmony and materialise a thought-form which is visible to the physical as well as the psychic eye.

If it chose to transgress its own laws the Godhead could force man to accept it by producing unquestionable phenomena, even in your present day and age. But this is not its way, for it wishes that you should accept or reject it by virtue of your own freewill and through a process of reason and experience. If it were to present you with a super-abundance of irrefutable evidence these privileges would be denied to you. And so it was at the time of Jesus.

I have explained to you in a previous chapter ("The Positive and Negative Aspects of Creation") how the negative aspect of the Godhead, the "Sophia", was thwarted in its attempt to incarnate at the same time as the Christ spirit and thus effect a living polarity with Jesus. Having failed to incarnate, this spirit then helped Jesus in his work by "overshadowing" him and creating the necessary polarity from the world of spirit.

Now let us consider the third character of the Christian trinity the holy ghost. Does such a spirit exist and did it actually descend at Pentecost as the Bible tells you ?

The literal translation of the "holy ghost" in the Bible is "paraclete".

The meaning of this word can be traced to the Greek and stands for a legal representative or mediator someone who puts in a word for you. When Jesus referred to the coming of a paraclete, he was merely saying that there would be great spirits that would come to watch over the world during the next era and that the first of these would be taking up its ministry, as it were, after his death. The word pentecost means "fiftieth" and this was an Essenic festival celebrated seven weeks after the second day of the Passover, that is fifty days after the Passover. In Essenic occultism the number seven was considered significant and seven times seven, forty-nine, was held as symbolic; thus every fiftieth day was a feast day. As many of the disciples of Jesus were affiliated to the Essenic schools of occultism this day was chosen by them as a significant one to announce the arrival of the new "vibration". Thus your Whitsun (White-Sunday) and the story of the coming of the holy ghost at that time was born.

As for the inclusion of the holy ghost in the trinity, let us say briefly p:28 that the idea of a trinity was decidedly pre-Christian. People were accustomed to a threefold Godhead consisting of father, mother and son and the early Christian Church saw no reason to argue with this belief.

However, as certain doctrines of "morality" were introduced by the Church, the idea of a fertile Godhead (father and mother) producing a third aspect, or son, was considered inadvisable and, as a result, the mother aspect was withdrawn. The patriarchal father figure, however, suited the teachings of a celibate priesthood, while the son was undeniable in the light of the words of Jesus himself concerning the divine relationship with the father. Words referring to a paraclete were seized upon as signifying a third entity and once again a trinity was formed. However, with large portions of the populace illiterate, the facts of procreation could hardly be intellectualised nor the importance of the maternal archetype minimised, so the concept of a "virgin mother" in the person of Mary was brought in to fulfil the psychological need. It is upon this feminine archetype rather than the more masculine trinity that many Christian saints, notably St. Ignatius Loyola, based their faith and dedication.

Christianity was, unfortunately, greatly adapted in its earlier days to existing religions in order to make it acceptable, but this was never made quite clear to its followers later. While powerful individuals fought over points of its doctrines for purposes of their own egos, the true teaching of Jesus was becoming more and more obscured and to-day you are left with but the remnants of a truly great message.

P:29

Lucifer and the Axis Tilt

I am often asked whether the forthcoming axis tilt is directly the result of the evil influence of "Lucifer" as was the sinking of Atlantis and, if so, will this future catastrophe put an end to the rulership of this evil genius once and for all ?

How I wish that the evolution of the universe were as simple as that and the future salvation of all of you merely dependent upon the deposition of one deva. Yet, basically, the universe is simple. Why then the complication? In order to answer this I find it necessary to examine this character we have called "Lucifer", for want of a better name, and consider the extent of its influence.

Unfortunately, orthodoxy has presented you with a Mephistophelean picture of a strange character with claws and horns and engulfed in flames.

Nothing could be further from the truth! In past lectures I have explained to you the deva system of the spirit hierarchy and how it functions. So long as a deva progresses with the directional impulses of cosmic law and acknowledges its own limitations, recognising the Ultimate above it, it is what you would term on the right hand path or path of Light.

Should any archangel — no matter how advanced — cease to make these acknowledgments it immediately goes against the flow of the cosmos and, in order to survive against such odds, it needs to draw power from others, to sap their spiritual life-energies to enlarge its own ego. To run against a natural stream of any description is a dangerous thing. Consider one of your one-way streets, busy with traffic, and then imagine something coming in the opposite direction; if it approaches with sufficient force it will sweep many vehicles back with it, but whichever way you view it there will be destruction and suffering on both sides.

How then does the genius of Lucifer manage to control your planet in the way that it does? The universe is infinite, the Godhead is infinite and from this fountain source pours forth wisdom, love and help to all spirits and all people, Anyone who wishes may grasp of this generosity, this spiritual love. Real spiritual love consists of true understanding; not just an understanding of the things and people you particularly like or agree with, but an understanding of the universe, of all mankind and all other forms of evolution. This

understanding must be based not on material considerations but rather on a blending of logic and feeling. It will naturally be limited by your own stage of development, but as you evolve so will your vision broaden and your understanding encompass more.

P:30

Now this path is not a very easy one; it is certainly not easy on your planet as it is today, because it is somewhat at variance with the popular way of life. This tends to make things difficult all round. You see, true understanding does not give you control over people; it may allow you to stand at their head — to represent them — but not to control them in the possessive sense. On the other hand, the keynote of Lucifer is possession and control, which denies the very faculty of freewill! Unfortunately, the spirit "Lucifer" has used the knowledge it has gained through its evolutionary experiences to obtain power for itself. Once a spirit turns in this way the sum total of its previous learning ceases to be wisdom and becomes knowledge pure and simple. Your planet affords such a spirit a veritable hunting ground for power. "Why go the hard and long way round? Come the easy way with me," it tells you. But having tasted of the "easy way" the tendency is to want more and more of it, at any price, even if it means giving of your own spiritual power to the person who is distributing it. The old myth of the Faustian character who sold his soul to the devil for the pleasures of life is so much truer than people generally consider. The spirit Lucifer maintains its power through feeding off other spirits, or owning and possessing them so that they do its bidding; but of course it cannot achieve this without co-operation! One of the most magnificent facets of the wisdom of the Godhead is that in its all-powerful love it does not condemn. It has given all spirits freewill to choose by what path they will evolve and, in this evolutionary experience, whether they will elect to follow it. The Godhead did not create a "downstairs" spirit complete with furnace and pitchfork upon which to ensnare you if you do not toe the party line! No, the Godhead will never destroy or depose Lucifer; only mankind can do that by their acceptance of true love, wisdom and understanding. When this message has reached the hearts of people all over your planet, then and then alone will Lucifer lose control and in losing this control it will begin — we hope — to understand the full meaning of what it has done. This in itself — this realisation — will be a terrible experience for it, but one which it will need to pass through if it ever hopes to gain access to the right path once again.

A spirit such as Lucifer can reach a very high level of power and could be regarded as a very magnificent being. If any of you were to have a genuine psychic vision of such a spirit it would hardly be of a character in black with an elementary spirit appearance! On the contrary, the beauty of Lucifer would dazzle and deceive you; but it is a cold-beauty and therein lies the clue! Now to return to the axis tilt. This planet is part of a solar system which is in turn part of a galaxy which is in balance with the universe as a whole.

The influence of a spirit such as Lucifer can put a planet out of balance and, if this happens, physical effects will manifest and catastrophes ensue.

If such a "misguided" spirit is thwarted in what it is trying to do through sufficient people having the strength of mind to reject its influence, then the balance will be restored and harmony with the rest of the solar system and universe regained.

P:31

You must bear in mind, of course, that you as living people are not the only ones involved in this battle; it is being fought on many levels and it involves other forms of evolution. You may have heard the saying that a thing must happen on the ether first before it can manifest physically.

This is true in a way, because assistance from those devas that are working with the Godhead and cosmic law will give you the strength and enlightenment to choose wisely and see Lucifer for what it is. Therefore, the battle for your minds is being carried out on your behalf by many of the hierarchy; some of them have incarnated from time to time to give you an understanding through art forms such as music, poetry, painting, literature etc. as well as purely religious-type teachings or philosophies. During these "lives" their work has often been destroyed by the forces of Lucifer which have used you to make their lot a hard and cruel one. Maybe they have suffered persecution or martyrdom, or even been victims of false economies, but somehow their works have filtered through to you and you may — or may not — have gained from them.

To consider that the "Lucifer" set-up is limited to one subtly evil being is quite erroneous, of course. When this spirit decided to step off the true cosmic path there were many who

accompanied it in its decision. You have only to take a look at your own political systems to see how easily this could happen; there are always those who are blind enough to consider a ride on the "band wagon" a good thing, even if it only lasts for a while. Orthodox occultism will supply you with lists of strange names of individual spirits who are said to rule over this or that particular aspect of the Luciferian regime. Obviously their power is varied according to the position they occupied before they joined in the "fall", but some of them are indeed powerful; nor do they limit their activities to any one "camp", belief, philosophy or form of evil, They believe in the principle of being "in" everywhere, so that disharmonies can be stirred from within as well as from without. So do not fall into the trap of blaming any one nation, ideology, creed or belief for the spread of Luciferianism, although it is always easier for it to get a hold where there is any lack of mental freedom.

You will observe that I have avoided mentioning a gender when discussing Lucifer. A devic-type spirit may be predominantly positive or negative, or it may choose to function in a neutral or even alternating way like the neutron or meson in your atom. The tendency is to refer to spirits like Lucifer or Mikael as "he", but this is purely an Earth idiom and bears no relationship to the real personality behind them. Equally, if they enter incarnation on a planet such as Earth, they may partake of the experience of either a male or a female body, in accordance with what is required in that particular life and the polarities they will need to make with other spirits of their own kind incarnating at the same time.

So you are not alone in your battle against the Luciferian hordes, nor would you be left solely to your own devices at the time of a catastrophe as significant as an axis tilt; help would come to you from external sources.

Spirits will incarnate and have incarnated especially to assist during such times.

P:32

When this future axis tilt catastrophe does take place the strength with which the forces of Mikael are in control of your planet by the end of it will depend very much on you. The first signs of it will be on the spirit or etheric level and it will be during these times that man will be able to take advantage, if he so wishes, of the efforts of the Mikaelian forces of light to create a harmony which does not at present exist. It is my belief that such a harmony can be

achieved, but it will not happen overnight. You will not wake up suddenly one morning and find that the world has changed, even if the axis does tilt and the correct magnetic balance is restored. The one basic difference will be that the devic influence will have changed, but that in itself will take time to manifest through individual personalities; certain habitual mental patterns will need to be dispensed with and a new acceptance reached. As anyone who has studied mental health will know, it is not always a good thing to bring about realisations of this nature too suddenly, as the shock for some would be too great.

So the wise deva will infiltrate his message with gentleness and understanding — and true love.

P:33

Spirit and Genetic Evolution

The Complement

Let us consider the structure of man. In this lecture we shall ignore the mental and spiritual attributes of homo sapiens and consider the composition of his body, that physical shell which you all know so well.

The universe in its magnificence is entirely composed of thought, thought on varying degrees and levels. The Ultimate or Godhead is thought at its highest, thought at its finest, its lightest; it is of course supreme, creative, all-wise thought. As one descends to the lower paths of evolution thought becomes less fine, narrower and less wise. The lower it goes the more limited it becomes. Thus you see that thought only achieves a complete infinity of expression when it reaches the Ultimate.

The spirit which is evolving in your Earth body at this very moment is utilising another form of thought, a physical body which provides both a shelter for it and a vehicle through which it can express itself. The physical body itself is thought on a very low, dense vibration and, as such, is performing the kind of evolution suitable to the physical conditions which surround it and from which it has evolved.

An appreciation of life in the sphere of dense matter or physical existence is essential to a spirit passing through an evolutionary cycle such as that of homo sapiens, as this path demands experience through the material but not as the material. By this I mean that your spirit expresses itself through your material shell in order to appreciate such material experiences as are available to it in any one particular incarnation, but that the actual physical body in which you have incarnated is of a different form of evolution from that of your spirit.

The molecular atoms of which your physical body is composed move at a frequency of vibration which is much lower than that of your psyche or spirit. These atoms are part of the spheres of the four elements of which a physical planet is composed — air, fire, earth and water. When your spirit leaves your body, as in death, by cosmic law the four elements reclaim those parts of the body which they have "lent" it for its existence.

Fire and air are the faster elements and they are first to leave the body in the form of warmth and breath. Next comes the drying process when water in the form of all moisture evaporates; finally, the decaying of the denser tissues comes under the jurisdiction of the element earth. In Atlantis of old the whole process could be achieved in a few seconds by p:34 the power of the occult, when the priest commanded the four elements to reclaim instantly those parts of the physical body which were from their domains. The result was disintegration without a trace.

Perhaps I could illustrate this relationship between spirit and genetic evolution by comparing it with your electric heaters. The element alone produces nothing, but when the electric current goes through it warmth is produced. Without the element through which to express its vibration the electricity is nothing and imperceptible, just as the element is but a piece of cold metal until ignited.

If the connections between the current and the element are faulty there will be an irregularity in the expression, or even no heat at all. So it is with the human body and the spirit for, if the connecting link between the two is faulty, illnesses and all forms of imbalance may result, even to total unconsciousness.

When an electric implement is wired to take only a certain amount of current and an amount in excess of that is sent through it a fuse will result. The human body is the same with regard to vibrations; it can only take those vibrations to which it is attuned at any one time. Exceed this load and mental trouble will ensue. That is why higher and wiser spirits often deem it unwise to grant requests for a display of power or phenomena, the close proximity of which could prove too great for those present. The body needs to be carefully schooled by self-discipline, rest and diet before it can lighten its vibrations sufficiently to accept the very powerful "currents" from the higher spheres of thought.

Somatic evolution moves at a speed relative to the planet upon which it exists; thus the body's shape, height, weight etc. change and adjust according to the physical conditions prevailing. An evolved body does not necessarily house an evolved spirit, as in the case of the person who is academically clever but without wisdom. Equally, an evolved spirit may choose a body of humble evolution in which to incarnate, although in this case the body

would never be one of extremely low evolution with a limited capacity, as an evolved spirit would be unable to express itself through such a body. The ideal state for physical expression is when the evolution of the body is complementary to that of the spirit. Consequently, as the human race evolves genetically, more evolved spirits are able to use bodies as vehicles through which to express their wisdom.

Many people do not realise that spirit evolution is entirely separate from physical evolution and much confusion has arisen as a result of this misunderstanding. Darwin's "missing link" was, in fact, a spirit transference, where the bodies available were taken on by a higher form of spirit evolution which refined them according to needs. So, although spirit and physical evolution run along separately, they have a strong influence on each other, especially the spirit on the physical body. Indeed, the resident spirit influences its physical vehicle far more than is generally supposed and can even alter the shape and appearance of a body, as in the "missing link" between ape and man. I should like to examine this influence of the spirit on the body in a little more detail.

When you make a decision the elements of which your body is composed p:35 will receive certain experiences of action; these are derived from the decision of the spirit through the impulses of the brain. Remember, your spirit has the freewill to make the best or the worst of its physical body, to accentuate its strengths or its weaknesses by the decisions it makes; and the results of these decisions will gradually become imprinted on the physical. In fact, your physical form carries the whole of your story up to date. Every one of you has his own private story written plainly in his form for those who can read; what you think and do between the cradle and the grave impresses the material of that form with habits. The sum total, the essence, is assembled after the grave; condensed, converted you might say, into basic principles within your spirit; and that is what you start with next time.

It does matter what you do in this life because it is fashioning your form, your circumstances and your abilities. Your glands secrete a chemical formula, the chemical formula is secreted by habit, you created the habit and you stipulated the figures in the formula. When you see a face lined with pain, the result of ulcers, growths or other illness, that person has, by long and persistent effort, created the chemical formulae in the glands which in turn have imposed their programme upon the physical body.

The tragedy is that even when a man is suffering he still has not a clue as to how his illness came about, with the result that he continues creating unsuitable habits, not knowing the significance of them. Thus you have your psychosomatic illnesses which are frequently the most difficult form of suffering to dispel.

From this you can begin to see how the type of life-matter which is evolving as your physical shell is influenced by and dependent upon the spirit which it is housing. It is also a perfect example of the way in which two different forms of evolution complement each other.

Materialisation

In the second half of this lecture I should like to clear up one or two points on the subject of materialisation and spirit communication.

Many people ask "Is there such a thing as materialisation? And, if so, how is it achieved?".

Materialisation does exist. As to how it is achieved, let me first of all make the following statement. Ectoplasm is something physical. It is not, I repeat, not spiritual.

Let us picture a room containing seven people. Six of them are seated round a table while the seventh is a medium sitting for, or shall we say hoping for, a materialisation. What takes place? Picture now your own human body, bearing in mind the vibration of thought of which it is composed. Try not to think of your spirit, physical shell and aura as entirely separate entities, for they are all functioning as a complete unit.

Think of it as a colour, the colour blue; the higher the vibration the lighter the blue would be, so that a very light blue would represent the spirit; as the vibration descended to the various denser tissues of the body it would tend to become a deeper blue; in fact, you would see many different shades. The aura, which is the link between the spirit and the outside world, would appear again as a pale shade of blue.

Now let us return to our seance room where everyone is hoping to see a materialised form. "Look," somebody cries, "ectoplasm is forming!" The medium has found that, by relaxing the body and inducing a certain mental condition, ectoplasm will appear. What is not

generally understood is that each of those six people present had put out a thought to encourage that ectoplasm to appear.

Why is it, then, that when the chemical composition of your body is analysed you cannot find this strange substance called ectoplasm? Man is not, as yet, familiar with every chemical substance on his own planet and ectoplasm is of a much finer composition than could at present be distinguished by your Earth instruments; it stems from the central regions of the body and, since it is actually a part of the physical body, you can see how dangerous it can be if it is damaged or cut.

Now a spirit will manifest itself into that ectoplasm. Let us say that ectoplasm is a form of link between the physical body and the spirit. A spirit is able to control the ectoplasm into a shape by the power of its thought; this it can do by projecting a thought form from its own sphere of evolution. It is not essential for that thought or spirit actually to visit the ectoplasm in its etheric body.

The reason I have given you this little example is because I am trying to bring home to you the oneness of the universe. Those seven people, the materialising spirit in the ectoplasm and all the spirits in that room are all one in varying stages of density. I am sure that if you can have a strong realisation of this it will help you greatly with your future studies.

If a group of people were to come together and will a spirit to appear before them, so long as they harmonise their thoughts along similar lines and put out a similar amount of power, there is little doubt that a manifestation would appear in one form or another. The level of vibration upon which this manifestation would occur depends, of course, on the harmony, purity and intentions of the sitters.

When a spirit from the higher planes materialises it does not need ectoplasm, for it can transcend the ectoplasmic vibration — which is a material one — and create a thought form from its own power and the power generated by the harmony of those present. This is a quite different process from the one I have just described when, by a transference of thought from another sphere, a spirit fashions the ectoplasm provided by a medium. Non-ectoplasmic materialisation was the form perceived by the apostles after the death of Jesus. These higher forms of materialisation only take place where there is great spirituality and

harmony; holy people who have seen such forms often prove their vibrations later with feats of healing etc. In Roman Catholicism they sometimes receive recognition for these "miracles" in the form of canonisation; sanctity, however, is not limited to any one creed and many "saints" have passed unnoticed.

Spirits who communicate from those planes nearest to the Earth plane, the second and third planes, do not necessarily remove themselves from these planes in order to make their presence felt or convey their messages; p:37 instead, the communicating entity projects a thought-form whereby it may be recognised. The intensity of this projection may vary but its recognition will depend on the fineness of the vibration to which the medium can attune, This form of communication is quite different from that used by devic spirits or those from the higher planes that communicate either by using an aspect of themselves to negotiate the lesser spheres or by using, say, third plane spirits through which to transmit, these spirits being a sort of transformer or filtering-down device for their power, When you travel out of your body you may be able to perceive some of these other planes of existence. This will, of course, vary with each individual according to which plane you have come from before entering into incarnation. As your spiritual sight widens you will notice not only those of your own form of evolution upon each plane, but also some of the other infinite varieties of thought-expression which exist within this universe and which are evolving side by side with your own form of life.

You may be able to bring back some of these experiences with your conscious mind, which will help you considerably in understanding all things around you.

P:38

Are All Forms of Life Native to this Planet?

In trying to understand the universe we are tackling a subject which is, in its entirety, really beyond the comprehension of the human brain. I am in no way disparaging the capabilities of homo sapiens, but merely drawing a distinction between the finite and the infinite.

Therefore, in trying to understand this tremendous, unlimited subject, it is necessary to approach it with a mind that is open and ready to receive, whether what it receives appears within the limits of man's present acceptance level or not. I can give you but a fragment of the whole so that you can then sit back, seek, search and try to find your own answers and interpretations of the cosmos.

You have already considered a few of the infinite number of evolutionary forms in the universe; each of these has its own particular place or channel of expression through which it is able to function harmoniously. On your Earth planet there are many forms of evolution which are harmonious to its particular vibration. You have your domestic animals, wild animals, fish, mammals, birds, flowers, vegetables and so on. All these are forms of spirit advancing within their own particular branch of evolution and, as part of that evolution, it is necessary for them to undergo experience in the physical world. That is why you are here today, because your spirit is from the type of evolution which chooses to undergo physical expression as a part of its experience. All physical actions are experiences and it can be argued that none of these is wasted although whether you benefit fully from them or not obviously lies within your freewill as an individual.

Thought in its perfected form exists only in the Godhead itself; from this you will begin to understand why the many varied forms of evolution appear to display so many imperfections. There is nothing wrong in being imperfect; in fact, one of the greatest things in the world is to realise that you are imperfect. If you can not only realise but understand why you are imperfect, then you are reaching a true wisdom. As you well know, to appreciate these things a considerable subjugation of the ego is necessary. This is something which mankind finds rather odious and difficult, especially in your modern world! Similarly, your solar system is not perfect; it is still climbing the ladder of evolution and sometimes the steps deviate a little and become weary.

Remember, God does not control the evolution of the universe; it is p:39 controlled by all the thought which exists throughout universal infinity.

The Godhead is the fountain source whence all thought or spirit is created; it offers love, mercy and understanding, but does not dictate as to what transpires. If it did it would merely be commanding all thought to follow its own line of experience and, as such, all experience would be superfluous and unnecessary. No, God allows you to make your own experiences and to deviate if you should so wish.

So, because there is imperfection on all levels and in all spheres of evolution except the Godhead, it is possible for types of spirit to drift from their rightful harmonious course and incarnate into physical bodies not suited to their vibration. On your planet there are quite definitely forms of evolution which are alien to its progression. This, in itself, is a form of negative expression and, so long as these deviations continue to reside on your planet, their experiences will be inharmonious; they are neither of benefit to themselves nor of help to other forms of evolution around them. In fact, they are forms of mutation and in every sense of the word they are parasites. I think I had better enlarge on this because you might be tempted to consider some forms of evolution to be in this category which are not necessarily so. I am entirely excluding homo sapiens for, although it may seem difficult for you to believe, homo sapiens is a form of evolution which is harmonious to this planet. The imbalances which exist have been mainly brought about by man himself.

Certain forms of insect life on your planet are alien; strangely enough, they should not really exist at all within the confines of your solar system.

I have many times explained to you how the planets, the solar system and, indeed, the whole universe itself exist in a state of cosmic balance. This is as essential as it is that you should maintain a balance as you walk, or that your physical system remains in balance in order to keep you in good health. If a part of the whole becomes unbalanced it is certain to have a far-reaching effect, just as disturbed water sends ripples in every direction. It was the effect of an imbalance in another solar system which originally upset your own solar system; a side effect of this was the displacement of certain forms of evolutionary experience from their normal channels of expression.

Let us take an example of spirit life which is very definitely alien to your planet: the common fly. The spirit may enter the body of a fly and live a life on Earth which is very unsatisfactory from its point of view, because it never finds harmony and balance throughout its entire existence. Also, strange as it may seem, flies were not created as a food for other forms of life. Parasites such as this are just as unhappy existing on your planet as you are unhappy at their existence. Those of you who have encountered the mosquito will know what I mean! Therefore, when homo sapiens takes steps to erase this form of evolution from his planet, he is not necessarily committing a wrong; in fact, he will benefit both himself and the mosquito! Spiders are another form of insect life which seem to cause great anxiety to many people. Some credit them with strong supernatural attributes, but I cannot subscribe to this idea. Any form of life which is existing outside its own natural habitat tends to develop in a way which is out of balance and unnatural. Those species of the insect kingdom which are alien to this planet will never find a true harmony or sense of belonging, nor will they find a relaxation with other forms of life around them. The question of "belonging" is one of the utmost importance to all forms of life and much of your insect world does not have this sense of security.

It may prove rather humorous for you to consider that the spider which frightened you in your bedroom last night was suffering from an insecurity complex! Of course, this is taking it a little lightly but it might help you to understand the particular habits of these creatures. Spiders are definitely alien to this planet and there are, therefore, few human beings who find any form of harmonious relationship with them.

Bees, worms and butterflies are examples of insects which are native to this planet. They make a useful contribution towards its evolution and they blend harmoniously with other forms of life around them.

Most forms of experience on your planet control their own growth.

This is another guide for you when considering what is alien and what is experiencing in its natural sphere. Forms of evolution that are harmonious to a planet will always endeavour to control their own growth and propagation, whereas those that are alien will not. The tendency to this particular form of imbalance has become accentuated by incorrect devic

rulership of this planet so that many creatures, including homo sapiens, are inclined to overbreed. However, it is possible to distinguish between this malaise and those spirits that are alien to the planet if you look carefully.

As to ridding the world of these parasites, it lies in your hands for, by helping to bring the planet back to a state of balance, you are not only assisting humanity but you are also aiding those unhappy lost spirits to return to their rightful spheres of evolution.

P:41

The Fourth Plane

Let us consider a spirit which has ascended through the second and third planes and has no further need for physical incarnation. What will be its experiences upon reaching the fourth plane ?

This is the plane of colour and one of the first lessons for any spirit at this stage of evolution is the understanding of these indescribable hues.

It will find itself amidst a blending of colours which would make your Earth shades seem small and unimportant; they are shades completely beyond your comprehension for they are of another dimension.

How do these colours come to be? They are a result of the fusion of spirit and experience at different levels within the fourth plane of thought.

Similarly, every action and thought that you as a human-being undertake on your Earth planet can be allied to a colour. Within the fourth plane the spirit will start its experience in the lower or darker octaves of colour and finish in the lighter or higher octaves.

Upon entering the first colour it will find a rich and varied experience awaiting it; it will become engulfed in a dimension of music which is again beyond human comprehension. The music you hear on Earth is limited, but music from the fourth plane has no limitations; perhaps sound would be a better description than music. On the waves of this multi-dimensional sound the spirit will be guided to various planets and celestial bodies where it has undertaken physical experience at a much earlier period in its evolution. Possibly its function at this stage would be to help an incarnate person in a special task, or it might become one of a group of spirits that are helping and teaching other spirits from the second and third planes.

Spirits on the fourth plane are not concerned with the control of celestial bodies in your Earth sense, although they do wield sufficient power to assist groups of individuals. When a fourth plane spirit follows the left-hand path it can be very treacherous, because it is still near enough to the Earth plane to exert an influence which can result in a material effect; many fallen spirits functioning from the fourth plane assist those who practise the black

arts. However, these spirits should not be confused with the powerful spirits from the fifth and sixth planes that control whole groups of evil spirits. Those from the evil hierarchy seldom give all their attention to any one person or group of people, unless they are of the same evolutionary standing as themselves.

Let us return to the spirit that is experiencing on the fourth plane. It progresses through the understanding of inter-dimensional colour and music and, at the same time, reviews its past physical experiences and considers its inadequacies. Before it can progress further it must dispel any earthly thoughts which could cloud its true judgment and hold it down to the material. Having achieved all this and summed up its evolutionary needs a realisation will gradually come to it that it can no longer assist those around it, for it will find difficulty in maintaining the necessary density of thought to do so.

As the wisdom and experience of the spirit grows its density decreases and its vibration becomes finer. Thus it ascends, metaphorically speaking.

Although at this stage it is still within the confines of the fourth plane, it enters an entirely different vibration where the colour is lighter and of a new brilliance and the intensity of the sound increases beyond description.

This would be followed by a form of "evolutionary meditation". Certain schools of occultism have loosely referred to this experience as "The Entrance to the Halls of Learning", a title which may have an impressive sound to the Earth ear but which is quite inaccurate. It is not truly a meditation, nor is it a spiritual classroom. It is a level of thought where the spirit negotiates a spiritual transition by gradually assimilating an awareness of higher thought around it.

At this stage of its experience the spirit will find itself subjected to very heavy attack from those that wish to impede its progress. One of the forms this attack will take is a sort of spiritual "sound" which is aimed to "blind" the spirit by penetrating into its very core. This tends to make it so intent upon that which it is experiencing within this sound that it ceases to become aware of other more important aspects of its experience. If the spirit is able to overcome this attack, gradually the realisation of a higher level of thought will dawn and with it the natural evolutionary desire to look upward again. It will then pass through a

further series of "spheres" or "impressions", each one a little lighter in vibration than the previous one, until by this natural process of becoming finer and wiser it enters the fifth plane, the world of pure spirit and an infinity unto itself.

Here I must make one point very clear. These spirit spheres beyond the fourth plane are not doubles, replicas or affinities of physical manifestations; nor are they in any way concerned with physical planets, solar systems, galaxies or celestial bodies of any shape, size or form in the material sense. The nearest description I can give you is that they are spheres of spirit existence and their form is so fine as to be imperceptible, even to the psychic senses. An advanced occultist or medium projecting to these planes could only gain a vague impression of their nature and immensity; it would be extremely difficult to translate such an impression into Earth terms.

When considering the fourth, fifth and sixth planes one is inclined to use the word "higher", as I have done throughout this lecture. As most of you realise this is purely figurative and indeed it is essential that you do not visualise these planes as being above in the sense of a great height.

Many people are inclined to think that the various spirit planes stretch between themselves and that high point which they consider to be God, p:43 but this is not so. All spirit spheres interweave, so that within your room all are present, from the densest to the Godhead itself. It would be much more accurate to think in terms of spiritual filters, for as a spirit advances it becomes finer and naturally filters through to a finer vibration. The Godhead, being the finest, pervades all.

Finally, I would like to stress that although in my teaching I speak of seven planes of existence, the Godhead being the seventh, these are only broad divisions to help you to visualise spirit existence beyond the physical.

One could equally well divide these experiences into twelve, twenty-four or, indeed, an infinite number of planes, each plane providing an infinity of experience in itself. Such is the diversity of experience on all levels in this infinite universe.

P:44

The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse

QUESTION Could you please explain the occult meaning of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse and can these forces be called upon by individuals? It has been suggested that World War I was caused by the invocation of one of these horsemen.

ANSWER The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse really represent an aspect of the four elements on a very high level. All forms of evolution liaise at a particular spiritual level and these four horsemen represent, at a high devic level, the liaison between human evolution and elemental evolution.

The important thing to remember about the four horsemen is that they are not gods; they are symbols of power that can be used for good or evil.

The power of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse is very high and to call them would be the equivalent of invoking the Great Pan. In fact, you can equate the power of the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse to the Pan level for it is the same vibration with a different name. As so often happens in occultism the same picture appears in a different frame, the symbology varying according to the application and interpretation of the occult school using it.

So we have established that our horsemen are symbols of power at a high devic level. Assuming, of course, that you possess the ability to call this power, you must have an adequate reason for using it. It could be summoned to stop a war, or you could call on it to start a war. But if you were to use it for starting a war I leave it to your own imagination to consider the consequences! The evil powers which surround this planet have insatiable appetites and if they help you they will require to possess you in return. The old concept that a person can sell himself to the devil is unfortunately only too true. And the devil is never satisfied with you alone. He will then want you to bring others, and so it goes on . . .

45

Power Centres - Whence Did They Originate?

In this lecture I intend to throw a little light on the subject of power centres, as I know that in the minds of many of you these raise a nebulous question mark. But first I must approach the subject from a broader viewpoint.

The question of power centres is closely linked with one of the fundamental tasks of the person in a physical body who is studying the occult.

The word "occult" would suggest to many a picture of hidden mysteries and the many different approaches man has made to them. Systems such as the Qabbalah, Hermeticism and even the more open-minded religious approach are more generally associated with the study of the occult.

I would consider, however, that an understanding of occult principles is essential for evolutionary progress; a person who is deeply spiritual without entering the world of occultism is really eating the bread without the butter. He is trying to experience on a finer level of understanding without really understanding the finer levels; whereas a study of the occult is designed so that you not only find the higher level of understanding but you understand what you find. This is the difference and it is very important for me to stress this right at the beginning.

In The Atlanteans we have very carefully avoided the ritualistic approach, not because we think it is wrong but because we are endeavouring to be more flexible; for any set system, however conscientious, is always limited by the very rituals it employs. We are trying to take a new look at occultism, unfettered by time-honoured tradition. Let me say here that there is nothing new in my teaching because there is nothing new in the universe. It is the same universe which existed ten years ago except that it has had ten years' more experience. The fundamental principles do not change, neither are the fundamentals of my teaching different from the basic principles of the universe. So, although I have tried to dispense with tradition, I cannot eliminate that which is history and has formed the milestones; for the milestones are not tradition, they are the points which have been reached in order to find and understand a finer level.

You may wonder what a statement like this has to do with power centres.

You see, basically each one of you is a power centre giving out your own little force field, each of an individual pattern and density according to your individual stage of evolution. You all understand in your own particular way, which is why each person interprets a picture individually.

P:46

Thus it is with a teaching and thus it is with power centres. They exist on different levels and they can be understood on different levels.

As the planet has evolved certain civilisations have grown up, each with its own type of culture and power. From an occult point of view these powers accumulate with each successive generation. Let us take an imaginary example.

If you were to build yourself a little hut in the middle of your garden, or set aside a small room in your house purely for psychic use, you would find that in time an atmosphere would build up, for the power generated in that room would accumulate and make its mark. When you do psychic or occult work you create a web of power with its own magnetic field that exists over many octaves at its own point in time and space.

I have often explained to you how every thought goes forth into the universe to exist there for eternity, gradually decreasing in intensity, Similarly, when you speak and create a sound in the way that I am using the voice of this sensitive at the moment, the sound continues to travel on and on in an ever-widening arc, growing fainter to human ears but nevertheless existing. In my previous teachings I have always said that, when you send a thought, distance is no object. This is true, but only from the point of view of someone who is using thought in a trained manner.

Picture a series of shock waves all proceeding outwards, gradually spreading and dispersing as they go. This is what happens when the average person sends out a thought. But, supposing you are an occultist, is there a difference between your thought and a non-occultist's thought?

Yes, there is, not in the basic creation of the thought but in the way in which it is used. The thought sent out by the trained occultist proceeds in a single concentrated beam to the point at which it is aimed, without diffusion. The thought sent out by the healer also does this, but to a lesser degree. Therefore, those who are completely untrained in the art of thought-projection will find that their work is more effective on a localised basis, because it will not have a chance to become dispersed. There are, of course, exceptions to all rules and one such exception to this rule owes its existence to inheritance from previous incarnations.

Some of you will have noticed in our example that I have emphasised the smallness of the hut or room. There is a reason for this: when you are in a confined space you will find that it is easier to build an atmosphere because the magnetic field of each person easily reaches the corners of the room and rebounds back, thus enabling those taking part to concentrate their thought with greater ease. So, if you continually build your thought power in this small hut or room, a magnetic field is gradually built up inside that confined space until it begins to have a life of its own. Although I use the term "magnetic field" I do not wish you to take me too literally and ally it with the normal scientific concept of magnetism. It is one of these illustrative examples which serve to present a reasonable mental picture of this build-up of psychic power.

Suppose that at this juncture you meet a friend and invite him to your small hut, perhaps to do some healing there; then you introduce a third person and the three of you carry out psychic work together. All the time p:47 this force field of power inside the hut is building up. You then decide to go away on holiday, so you lock up the hut, pack your bags and off you go.

While you are away you suddenly discover that you have left something behind in the hut, something that you need, so you arrange for a friend to drop in and pick it up. Now this friend is also psychic and immediately upon entering the hut is conscious of a powerful atmosphere, for in your hut you have started a power centre. Whenever you want to do psychic work and achieve the best results the hut is the place to use because of the atmosphere which has been created. Those of you who do psychic work regularly will know that, for this reason, it is always a good thing to use the same room.

This, then, is the way in which certain power centres on your planet have evolved: through the build-up of power by constant use over many years, perhaps many centuries, in one definite place. Stonehenge is a perfect example of such a power centre.

Let us now look at another type of power centre, one which has originated in a different manner.

In the cultures of certain civilisations which existed thousands of years ago there were some highly potent occult forces in use; possibly the greatest and most powerful of these occult dynasties was one which existed on the continent of Atlantis. When Atlantis sank there were many who were forewarned of the disaster. They also knew that the power which they had accumulated over the centuries would retain its potency if it were correctly planted and sealed in a suitable location. So they concentrated this tremendous power into certain centres, some of which were planted by the priests of the path of Light and others by those whose intentions were evil.

Now this raises an interesting point because I have always explained that occult power is neither good nor evil in itself; it is the way in which it is used which directs it on to either the path of Light or the downward spiral of darkness. A simple example of this is your own means of exchange: money. On your planet you often say "money is the root of all evil" but, of course, it is not. It is the way in which it is used which can make it so, not the money itself which is simply a means of exchange. In a complex society, such as you have today, to exchange money is simpler and more flexible than to barter.

When these power centres were created by the early Atlanteans — and by other occult orders since that time — they were carefully sealed and a protection was placed around them so that no one could stumble on them by accident. If by chance one should, by some fluke, release the key to the centre, one could be affected mentally or could even disappear, for these centres hold the accumulated power of centuries and can be extremely dangerous to the uninitiated. Those power centres which were planted by people of evil intent have rather different forms of protection.

So, beware, power centre hunter, make sure you know which type you are seeking and what you are doing when you try to turn the key; because you may be releasing power

which is beyond your imagination, power p:48 which you are not equipped to control, which could destroy not only you as a person but bring suffering and misery on countless others! It has happened before and, I regret to say, it will happen again.

At the time of the fall of Atlantis a number of power centres were placed in different parts of the world, not the least of which are those which were planted in this country. There is a very special reason for this. Here I must choose my words carefully when I say that this power was placed here because this country will have the *opportunity* - and I stress the word "opportunity" - to play an important part in the affairs of your planet in the future, not in the field of armed belligerence but as a leader in the effort to achieve sanity and balance. Your country has far from reached such a goal at the present time and, as most of you realise, there is a grave danger that it might even veer in the opposite direction. But it is hoped by beings such as myself that, as time goes on, the right type of groups will gradually begin to tap these power centres and use the power which they find to benefit humanity and the world at large.

Having discovered a power centre and learnt to tap it, it is essential that the operators appreciate the responsibility involved. This is not a game, it is not an achievement, it is a fundamental responsibility to mankind. Having thus tapped such a centre it must be used constantly or it will eventually close up again. Such powers are not for aggressive use but for the bringing of Light to arrest the evil which is rampant in the world. The evolution of this planet is reaching a critical stage; I am sure I need not emphasise this to you.

Where are these power centres? Well, in view of what I have already said, you can hardly expect me to tell you! It is something you must find out for yourselves, either as individuals or as a group. As you progress so you begin to see and, as you reach for those higher levels, so you begin to understand. In understanding you will find one power centre which will in due course lead you to the next. But before you seek the road to the next I implore you to be confident that you are capable of going further, that you are capable of handling what you are likely to find behind the next sealed door. This I regard as of great importance.

The positions of the power centres in this country form certain patterns, patterns of which it would be wrong for me to speak because such knowledge could be harmful. Let me put it to

you this way: it is not that these patterns are secret but it is better that you find them for yourselves. The key to each power centre differs according to the person or the group because it is an occult key and, if I were to explain it to you, it would mean nothing and only confuse you. There are instances, such as this, when knowledge can be dangerous, but if you care to seek for yourselves it will gradually unfold. It is something which needs to be approached with patience and care; it is not a problem to which the solution will present itself in a couple of weeks.

It may take years to achieve the stage of understanding necessary for work in this particular field of occult study; and only if you are able to touch the frequency of those who originally planted the centres will you be able to discover and tap them.

P:49

If you were to peruse a map of England and plot on it details of some of the power centres which are already known you would find a pattern emerging. I am not telling you anything when I speak of such famous centres as Glastonbury, Stonehenge, Avebury, for there are many others, perhaps the most important of which you do not know. But even by taking the ones which are well known you can begin to build a picture and from this picture some interesting deductions can be made. You would find a pattern emerging as a result of such studies, a pattern which reflects the evolution of the planet.

The power waiting to be tapped at these sources could benefit not only those immediately concerned with its release, but could also generate peace and confidence amongst the peoples of this planet, thereby adding strength to the forces of Light in this ever-increasing battle between good and evil.

P:50

Further Thoughts on Power Centres

Behind every thought there is another thought. Indeed, when you hear me giving a lecture it is being given on many levels at the same time.

Those of you whose senses are tuned to cover the widest range of frequencies will receive it in the greatest depth. Some may prefer to hear it on an etheric level only, although most will hear it on a physical level only. Because the development of your physical senses limits you to hearing on one particular set of frequencies, this does not mean to say that others do not exist, for indeed they do. I would like to apply this as a simile to the type of power which exists at a power centre.

Power centres are places where it could be said that the power of many, many generations of universal seeking has been accumulated. Those who concern themselves with power centres know that such places do not exist here and there in a higgledy-piggledy fashion; in fact, they form a pattern and a very important one. It is not always wise to express the details of such matters in print for to do so could cause more harm than good but, for the purpose of this lecture, suffice it to say that these complexes do exist. So, when considering what lies behind any power centre, simply to analyse the "feel" of a single place alone is not enough, as each location must be taken in relation to the complex as a whole. These patterns I speak of are in reality thought lines which link through to other power centres. Please remember that no two power centres are identical as each one in itself is forming part of a greater picture. Many occultists realise that they exist in certain groupings and this is why they endeavour to find the key to the group so that they may harness the power from that complex as a whole.

The thought-patterns behind power centres exist on all levels and are inter-communicative; thus the lines of power must be multi-directional in the sense that the links which they form must be on various levels of existence. So, if an occultist is really going to gain the optimum use of a power centre, he must learn to understand its many facets or frequencies according to his own capacity. Each power centre is a universe in itself, a pulsating, living thing which, if treated and nurtured correctly, can help to bring love, understanding and healing to the world; but should it be used improperly it becomes a diabolical weapon. This is why it is

important that these centres fall into the right hands as they could also be used for evil. You must remember that all forms of universal power are neither good nor evil in themselves; it is the use to which they are put p:51 which determines their "shade". Evil is an intention; you either want to help somebody or you want to hinder them; you choose to be selfish or selfless.

The type of key to these power centres is very involved and, for the uninitiated who try to tap them, the results could be violent, because they would be playing with powers which are beyond their understanding and their ability to cope with. If the workers — and here I speak not only for those in this society but all occultists throughout the world who are working for the powers of Light — are able to amass the force from these power centres it will be a tremendous aid to bringing the world back into a state of balance, from which it is far removed at the present time.

However, should these centres fall into the wrong hands, the thought is too terrifying to enlarge upon; for, remember, the powers of darkness do not observe the moral codes of the paths of Light.

So, when you consider power centres, remember your own personal responsibility, remember that your thoughts and actions can affect your fellow men, your friends, your colleagues; in fact, they can affect the future destiny of the planet. These are forces greater than many of you could imagine.

I have been asked whether there is any connection between certain happenings in the life of Jesus Christ and the power centres in this country.

During the so called "missing years" of Jesus's life he did, in fact, travel extensively and, although travel was primitive in those days compared with your modern means of transport, it was quite possible and was not as difficult as you might assume today. Jesus visited many countries in the Middle East, Far East and Europe and he most certainly came to the south-west of England. There are areas in this part of your country where his vibration can be felt today, Cornwall and Somerset being examples.

One of the reasons for these journeys was to mature and prolong certain links which had been created in those parts of the world long before his incarnation. By coming to this country he was able to resuscitate and bring fresh life to certain power centres, so that these would be available to be drawn on to help bring life and Light to the world during periods of trouble in future times. A tremendous darkness has overtaken this planet during the past hundred years and it was for these times that the preparations were made. This power has been added to by occultists and saints over many generations and its nature is such that it could serve to drive a wedge deep into the powers of darkness. By visiting this country and attending to these centres Jesus was able to provide the necessary link, or bridge, so that even to this day these various centres can be used and opened up for the benefit of humanity.

At this time it is not prudent that I should give more detail and I know you will understand and accept it on this level. There is a tremendous competition amongst groups all over this planet to try to draw from these power centres. Many of them will succeed initially but fail subsequently, because they will suddenly find that they are incapable of handling the type of power which they have unleashed. So, if you are personally involved in the field of power centres, I beseech you not to try to run before you can walk. Make sure you are capable of harnessing and using the power properly from the centre you have found before you consider seeking the next. Try to understand why you have found it, its meaning and what it is intended to be used for; remember, the vibration and the pattern of each centre is unique in itself, as indeed will be your application of it. P:53

Hell

There are many who smile when they look upon their friends who regard the state of hell as being a place of fire and brimstone. They smile because they think they know better. Hell, they say, is something that one brings on oneself; whatever suffering one undergoes in spirit is a result of one's own blindness in [a] preceding evolution. In this lecture I think we should take a look at what actually does happen, as it is not quite as simple and clear cut as it may seem from this explanation.

Man has achieved considerable material and physical development upon this planet that has produced the civilisation in which you find yourself at present. When he is confronted with the equations and formulae presented to him by modern science he finds it rather difficult to consider either the concept of a God above him or the possibility of forces below him. In fact, he is blinded by his own ego. This type of spiritual blindness can be just as dangerous as the deliberate path of evil.

There is a reason why God has sent many emissaries to the planet Earth to try to bring enlightenment. Man has retrogressed considerably over the centuries and in that retrogression lies a great danger, for he has found it much easier to consider evil than good and has allowed this weakness to dominate his everyday life.

When a spirit starts on the path of retrogression it enters on a downward spiral; which brings us back to our subject matter: hell. Now, in my understanding, hell is not quite as Mr. Dante depicts, for it is a mental state which for some spirits is brought about by a comparison of what they have achieved with what they could have achieved. When a spirit passes over in a state of retrogression it limits itself to a very material plane; therefore, although it has left its Earth body, it tends to continue thinking in material terms. As it begins to make the comparison mentioned above, instead of saying "well, this is what I did and this is what I might have done; never mind, let's go on from there", in its lack of wisdom and its despair it says "look at what I did, look at what I might have done. There's no turning back now, I've got to go on, downwards". In some cases the spirit will actually enjoy the downward path because the baser thoughts are still with it; and things which are base are rather like drugs, the more you take them the more you need them. So the desire of that

spirit for lower and lower influences becomes stronger and stronger until it becomes insatiable. It seeks further suffering to inflict not only on itself but also on other spirits and other beings around it. It becomes both masochistic and sadistic and these states manifest themselves more strongly as the spiral descends.

Unfortunately, there are many spirits that have at one time attained a high level of evolution but in their seeking have strayed off the right path.

This sometimes results when a spirit reaches a stage where it is able to manipulate power; using this power to aid itself for its own personal benefit it will blind itself to the magnificence and wisdom of God the Ultimate. Such fallen spirits must have lower spirits to feed on and those unfortunate souls on the downward spiral that I have just mentioned are the ideal bait. They become enmeshed in a web where they are unconsciously working for a powerful entity.

But these powers of evil have not the same qualities of mercy and love as God; they are hard masters and, in your Earth language, they expect their "pound of flesh". They will do everything they can to foster the suffering that goes on in this hell state and to encourage lesser spirits to fight and thwart one another. What happens, in effect, is that in their mental wanderings these lesser spirits create situations which become increasingly horrible, base and low. The spiral becomes extended and the tragedy is that the further they sink the more difficult it is for them to rise again.

So those people on Earth who are trying to bring an understanding of God to the world are working on many more planes of thought than they at first realise. Strange as it may seem, however, this hell does not have a great influence on people incarnate on Earth unless they are mentally ill, although certain of the more powerful evil spirits would wish otherwise!

Your planet is under the influence of the evil spirit Lucifer, as I have explained in an earlier lecture, but the influence of the rightful deva and those other servants of God that are working with it has so far saved you from complete submission to the power of evil. The spirit of the Ultimate, in the form of Jesus Christ, has aided Mikael in its battle to restore the rulership of Earth to the powers of Light; while many high evil spirits fight on the side of Lucifer, bringing fear and distrust amongst people.

These two afflictions are the very antithesis of love, love in a whole- consuming sense; for true love is a love on every level and the higher love goes the wider it becomes. The hordes of Lucifer encourage possessiveness which brings pain and suffering. It is their perverted genius which has brought about some of the horrors that have taken place on Earth. Yet man with all his material science and civilisation is so blind that he cannot see it.

Many people on your planet who are engaged in psychic work claim that in sleep state they have descended into hell to help spirits that are hopelessly lost and floundering. I would just like to make one comment here and say to all those good people: carry on your good work! To provide an illustration to you of how serious it is, may I say that the deepest that any of you have penetrated is only to the outermost fringe.

In fact, it is impossible for me to tell you what hell is really like because, in its way, it is as far removed from Earth logic and reason as is a conception of the Godhead. Remember, the universe is infinite; therefore, its two extremes are also infinite. p:55

The Occult Effects of Drug Taking

In this lecture I intend to discuss the consequences of drug taking for so-called uplifting purposes. I wish the word "uplifting" to include cases of people who take drugs to help them over some difficult situation, as well as those who do so in the hope of gaining some form of psychic or so-called spiritual experience, as the effect is more or less the same.

I view all forms of enforced meditation with suspicion because those who seek this type of short cut to spiritual experience rarely understand what is happening to them; and if they should fall into the category of those who think they do know the answers they are even more dangerous.

The "I", the spirit, ego or psyche, that spark which motivates your body, enters at the moment of conception in order to undergo forms of physical experience. Its controlling mechanism is very sensitive and the liaison or link which connects it with its physical shell is in a delicate balance, to say the least, so that it does not require much to destroy this equilibrium. Most of you have some slight imbalance between the spirit and the body, for as beings incarnate on a physical plane you are not perfect; but it is only when these imbalances become accentuated that serious problems set in. One factor which can affect the balance is modern day living with its noise, tension and false pace of life. Imbalances in the human body bring about some form of illness and this is, in effect, a mutation in itself. A typical example of such an imbalance in mutation form is that dreaded disease, cancer.

This is the Aquarian age the age of the mind — and man is trying to seek into his mind and penetrate the depths of that strange computer-like object he calls the brain. This is not new for he has been engaged in such studies for many years, but he is constantly seeking new techniques to aid him in his quest. Perhaps he is looking for short cuts as well? There are those who suffer under the very false delusion that the taking of drugs is a short cut. On the surface it may appear to be so to some, but a short cut to what? As I see it, it is a short cut to the complete breakdown of spiritual values and to the complete and wanton destruction of the physical vehicle. So what then is left? To put it in a nutshell, drug taking is the surest and quickest way of retarding the evolution of the individual! But am I being too harsh? Am I failing to go with the trend? Any spirit that comes to a planet to throw some form of light

into the darkness has to try to keep things moving, for stagnation is retrogression. We cannot therefore condone any form of negative teaching, because negation does not help anybody. If you, individually, are interested in developing yourselves psychically and spiritually, you must go forward positively with clear-cut thinking. Your first objective should be to ascertain your goal and, with many people, this may take many years or even many lives!

What happens when you take a drug? The control between the spirit and the physical brain is affected according to the type and potency of the drug and parts of the subconscious are released. Many of you must be familiar with the results of an excessive intake of alcohol when portions of your conscious control are relinquished, with sometimes amusing but more often pathetic results. From a psychic point of view certain drugs induce similar processes, but the difference between drugs and alcohol lies in the speed of effect on the metabolism of the body. The drug strikes deeper as it were, the lack of control is increased and the spirit immediately leaves the body and enters the astral planes. If a person is trying to achieve a subliminal experience, and he takes a drug in anticipation of achieving such an end, his own power of thought will aid the process in the earlier stages. I cannot emphasise to you sufficiently the effects of the power of thought; when a person dies and the spirit leaves the body, that which is left of the essence of that particular personality lives on in a state of thought, so that the state of mind prevailing at the time of passing is important to further spiritual evolution.

When the spirit leaves the body as a result of drug taking it is projected onto a thought plane; the connection between the subconscious and the conscious mind is loosened and, consequently, any experiences undergone on the spirit plane are easily relayed upon return to the body. Thus a form of psychic experience is effected. But, unfortunately, the drug is having a deteriorating effect on the body so that the actual mechanism of the brain is becoming slowly enfeebled. Perhaps the first few sessions will prove quite agreeable but, remember, the spirit is being catapulted onto a plane upon which it has no proper form of control. There is no one there to watch over it and see that it does not come to any harm. By its own actions it has rejected its spirit helpers.

This form of ejection of the spirit from the body is completely unnatural.

It causes bewilderment to the spirit because there is still the link to the body while the psychic consciousness is operating on a false freedom. If the person becomes addicted to the drug and then has to increase the dose the physical body begins to degenerate. Those who have become complete addicts will know within themselves the form of suffering which is undergone, although to a person who is not a drug-taker this is almost impossible to understand. Perhaps the most terrifying aspect of this is the form of revulsion which addicts feel within themselves for what they have done and are doing.

When the physical body can take no more the spirit finally moves on. It leaves that body knowing, usually, that the drug has prevented it from discharging its karma in that life, for drug taking is not a natural form of experience and could even be described as a form of anti-experience. You see, that person has systematically destroyed his or her own body by deliberately breaking the elemental patterns of which it was composed. P:57 It seems strange that, although many drug addicts profess love and non-violence, they are unable to extend this philosophy to the preservation and welfare of their own physical vehicle, the components of which have as much right to consideration as the principles they preach!

Let me return for a moment to the question of anti-experience. Those of you who have heard me speak on this subject before will know I have explained that the spirit experiences physically through a process of reincarnation. It chooses its body for each life and enters it at the moment of conception with the knowledge that that particular life could offer a certain type of karma that it needs. This experience begins at the moment the spirit joins the embryo. The challenge of your life is to carry out that chosen karma within the realms of those cosmic laws which govern physical experience. However, there are certain forms of experience which are entirely alien to the physical body and these include the alienation of the mind from normal physical living; in other words, when the mind does not accept the body but tries to live constantly in the world of the spirit.

I can assure you that no one experiences the higher planes through any artificial or unnatural means such as drug taking. Contrary to what they may believe, drug-takers do not take a trip to these higher realms; their experiences are usually undergone on the astral planes that can afford a spirit a very wide range of experiences, varying from colourful impressions to the horrific nightmares of a "bad trip". In order to experience on the higher

planes it is necessary to ascend through a series of natural psychic and spiritual developments called initiations; spirits can only attain to such exalted realms when they are ready to go there. It is a process of evolution, of gaining wisdom, and there are no short cuts to spiritual evolution. To unlock the door you must first acquire the wisdom to turn the key and you cannot acquire such wisdom from the contents of a bottle! Wisdom is attained over many incarnations through the achievement of karma and karma is something from which you cannot escape; you cannot avoid it, you cannot cheat it!

From this you can see that a person who destroys himself through drug taking has usually denied himself the karma for which he has entered that body, because he has spent portions of that life going through forms of what are, in effect, anti-experience. To make matters worse, he has abandoned his body for long periods before actual death because the spirit has been forcibly ejected by the action of the drug. Sometimes, while the addict is on a "trip", the body becomes possessed by another spirit. This is a most unpleasant experience as the possessor is unable to control the body while it is under the effects of the drug and often results in fits of uncontrollable violence for which the person cannot account once the effect of the drug has worn off.

All the time, then, there is this programme of total destruction and the spirit is left in a state of complete humiliation, degeneration and bewilderment. Unfortunately, it usually takes a long time before that spirit can work through the karmic barriers it has erected about itself. There is no penitence worse than self-inflicted penitence; there is no torture worse than the p:58 torture of a spirit that has completely frustrated itself. Once such a spirit leaves its body there is the additional frustration that it can no longer rely upon the drug to ferry it into a series of astral experiences. Without artificial aids it is reliant upon its own power of thought which it has not been in the habit of using. So the experiences it has enjoyed are denied to it for, without a body, they cannot be bought by a "fix". Such is the torture of the addict whose supply has been permanently cut off.

Is it possible for a drug addict to benefit from healing? Unfortunately, from an occult point of view, it is extremely difficult to help a person who is under the influence of a drug, for the occultist has nothing to control; he or she is faced with half a person, in effect. For healing to be effective it must be absorbed by the spirit which then relays it to the physical body. If

the spirit is continually being forced away from the body it cannot relay the healing power which could bring the body into a state of wholeness.

Before I end this lecture I should like to go beyond the realms of drug taking and touch on some other psychic pitfalls which are just as dangerous. In the eastern world forms of meditation have developed over a number of years and many of them have been designed for the uplifting of the soul. Some of these have penetrated westwards but, like most things which come from the East to the West, they have been adapted to meet the way of the westerner. It is important to realise that in the East there is an entirely different approach to spiritual thinking, inherited and developed through the centuries, from the approach which has evolved in western civilization; certain forms of meditation used in the East can be, in my opinion, extremely dangerous to the westerner, especially if they involve the relinquishing of mental control. The westerner should always try to think positively but never beyond that of which he is capable.

Unfortunately, there are types of meditation at the present time which have come from the East and which tempt man to try to step beyond the realms of his own capabilities; they encourage meditation of a negative nature which can ultimately produce a similar effect, from the psychic point of view, as drug taking.

I shall enlarge upon this a little more because meditation is a subject about which I feel very strongly. I see it as a discipline which should only be carried out under strict supervision. It is a simple psychological trick to use a form of pseudo-positive meditation and enforce people to over-concentrate on one idea in order to make the mind susceptible. This technique has, in fact, the effect of creating a vacuum in the mind, which in itself can be very dangerous. I do not wish to enter into too much detail on this as it is very much an occult matter and I am trying to point a moral rather than give a list of "dos" and "don'ts".

The moral is a simple one. It is that in any form of seeking man must guard himself against his own personal vanity. It is very easy in the beginning to say "I am going to have a go at this, because I can always pull myself out of it at the last moment", or "I am going to have that or do this, because I know I can always stop". I am quite sure that most addicts have said this at some time or other!

The same type of vanity unfortunately prevails amongst many spiritual p:59 seekers. They see in their astral experiences a form of entertainment or escape which exists purely for their amusement; they convince themselves that it is furthering their spiritual evolution and they blindly claim immunity from any evil consequences. Man must learn never to push himself beyond that which he knows in his true self he is capable of achieving. If he follows this principle he cannot go wrong. But at the same time he must think and work positively and progressively within this framework; for this in itself is a step on the ladder of evolution and, as I have always taught, the plan of the world is evolution, with the Godhead as the Ultimate.

P:60