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The Twenty-seventh Revelation

REBIRTH

THE HOPE OF THE WORLD

"I sent my Soul through the Invisible
Some letter of that After-Life to spell,
And by and by my Soul returned to me,
And answered 'I, myself, am heav'n and hell.'"

BELOVED COMPANION:

Again we find Companionship, Mind to Mind and Thought to Thought in Δ .

Again we lift the veil to peer a little further into ancient, mysterious wisdom concerning that which lies beyond the grave.

Thoughtfully, these words must be taken with the realization that in them is wisdom older than our own although not in accord with what we have been led to believe.

The mark of wisdom in a man or woman is openmindedness, their fairness in hearing that which to them is new, and their willingness to explore paths that may seem strange. Anything new is strange at first.

The mark of the unintelligent is fear: Fear of the Unknown, Fear of Death, Fear of the integrity of notions that are new to them, and stubborn unwillingness to think what are to them new thoughts.

Mayans who have progressed to where they are ready for this lecture-lesson are those who have proved their intelligence and their willingness to exercise it for greater understanding, for more mastery over the fears of lack and for closer attunement to the MIND of the ALL of which they are a living part.

The ancient Mayans believed and taught that there exists a WAY, a ROAD beset with the strange perils of initiation; yet, to speak in metaphorical language, it leads to the heart of Universal Being - the heart of this manifested Universe. In our present studies we have endeavored to open the secret gateway which leads ever-inward towards this ancient Middle Way of occult Mayanry to the very heart of Perfection.

Beloved Companion of the Mayan Way, Believe This:

THERE IS NO DANGER WHICH YOUR DAUNTLESS COURAGE CANNOT OVERCOME.

THERE IS NO TRIAL OF INITIATION WHICH, THROUGH THE SPOTLESS PURITY OF YOUR ASPIRATIONS, YOU CANNOT OVERCOME.

THERE IS NO DIFFICULTY THAT YOUR ENLIGHTENED AND WORTHY INTELLECT CANNOT SURMOUNT.

For YOU can CONQUER and win rewards past present understanding and success beyond your loftiest dreams. Persevere, for THE FUTURE IS YOURS! Throughout Eternity -- Without End -- IT IS YOURS.

And if Doubt murmurs, "And if I fail?", remember, Beloved Companion, there are other lives in which more complete success must come.



IN THE ancient concept of human Rebirth we turn again to the old, old truths of immortal being or eternal life, freed of the superstitions and fears that have beset man in a day of false doctrines.

It is written that hope springs eternal in the human breast and in the Mayan teachings of Human Rebirth we find the logical and scientific reasons for eternal hope. We are fortunate to have that rare privilege of probing the wisdom of an age long past and rebuilding that independence and lofty grandeur of soul which illumined Mayan civilization and other peoples of the past.

Historians have often marveled that a civilization so perfect, so complex and highly developed as that of the ancient Mayans of Guatemala and Mexico could have collapsed so easily before the pressure of a handful of Spanish adventurers.

There are several answers to this. At the peak of their cultural development the Ancient Mayans strove to create a very high form of civilization. This led to habits of peace. As in ancient Greece, each city largely ruled itself and anything like what we would call a Federal Bureaucracy or overgovernment was avoided. Various kings existed but they almost never called upon all the cities to join in warfare. When defense was necessary, armies were assembled from two or three cities in the district that was threatened.

THE MAYA at the time of the conquest could not well conceive of any reason why any group of men should even desire to enforce their will by arms against a peaceful people. Warfare, when it occurred, was more in the nature of a sports event, a contest, than for the sake of pillage, rape and slavery.

As in ancient Greece and in the land of the Maya, a highly advanced civilization in ancient China was overcome and ruined by the lethargy of its own people, made soft by the perfection of their culture over that of neighboring people.

Another fact to remember concerning Mayan advancement at the time of the conquest is that the great leaders and teachers had vanished long before the conquest. As in Christianity today, nearly two thousand years after Christ, His message is largely misunderstood. As an example:

In recent years, we witnessed the extraordinary spectacle of a colored man in New York City worshipped as God himself by thousands of people. The true message is that we are God because we are part of Him who is All. By Reincarnation we grow greater in Character and Ability and, as a consequence, merge more and more into the very heart of HIM, taking on more and more of His Omnipotent Powers as we grow. But the journey is long and Mortal Man can only reflect the Godhead. Man's greater manifestations come when he attains higher planes than that of Earth Life, when by this growth he reflects in an ever brighter, truer Light. (These things will be easier to understand when you have progressed farther on the Path).

Let it suffice to say now that the Maya believed implicitly in Reincarnation or the Rebirth of the Soul and welcomed the explorers, hoping they were the original Mayans returning (White men from the East whose coming had been prophesied in detail for several hundred years.) By this friendliness they gave the Spanish opportunity to wreck their ancient civilization. From the most ancient times the Mayans believed that the mysterious bearded white man, their great teacher, Ku-Kul-Can or, as the Aztecs called him, Quetzalcohuatl, would return and again govern the land and the people he had organized in remote times. Whence he came and where he had departed, this strange white father of their civilization, they knew not but the ancient prophecies revealed that in the due course of time he would again appear.

The landing of white men, especially the sight of men mounted on horseback (horses were unknown in America then), revived the ancient prophecies and prepared the way for the decline of Mayan civilization.

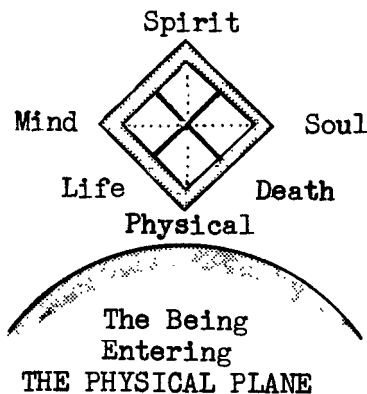
Daniel G. Brinton, former professor of American Archaeology and Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania, writes:

"That such legends (of rebirth and the return of the soul) existed is proved by the fact that, in Mexico, Bogota and Peru, the whites were at once called from the proper names of the heroes of the dawn, Suas, Viracochas and Quetzalcohuatls. Historians have marveled at the instantaneous collapse of the empires of Mexico, Peru and the Mayas and the Natches before a handful of Spanish filibusters. The fact is and was, wherever the whites appeared, they were connected with these ancient predictions of the spirit of the dawn returning to claim his own."

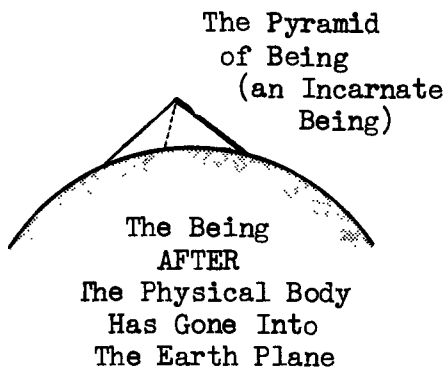
"For a very long time", said Montezuma at his first interview with Cortez, "has it been handed down that we are not the original possessors of this land but came hither from a distant region under the guidance of a ruler who left us and will return."

In fact, the belief in Rebirth appeared to be a common doctrine among the American Indians. To quote Professor Brinton: "The Maryland Indians said the white people were an ancient generation who had come to life again and had returned to seize their former land."

It is evident, therefore, from a study of the old myths and philosophical teachings of the ancients that the belief in the doctrine of human rebirth was at one time universal. Mayanry again serves its ancient purpose in bringing this truth to the perception of man.



Here, The Symbol of Being is to be considered as a Cube. This is the form used in ancient Egyptian Rites of Masonry and by Modern Masons.



Everywhere the great mystery of life and its intricate problems confront mankind as human intelligence grows and, as the complexity of existence increases, the mystery deepens. Some solution, other than self-evident facts lying at the root of human suffering, sin and sorrow, is needed. There was a time when such spiritual problems were left to a special class of thinkers but their failure to answer clearly the great questions of life must arouse the sincere soul to "seek and find" the true solution to the riddle of his existence.

It is in the idea of Rebirth that man again reaches a scientific explanation of life. This means that our present life is the outcome of all our previous lives and that our future life will be in exact accordance with these past lives and our present mode of living. Connecting this Revelation with the Mayan conception of Universal Justice - Karmic Law - we find the solution to the perplexing problems of Life.

Rebirth, or the re-embodiment of the human soul, can be seen as the process by which the intelligence in man expresses itself through what the ancients termed rupas, or forms or bodies for man has more than one body. He must have a vehicle or body through which to express thought, another, the Spirit body, for his emotions and desires, and another, which expresses and contains Character, that which he IS, the SOUL. And of course the visible, mortal physical body, the instrument by which the Soul, Spirit and Mind contact the world that is real to us. But the body must never be confused with the real man who is superior to all physical flesh, to earthly emotion, carnal desire and worldly ambition.

The Bhagavad Gita of the Hindus expresses this idea in beautiful language:

"As a man throweth away old garments and putteth on new, even so the dweller in the body, having quitted its old mortal frame, entereth into others which are new."

We know that the evolution of our physical body - this marvelous instrument through which the real you contacts this Material universe - was brought about by the expanding of the intelligence within. There are no backward steps in evolution and once the process begins it is ever toward finer and finer perfection, keener and more sensitive sense perception. Evolution is simply growing (drawing) nearer to our Creator, evolving into His Image.

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Nature illustrates the recurrent efforts of evolution in all its manifestations. There is a rhythm and a harmony toward which all existence yearns. Day followed by night, is succeeded by another day. In the seasons, Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter are followed by similar cycles with invariable sequence. Man cannot escape from the cyclic manifestation of Life and follows the Universal Law of Birth, Youth, Manhood and Maturity and, then, on the downward side: fading strength, impaired faculties - only to enter again, after a period of rest which allows the fullest assimilation of the experiences of that life-time, into another birth with a new body and personality plus a new chance and a better purpose than may have been possible in the last!

The race horse is endowed with a more sensitive nervous system than his less evolved brothers; so in man, as culture and intelligence grow, the nervous system and its reactions become keener. The more evolved and complex the nervous system, the higher the manifestation of life and the better the physical instrument.

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UNFOLDING FROM WITHIN Rebirth implies pre-existing intelligence which persists and expands through all the changes and experiences of human embodiment. These must lead ever toward the great aim and purpose of the Soul - the gaining of all wisdom. Evolution is simply the unfolding from Within of the potentialities of the inner-man and behind this compelling force is Spirit, itself, seeking greater heights by means of these temporary incarnations in flesh. Or, as Browning phrased it: "Other heights in other lives, God willing."

One of the commonest objections made to the idea of Rebirth is that if we have lived before why do we not remember our previous lives? Some people do! However, Memory is mainly a part of conscious mind. Subconscious memory is a little deeper, nearer the Soul's department of Character. The brain has a sort of memory, too, called "reflexes". It is solely physical and dies when our bodies die or shortly after. But Character and Subconscious memory are Eternal and are reborn when we are born again. It is simply this: we are not conscious of the things that are not in our consciousness. We are only slightly conscious of the things that are in our subconsciousness. We are only partly aware of our true Characters. But scientifically, the memory of other lives is not needed to prove that one has passed through such experience.

Consider your present life. Have you not forgotten the occurrences of the

greater part of your present life? In fact, few of us could accurately recall the happenings of a single day.

Perhaps you carry a scar which may be the only mark left of your childhood; the injury which produced it being forgotten or only dimly remembered. It is not the memory of events or experiences which shapes your life and destiny! Rather, it is the effect they have had on your Character which shapes the general destiny of your life. One could say that Character is composite memory or, as we say in Mayanry:

CHARACTER IS THAT PART OF THE SOUL THAT ACTS AS THE RECORDING ANGEL.

Every deed, every fleeting thought is recorded forever. Their sum-total makes our Character. And until that Character is made Godlike, we are bound to the everlasting turning of the Wheel of Life on this plane. There is no escaping. It has always been. It shall always be. Like the Wheel, it is endless.

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THOUGHTS Sleep takes up about one-third of your existence yet you do not re-
 ARE member your dream experiences save, perhaps, a few weird dreams
 THINGS which impress themselves into your consciousness. Yet, there is a
 sense of identity which bridges the period between sleeping and
 waking, also during these strange gaps in human consciousness which may be caused
 by anaesthetics or fainting, so that when we return to consciousness we know our-
 selves as the same person.

In fact, if human identity depended upon memory or recollection we would, to a degree at least, have to begin over every day of our lives.

Yet memory is not lost. Part of memory exists in the brain or nerve centers of the body. But all of memory exists in the Mind, Intellect and Soul. Scientific experiments in hypnotism tend to prove that even the most insignificant event or experience has been registered on the subconscious or astral mind. Thus, human memory is never lost. But largely, it runs one way like a river, and not both ways.

On the other hand, it is said that even the details of one's life flash before the mental perception of the dying and before the eyes of a drowning person. So you may be sure that every detail of the whole mass of your life is preserved forever and is worked into the subtle framework of your nature, to produce later effects in lives to come.

This is the real occult truth behind the teaching that Thoughts Are Things. They are the material of your invisible Being by which and through which you manifest.

Whenever you think a thought, no matter what its nature, you, like God, create. God made us that way. "In His image" we have the Creative ability. Therefore, think good thoughts and the strength of your thinking determines the quality of that which is created.

ARE THERE PEOPLE WHO REMEMBER THEIR FORMER INCARNATIONS?

Brushing aside the beliefs of Napoleon who held he was Charlemagne, the Frankish King and Roman Emperor who was born in 742 A.D., or that of Benito Mussolini who naively believed himself the reincarnation of Julius Caesar, let us consider a most remarkable incident of modern times:

Some years ago, a committee of scientists, psychologists and psychical researchers was formed in India to investigate the strange case of Shanti Devi, a nine-year-old Delhi girl who had been telling her parents, ever since she could lisp the Hindustani language, of a life she had lived previous to the present.

As Shanti Devi grew older the recollections of this former life became more and more vivid, capable of reconstruction and of being checked by evidence contemporary with it. Her past included a husband and children whose names she remembered.

The relatives of the man named by Shanti Devi as her husband began inquiries and, after the girl had recognized an unknown visitor as a younger cousin of her husband, decided to have the husband visit Delhi. No word was said to the girl in regard to this visit and when the man appeared, she immediately embraced him, crying "My husband has come back."

Of the three children accompanying the husband, Shanti recognized her own son, saying, as the Indian newspapers reported, that he was born to her in her "first life". A most searching cross-examination was then made and it demonstrated the accuracy of her assertions regarding this "first life" such as that she had been "first" born in 1902 and then received the name Lugdi; that her son was born in 1925 and that as "Lugdi" she had died on October 24, 1925, at Agra.

These revelations attracted wide attention and, after a public meeting of ten thousand Delhi citizens which included many reputable public men had appointed a sub-committee of local leaders, it was decided that the most important test was to take the girl to Muttra after it had been proved that during her life as Shanti Devi she had never left Delhi.

The story goes on to say that on arrival at Muttra Station, the girl, looking out a carriage window, not only recognized, among a large crowd, her former husband's brother, mother and cousin, but also addressed them with a colloquial phrase which is unknown to Delhi but common in Muttra.

The girl was then blindfolded and placed in a carriage, the driver being instructed to go only where he was directed by the girl. Shanti Devi not only correctly indicated the route, but related incidents about the buildings and the temples they passed on the way. The trip ended in a narrow lane, and the girl stepping onto the doorsteps of a house in the middle of a row cried, "Here is my home", and added as an old man came out, "Here is my father-in-law."

It is said that while Shanti Devi does not in any way resemble Lugdi in appearance, her voice, character and mannerisms are the same. This similarity has gone a long way toward convincing the husband that the girl is really his old wife. The story goes on to say he was then considering whether or not he should take her back, as his wife, and as the nine-year-old mother of his ten-year-old son.

This story was published in the conservative New York Times in 1936, from "The Times" of Calcutta.

Bizarre as this story appears to be, it is only one of many innumerable incidents recorded about people who have remembered previous existences. Poets have sung the story of Rebirth and immortalized its truths in every language and among all peoples. Most religions have taught it but unfortunately its truths have been obscured by less worthy doctrines. It is the age-old story of a second chance; of eternal life and perfection through the self-directed efforts of the human soul.

Our present brain is new; it has had no part in the experiences of lives gone by. Therefore, we are unable to bring into the conscious present the memories of the past. Indeed, this is a most fortunate boon for if we could but realize our sins, crimes, lusts and errors committed in previous lives, a most serious bar to future and present progress would be encountered. The full results of previous actions, desires, ambitions, errors, triumphs and successes are built into the very fabric of our character. Our job NOW is to use these characteristics constructively and pass on to fresh triumph, success and nobility.

A seed does not "remember" its life as a bud but it carries within it the characteristics that cause it to unfold according to its nature. Oak trees grow from oak acorns, peaches from peach trees and never does an apple tree grow from a plum seed. You are our Companion because you are of certain characteristics, of certain like seed. That is what caused you to turn into these paths, your inner desire, an inner urge to continue on these Paths to Understanding.

There is an old parable which Jesus used to illustrate the duties of the Soul in this present life. (Luke 19, 12, to 26). The original story went something like this:

"A certain nobleman went to a far country to receive for himself a kingdom and to return.

And he called his ten servants and delivered to them ten pounds (or talents) and said unto them 'Trade ye herewith till I come' . . . And it came to pass that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money that he might know how much every man had gained by trading.

"Then came the first before the king, saying 'Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds'.

"And he said unto him, 'Well done, thy good servant; because thou hast been faithful in this little thing, thou has hereby authority over ten cities'.

"And the second came, saying, 'Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds.'

"And he said likewise to him 'Be thou also over five cities.'

"And another came, saying, 'Lord, behold, here is thy pound which I have laid up in a napkin. For I feared thee because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that which thou layest not down and reapest that which thou didst not sow.'

"And he saith unto him, 'Out of thy own mouth will I judge thee thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that which I laid not down and reaping what I did not sow.

"Wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank that at my coming I might have required my own with interest?'

"And he said unto them that stood by, 'Take from him the pound and give it to him that hath ten pounds.'

"(And they said unto him, 'Lord, he hath ten pounds.')

"'For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that which he hath shall be taken away from him.'"

One should seek to understand the spiritual and mystical meaning of this parable. TO HIM WHO HAS WILL BE GIVEN. In other words, those persons who use to the fullest extent their abilities of Spirit, Soul and Body in whatsoever field they choose will surely increase their powers, widen their intelligence and reap the fullest success.

The harvest shall be manifold times the seed which is planted and tended. Make use of your opportunities and Nature will surely bring you full reward. Whatever you gain in perfection of your mental processes and their use on the field of life will never again be lost for LIFE INVOLVES GROWTH and ever leads to perfection. Thus, the idea of Rebirth gives a new meaning to human life as we build for a future we ourselves shall share. As heirs of our illimitable past, we now become masters of Time and conquerors of space.

"WHY SHOULD MY BIRTH KEEP DOWN MY MOURNING SPIRIT?
ARE NOT ALL CREATURES SUBJECT UNTO TIME?
THERE'S LEGIONS NOW OF BEGGARS ON THE EARTH,
AND THEIR ORIGINAL DID SPRING FROM KINGS,
AND MANY MONARCHS NOW, WHOSE FATHERS WERE
THE RIFF-RAFF OF THEIR AGE."

--Shakespeare.

Dearly Beloved Companion, our journey together did not just start when you sought membership in the Mayan Order, nor does it end when the shades of death descend. The journey ahead holds further trials but it is glorious at its goal. Vade Mecum Volventibus Annis. For it is written in the annals of esoteric thought that in the glass of Things Temporal rests the Image of Things Eternal.

Let your meditating mind rest upon the ancient truth that:

BIRTH IS NOT THE BEGINNING OF LIFE
NOR IS DEATH ITS ENDING. THEY BEGIN AND END
ONLY ONE CHAPTER OF THE STORY OF LIFE.
THE STORY COMPRISES MANY CHAPTERS, SOME WRITTEN,
OTHERS TO BE WRITTEN. AND THE PLOT OF THE STORY?
IT IS THE PURPOSE OF YOUR LIFE,
THE REASON FOR YOUR BEING.