Human Nature

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The nature of the human being, or the self, is perhaps one of the most difficult and elusive questions which even the greatest of our scientists, philosophers, and psychologists have been unable to answer. Of course, only through a synthesis of science, religion, philosophy, and psychology can such a comprehensive question be answered, and it is for this reason perhaps that the trend towards specialization in the professional and academic world seems to have taken us even further from a true synthetic understanding of who we truly are. Today, we can see a steady trend in the right direction: Science has begun to recognize the limitations of pure materialism and mostly acknowledges the metaphysical. And religion, at least in some of its many sects and denominations, is moving away from the dead-letter of doctrine to the living Spirit which resides in and unites each and all.

Yet no field of knowledge offers such a comprehensive philosophy to describe the origin, nature, and destiny of the mankind as spiritual occultism. The science of occultism is not new by any means; it has taken many forms throughout human history. The great religions of antiquity all had their esoteric counterparts that were taught only to the initiates of those days, and they were sworn to secrecy passing on this knowledge often by word of mouth. These various forms of the Ageless Wisdom, though different in their outer appearance, are connected by the golden thread of truth that runs through all of them. This thread can be traced back to birth of mankind upon or globe, to the Lords of the Flame who brought this knowledge from "on high." Esoteric science traces the evolution of man from above, not from below as it is often considered in the biological sciences. It is natural then that this divine science, which certainly predates the existence of man on this globe, would be bequeathed to us by those spiritual existences responsible for the creation, propagation, and the individualization of humanity and its appearance in physical form.

The Ageless Wisdom teaches that Nature, that is the matter principle, unaided fails in every attempt to develop forms suitable for the Spirits or Monads which are impelled down into incarnation. It is impossible for the divine Monads to truly dwell in bodies of the densest materialism—the three-fold personality—without an intermediary. The earliest attempts at incarnation or descent into form were failures, we are told, and the presence of the Monad was latent—the creations only empty shells, possessing only a lunar or outer form and lacking the principle of intelligence or manas.

The intermediary required is a living spiritual fire. *The Secret Doctrine* states that this fire is the special possession of "the Triangles." Triangles here is reference to the Solar Angels who, having become possessed of activity, are no longer "pure" from the standpoint of the Higher, purely spiritual Hierarchies. In their activity, these fires become independent and free intelligences, and are shown in almost every theology as rebelling from divine law and being "cast out of heaven." In truth, they were always destined to incarnate as the divine soul in man during our present round.

Blavatsky writes that "Man is an animal plus a living God"—we possess a lunar form, the personality, and a divine essence or Solar Fire. The goal of man is to learn to control, guide, and utilize the lunar substances of which his lower sheaths are made. This goal requires the development of full self-consciousness which can only be brought about through the agency of these solar angels who build and vitalize the solar or egoic body—the true temple of Solomon, the immortal soul. Both meet on the plane of mind, and this plane links the individualized man with an even Higher Triad which uses the mind and

soul as its vehicle of expression. At the end of the evolutionary process, man gains full possession of all three fires, the lunar, the solar, and the electric fire of spirit. He "blazes forth" attaining to the freedom of the higher spheres, plus the experience of full self-consciousness and mastery over the lower planes of manifestation. He links spirit and matter through the full wielding of the Law.

Humanity, being the 4th kingdom in nature, therefore is not limited to simply the physical, emotional, and concrete mind with which we are so familiar. It is the special fire which sets us apart from the animals. When we assume this identity, we can fully accept the full extent of the spiritual responsibility with which karma itself has assigned us. We are representatives of the first aspect of divinity for the three lower kingdoms in nature. This requires the full manifestation of any number of spiritual powers—the wielding of truth and love above all.

The union of the lunar and the solar of which the human being is composed is itself a great symbol of the linking of mind and love—of spirit and matter—of fire, water, and earth. It is the destiny of humanity to about the presence of these spiritual forces within the lower spheres and in so doing provide a path of descent and ascent whereby the divine circulatory flow of all life in all kingdoms can be attained.