

# THE HIGH COUNTRY THEOSOPHIST



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Mark Jaqua, in *Protogonos* #18 -- March 1991, picks up some interesting discussion from *The Canadian Theosophist* of Jan/Feb. 1991 concerning some little known theosophical teachings on the Moon.

In the latter publication, Stan Treolar, General Secretary of the Canadian T.S. (Adyar) writes:

“I noted, as did writers in their texts, that every Chain system has a globe or two on the mental plane. In the previous chain to ours, the Moon Chain, the lowest or most dense Globe, Globe D, is indicated by any and all authorities I read to be on the physical etheric sub-planes, not on or in any of the lowest three levels of the physical plane, the gaseous, liquid or dense. Most people can see the moon in the sky, weather and phases of the moon permitting. Therefore, the moon in the sky cannot be the dead Globe D of the Moon Chain.”

Mark comments:

“Mr. Treolar is right (although I can't understand his terminology or reasoning) in saying that 'the moon in the sky cannot be the dead Globe D of the Moon chain.' The physical moon of the past Moon Chain (which parented our own Earth and Earth Chain of Globes) apparently disintegrated long ago in



the creation of our present Earth-Chain, as did all the globes of that chain. (The actual materials of the previous chain create our own chain.) Our present Moon is a “shell” or “kama-rupa” of the previous Moon.

“Purucker says that it is a “Dweller of the threshold” to the Earth in the same sense that a human being may be haunted by such a Dweller.

“It is, to us, a physical-level spook, in the same sense that evil or degraded individuals are said to leave a shell or spook behind them after they die -- a `bhut’ in eastern terms.

“If a person has much energy and vitality tied up in negative pursuits -- “tied to the earth,” so to speak -- with the whole of the personality devoted to some evil or selfish endeavor -- then after death this excess energy serves to animate remnants of the astral and mental self to form an “elementary” or somewhat self-conscious spook which may last a very long time on the astral level (with the higher principles separating or long since separated.)

“In the doctrines, this is held to be the case with present visible moon, as in analogy this formation of a “Dweller” happens on the planetary as well as the human level.

“Blavatsky writes:

“The first race of men were, then, simply the images, the astral doubles, of their Fathers, who were the pioneers, or the most progressed Entities from a preceding though lower sphere, the shell of which is now our Moon.

“But even this shell is all-potential, for, having generated the Earth, it is the phantom of

the Moon which, attracted by magnetic affinity, sought to form its first inhabitants, the pre-human monsters ...’ “

[*The Secret Doctrine I*, p. 115]

Mark adds, by way of explanation:

“The reason we see the Moon, despite [the fact] that it is the `astral’ spook of the former Moon, (and we can’t see with our physical senses on the astral level) is that each new globe-chain on the ascending arc is formed one Cosmic sub-plane superior to the previous globe-chain. Our globe D Earth is on what was the astral plane for Globe D Moon.

“G. de Purucker adds the following interesting commentary:

‘... the moon which we see in our evening skies is but the relic, the kama-rupa, of a former planet which lived and completed its life cycle before our earth existed, and which was as full of life and the hosts of lives as our earth is now.

‘It also ran the course of its seven rounds, along with seven lunar globes, ... and when its seventh round was completed, what then happened?

‘Each globe, as the life-wave left it after completing the last globe-round of the last chain-round, passed into invisibility after it had cast forth its energies, a large part of its life-atoms, into a laya-center in space.

‘When the globe-round on A [of the Moon-Chain] is completed, or rather nearly completed, the ten classes of life-entities prepare to leave it.

‘The class which is the most advanced projects its energy into space, into what is called a laya-center, which is a Sanskrit word meaning a homogenous center, a center of homogenous substance of the spiritual plane of course, using the word ‘spiritual’ in a general sense.

‘And this process goes on, for all the ten classes of globe A, each one of these ten families or stocks leaving the globe one-by-one, until, when the time has come for the last animalcule of the last stock to leave the globe, that globe then suddenly disappears, and is *in abscondito*, invisible. And why?

‘The reason is this: all matter, as our scientists today are beginning to realize, is but another form of kosmic force, for force and matter are one.

‘All matter is built up of atoms; these atoms, in turn, are built up of electrons and protons; and these in their turn are but tiny substantial entities, *built up of energetic matter or force* -- force and matter being *fundamentally* one, as spirit and substance are fundamentally one.

‘Hence, when the life-atoms, when the life, so to say, leaves the globe, it vanishes, because those life-atoms are its ultimate particles.

‘The globe is not annihilated, but it passes into a state which is called *in abscondito*, or invisibility.

‘This is perhaps the most difficult point ...

to explain, because there is nothing known to us at present on earth that we can point to as being analogous to it.

‘At any rate, such is the fact; ... when the life leaves an atom, its sub-atoms, so to speak, are not annihilated, but ... they separate and become invisible, and the portions of the undeveloped substance which remain behind pass into latency as tiny globules of force-matter, ... much like ice crystals hanging in space, and remain in that state until the attraction to activity later comes ... to join the new *earth-globe* A.

‘Similarly, with globe B of the moon-chain, the same process takes place, and it vanishes. And so with all the seven globes.

‘How is it then, it may be asked, if globe D of the moon-chain vanished, that we see our present moon?

‘We have before pointed out that our moon is a phantom, a kama-rupa of the moon’s globe D that was, but we of earth happen to be on the plane of what was the astral to the Lunarians.

‘We have gone up a step, and we see with our physical eyes what would have been invisible to us when we lived on the moon.

‘As a man when departing this life leaves his kama-rupa in the astral realms behind him, the shade, ... his spook, until it disintegrates ... so does it happen with the globes, because these globes are living things.’

[*Fundamentals of the Esoteric Phi-*

osophy, pp. 548-51]”

### **Trip Plans**

High Country theosophists Marty Lyman and Dick Slusser (editor) are planning a trip to California in May to visit *Eclectic Theosophist* editor, Emmett Small, in San Diego; *Secretary* of the Pasadena T. S. American Section, David Spurlin; *Leader* of the Pasadena T. S., Grace Knoche, both in Altadena; and Jerry and April Hejka-Ekins in Turlock.

Jerry tells me that he and April worked for six months to produce the excellent video *The Perennial Wisdom*, which we viewed at our February brunch social.

We are looking forward to renewing our acquaintance with Emmett who we first met at the Secret Doctrine Centenary at Pasadena in 1988. He has offered to allow us access to his library of Point Loma archives, which will afford Marty the opportunity to collect biographical material on G. de Purucker for her forthcoming talk.

David and Virginia Spurlin recently returned from their trip to India and we anticipate comparing with them, impressions of our trip to India in December 1989. We are also looking forward to visiting with our fellow theosophists and many dear friends at the Theosophical Headquarters in Pasadena.

Our trip will begin with *Kokopelli's* Classic, a strenuous 125 mile off-road mountain bike event, following the Colorado River from Grand Junction, Colorado to Moab, Utah, May 4-7.

This is the second running of the event, sponsored by the *Colorado Plateau Mountain Bike Trail Association* [COPMOBA]. The classic is named in honor of Kokopelli: a magical being, primarily associated with the Flute Clan of the Hopi (Indian tribe). He was a humped-back flute player who could drive back winter with his sounds.”

The trail opened on May 6, 1989, with a beautiful ceremony at Cisco, Utah -- the halfway mark. Nineteen Hopi adults and children came from Arizona to consecrate the trail.

Elder Ebin Leslie said his people felt honored that the trail recognized the significance of the Hopi culture to the area.

They gave Timms Fowler, COPMOBA organizer, and Carlos Sauvage, recreational planner with the Bureau of Land Management, sacred ears of corn and directed them to plant the kernels in private pre-dawn ceremonies in spots of their choosing.

The Hopis also blessed the trail with turkey feathers for wisdom and eagle feathers for strength and courage.

[*Bicycling plus Mountain Bike Magazine*, Rodale Press -- Feb. 1990].

### **New Books**

***H.P. Blavatsky Collected Writings.  
Cumulative Index -- Volume XV. 647  
pages.***

Edited by Dara Eklund and Nicholas

Weeks. \$27.95 Theosophical Publishing House, Wheaton, Illinois.

This long awaited index, covering the entire fourteen volumes, fills a long felt need for readers of the fourteen volume *Blavatsky Collected Writings*. Heretofore, when searching for a topic in the set, it was necessary to consult the index in each of the fourteen volumes in turn -- a tiresome and time consuming labor.

Emmett Small, in the March/April *Eclectic Theosophist* comments:

“The main entries are arranged alphabetically:  
first, letter by letter;  
then word by word, with a few minor exceptions involving foreign surnames entered by established practice.

“... It was not possible to include Greek, Hebrew or Devanagiri scripts because of computer limitations, but abbreviations such as Gk., Heb., Sk., or Tib. have been added to transliterated terms so that the reader will know that the terms expressed will lead to such scripts within the text. ... The Illustrations list in Appendix I should help students locate portraits, memorable places, and important documents.”

A very helpful feature, incorporated following the alphabetical listing of sub-topics under each main topic heading, is the ‘See also’ list of terms synonymous with the topic heading; eg.:

under Adept(s), See also Arhats, Bodhisattvas, Brothers, Initiates, Mahatmas,

Masters.

*Olcott Library - Annotated Book List 1990.* 241 pages \$25.00

Available from The Theosophical Society in America, P.O. Box 270, Wheaton, Ill., 60189-0270

The Annotated Book List is a selected listing of books available to T.S.A. members and Olcott Library member/patrons for loan by mail. It represents a considerable improvement over the previous Annotated Reading List, published in 1979. Pagination has been added to a revised Table of Contents in the new edition so that topic headings are easier to find.

It is difficult to compare the new edition with the old 1979 version for several reasons:

Many old titles have been removed because they have either been lost or have gone “out-of-print.”

Valuable “out-of-print” titles are removed from circulation but are still accessible for in-library study on request. New acquisitions since the 1979 have been added.

It should be realized that the List *in no way* attempts to be a comprehensive listing of the content of the Olcott Library, or even of the books available for circulation by mail.

It is, rather, *a representative listing* of available books arranged by topic in the Table of Contents. Because new acquisitions are constantly being added to the Library, the Book List cannot be kept current. Flyers listing

current new acquisitions are included with book shipments to borrowers or are available on request.

Inquiries for specific titles, not listed, can be made to the Olcott Library on the toll-free number, 1-(800)-669-1571.

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AUDIO AND VIDEO CASSETTE tapes available for loan to members are listed in the Resource Guide from the Department of Education, along with Correspondence and Study Courses and other member resources. The current Resource Guide was released in July 1988 and supplemental updates are available from the Department of Education.

#### THE MAHABHARATA

British film-maker Peter Brook has made a cinema version of a stage play adaptation of the great Hindu epic *The Mahabharata*, now available as a video, in three 2 hour segments.

We reviewed the copy sold under the copyright of *Parabola Magazine*, borrowed from the Olcott Library in Wheaton, with the intent of showing it to our *High Country Study Center*.

This version had two very serious drawbacks; i.e., the audio had a muffled, booming quality which made it very difficult to follow the plot-line and the picture quality was somewhat fuzzy. For these reasons we were not enthusiastic about going ahead with the showing.

PBS-TV is currently airing their version of the Peter Brook video in Denver, and judging from the results of my off-the-air video taping of the first 2 hour segment, it is far superior to the *Parabola* copy. I had no trouble following every word of the audio and the picture quality is also superior.

For our readers served by PBS-TV outside the Denver area, I recommend watching the listings for your local airing, and video taping it if possible. If this is not an option, the three-part series may be purchased from:

Mahabharata, Dept. 13, 656 Broadway, New York, N.Y. 10013. The cost is \$99.95 plus \$6.00 shipping.

Also available is a companion book on the making of *The Mahabharata* by Peter Brook from: Mahabharata, Box 2284, South Burlington, Vt. 05407-2284. \$24.95 + \$3.50 shipping.

Peter Brook is to be commended for capturing the essence of the spiritual message of the *Mahabharata*.

Yudisthira, eldest of the five Pandavas and the son of the God Dharma, is repeatedly tested by the god -- in a series of koan-like riddles by the lake ensouled by *Dharma*:

When he refuses to enter heaven and leave behind his faithful dog (which represents the Dharma);

When finding Durodhana and the wicked Kauravas in heaven and unable to find his own Pandava brothers and Draupadi there, he leaves in search of them. Descending to the

horrors of the hell-loka, he finds them there, suffering the tortures of the damned.

And finally, overwhelmed by anger, Yudisthira curses the gods and denounces Dharma saying:

“I shall stay here with my dear brothers, who, for no other sin than devotion to me, are consigned to the tortures of hell.”

Then Dharma, smiling on his son says:

“This is the third time I have tested you. You chose to remain in hell for the sake of your brothers. This was an illusion designed as a final test. Cease grieving, this is not hell - but heaven.”

There is a striking parallel to this in *The Mahatma Letters*:

“A chela under probation is allowed to think and do whatever he likes. He is warned and told beforehand:

“You will be tempted and deceived by ‘appearances’ ...

“The chela is at perfect liberty, *and often quite justified from the standpoint of appearances* - to suspect his Guru of being ‘a fraud’ as the elegant word stands.

“More than that: the greater, the sincerer his indignation -whether expressed in words or boiling in his heart - the more fit he is, the better qualified to become an *adept*.”

[*ML* 30, pp. 227-28]

The Mahabharata is truly a classic in the

literary epics of nations and takes its place beside the great Greek classics such as the Iliad and Odyssey. We highly recommend it to all theosophists for its spiritual message.

## Upcoming

Mon. May 13. Park Hill Public Library. 6:00 to 8:30 P.M. Gerald Lee will complete his presentation on Esoteric Healing.

Fri. May 17. Zen master Gilbert at Karma Dzong, 1345 Spruce in Boulder. Public talk, “Spoonng the Ocean.” 7:00 to 9 P.M. Cost \$6.00

Sat. May 18. 2:00 4:00 P.M.

and 7: 00 9: 00 P. M. and, Sun. May 19. 2:00 4:00 P.M.

Zen master Gilbert at The Center for United Ministries, 1520 Euclid, Boulder.

“Four Gates - No Walls,” A workshop on four aspects of Zen practice. Cost \$60 (includes Friday night talk at Karma Dzong).

Call Steve Miller at 444-7822 for information and registration before April 30.

## Calendar

Friday, April 5th

Al Skrobisch leads study of *Introductory Study Course in Theosophy Part II* -- Lesson VII The Monad and the Ego.

Barbara Ginsberg's  
home -: 696-0794 for directions.

Meeting begins at 7:00 P.M.

Monday April 8th

We will continue our studies in *An Introduction to Esoteric Principles*: Chapter 5, Macrocosm -- Tattvas and Tanmatras. PLEASE BRING THE FEBRUARY HAND-OUT -- *BIRTH OF THE EARTH CHAIN*.

Park Hill Public Library

Take Colo. Blvd to Montview (2000 N.),  
7 blocks E. to Dexter.

Montview Blvd. at Dexter St.

Meeting begins at 6:00 P.M.

Sunday April 14th

Iris Rawls continues in her third presentation of teachings on the Kabbalah Tree of Life. Powers in the sounds of the vowels of the Hebrew alphabet. Donation suggested.

Marcella Manor Apts., Craft Room.

W. 66th Ave. at Wadsworth. (7600 W.)

Judy Modig, 477-4788 for details.

1:00 P.M. to 3:00 P.M.