

READERS' QUESTIONS

The Tree of Life, Earthbound Spirits, Proof of the Master, Co-Inherence, Deformities

THE "TREE OF LIFE"

Question: In the Bible mention is made of a *Tree of Life*, but the meaning of the term is not made clear. Will you please tell me just what the Tree of Life is?

Answer: An etheric organ is being built in the spine, throat, and head of each individual by the unused sex force and by service. To the spiritual sight this organ appears like the stem of a flower ascending from the lower part of the trunk, the blossom beginning in the throat and unfolding in the head. The function of this organ is the generation of vital force; and this force will renew the vital body, which sustains the physical organism, and thereby overcome death. Therefore this organ is symbolically called the Tree of Life, and when humanity is taught how to use it there will be no death. It is truly a creative organ, capable of speaking the word of life and power. The fruit of the Tree of Life therefore is immortality.

HELPING EARTHBOUND SPIRITS

Question: Please tell me if there is any way in which one can help earthbound spirits.

Answer: All we can do for earthbound spirits is to send them thoughts of love. It is for them to learn the lesson which it is meant they should learn in purgatory, but if they are refusing to learn it and consequently remain earthbound, there is nothing we can do except to pray for them and love them. Those who are conscious out of the body are in a position to help by reasoning with these earthbound individuals, but most of us must be content with the method of prayer and trust to the Elder

Brothers to allow us to help with this work at night when we are out of our bodies in sleep.

However, we do not think we should worry about earthbound spirits while there is so much suffering with us right here in the physical world to be alleviated. If we do our full share in reducing the sorrow, suffering, and evil of this world, we shall by so doing save many souls from being earthbound after death, for it is usually the destructive emotions of hate and bitterness which hold a spirit earthbound.

PROOF OF THE MASTER

Question: In one of Max Heindel's lessons he mentions that nothing can equal the joy of a pupil when first he hears the voice of the Master who comes to help him, and that once heard there is nothing the pupil will not do in his efforts to obey the commands of that voice. Will you please tell me if it is possible for an evil entity to imitate the Master's voice and control a person through the attraction that voice has for him?

Answer: No, it is not possible for an evil entity to imitate the voice of the Master, but it is possible that a too-eager individual, overanxious to contact the Master, may think that the voice of an evil entity is the voice of the Master, never having heard the latter, and being therefore unable to judge. There is, however, no chance for mistaking the identity of the Teacher when he comes, if we heed the warnings given us by that great Initiate, Max Heindel. The Teacher never appears to the great majority of students until they are on the threshold of Initiation. When he appears he gives

unquestionable proof to the neophyte that he is indeed the Teacher, for he demonstrates his identity and authority through arousing the Jupiterian picture consciousness in the aspirant, which is so convincing that it dispels all doubt from his mind.

DIFFERENT SUBSTANCES OCCUPY THE SAME SPACE AT THE SAME TIME

Question: According to your literature I get the idea that ether, desire stuff, and mind stuff can all occupy the same space as physical substance. Will you please explain how this is possible?

Answer: Your idea is correct, with one exception to be noted later. The difference between these grades of substance and physical matter, as you will note from the *Cosmo-Conception*, consists in a difference of inclination of the axes of atoms and a different rate of vibration. The result is that the vibrations of these higher substances and those of higher physical matter do not interfere with each other in the slightest degree and therefore these things may occupy the same physical space at the same time.

Another way of looking at it is that on the higher planes time and space do not exist, or are practically nonexistent. Therefore the peculiarities of physical matter which require it to have physical space in which to manifest, do not apply to the higher grades of substance. The exception mentioned above is that of glass in connection with ether. Ether cannot pass through glass, and an entity clothed with a body of ether cannot pass through glass. The reason is that ether is in reality a finer grade of physical matter although extremely rarified. This means that the inclination of the axes of its atoms is sufficiently near that of physical atoms so that they conflict and prevent interpenetration. Another illustration of the above is that glass is used for insulators on telegraph poles and electrical transmission lines. Electricity is a vibration in the ether; and since ether cannot travel through glass, insulators made of glass effectually keep the electricity traveling along the wire and prevent it from escaping to nearby conducting media.

THE REASON FOR DEFORMITIES

Question: The Rosicrucian Philosophy teaches

Approaches

When thou turn'st away from ill,
Christ is this side of thy hill.

When thou turnest toward good,
Christ is walking in thy wood.

When thy heart says, "Father, pardon!"
Then the Lord is in thy garden.

When stern Duty wakes to watch,
Then His hand is on the latch.

But when Hope thy song doth rouse,
Then the Lord is in the house.

When to love is all thy wit,
Christ doth at thy table sit.

When God's will is thy heart's pole,
Then is Christ thy very soul.

—George MacDonald

that with the assistance of the angels we build the archetype of our physical body in the Region of Concrete Thought, and according to that archetype our physical body grows. If this be true, why are so many children deformed? Surely no one wants a misshapen body.

Answer: Life is a succession of days in God's great school, during each of which the individual is continually reaping according to the acts done in previous lives. During each life many karmic debts are contracted, and in succeeding lives they must all be paid. Ordinarily each individual inhabits as good a physical body as he is able to build. If a child has a deformed body it is due to the fact that the mistakes of the preceding life prevented the construction of a perfect archetype, and that archetype therefore had lines of weakness which produced the physical deformity. Physical indulgences of passion in one life react on the mental state in later existences, and abuse of the mental powers in one life leads to physical disabilities, such as deformity and impairment of speech, in later existences. □