

STUDIES IN THE COSMO-CONCEPTION

Preparations for Rebirth

Question: What is the state of the Spirit prior to rebirth?

Answer: Previous to taking the dip into matter, the threefold Spirit is naked, having only the forces of the four seed atoms (which are the nuclei of the threefold body and the sheath of mind).

Question: To what might its descent be compared?

Answer: Its descent resembles the putting on of several pairs of gloves of increasing thickness.

Question: What first occurs?

Answer: The forces of the mind of the last life are awakened from their latency in the seed atom. This begins to attract to itself materials from the highest subdivision of the Region of Concrete Thought.

Question: How is this accomplished?

Answer: In a manner similar to that in which a magnet draws to itself iron filings. If we hold a magnet over a miscellaneous heap of metal filings we shall find that it selects only iron filings and that even of them it will take no more than its strength enables it to lift.

Question: How does this apply to the seed atom?

Answer: The same is true of the seed atom. It can take, in each Region, nothing except the material for which it has an affinity and nothing beyond a certain definite quantity even of that.

Question: What type of body does this produce?

Answer: Thus the vehicle built around this nucleus becomes an exact counterpart of the corresponding vehicle of the last life minus the evil which has been expurgated and plus the quintessence of good which has been incorporated in the seed atom.

Question: What form does the attracted material assume?

Answer: The material selected by the three-fold Spirit forms itself into a great bell-shaped figure, open at the bottom and with the seed atom at the top.

Question: To what might we compare this descent?

Answer: If we conceive of this illustration spiritually, we may compare it to a diving bell descending into a sea composed of fluids of increasing density.

Question: To what would these correspond?

Answer: These correspond to the different subdivisions of each World. The matter taken into the texture of the bell-shaped body makes it heavier so that it sinks into the next lower sub-division, and it takes from that its proper quota of matter. Thus it becomes still heavier and sinks yet deeper until it has passed through the four subdivisions of the Region of Concrete Thought, and the sheath of the new mind of the man is complete.

Question: What process is followed for the desire body?

Answer: Next, the forces in the seed atom of the desire body are awakened. It places itself at the top of the bell, inside, and the materials of the seventh Region of the Desire World draw around it until it sinks to the sixth Region, getting more material there, and this process continues until the first Region of the Desire World is reached. The bell has now two layers—the sheath of mind outside and the new desire body inside.

—Reference: *Cosmo*, 133-134