

READERS' QUESTIONS

Planetary Forces; Ethereic Eden; Retreat; Rosicrucian vs Orthodox

HOW PLANETARY FORCES AFFECT MANKIND

QUESTION: Somewhere in your literature I have read about the forces of the Sun entering the human body through the crown of the head and the forces of the planets entering it through the forehead. Will you please give me, the correct information on this subject, including the effect of these forces on humanity?

Answer: The forces of the solar ray enter the physical body at the center of the forehead just above the eyes. The planetary rays, with the exception of the Moon, enter the body by way of the brain and spinal cord. The lunar ray enters through the gateway of the spleen.

It is interesting to know that the direct Sun-ray forces produce spiritual illumination. The forces received by way of the planets give added consciousness, moral development, and soul growth; and those which reach us by way of the Moon result in physical growth.

The solar, stellar, and lunar rays are three-colored: blue, yellow, and red. The blue ray carries the life force of the Father. The yellow beam contains the life force of the Son, and the red ray bears the life force of the Holy Spirit. Each human being can absorb only a certain quantity of one or more of these colors according to the general stage of his or her evolution. Therefore each individual is differently affected by the various life forces functioning through the star rays.

ALCHEMY AND THE GARDEN OF EDEN

Question: Is there any connection between the



Oil on canvas, reprinted courtesy of the artist, Arthur Douët

Life After Life

The Rosicrucians teach that the purpose of material existence is the acquisition of experience (through repeated earthly embodiments) which nourishes the human spirit from nescience to omniscience—from impotence to omnipotence.

biblical Garden of Eden and the laboratory of the alchemists, the spinal cord? Did the Garden of Eden have any actual physical existence in any particular part of the world?

Answer: The Garden of Eden did, indeed, actually exist. It was the etheric region of our physical Earth, and mankind dwelt there. This was in the time known in the Rosicrucian Teachings as the Lemurian Epoch. At that time man was not fully aware of his dense body, and his consciousness was focused almost entirely in the spiritual world, particularly in the etheric region. He was banished from that region (i.e., his consciousness was focused in the dense world) because of his contact with the Lucifer Spirits, who taught him how to exercise the creative function independently of the Angels and in that way provide new bodies at will, and also lest he learn the secret of vitalizing his vital body at will and thus frustrate evolution.

The work of the alchemists in the spinal cord is entirely different. This work consists of the alchemical process of kindling and lifting up through the spinal cord to the head that part of the creative force now being used for the generation of

bodies. When this force reaches the head it will unite with the other half of the creative force, which in the past was lifted up to build a brain and a larynx. When this is accomplished man will be able to speak the creative word, imbued with life and vibrant with vital energy. He will possess an etheric organ within the head and throat, an organ being built by service which will enable him to infuse vitality into inert substance.

A GOOD RETREAT

Question: Do you know of a place, a home or retreat where one may go to live this beautiful, simple and harmless life you are advocating?

Answer: No, we do not know of any home, and if a home were founded for that purpose, we should feel very sorry for its inmates. If we have a high temper and go into the mountains to live as recluses where there are no people to rile our sensibilities, it is small credit to us that we do not become impatient with others. If we find it difficult to overcome our vices or faults in the city, and go into the wilds where those temptations do not exist, small is our credit for not yielding. We have been placed in cities and among our fellows in order that we should accustom and accommodate ourselves to them, and learn to keep our tempers despite any riling—learn to shun temptations where they exist. One may be in the mountains and his heart in the city, or he may immure himself in a monastery and yet be longing for the pleasures of the world. It is best to stay in the place where we are found and there develop the spiritual qualities that shall make us better men and women. There is work to be done in the world, and if we fly from the world, how shall we do it? We have a responsibility to our fellowmen. Unless we discharge that responsibility we are shirking our duty, and fate will bring us back in such an environment that we cannot escape. Therefore, it is better to aim to learn all the lessons that are at our hands instead of running away from them.

ROSICRUCIAN VS ORTHODOX TEACHINGS

Question: What is the essential difference between the teachings of the Rosicrucian Philosophy and the orthodox church?

Answer: There are many, but perhaps the principal one is the teaching of orthodoxy that at each birth a newly created soul enters material existence fresh from the hand of God, that it lives here in a material body for a longer or shorter span of time and then passes out by death into the invisible beyond, there to remain for all eternity in a state of happiness or misery according to what it did while here in the body.

The Rosicrucian teaching is that each soul is an integral part of God, which is seeking to gain experience by repeated existences in gradually improving material bodies and that therefore, it passes into and out of material existences many times; that each time it gathers a little more experience than it previously possessed and in time is nourished from nescience to omniscience—from impotence to omnipotence—by means of these experiences.

Our sense of justice revolts against a teaching which sends one soul into a home of culture and a noble family where it has the advantage of wealth, where moral teachings are implanted in the growing child, but sends another into the slums, its father a thief and the mother, perhaps, immoral, and where its teachings consist in lying, stealing, etc. If here only once, all should have the same chance if they are to be judged by the same laws, and we know that no two people have the same experiences in life. We know that where one meets many temptations, another lives comparatively untouched by the storms of life.

Therefore, when one soul is placed in a moral environment and another, in immoral surroundings, it is not right to send the one to a heaven of enjoyment and eternal bliss for doing the right he could not help doing, nor is it just to send the other to a hell for stealing and robbing when the environment and the conditions into which he was thrown were such that he could not help himself.

Therefore, the Rosicrucian teaching holds that we come into whatever place is best fitted for us by our previous experiences in former lives, and that we get just what we deserve in all cases; that all experiences which come to us are just what we need to give us the appropriate impetus for our next step in unfoldment. □