

MYSTIC LIGHT



What is Time?

ACCORDING to *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*, time is a duration, the measured period during which an action, process, or condition exists or continues. Time can also be a continuum which lacks spatial dimensions and in which events succeed one another from past through present to future. What then precisely is time?

Scientists say that time is something related to various events in nature. For example the daily rotation of the earth's spin-axis resulting in alternating daylight and darkness, the annual earth seasons, the backward precession of the equinoxes along the ecliptic plane of the earth, or, a more recent disclosure, the decay rate of some specific nuclear isotope. Still others say that time is a grand illusion, it is something that deceives the eye by producing a false impression or delusion.

Max Heindel said that there is only an eternal now! Apparent time in the dense Physical World is simply God exercising His ability of creation/evolution of various life forms in His domain. Some life forms in God's kingdom are minerals, plants, animals, humans, Angels, and Archangels. The Bible's opening book of Genesis tells us that "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." Max Heindel said that the first aspect of the triune God manifests as Will to create. It then arouses the second aspect, which is Wisdom to design a plan for a future universe. The third aspect is Activity, which produces motion in cosmic substance. Motion alone, however, is not sufficient. To form a system of worlds, it must be orderly motion. Wisdom is therefore necessary to guide motion in an intelligent manner to produce definite results.

Time from a human viewpoint is thus based upon some practical point of reference, a form or pattern of orderly motion in Nature (i.e. God), such as the daily rotation of the earth's spin-axis, resulting in alternating daylight and darkness. It is necessary for human and animal life forms on this planet earth to have periods of rest because of our heavy physical bodies. This is the reason why God created periods of daylight and darkness. Some creatures are of course nocturnal, which means they are active in their physical bodies at night and sleep during the day.

Max Heindel also said that in the Desire World there is neither heat nor cold, forms levitate as well as gravitate; distance and time are nonexistent. There is only one continuous span of everlasting daylight and color, no darkness. Human beings never get tired in the Desire World. The Spirit is not restrained by a heavy physical body, therefore it does not need sleep and conscious experience is not broken.

Spiritual substances are not subject to the expansion and contraction resulting from the application of heat and cold, therefore summer and winter are nonexistent. Also, most humans in the Desire World are unable to determine the chronological relation of events. Only students of the stellar sciences (astronomy/astrology) and esoteric teachings are able to calculate the time of passage after their demise.

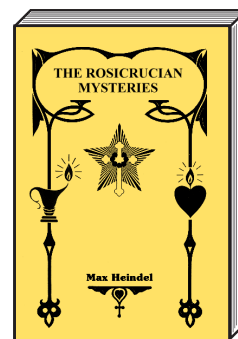
When an occult investigator in the Desire World wishes to study an event in the past history of man, he may most readily call up the picture from the memory of nature, but if he desires to fix the time of the incident, he will be obliged to count backwards by the motion of the heavenly bodies. For that purpose, he generally uses the measure provided by the Sun's precession. Each year the Sun crosses the earth's equator about the twenty-first of March. Because of a certain wobbling motion of the earth's axis, the Sun does not cross over at the same place in the zodiac. It reaches the equator a little earlier. It gradually moves backwards around the whole circle of the zodiac in about 26,000 years or approximately one arc-degree of space in 72 years.

We have been told by the Rosicrucian Elder

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Brothers that seven cosmic days of manifestation are experienced for humanity to attain to Godhood. Humanity is presently a little more than halfway thru the fourth day of manifestation. Each day of manifestation lasts for many millions of dense Physical World earth years of time! Also, between each day of manifestation God reabsorbs His creations back into primordial substance called Chaos and time stops! At a later day of manifestation God's creations re-emerge from Chaos into Cosmos at a higher level of evolution than the previous day of manifestation. So I ask you again, what is time? □

—Harry O'Connell