

**Self-Study Guide:  
The Web of Destiny  
by Max Heindel**

**Introduction**

This study guide is intended for use with *The Web of Destiny* by Max Heindel. The guide contains two groups of questions for each section in *The Web of Destiny*. The first group of questions for a section are questions whose answer may be found somewhere in the section. The second group of questions are labeled as "thought questions." The answers to these questions are not given in the section, but rather can be answered by relating what was said in the section to one's own experience and by using one's creative imagination.

In using the study guide it is recommended that one first read an entire section from *The Web of Destiny* to get an overall picture of the topic being discussed. Then answer the questions below, referring back to the text as needed.

It is hoped that this study guide will help the reader clarify and make more precise the understanding of esoteric Truths, so that he or she may tread the path with a more certain step.

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## **The Web of Destiny**

### **Section 1 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

1-1] Why must every action have a corresponding reaction?

1-2] Explain how the law of Cause and Effect compels people to be reborn.

1-3] Correctly complete each sentence by inserting in each blank one of the following: dense body, vital body, desire body, mind.

That which is now the \_\_\_\_\_ was the first vehicle acquired by man. Currently, the \_\_\_\_\_ is the most organized of man's vehicles, and the \_\_\_\_\_ is the least organized. Even the most abnormally degenerate \_\_\_\_\_ can be thoroughly cleansed inside a few months. The activity of the \_\_\_\_\_ must be brought under subjection to the will of the spirit before it is safe to enter the spiritual worlds. The higher part of the \_\_\_\_\_ can be developed into a Soul Body for use in soul- flights.

1-4] What makes the two higher ethers of the vital body grow in volume?

#### **Thought Question:**

1-5] We have not seen any reactions to some of our actions. Why?

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### **Section 2 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

2-1] Once one has learned to enter the higher worlds in his soul body, can he then accurately read the Memory of Nature? Why?

2-2] a) Where, within an individual, is a record of his life stored?  
b) How does this record get into this storage place?

2-3] There is a record of the occurrences on Earth stored in the vital body of the Earth. When people study this record, what problem do they encounter?

2-4] From what part of what world does this initiate prefer to read the record of the past?

### **Thought Questions:**

2-5] Of what value is it to be able to read the Memory of Nature?

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### **Section 3 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

3-1] Choose from each parentheses the word or phrase which correctly completes the sentence.

In the hours immediately following death, the panoramic pictures which were stored in the seed atom in the [heart, liver, solar plexus) are transferred from there through the (chemical, life, light, reflecting) ether of the vital body into the (desire body, mind).

3-2] Choose from each parentheses the word or phrase which correctly completes the sentence.

Devotion to high ideals and frequent expression of the devotional nature leads to an increase in the quantity of (chemical and life, light and reflecting) ethers in the vital body. Frequent indulgence of the passions and animal appetites leads to an increase in the (chemical and life, light and reflecting) ethers in the vital body. Where there is a larger proportion of light and reflecting ethers in the vital body and a smaller proportion of chemical and life ethers, the body is more (insensitive, sensitive) and more (delicate, physically robust).

— **Back to Top** —

3-3] Next to each item on the left put the letter of the item on the right which is most closely related:

After death, a cleavage occurs in the vital body. The higher part is retained and serves as a vehicle of consciousness in the Desire World. \_\_\_\_\_

After death, most of the vital body decays synchronously with the dense body. \_\_\_\_\_

After death, the lower part of the vital body remains interlocked with the desire body for some years. \_\_\_\_

A. A person has lived a degenerate, brutal life, and has actively sought to gain power over others and to inflict pain.

B. A person has aimed mostly to satisfy his personal desires, and has had little time for soul culture.

C. A person has lived a life of devotion to high ideals.

3-4] What two types of things may an evil person do after death while the lower part of his vital body and his desire body are locked together?

3-5] Which of the following is not able to nourish the vital body of an evil person after death, while his lower vital body and desire body are locked together?

- a) Living people
- b) Odors of foods and liquors
- c) The possessions of the person during life (such as his clothes, weapons, jewels, etc.)

3-6] Why is it undesirable to listen to the promptings of unseen spirits?

3-7] Why is capital punishment undesirable?

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#### **Section 4 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

4-1] What name is given to the interlocking vital and desire bodies of an evil person?

4-2] If an earthbound spirit does evil while in his Sin Body, does he later have to suffer for his deeds? If so, when?

4-3] When the Ego leaves the Sin Body, it proceeds through purgatory and the heaven worlds and then is reborn.

- a) What does the Sin Body do while the Ego is in purgatory and the heaven worlds?
- b) What does the Sin Body do when the Ego is reborn?

4-4] If a medium allows elemental spirits to control his body during life, what danger may the medium encounter after death?

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#### **Section 5 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

5-1] When subhuman elementals attach themselves to and serve a person or group of people, what may the elementals demand in return? Why?

5-2] Why do the "wise" spirit controls stand outside the victim's body and behind it, while manipulating it?

5-3] a) What may cause a person to commit suicide?

b) If a person commits suicide in one life, what may happen to the spirit's occupancy of its body in the next life?

c) What will the spirit then wish to do?

5-4] What may lead a human, after death, to obsess an animal body?

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## **Section 6 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

6-1] Next to each item on the left put the letter of the item on the right which is most closely related:

A person ignores the love of others and brings sorrow to those who love him. \_\_\_\_\_

A person fails to love others and as a consequence the others turn to a life of crime. \_\_\_\_\_

A. In the next life the person finds himself in an unsympathetic environment.

B. In the next life the person is born with a weak mind or a speech impairment or lack of muscular control.

A person degenerates and wastes his creative life forces. \_\_\_\_\_

C. In the next life the person loves people who are suffering for past mistakes.

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## **Section 7 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

### **— Back to Top —**

7-1] A spirit sees a panorama of the major events of the coming life as it enters the womb and comes in contact with the etheric mold of its new physical body (on or about the eighteenth day after conception). If, at this time, the Ego feels that the coming life will be too hard for it, and tries to run away, what will be the effect?

7-2] What effect can a great fright or shock during life have on the connection between the Ego and its bodies?

7-3] a) If a person is lascivious, but also of a devotional nature, what effect may he experience in his next life?

b) If a person is lascivious and also of a cruel nature, what effects may he experience in his next life?

7-4] If a person is materialistic in one life, what effect may he experience in his next life?

7-5] If a person persistently aligns himself with untruths, what may happen in the second heaven when he is building his body for his next life?

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## Section 8 (*The Web of Destiny*)

8-1] Next to each description of a spirit on the left put the letter of the item on the right which describes what that spirit will do while in the Region of Concrete Thought building the archetype of its coming dense body:

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|--|--|
| The spirit loves music. _____  | A. The spirit will build a body with a weak voice or an impediment in speech.        |
| The spirit wishes to shut itself away from other's expressions of joy or sorrow. _____ | B. The spirit will build strong vocal organs.  |
| The spirit wishes to share its knowledge with others. _____                            | C. The spirit will give attention to building an accurate ear and dexterous fingers. |
| The spirit wishes to keep its knowledge for its own use. _____                         | D. The spirit will neglect the building of the ear.                                  |

8-2] What effect is the Christ spirit's continued ministrations on earth having on

- a) the vital body of the earth?
- b) human morals?
- c) human vital bodies?

8-3] Insert the appropriate word or phrase in each blank.

In the future, the \_\_\_\_\_ in the eye will be sensitized, and shall look out through the eye and see directly the thing itself instead of the image upon our \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Thought Question:**

8-4] When we see someone with a particular physical or mental disability, why should we not draw hasty conclusions as to what they may or may not have done in a past life?

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## **Section 9 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

### **The Esoteric Effects Of Our Emotions**

9-1] In the present time, the desire bodies of humans are responsive to which of the planetary vibrations?

9-2] What effect do these planetary vibrations have on the desire bodies of humans?

9-3] What was the molten sea, being made by Hiram, going to be able to reflect?

9-4] Insert the appropriate word into each blank.

Hiram's plan to make the molten sea was frustrated because he knew only how to work with \_\_\_\_\_, and when traitors poured \_\_\_\_\_ into the mold, Hiram was unable to blend the two elements. Hiram's ancestor Cain gave Hiram \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ which would enable him, when he had become

skilled in their use, to bend the antagonistic elements and make the molten sea.

In the present day there is a war going on in every person between the aqueous \_\_\_\_\_ body which tries to build and sustain the dense body, and the \_\_\_\_\_ body which stirs the person into activity which tends to destroy the tissues in the dense body. The instruments which will help us blend these elements are the cross of \_\_\_\_\_, and the new word which is \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Thought Question:**

9-5] Just as Hiram gathered materials and melted them down to construct the molten sea, each one of us is gathering materials to build within ourself a molten sea. What type of materials do we need to build our own molten sea? What do we need to do to "melt down" and "purify" these materials?

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## **Section 10 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

### **— Back to Top —**

10-1] What effect does the singing of a hymn by a group of people have on the desire bodies of those people?

10-2] What type of emotion can cause one to congeal one's desire body into a steel colored, almost motionless shell of armor, which is impervious to outside influence?

10-3] What type of emotion can cause the desire body to be full of little eddies, none of which is large enough to lead to action?

### **Thought Question:**

10-4] How can someone who is full of fear and worry best be helped?

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### **Section 11 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

11-1] When one person is angry at another person, what is the appearance of the desire forms created?

11-2] In the war zones it was observed that there were no people with congealed steel-colored desire bodies. Why?

11-3] How does death of a loved one in a war help a person to develop a sixth sense?

11-4] When a person is killed by a large explosion, what happens to his vital body?

11-5] What effect does being killed by a large explosion have on the after-death retrospection?

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### **Section 12 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

12-1] Why do the prismatic ether atoms gathered by the seed atom extend farther beyond the periphery of the dense body of a child than of an adult?

12-2] The vital body contains prismatic ether atoms.

a) From what ethers are these prismatic atoms composed?

b) During life, are new prismatic ether atoms added or old ones lost from the vital body?

c) Do the prismatic ether atoms change their positions relative to one another in the body?

12-3] Which part of the vital body grows by service?

12-4] What determines the effects on us of what people say to us or about us?

12-5] In order to keep the desire body from running riot or congealing, what attitude must we cultivate?

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### **Section 13 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

13-1] What effect does bathing in water have on the vital body?

13-2] How is the vital body restored after it becomes depleted?

13-3] Why should someone who is not in perfect health avoid excessive bathing?

13-4] What effect does remorse have on the life panorama stored in the seed atom in the heart?

13-5] How much remorse is needed to cleanse the seed atom from a given evil deed?

13-6] What effect does remorse have on the desire body?

13-7] After having felt appropriate remorse for a given deed and after having made restitution in so far as we are able, why should we then consider the incident closed and forget about it?

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### **Section 14 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

#### **Prayer—A Magic Invocation**

14-1] What is the source of all power in the universe?

14-2] Where can a person go to escape from the presence of God?

14-3] With what attitude must we do our daily work if our prayers are to be effective?

14-4] Which of the following does not aid in the optimizing of the efficacy of collective prayer?

- a) The readers in the services should love and live the scriptures which they read.
- b) Each person should sit in a different place each time they come to the sanctuary.
- c) No gossip or profane conversation should take place in or near the sanctuary.

**Thought question:**

— **Back to Top** —

14-5] In what ways must worshipers be attuned if they are to effectively pray together?

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### **Section 15 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

15-1] What three qualities are most necessary for the aspirant to have if his prayers are to have 'wings and power'?

15-2] What are the effects of prayers of praise and thanksgiving?

**Thought question:**

15-3] Should one, in prayer, ask God for gifts—either temporal or spiritual?

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### **Section 16 (*The Web of Destiny*)**

## **Practical Methods of Achieving Success**

16-1] If some of the buds are pruned from a rose bush, what effect does this have on the growth and longevity of the bush?

16-2] During childhood, for what is the creative force generated within the body used?

16-3] After puberty, to what three possible uses may the creative force generated within the body be put?

16-4] Is use of the creative force for generation (production of offspring) legitimate? If so, under what circumstances?

16-5] What effect does frequent indulgence of the desire for sexual pleasure have on the link between the two lower ethers and the two higher ethers of the vital body?

16-6] What effect do we wish to produce on the link between the lower and higher parts of the vital body if we wish to learn to travel in our soul bodies?

16-7] Which of the following is not an effect of sending the creative force upward for regeneration?

- a) It etherealizes and refines the physical body.
- b) It materially lengthens life.
- c) It strengthens the chemical and life ether parts of the vital body.
- d) It strengthens the soul body.

### **Thought questions:**

16-8] Why is health desirable?

16-9] What constitutes "success" in life?

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