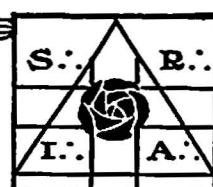


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No. 10

The Sacred Fire.

By Fr. Saturninus, O-O, (Washington College)

(Continued from No. 9.)

The mineral atom (the writer, in using the term "atom" has reference to the unit in the mineral kingdom) is a physical manifestation of an incarnated fiery life, or essence of the One Fire, manifesting in the Dreamless Sleep state.

Every atom in the mineral kingdom, no matter in what department it may be functioning, is in a state of ceaseless activity. This activity, which is a response to the Universal Law of Attraction and Repulsion, results in the refinement of the particle and increase in rate of vibration.

This refinement of particle and increase in rate of vibratory activity tends to raise the unit to correspondence with a higher plane of Life and an expression in a higher Form. The powers and forces by which the operation is accomplished are inherent in the fiery lives manifesting in the atoms. The process is alchemical, transmutative and evolutionary, and is under the guidance of the Group Spirit that controls the operation of the Life Wave that vitalizes, and energizes mineral substance.

The ceaseless activity of the fiery lives manifesting in the mineral kingdom, gradually refines them and increases their rate of vibration until a time comes when they respond to the influence of the Group Spirit that controls the Life Wave that vitalizes and energizes the substance of the vegetable kingdom.

In this kingdom the fiery lives enter into the state of Dream Consciousness, and express themselves in organic but not sentient forms.

Every entity in the vegetable kingdom is in a state of ceaseless activity. This activity is in response to the operation of the Universal Law of Attraction and Repulsion and results in the refinement of the entities and increase in rate of vibration.

The refinement of the entity and increase in rate of vibratory activity tends to raise it to correspondence with a higher plane of Life and an expression in a higher Form.

The powers and forces by which the operation is accomplished, are inherent in the fiery lives manifesting in the entities. The process is alchemical, transmutative and evolutionary.

As in the preceding kingdoms, so with the animal kingdom. The ceaseless activity of the fiery lives manifesting in the vegetable kingdom gradually refines them and increases the rate of their vibration until a time comes when they respond to the influence of the Group Spirit that controls the Life Wave that vitalizes and energizes the animal kingdom.

In this kingdom, the fiery lives manifesting therein enter into the state of wakeful consciousness and manifest in sentient forms.

Every entity in the animal kingdom, from the lowest to the highest form, is in a state of ceaseless activity. This activity is in response to the operation of the Universal Law of Attraction and Repulsion which results in the refinement of the individual and increase in rate of vibration.

The refinement of the individual and increase in the rate of vibratory activity tends to raise it to a correspondence with a higher plane of Life and an expression in a higher Form.

The powers and forces by which the operation is accomplished are inherent in the fiery lives manifesting in the individual entities. The process is alchemical, transmutative and evolutionary.

"Its (the atom's) involution and evolution, its external and internal growth and development, have all one and the same object—Man; Man, as the highest and ultimate form on this Earth; the "Monad" in its absolute totality and awakened condition—as the culmination of the divine incarnations on Earth." (*Secret Doctrine.*)

The evolutionary development of the fiery lives manifesting in the human kingdom is analogous to the evolutionary operations in the preceding kingdoms.

Every entity in the human kingdom, from the lowest to the highest plane of development, is in a state of ceaseless activity. Analogous to the preceding kingdoms, this activity is a response to the universal Law of Attraction and Repulsion, the operation of which results in the refinement of the individual, physically, intellectually, morally and spiritually, and an increase in the rate of vibration.

This refinement of the individual, together with an increase in the rate of its vibratory activity, tends to raise it to a correspondence with a higher plane of Life and an expression in a higher Form.

The powers and forces by which such an operation is accomplished are inherent in the fiery lives manifesting in the individual human forms. The process is alchemical, transmutative and evolutionary.

Thus far, we have been, in a general way, considering the operation of the refining powers and forces inherent in the fiery lives manifesting in the four kingdoms of Nature with which

Sayings of Albert Hubbard, No. 5.

The more you expand your lungs, the less you will contract colds.

Man is, at present, acquainted and of which he is an epitome. Let us now particularize, briefly, on the fiery lives manifesting in the human kingdom.

It has been noted above and will bear repetition: "The Monad, in its absolute totality and awakened condition * * * as the culmination of the divine incarnations on Earth," is the object of the involution and evolution, and external and internal growth and development of all the fiery lives manifesting in the lower kingdoms.

The object being attained, the operation of the refining and transmutative powers and forces inherent in the fiery lives, changes from Universal to Individual guidance.

The Monad is a differentiated, individualized, intelligent Spark or Ray which emanated from and is a part of, the One Universal Intelligent Fire. It issued forth from the Bosom of the Absolute as unconscious spirit substance and began, at Saturn's dawn, through the process of involution and evolution, its development into a self-conscious spiritual entity, a Cosmic Force in the Cosmos.

Through the planetary Manvantaras subsequent to Saturn's dawn, three principles were developed, each corresponding to the Manvantaric Period in which it was developed by and through polarization with the highest principle of the Life Wave that vitalized and energized the Monad of a given Period. The fourth or Ego principle, which corresponds to the present planetary Manvantara, is now in course of development.

The pioneer Monads have attained the state of self-consciousness, i. e., the state of being conscious of their relationship and obligations to each other and their personal responsibility for the proper performance of duties, discharge of obligations and maintenance of equitable relationship.

Having attained the state of self-consciousness, the Monad stands alone. It is the arbiter of its own destiny and master of its own fate. It stands upon the proving ground of independent choice and self-determination.

Crucified upon the cross of matter; incarnate in a form vibrating with the heat of animal passion and desire; victim of a ceaselessly raging warfare between two opposing forces, the one constructive, the other destructive; cycle after cycle the Monad moves in rhythmic cadence, in and out and up and down, from birth to death and from death to re-birth, ever striving on a gradually ascending scale of progression to realize the purpose of its being and attain its divine birthright.

Working with the partially latent and, therefore, imperfectly operating principles of Mind and Intellect, the Monad strives, by the power of understanding developed in the stern and exacting School of Experience to transmute the gross qualities of its nature into those qualities constituent to the principle of that sublime Indwelling Spirit of the planet, the Christ.

"Not in a knowledge of the things without, but in the perfection of the soul within, lies the empire of man aspiring to be more than man." (Lord Lytton.)

All that is, is Fire. From the Absolute that is beyond the comprehension of mortal man down to the minute electron and its subdivisions, every gradation of Life is Fire manifesting in differentiated Forms.

The vehicles of the Monad, the Ego, the Mind, the Intellect and the Spirit are all different gradations of the Fire that constitutes Being.

Knowledge of the operation of the powers and potencies of the different aspects of the Fire manifesting in the individual Monad is essential to a realization of its birthright. That birthright is Godship and companionship with Gods.

The operation of the powers and potencies operative within the different aspects of the Fire manifesting in a Monad, which aspects are, themselves, flames of the central Fire radiating Light which is recognized as character and rated according to quality, is, in its nature, alchemical, transmutative and evolutionary.

"He who seeks to discover must first learn to imagine and to contemplate." Observation, Imagination, Contemplation and Meditation are the penetrating flames that force their way to the very core of a matter and discover to the investigator the hidden things thereof, and thus transmute Ignorance into Knowledge.

Discrimination is a potent, fiery force which, when operated by the Monad, enables it to differentiate qualities, determine action and approximate reaction, or the consequences resulting from the setting in operation of forces, either with or without, ability to control.

Caution, Prudence and Wisdom are fiery flames, the equalizing forces and potencies of which enable the operator to successfully control and operate the alchemical flames of Observation, Imagination, Knowledge, Contemplation, Meditation and Discrimination so as to consume the dross and transmute the dark heat of the lower nature into the radiant light of the higher nature. By this process the skillful alchemist transmutes the base metals into pure gold. Doubt and Denial are changed to Faith, Despair to Hope, and Hatred, Selfishness and Greed to Love and Charity.

The flames of Veneration and Adoration are the vibrating forces that polarize the Monad with the Gods and with the Great Central Flame; while the fiery flame of Love lights the Universe and warms the heart of man to Universal Brotherhood, and welds the link that binds the Microcosm in Eternal Union with the Macrocosm.

Thus, by an individual operation of the alchemical and transmutative fire during the periods of its conscious activity, the Monad consumes, absorbs and applies the Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom peculiar to each stage of evolution, and eventually raises its vibrations to a just correspondence with that plane of Life and Form that is inhabited by the Gods, and earns the right to "Enter In," an Initiate of the Order of ———? Indivisible from the One Fire.

* * * * *

The Evening shadows of the Great Manvantara began to deepen into Pralaya. The Great Work of the Great Manvantara was finished, the task of the Gods was completed. The Great Inhalation began. The Great Bosom swelled with the Great Breath. All was indrawn within the ALL. The crores of fiery lives, each with its accumulation of Knowledge, Understanding and Wisdom gained by Experience was consumed and absorbed by the Great, the One Fire. The Gods rested, awaiting resurrection at the dawn of a new Great Manvantara when, with a new plan diagramed upon the trestle board, they would awaken to the Great Work of consummating another Great Dream.

* * * * *

"Beware, lest you should reject Him who now speaks; for if those did not escape who rejected Him who admonished them on Earth, how much less we, who turn away from Him who admonishes us from Heaven,

"Whose voice then shook the Earth; but now it has been announced, saying, 'Yet once for all I will shake not only the Earth, but the Heaven also.'

"Now this 'Yet once for all' denotes the removal of the things shaken, as of things made, so that the things not shaken may remain."

"Therefore, receiving an unshaken Kingdom, may we hold fast the Favor through which we may serve God acceptably with Reverence and Piety.."

"For even OUR GOD IS A CONSUMING FIRE."

Standard Instruction in the Rosicrucian Philosophy.

By Fr. K. X°.

Number Four. (Continued.)

The Four Kingdoms.

Divisions of the Life Stream, their Natures and Attributes.

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- Protoplasm** Here we contact one of the most important features in the whole study of Matter, the feature or rather phenomenon of PROTOPLASM.
- Colloids** Above we stated that the Spirits of the Plant Kingdom assimilated the Mineral Crystals, transmuting them into Crystalloids. A crystalloid is one of a class of substances usually crystallizable, whose solutions are readily diffusible, in opposition to COLLOIDS. In botanical or vegetable usage it is a crystal-like protein body in plant cells, a protein crystal. Living matter displays, in fact, the energy of colloidal, and the plan of crystalloidal matter. In relation to minerals and metals a colloid is either, dissolved and in suspension.
- Therefore cells actually begin with the Vegetable Kingdom in its most primitive forms and our contact at this point with the primitive cell leads us to a deeper consideration of the great scientific mystery PROTOPLASM. Protoplasm is defined as the "viscid, contractile, semiliquid, more or less granular substance, that forms the principal portion of an animal or vegetable cell; sarcode.
- The name was first applied in 1846 to the matter in vegetable cells, which had been observed by Corte in 1772, and by Treviranus in 1807, and which was identified later with the animal substance previously known as *sarcode*. The protoplasm of most cells appears under high powers of the microscope as a network (Spongoplasma, or reticulum), containing a more fluid substance (Hyaloplasma or enchylema) in its meshes. Chemically, it is a mixture of 80 to 85% water, and 15 to 20% solids, chiefly protoids, as albumoses, globulins and peptones, with small quantities of fat, carbo-hydrates like glycogen and inosite, and mineral salts especially those of potassium, which cause it to yield an alkaline reaction. Protoplasm has been called by Huxley owing to its presence in all organized bodies "THE PHYSICAL BASIS OF LIFE," and some have held that its phenomena show that the difference between organized and unorganized matter is simply a difference of complexity of chemical constitution.
- No difference in proto-plasms** Protoplasm simple as it appears, yet mysterious as it is, "appears to be a highly complex substance, and is regarded as a mixture of different chemical substances, BUT NO APPRECIABLE DIFFERENCE IS TO BE PERCEIVED BETWEEN PROTOPLASM OF LOWER FORMS OF LIFE AND THOSE OF HIGHER ANIMALS. Protoplasm is contractile and irritable, and reproduces by self-division.
- Fact of Biological interest** It is a fact of great biological interest that in animals the essential constituent of all living parts is a substance similar to the protoplasm of plants. WE CANNOT DISTINGUISH THE TWO BY ANY CHEMICAL OR PHYSICAL TESTS, and can only say that, taken as a whole, the protoplasm of plants differs from that of animals in its secretions.
(C. E. Bessey, Botany, p. 1.)
- Protoplasmic Movement** The movement of living protoplasm must be classed with muscular and ciliary movement, with which it is closely associated.
(W. D. Halliburton, Chemical Physiology, p. 186.)
- Protoplasm, the Mystery** Protoplasm is the great mystery of all science. The greatest savant cannot explain whether a protoplasmic cell will evolve as a plant or a human, nor can he explain the reason of its choice or the laws impelling it thereto when its course of development has become obvious.
- Transitional types** It is through the connecting link of protoplasm that we have the transitional types:
1. The Mineral-Plant.
2. The Plant-Animal.
3. The Animal-Man. (R. Steiner, Out. Occ. Sci., p. 177.)
- Living evidences and vestigial remains of these types are familiar to all occult and physical science students.
- Group Spirits** Involutionary progress in the first three Kingdoms, and in the Human until the Ego is fully indrawn and assumes individual control of its temporary organism or set of vehicles (which is what constitutes an individual), is under the guidance of GROUP SPIRITS, of which mention has already been made. Heindel gives an excellent illustration of the action of the Group Spirit by supposing a sheet hung across a room, in which were cut ten holes. The fingers inserted through the holes represent a given species of animal. To the observer, the fingers all seem to be actuated by individual desire or impulse, moving in various directions. But if the observer look behind the screen he will see all the fingers connected and the whole moving under the direction of the guiding spirit or brain of the operator. (Heindel, Cosmo Concep., p. 78.)
- Breaking up of Mineral Kingdom** Thus it is with the manifold species of the first three Kingdoms. Of course there is no motion in the Mineral Kingdom, but there is a slow, gradual breaking up or disintegration of the Minerals whereby the Mineral Spirits are being liberated. In the vegetable and animal Kingdoms the guidance is more apparent.
- All types Identical** Thus one tree, shrub or flower of a species can always be counted upon to behave exactly like any other member of the same species. The tiger is a complete example of ALL tigers, the Elephant of ALL Elephants. This shows the generic and common guidance of the entire species.

- Except types of Man** This does not hold true in the Human Kingdom because the Ego is the Spirit individualized, and become self-conscious. At the beginning of human incarnation the primitive incarnates are assisted by Race Spirits acting under the guidance of lower celestial hierarchies who are entrusted with the responsibility of guiding human evolution, but as soon as the Ego is fully INdrawn into all its vehicles, it assumes full, complete, and individual control of the organisms. Thus one Chinaman is not a complete example of the entire Mongolian Race, nor is one Anglo Saxon a true type of the Caucasian. EVERY HUMAN BEING IS A DISTINCT, SEPARATE, INDIVIDUAL ENTITY, bound to a certain extent to act in obedience to cosmic or natural laws, yet endowed with a specific amount of free-will which enables him to progress by accomplishing a little NEW, independent work in each incarnation.
- Free-Will** This endowment of free-will is absolutely necessary, otherwise every human being would be simply the puppet of unknown and unseen forces playing about him, and no value would attach to his good or right actions, neither would punishment or disapproval or personal responsibility attach to his wrong actions. We may confine an animal for certain actions, as a matter of safety or precaution, but we do not think for a moment of attaching to it a degree of responsibility as to its moral status or personal responsibility, simply because the animal is not a person, nor is it bound by laws governing morality, but acts simply in blind obedience to the dictates of the group spirit which in the lower Kingdoms is necessary.
- Personal and Moral Responsibility**
- Amount of free-will enjoyed is the measure of personal responsibility** FREE-WILL therefore is one of the distinguishing features of the Human Kingdom, and the farther the individual progresses in his incarnations, and learns to use his free-will constructively, the more the element of free-will is given him to use in fuller measure, and independently of circumscribing laws, simply because the individual by such a time has become thoroughly en rapport with and in harmony with all law and is therefore more and more above the law.
- Voluntary and Involuntary Incarnations** As the individual nears the end of his incarnations of the involuntary or compulsory class, he enjoys an almost unlimited amount of free-will; in fact is not conscious of inhibiting or circumscribing laws of any sort. When his involuntary incarnations have been entirely completed and he engages for the service of humanity in purely voluntary incarnations, he enjoys an amount of free-will accompanied by spiritual powers which make him as St. Paul saith, "a little lower than the angels." (Heb. 11-7.)
- Feeling and Sensation in the Four Kingdoms** We have stated the activities of the Ethers in the Four Kingdoms and some of the phenomena resultant upon their activity. We are now confronted with several of the moot questions which occur both to physical and occult scientists equally. "Is there such a thing as FEELING, SENSATION, OR THOUGHT IN THE LOWER KINGDOMS. These are questions often asked, and in view of biological progress at the present time they are not entirely without warrant. We may reply unequivocally to the last, there is no such thing as thought below the Human Kingdom. Remember the states of consciousness peculiar to each Kingdom; Trance to the Mineral, Dreamless Sleep to the Vegetable, Dream Sleep to the Animal and WAKING CONSCIOUSNESS TO THE HUMAN.
- Liberation of Mineral Spirit and danger of too great Crystallization** In the Mineral Kingdom there is neither active consciousness nor sensation. The Mineral has no separate vehicle, and without the Astral vehicle there is no feeling or sensation. Therefore the Mineral has no feeling through powers of its own. There is however a distinct sense of feeling in the Mineral Kingdom coming in one special way: the breaking up of its Body. This feeling is in reality the sense of liberation which comes to the imprisoned or crystallized Mineral Spirit, and is the relief at being disengaged from its crystallized state. This imprisonment is the result of too deep an extent of the process of crystallization, and we shall soon see how that same danger of crystallization reaches all through the various Kingdoms.
- Mineral uses astral body of Indwelling Spirit** While the Mineral feels this condition of liberation through no powers of its own, it must be remembered that the Mineral Kingdom constitutes the substance of the physical body of the Indwelling Spirit of the whole Earth, and therefore experiences this sense of liberation through the Astral Body of the Indwelling Spirit, although not through any separate vehicle of its own.
- All Kingdoms unite to assist the Mineral** For this reason mining, and the breaking up of the rocks is a great benefit to the Mineral Spirit, liberating it and assisting it in its further progress along the Path. Thus the operations of the Vegetable Kingdom in opening up the Earth through the expansive powers of roots, the power of frost and ice, the burrowings of animals, and the mechanical enterprises of man all unite to assist this, the lowest of all the Kingdoms, in its progress.
- Feeling and Sensation in plants** With the Vegetable Kingdom it is different. This Kingdom enjoys both the Etheric and Physical Bodies. Added power is given to its species by the Etheric Body and it experiences sensation and feeling to a much greater extent than the Mineral, although still by virtue of the Astral Body of the Indwelling Spirit and not by a separate Astral vehicle of its own. But it is able to respond in a much greater measure to the impulses of the Astral Body of the Indwelling Spirit, or as we may better term it, the Planetary Astral Body, and therefore we see many interesting phenomena exhibited.
- Phenomena exhibited by species of the Vegetable Kingdom** Witness the selective powers exhibited by many plants, some even known as plants of prey, laying traps for their victims; others responding in marvelous manner to various sympathetic personalities and positively refusing to thrive under the influence of opposite personalities. Tropical vegetation especially offers many marvelous phenomena, and scientists have lately expended much time and thought in experiment to determine whether or not plants may be said to have individual intelligence, but whatever their findings may be and however they may be stated, will not alter the fact that any intelligence or power of sensation manifested by species of the Vegetable Kingdom will be found to be exercised through the powers of the Planetary Astral Body.

**Pain and
Pleasure to
the Vegetable
Kingdom**

In this connection it is well to note that analogous to the phenomena of relief or liberation expressed or felt by the Mineral Spirit at the breaking up of its Physical Body, there is also a similar feeling manifesting in the Vegetable Kingdom as pain or pleasure at the treatment accorded its species by both animals and man.

The fruition of the plant or tree is in its fruit and flower. That is the chief purpose of its existence, as is also the purpose of perpetuating the species, the chief end of the animal and human Kingdoms on the purely physical side.

How given

The purpose of the tree or plant is to give forth its fruit, which, however, it cannot do of its own effort but must depend upon exterior agencies of Nature or the two higher Kingdoms, both of which are great factors in the plucking of fruit and the dissemination of the seed of the Vegetable Kingdom. When fruit or flowers are plucked, it gives relief and pleasure to the Vegetable Kingdom through the Planetary Astral Body, but when violently or wantonly torn up by the roots, it causes pain to the Vegetable species from the unnatural separation from their natural environment and so-called death ensues.

**Pain and
Pleasure
among the
Animals**

The Animal Kingdom having the separate Astral Body is capable in its species of experiencing definite pain and pleasure through emotional and sensational conditions, and is conscious of them through its condition of dream sleep consciousness. For this reason animals are able to stand much greater degrees of actual physical pain than the more highly sensitized and organized Human Kingdom, and Nature in lieu of definite waking consciousness has given them that conformity to type and generic obedience to the dictates of the Animal Group Spirits that impels them to certain action under given conditions, that we call INSTINCT. While the animals see as members of the Human Kingdom see, nevertheless they see as in dream pictures, and the close study of any small animal will confirm this fact and exhibit most interesting phenomena.

Instinct

**Animals also
clairvoyant**

It is also a notable fact that in passing the matter of animal intelligence to observe that nearly all animals are clairvoyant, but especially the elephant, horse, dog and cat. The cat is perhaps the most remarkably clairvoyant of all, and the sudden jumpings, turnings, etc., of the household cat when no observable impulse or cause may be apparent is the direct result of the clairvoyance of the animal, it seeing the invisible conditions as clearly as the mundane or visible, and in its state of dream sleep consciousness, unable to distinguish between them.

**Animals intel-
ligent by
induction**

Another phenomenon observable in animals kept in close contact with humans, is the greater degree of intelligence displayed by them, in comparison with the wild or undomesticated members of the same species. The cat or dog allowed to "run loose" displays no more than ordinary, mongrel intelligence, but the horse, dog or cat, made the personal companions of one or more humans, segregated from the rest of its species, and treated as a personality, not as a mere animal, soon begins to manifest an individuality, personality and a degree of intelligence, that under carefully observed conditions takes on the aspect of actual thought process.

**Condition ap-
parent, not
actual**

This condition we know to be more apparent than actual. For the animal cannot have an indrawn Ego, in fact has no Ego whatever; therefore cannot think as the lowest members of the Human Kingdom can do. But they are capable of taking on a degree of intelligence BY INDUCTION on the same principle as electrical induction, that enables them to manifest a high degree of intelligence and even sagacity under extraordinary conditions. And it is also right to state that animals so treated by the Human species are inestimably assisted in their involutory development. Every animal so assisted and made the companion of a human, is thereby enabled to accomplish great time gaps in developmental process ahead of its associated specie members. This is another contributory cause to the phenomena of advanced members of each Kingdom.

**Feeling and
Sensation in
the Human
Kingdom**

In the Human Kingdom we have the realization and appreciation of Feeling and Sensation in their most acute form. Not only has the Human Kingdom the full complement of separate vehicles, but the INdrawn Ego ruling all of them and functioning through all, is able to contact consciously all exterior environment and gain experience through all the varied phenomena of feeling and sensation that the various avenues of sense perception can express.

**Sense of Right
and Wrong**

In addition to the ability to cognize consciously all the phenomena of feeling and sensation, the Human has also the ability to differentiate between the comparative right and wrong of a given set of feelings or sensations, whether they should be renewed, repeated or encouraged, or vice versa. This comes from the full possession of Waking Consciousness, which conveys the power of thought, or the translation of exterior impacts in terms of conscious relations; the privilege of individual action, choice, and a definite amount of Free-will.

Reason

These attributes and properties just named combine to crown the Human Specie with the supreme gift of Reason, which must be given a somewhat detailed description. Reason is defined as the group of faculties, attributes, or activities which distinguishes man as a so-called rational animal from the brutes. This group may be classified under two broad general divisions:

1. Discursive Reason—
by which man becomes capable of learning and scientific achievements. The logical understanding, which the lower animals have not.
2. a—Pure Reason, a collective term as applied to the so-called a priori constitution of thought and the capacity for framing and following ethical, aesthetical and religious ideals, of which the lower animals show few or no traces, and—
b—Practical Reason, as applied to conduct.

Reason is, collectively, the faculty that enables one to distinguish between the true and the false, in the degree possessed by all sane persons, the normal exercise of the rational faculties; the mature consensus of public thought, regarded as a standard in the community.

Reasoning

Reasoning is the mental act, process, or faculty of deriving conclusions from facts or propositions, admitted or assumed, for the sake of argument, ratiocination, or argumentation.
The reasoning may be either

- a. False,
 - b. True.
- and is—
- a. Deductive,
 - b. Inductive,
 - c. Categorical,
 - d. Disjunctive,
 - e. Hypothetical,
 - f. Syllogistic.

Value of the Mental Sheath

This process of Reason and reasoning is made possible by the indrawing of the Ego, its adaptation of all the physical avenues of sense perception, and above all, the addition of the mental sheath or mind stuff through which the Ego functions consciously in the lower vehicles. And when it is remembered that at present the mind stuff is merely a sheath, and not as yet a truly organized vehicle or body, we can perceive that our mental powers are as yet scarcely incubated, and eons remote from what they will ultimately be. Verily, in that day shall our eyes be opened, and we shall be as Gods, KNOWING Good and Evil. Genesis, iii-5. Verily in that day shall man be crowned with glory and honour and set over the works of (God's) hands. Hebrews, ii-7.

Form, Color and Tone

Only man, by his possession of all the requisite vehicles, is able to contact the higher ethical principles of Form, Color and Tone, and translate and adapt them to terms of his use and understanding. The Physical World is the World of FORM; the Astral World is the World of COLOR, and the World of Thought is the World of TONE, all differentiated states and rates of vibration, but Man, having vehicles peculiar to all three worlds, can contact the particular conditions of those worlds. Thus the sculptor uses especially the Physical Body and adapts himself to the vibrations of the higher phases of the Physical World; the artist to the Astral World where color holds sway, and the musician to the highest of them all, wherein an especially sensitive ear, the result of training throughout several incarnations, can bring to earth the delicate and subtle tones of these high or inner worlds.

Crystallization

These Instructions have emphasized the importance of understanding that all creative process, involuntary and evolutionary, is the result of crystallization from within outwards, just as the shell fish crystallizes his outward body or vehicle from the soft tissues of his inner corpus. The physical body of all species is built into the matrix formed by the inner or higher vehicles, and becomes the outward, protective, hard exterior, necessary to supply the requisite resistance to outer impact during the occupancy of the developing specie.

Crystallization shows the "Lines of Force"

Now this phenomenon of crystallization presents many interesting phases. First it shows the action of the inner worlds upon the outer and reveals the presence and lines of activity of the invisible forces. For instance, the frost appearing on the window pane as the result of the warm moisture of the interior of a room condensing and freezing; the various solutions of chemicals, show in the regular, geometric formations that while in solution, the lines of forces were all the time present but invisible, but the process of frosting or freezing, or the chemical process of crystal projection, makes those lines of force hitherto invisible, now fully visible and very beautiful to behold, a demonstration of the exact, methodical, scientific, geometric basis upon which all of Nature's processes are planned and operated.

But the process of Crystallization also conceals specific dangers. In the Mineral Kingdom we observed that it has been carried to such an extent that the Mineral Spirit was practically powerless to help itself, except by waiting untold aeons until the rock should gradually "die" and disintegrate in that way, but was in reality dependent upon the activities of the three higher Kingdoms to release it, liberate it and allow it to proceed upon its developmental pathway.

Crystallization in the Vegetable Kingdom

This dangerous condition holds true in ALL the Kingdoms. While it is true that one of the basic laws is that of "conformity to type," nevertheless, while fully conforming thereto, we see a constant amplification and multiplication of types in the Vegetable world or Kingdom, yet even today, we find examples of types which have not improved, grown or developed in millions upon millions of years, as evidenced by fossiliferous vestigial remains in the lowest strata. The great Trees of California are somewhat of this type, as some have imagined, and are the remains of an age when growth was comparatively unchecked. It would be difficult to estimate their true age, for occultists assign them an age far greater than that given by biologists. These Giant Sequoias which attain a height of 200,300 and even 400 feet, are said to be 1,335 years old. The famous "General Sherman Tree" in the Sequoia National Park having been 2,000 years old when Jesus was born, and, still foliating, may be said to be the "Oldest Living Thing in the World." (*National Geographic Society*.) From occult sources we teach that the age of many of these trees is greater, and geologists and biologists as well as botanists concede that in "early geologic times these Sequoias occupied a far more important place in the vegetation of the earth."

Sequoias, their age

Their persistence They occur in the lower chalk formations, and in Tertiary times were widely diffused. The genus is represented in the Eocene Flora of Great Britain, and in the succeeding Miocene period was widely distributed in Europe and Asia. IT IS PRESUMED THAT IN THE GLACIAL EPOCH, THE GENUS WAS EXTERMINATED, except in the areas in Western North America, where it still persists.

Lesson of the trees These particular Trees have been mentioned as the most gigantic evidences of the crystallization of the Spirit of the Vegetable Kingdom in a specific type. The lesson is, that in all these ages, these trees have not progressed in perfection of type, grain, specie, foliage, etc., but remain as mute evidence of gigantic, unchecked growth and nothing more. They too, awaited the action of the tremendously powerful Glacial Epoch to release the genus and allow the imprisoned or crystallized Spirit therein to progress.

Crystallization in the Animal Kingdom Equally do we find this dangerous state of ultra or over-crystallization in the Animal Kingdom. Notably among the reptilia and semi-amphibians do we find types which have not changed during milliards, with the possible exception of size, crystallized into types or species and genus.

Crystallization among Humans Here crystallization carried to an unnecessary extent finds its greatest field and at the same time works the greatest harm. For among the Human Kingdom, we find, not so much crystallization as to type, as to Race. Today, we find certain races which do not assimilate themselves among the other races of the world or even among those races with whom they elect to live and engage in business enterprise. Such are the Chinese, Tibetans, Hebrews, Arabians, Bedouins and many Asiatic and South American Races or groups. Some of these mentioned are gradually realizing the racial crystallization and attempting by change of name, rejection of racial religions and traditional practices and language, to break away from the thralldom of the Race Spirit deadlock, and some are attempting it more rapidly than others. The Japanese are a notable example of those who hold all that is of proven merit in the old, and embracing all that is worthy and desirable in the newer order of the world's affairs.

Such crystallization is dangerous to the races so involved for it operates to hold such peoples over from one wave of evolution to another, making them stragglers in one wave, and "hold-overs" to another, which, not being of their original inception, is out of rapprochement with them in many essential ways.

Life Currents of the Four Kingdoms All that is, is a manifestation of Life. All Life has currents of vital force, either static or pulsating. Thus—

The Mineral Kingdom The Mineral Kingdom has its life currents, but they are the invisible currents of Force which manifest only when the phenomena of freezing or crystallization is introduced as previously described. Yet the results of the activity of these Mineral lines of force may be seen by a close analysis of the crystalline formation of the structure of the Mineral or Metal, especially in the case of gems. The student must not become confused, however, in studying the rocks, by the evidences exhibited by what are termed the igneous rocks. Then too, the currents of the Planetary Ethers flow continually through even the densest mineral structure as no single atom contacts another atom, but all are separated by the ether.

Vegetable Kingdom In the Vegetable Kingdom, the current is known as the sap, which rises in summer and descends in winter, broadly speaking, with some exceptions. The circulation of the vegetable juices is due to the positive activity of the Light Ether, and the cessation of the flow in winter is due to the fact that the Light Ether is not surcharged as normally, with the solar energy. The negative activity of the Light Ether causes the deposit of the chlorophyl or green coloring matter of plant life, and also the color on the flowers.

Transition stage In the transition from the Plant to the Animal Kingdoms we encounter organisms or creatures possessing the power of motion, but without RED BLOOD. These creatures have as yet no Astral Body.

Cold Blooded animals Immediately following this group of organisms, we have the Cold Blooded animals with both Liver and Red Blood, but cold. In these, there is an Astral Body, and the Group Spirit is at work directing the vitalizing currents INward. This pertains particularly to the Fish and Reptilia. The separate spirit of each example of the specie is outside the organism.

Warm Blooded animals When the separate Spirit outside each example of a specie BEGINS to INdraw itself into its bodies or vehicles, it at the same time directs the vitalizing currents INward, producing WARM RED BLOOD, the beginning of passional or emotional existence.

Man In the Human Kingdom, the Spirit is fully INdrawn, and bodily currents flow outward from the Liver, and the pulsating, vital force is the Warm, Red Blood which as we shall learn later is the crystallized Fire of Cosmic vitality.

Anaesthetics The flow of blood is very largely dependent upon the activity of the Etheric Body and the Ethers. Thus when anaesthetics are used, they operate to dissociate the Etheric Body from the Physical Body, loosening the contact, and thus sensation ceases as far as consciousness of it is concerned. If carried too far, however, the Life Ether may be completely inhibited in its action, in which case death will ensue. The same phenomenon occurs in the case of drowning or freezing, or in bad dreams of the "nightmare" sort. The loss of consciousness is due to the separation of the Etheric Body from the Physical, and the disagreeable sensation of returning consciousness of sensation, similar to that after an arm has "gone to sleep," is due to the reassociation or newly forming contact of the millions of points described in the previous Instruction.

Drowning and Freezing

(To be continued)

College Notes.

On Monday evening, April 25th, Fr. Fannius, 0-0, (A.R.N.) was Raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason, in Normal Lodge No. 523, F. & A. M. The Wor. A. . . attended, accompanied by a Delegation composed of the following Masonic Fraters of Metropolitan College; Hermeticus, Novius, Irenaeus, Lactantius, Paracelsus, Khei, Romulus, Dionysius, Patricius, and Servinus.

By permission and courtesy of the Wor. Master of Normal Lodge, Frater Fannius was Received, Met, and Raised by his own Brethren of Metropolitan, as follows:—

Received by Fr. Hermeticus, P.M. of Arcturus Lodge, No. 274.

Met at S. .G. . by Fr. Romulus, P.M. of Maimonides Lodge, No. 743.

Met at W. .G. . by Fr. Novius, P.M. of Maimonides Lodge, No. 743.

Met at E. .G. . by Fr. Dionysius, P.M. of Adelpic Lodge, No. 348.

Raised by Fr. Reficio, P.M. of Adelpic Lodge.

After the Work in Normal Lodge, the Fraters of Metropolitan adjourned to their own room, on the 15th Floor of the Temple.

At the last Convocation, the following Amendment to the By-Laws was offered by Rt. Wor. Fr. Paracelsus, IX,—

"The Initiation Fee shall be \$25.00, payable, \$5.00 with the Application and the balance on Initiation.

The Dues shall be \$10.00 per annum, payable semi-annually in advance.

These Amendments will be acted upon at the next Convocation.

At the last Convocation, Sorors Nicaea and Egregia were appointed to the Congregatio Orientis, by the Wor. A. . .

The fraternal sympathy of the College goes out to Sorors Solida and Intrepida, on the transition of their sister and daughter respectively, Miss Josephine Bardo, which occurred on Friday, May 2nd, at noon, after a protracted illness.

The thanks of the College are extended to Rt. Wor. Fr. Firmus, IX°, for his gift of several books to the College Library; also, many valuable astrological clippings and Theosophical pamphlets.

Soror Beatrix, for some time past Secretary to the I. . . was scheduled to sail on the 20th instant for Bogota, Colombia, South America, having accepted an advantageous business offer in that city. The cordial good wishes of the College go with her and at the last Convocation a rising vote of thanks for her valuable services to the college was tendered her.

The fraternal good will of the College goes also with Soror Crucia (Miss L. P.) who is returning to her home in British Guiana, South America.

The Regular Quarterly Business Meeting of the College for May, will be held immediately after the closing, at the next Convocation.



Directory

The One Hundred and Third Stated Convocation of Metropolitan College
S. .R. .I. .A. ., will be held in the Adytum, 310 Lenox Avenue
Between 125th. and 126th. Streets, opposite 125th. Street station, Lenox Ave. Subway.

Friday Evening, May 23, 1919, at 8.00 P. M. precisely

Work:

Neophytes' Class Instructor. Rt. Wor. Fr. Reficio IX°

Elementary Rosicrucian Philosophy, No. 4,

Subject: "The Four Kingdoms."

This Class will meet at 8:00 P.M., on Wednesday, May 28, in Room 1517 Masonic Temple, 24th St.
Take Elevators from 24th St. Entrance.

Elementary Hermetic Class.....Instructor, Rt. Wor. Fr. Paracelsus IX°

Elementary Hermetic Instruction, No. 5,

Subject: "The Doctrine of the ALL in All."

This Class will meet at 8:00 P.M., on Friday, May 30th, in Room 1517 Masonic Temple, 24th St.
See Instructions above.

Senior Hermetic Class.Instructor, Fr. K.

Senior Hermetic Instruction, No. 1,

Subject: "The Sacramental System, Hermetically Explained."

Astrological Classes.

Sr. Progressia 9°-2°.

Elementary Class, 1st, 3rd and 5th Tuesdays. 712 West 180th Street.

CLASS CONVENES AT 8:00 P. M. PRECISELY, PLEASE BE PROMPT.

Masonic Notices.

THE EIGHTEENTH REGULAR VOYAGE OF METROPOLITAN LODGE, NO. 1, ARK MARINER MASONS, will be held on Thursday Evening, June 5th, at 8:00 P. M.