

### Out of the depths

Good evening friends, and welcome to the festival of Virgo, and an especially warm welcome to all those who are joining us around the world via BlogTalk Radio.

Virgo is a sign which is closely related to Matter. It is an earth sign, and is towards the end of the cycle of descent of Spirit into Matter, beginning with Aries. In addition, the esoteric ruler of Virgo is the Moon, which is often a symbol of matter; and in the case of Virgo, is also said to veil Vulcan. In the enumeration of the different Schools of the Solar System, the School on Vulcan is called the School for Fiery Stones. The Tibetan remarks that there is a curious connection between the human units who pass through its halls and the mineral kingdom. The human units on the earth scheme are called in mystical parlance "the living stones"; while on Vulcan they are called "fiery stones."

In *Esoteric Astrology* we learn, "...Vulcan establishes relation between the fourth kingdom in nature and the first. Vulcan,... is governed by the first ray, and the first ray and the first kingdom are definitely bound together. This, therefore, brings in the Shamballa force and you consequently have an esoteric triangle of energy—will, humanity and the mineral kingdom. They have a very close rapport with each other, both from the angle of the Plan and from the expression of material selfishness. Hence the great use of minerals (iron, copper, etc.) in the [Second World War]. It [was] literally a war in which the mineral kingdom [was] used against the human. Humanity had gone down into the caves and the depths of concretion and is ready now for an upward shift or move, this time consciously taken and taken all together. This is a most difficult situation for the average man to comprehend but the entire problem of the conscious use of that which exists upon the planet and also its destructive usage is tied together into one most critical situation. Part of the solution will come along similar lines and of this the prophecy now coming into the racial awareness that there are those 'who sleep in the caves of the earth who will arise and bring liberation' has reference. But be not too literal in interpretation for 'that which is of the earth can also be found in the sky.'" (*Es. Astro.* pp.386-7) The Tibetan's reference to those who sleep in caves may refer to the various legends around the world of sleeping heroes. In Britain, not only is King Arthur placed in this category, but also Thomas the Rhymer, a thirteenth century poet and prophet of the Scottish Borders, and, in the early fifteenth century, Owain Glyndwr, the last native Welshman to hold the title of Prince of Wales. A few of many other examples are two of the Holy Roman Emperors, Charlemagne and Frederick Barbarossa, the Pueblo Native American hero, Montezuma, and good King Wenceslas of Bohemia. What esoteric truth these legends veil may be revealed at some future date; it is also worth recalling in this context the Tibetan's remark that a legend concerning the Buddha asserts that He left His vestures in a safe place so that in future the Christ might use them.

The idea of there being spiritual entities hidden in underground locations who are simply waiting for the right moment to come out and help humanity may have a certain appeal, and there are also a number of legends relating to the subterranean kingdom of Aghartha, reached by vast tunnels. But we ought to exercise a degree of caution here, and not be swept away by the exciting nature of these legends. As we know, the seventh ray is now gaining in strength, and so we should be prepared for its impact in consciousness to be expressed in sometimes distorted ways, as we learn to work with its potencies. The vast growth in fiction devoted to magic and to secret societies is surely one sign of this distortion arising. It is interesting that when referring to the glammers of the seventh ray, the Tibetan specifically mentions the glamour of the subterranean powers.

With this caveat in mind, let's delve under the surface of the earth to examine more closely the kingdom which in a very literal sense 'sub-stands' all the others, the mineral kingdom. Before we do, let's take a few moments

of silence, and then we will say together the Mantram of the will

In the centre of the will of God I stand.  
Naught shall deflect my will from His.  
I implement that will by love.  
I turn towards the field of service.  
I, the Triangle divine, work out that will  
Within the square and serve my fellowmen.

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From the standpoint of esotericism, the Tibetan gives us the following classification of the mineral kingdom:

“...the mineral kingdom... is itself divided into three main kingdoms:

- a. The baser metals, such as lead and iron, with all allied minerals.
- b. The standard metals, such as gold and silver, which play such a vital part in the life of the race, and are the mineral manifestation of the second aspect.
- c. The crystals and precious stones, the first aspect as it works out in the mineral kingdom—the consummation of the work of the mineral devas, and the product of their untiring efforts.” (*Cos. Fire* p.495)

Exoteric geology gives a different threefold classification, dividing rocks into igneous, sedimentary and metamorphic types. The transformation of one rock type to another is described by the rock cycle mentioned earlier. The names of each type give a good indication of their nature: ‘igneous’ basically means ‘of fire, fiery’, and is related to the Sanskrit word *Agnih*, a term familiar to esotericists. It’s igneous rocks that we see flowing out of volcanoes. Sedimentary is made up of sediment, things which have settled down - the classic example is sandstone, a stone made out of sand being slowly compressed together. Metamorphic is very closely related to that well-known esoteric term, transmutation, for it refers to rocks which have, through the application of intense heat and/or pressure, changed their form, or, as we might say, been initiated. The paradigm example is diamond.

Most of us, in our everyday lives, probably don’t think much about the life and consciousness of the mineral kingdom. After all, whatever it involves, it’s probably so remote in nature from our experience that there aren’t any ready analogies or points of contact. One of the most obvious aspects of this is the relationship of the mineral kingdom to time. Because human history has now been recorded for something like five thousand years, we can make some kind of sense of the notion that there is a bristlecone pine which is roughly this age. But the age of rock formations is routinely of the order of *millions* of years. Because of this, and also because of the solidity of rocks and stones, the temptation is to think that minerals are very undynamic. To some extent, the science of geology comes to our rescue here, as it presents a view of vast stretches of time, during which rocks themselves are constantly changing form, a process known as the rock cycle. Thus, the evolution of the life and consciousness of the mineral kingdom can proceed according to the Plan. But the impression still remains of a very slow and stolid kingdom.

The well-known Theosophist Geoffrey Hodson comes to our rescue here, in a vivid description of what he refers to as “the Gods of gold”, by which he means those members of the angelic or devic kingdom whose role it is to bring about the manifestation of the element gold. He says, “They may be thought of as the divine idea of gold manifest as a Order of living beings. Members of this hierarchy are drawn by vibratory affinity into the streams of gold force which are constantly descending from the creative Source into the physical world.” We might pause to note in particular this idea of a *constant* descent of energy, so that all creation is an perpetual ongoing *process*, not something which is ever finished. He continues, “Their presence and assistance intensify the

component frequencies and thereby augment the form-producing power of the Word-force. Thus, part of the function of the Gods of gold, as also of all Gods of the Order of Builders, is to assist in the process of the production of physical substances and forms.”

He goes on to describe his encounter with these beings:

“On the surface of such a gold-bearing reef as the Witwatersrand in South Africa, I have seen numbers of Gods and nature spirits associated with the creative force, the ensouling life, and the indwelling consciousness of gold. Above them both spatially and in evolution, were groups of higher Gods, whilst beyond these again, dimly perceived, was the one Planetary Intelligence of Gold. This great Being appeared to be merged, as Co-ordinator, Director and Awakener, with the force, the life and the consciousness of Gold.

On the Rand, at the levels of emotion and concrete thought, a Gold group consciousness exists. This is separated from other mineral groups by its enveloping membrane, the differences of the frequency of gold creative force and the fact of the superior development of the ensouling life of gold.”

As an aside, Hodson is here tuning into the frequency of gold. Presumably he could have tuned into the frequency of other chemical elements with their own “gods” or higher devas, each of which creatively weaves together their forces in collaboration with all the others, to produce the vast diversity of rocks in geological formation.

Returning to Hodson’s description:

“The descending force... resembles roughly a glowing, conical shaft of sunlight shining from the apex which is the planetary creative Source, down into the earth...

The hosts of the Gods of gold were seen moving amidst the descending stream of gold power...

These lesser Gods of Gold... move slowly in a chainlike interweaving... At the same time they maintain a graceful motion of the arms, as in the hand-sowing of seed. Apparently oblivious of externals, they use their minds to impart to the ‘descending’ triple stream of gold power, life, and consciousness, an additional force and individuality...

Various types of nature spirits are down in the depths, often a mile below... Each is associated with a certain area of subterranean rock. They appear to be manipulating earth forces, using tremendous will-power in the process, as if they were hammering and welding the descending energies into homogeneity and solidarity. This work is, however, not manual but the result of instinctively exerted will. They seem to gain great satisfaction from this activity, to experience a feeling of mastery over powerful forces which gives them the impulse to sustain their concentration.

The gold appears amongst the rock like tiny beads, whilst the smallest gold nature spirits moving around and within them resemble minute bacteria of spiral form, in colour growing gold. At the etheric level, myriads of them are ‘swimming’ about in the descending stream where the deposits occur. The whole give the impression of a vast laboratory with innumerable workers, in which elements are continually being formed and over which a Mastermind presides.

The Gods and nature spirits of gold do not appear to resent the mining. They are utterly impersonal and wherever the gold is taken they are in contact with the life within it. Similarly the rock gnomes do not resent rocks being broken up. On the contrary, explosions and drilling stimulate them and they revel in the display of power, not caring that the rock is shattered. Indeed, they are less aware of the solid rock than of the force compressed within it. They can see the boring tools but are not normally aware of men, being so remote in terms of frequency from man that they are almost blind to human existence.” (Hodson, *The Kingdom of the Gods*, pp. 29-31)

Hodson’s remarks concerning the mineral kingdom’s enjoyment of disruptive forces ties in with the following comment by the Tibetan: “It is interesting to note that during this round, owing to planetary decision, the

process of producing human radiation or 'release' is being artificially stimulated through the method which we call initiation, and the short cut to intensive purification and stimulation is open to all who are willing to pass through the divine alchemical fire. Simultaneously, in the other kingdoms of nature a process somewhat similar in kind though not in degree is being attempted. The tremendous manipulation of ores, the scientific work of the chemist, and scientific investigation is analogous in the mineral kingdom to the world processes which are being utilised to liberate the human spark. Out of the chaos and turmoil of the World War, for instance, and the weight of metal undergoing violent disintegration the mineral monad emerged as from an initiatory test, incomprehensible as this may seem." (*Cos. Fire* pp.1075-6)

Another passage in *Cosmic Fire* is closely related to Hodson's observations, and also hark back to the earlier comments about dwellers under the earth:

"Among the manipulating devas of the lowest level of the dense physical plane are to be found certain subterranean forms of existence, of which hints are to be found in the ancient and occult books. There is to be found in the very bowels of the earth, an evolution of a peculiar nature, with a close resemblance to the human. They have bodies of a peculiarly gross kind, which might be regarded as distinctly physical as we understand the term. They dwell in settlements, or groups, under a form of government suited to their needs in the central caves several miles below the crust of the earth. Their work is closely connected with the mineral kingdom, and the 'agnichaitans' of the central fires are under their control. Their bodies are constituted so as to stand much pressure, and they are not dependent upon as free a circulation of air as man is, nor do they resent the great heat to be found in the earth's interior. Little can here be communicated anent these existences, for they are connected with the lesser vital portions of the physical body of the planetary Logos, finding their microcosmic correspondence in the feet and legs of a man. They are one of the factors which make possible the revolutionary progressive activity of a planet." (*Cos.Fire*, p.891)

Thus the mineral kingdom as revealed by esotericism is clearly a dynamic, active centre of forces and energies. Another aspect of this is revealed in the exoteric science concerning telluric currents, i.e. the electric currents which flow through the earth. We don't normally think of rock as being an electrical conductor - rather the opposite - but in fact, the electrical conductivity of rock is a complex issue affected by a wide range of factors, among which is the presence of water. Telluric currents result from both natural causes and human activity, and the discrete currents interact in a complex pattern. The currents travel over large areas at or near the surface of Earth, and are primarily induced by changes in the outer part of the Earth's magnetic field, usually caused by interactions between the solar wind and the magnetosphere, or solar radiation effects on the ionosphere. This explains why scientists are very interested in monitoring the activity of the Sun, as solar storms can have a pronounced effect not only on radio transmissions, but also on the currents flowing through underwater telephone cables and electric transmission grids, and on the rate of corrosion of major oil and gas pipelines. Telluric currents flow in the surface layers of the earth, and also in the oceans.

What role, and what responsibility, does humanity have in relation to the mineral kingdom? Some answers have already been given or implied by the passages already quoted. Fundamentally, humanity exists at the midway point between the higher and lower kingdoms, and is thus the agent of the divine will towards the lower kingdoms. And with regard to the mineral kingdom, this process is assisted by the agency of Vulcan. In a number of different Ageless Wisdom teachings, including Max Heindel, Rudolf Steiner, the Agni Yoga books and the books of Alice Bailey, a surprisingly direct link is made between the overall condition of human consciousness and the behaviour of the inner fires of the planet. So our work in meditation tonight can make a positive contribution towards the relationship between humanity and our brothers and sisters in mineral form. Our seed thought is, "I am the mother and the child. I, God, I, matter am."