

# REINCARNATION

## LECTURE

By

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When we turn our attention, to the problem of the origin and destiny of man, we are at once confronted with the baffling mysteries of life. At best we can only say we exist for the great scheme of the cosmos. That indeed seems tangible, for the majority of us know nothing about life. All that we can truthfully say, is that we are instruments, in which the universal, one life in nature acts.

But there must be a solution to the hidden side of life and death. Somewhere, there is a key to the tomb and cradle. If we turn our attention to our sciences of to day, they will not or cannot explain life's problems. If we turn to theology, they bid us to be contented in a blind faith. But the masses of to day are awakening, and they are no longer contented in vapery speculation about the hidden side of life. They want to know.

If there is a key to life's problems it must stand the acid test of reason, logic and justice. Has such a solution ever been found?

Those who have evolved their spiritual faculties, (which lie dormant in every human being), assure us, that the answer has been ringing throughout the universe, since time began, for all who have ears to hear, and it has been known, accepted and forgotten as civilization has come and vanished in rhythmic cycles of ages gone by.

Let us then turn the searchlight of reason on this profound subject. Is reincarnation true? The occult and intellectual thinkers of our day say it is. Man, then, must have lived many times, if he had ever lived before; if not our present existence is the only one.

If there is only one life, how is the human race to be judged? For instance an infant dies, and the common theory is, it has never committed any evil, and it has gone direct to heaven because it is innocent. That is a very beautiful and comforting thought indeed. But we seem to forget it has never done any good to entitle it to a state of spiritual bliss, and it cannot be exonerated from the trials of life in which every one must pass through, to learn his necessary lessons.

Others believe, the infant brought happiness to its parents, and that entitles it to supreme felicity. Of course it did. We all brought happiness to our parents, but surely we do not look back on that to exonerate us from our sins or save us.

Many who reject reincarnation, will tell you this physical life is a sort of kindergarden stage in which we have to pass through, and that we progress, on the other side of the grave. Then why is this kindergarden stage denied an infant?

If there is but one existence, how is the savage and the civilized man to be judged? Are they to be placed on the same pedestal? If so, is it not unjust to render the verdict, well done to the savage, who in his blind ignorance, is continually transgressing the law of God, while you are putting forth your best effort to better yourself?

If man is a flat creation, then the thief, the murderer, the poet, artist, sages and geniuses are born, where is the mercy and justice of God. If the souls of human beings are created equal at birth, (and millions of bad are born), when the good could as well have been born where is the goodness of God?

If every man's soul is equal, why such a difference in human beings, in one member of a family, we frequently find a genius or idiot or a vagabound? How can we account for the infant, one born in a palace, another in a hovel or brothel; one has all the physical and moral requirements, the other not enough, and the other faces a criminal career from the cradle, with very slim chance of escape.

Someone will say, "Quite naturally; the environments are against him." Quite true; environment does have its influence, and a tremendous influence. But we all know there are many children who could be made into criminals in any environment imaginable, while others have become criminals in the most wholesome of environments.

The idea that we are called into existence, at birth, by the Almighty, is ridiculous. Such a belief makes the divine Omniscient responsible for all the inequalities of human life and opportunity. The only possible escape from such an impossible position is by the hypothesis of reincarnation. It not only accounts for all the moral and intellectual differences between souls when they first appear in physical life, but it also presents a logical plan for the future evolution



of man. What other hypothesis than that of reincarnation gives a plan of the progress of the soul? None, within reason. We have our choice of accepting reincarnation which explains human progress from the gutter to the stars or chaos.

There are a few earnest souls however, who get flashes of their past lives, sometimes in dreams or meditating; and when I say this I'm not alluding to people who tell you they were some great personage in the past. I would rather believe a man who told me he was a horse thief in the past, than one who said he was Julius Caesar, or some great reformer.

Reincarnation is often rejected because we cannot remember of having lived before. But this is not so strange, for many of us can hardly remember things that happened in our youth or childhood days. The true reason why we do not remember is because we are living in a different body now, and therefore using different brains. The brains we are using to-day cannot give us proof of a past existence, but the ego, or real self of man remembers. If we try to comprehend human evolution, we must put away the illusion that the physical body is the real self. The physical body is no more the man, than is the coat he wears. As soon as we grasp the fact that life is evolving through changing forms, and that the form changes for the purpose of giving the life varied experiences. But the life is the same life regardless of even the radical changes of form.

Stop looking at your physical body as your real self, and you will begin to understand the scheme of the cosmos. Man is not only living in the physical world, but he lives continuously in three worlds; i. e., the physical, emotional, and mental worlds. It is not strange to hear people, whose consciousness is always centered in the physical side of life, ridicule reincarnation, because they have never studied, or tried to comprehend this great truth.

Many reject reincarnation because some ignoramus told them they will come back as animals. This is a great error. Once a man always a man. The knowledge we gain in life is never lost, but if we live a purely animal life, then we are no better than animals; and we have abundant proof of this. For we meet with human beings who have the characteristics of wolves and snakes.

All that a man can really call his own is his character. He who has no individual character of his own has nothing, and that is about as near as man can get to an animal. Man passes through certain animals on his way to perfection, but once a man, always a man. Once we have gained individualization we may keep on progressing if we will.

A certain lady came to me and asked for an explanation of reincarnation. I told her, that in our evolution we pass through the animal kingdom first, and the lower races of man next. She said, that it seems plausible that she had evolved through the lower races of man including the negro, but she was shocked to think that she should evolve from an animal.

Some people imagine they are so refined, the very idea of evolving from animals shock them, yet they claim to be trying to better themselves. The man who sincerely partakes of the study of reincarnation, cannot but help see it, too, for we see daily, on the streets, the young races, in the negroes and chinamen. Open your eyes and notice your brothers and sisters. Look at those above you also and you will begin to see it. You cannot honestly condemn what you have heard from another, until you have studied the subject and proven its worth. Then and not till then, may you ridicule or condemn.

What is this hypothesis of reincarnation that is attracting the attention of some of the eminent thinkers of to-day? What is the secret of its vitality that enables it to survive the ridicule of the profane? For it has been known from the very early ages of the world. Jesus, taught it to his disciples; Pythagoras, Plato, and every reformer the world has ever known, taught it. Why? Because it lies in the fact that reincarnation is a logical theory for the purpose of life and human evolution, and it shows the divine origin of the race, and the plan of the cosmos by which every individual may better himself. It shows man with an eternity behind as well as before him. A one sided eternity is absurd. Immortality must include past as well as future, it must be independent of time or space. An existence that denies man a past must represent him as a flat creation, called suddenly into physical existence like a mushroom over night. But a true understanding of the inner nature of man, will show, that the repeated incarnations of the real self, the ego, in



the successive personalities is a scientific necessity, for the progress of the human soul. How could it be possible for a man to reach perfection in only a few short years on this planet, if it was possible for him to go on and develop without a physical body? Then why should it have been necessary for him to take on a physical body at all. It is also unreasonable for us to believe that the physical parents are the creators of his soul. If the soul existed before the body was born and could reach a stage of perfection without it, what would be the use of it entering any body at all. Now, if we believe our souls are immortal,—that we exist somewhere, after we cast off our physical body, then that somewhere must be a place, that is meant for our betterment and progress. Can you imagine a better place than a physical planet to better ourselves? If there is one place above all where men and women must learn kindness and sympathy for each other, then I say, that place is this planet or another, surely not in some heaven where it is not required. Compassion, love, tolerance, we must have before we may enter a state of bliss. Even orthodoxy agrees on this, for they that talk about brotherly love, only talk, mind you, for they do not comprehend the true significance of the real Christ teachings. Christ said, "Love one another," but few of those, who claim to be his followers, practice that to-day. It sounds simple, but its significance is tremendous; it means to realize the one life, in all that the individual you call your brother, and that his life and welfare should be the same to you as your own. A little sane thinking will enlighten us on this subject, that humanity is one, and he who hurts another hurts himself. For what takes place in the nature of humanity takes place in his own nature, for his true nature is that of the human race. Sooner or later it must return to us, either in this life or the next, for we cannot escape from ourselves, and this explains to us why beggars, criminals, cripples and deformed human beings come into this world. This is the law of Divine justice: we may break the law as we generally do, but we cannot escape it. The law of reincarnation and cause and effect, gives a man his proper place in the universe. We see at once that there is no injustice, that we reap precisely what we sow, and that we are daily making and shaping our own destiny, and every man becomes his own saviour.



This law naturally relieves the priest from his authority of forgiving sins. No priest has the power to forgive you for your sins. Such a belief is contrary to the law of divine justice. The Bible says, "As ye sow, so shall ye reap." And so we see the law of reincarnation, or cause and effect, answers the solution of the origin and destiny of man. It gives human beings life lessons that are best adapted for them.

There are so many facts in life that orthodoxy, materialism, or science cannot even begin to explain. Reincarnation alone can solve them satisfactorily. In no other way can we account for the presence of great geniuses in the human race. How do you account for a Shakespeare, a Newton, or an Edison appearing among us. The knowledge that some of the modern geniuses have given to the human race many of us cannot even comprehend after it has been explained to us. Some will say it is heredity. It is true we inherit physical characteristics from our parents, but not mental and moral ones. Edison and Newton did not get their genius from their parents.

How do you account for Buddha and Jesus? It is a well known fact that geniuses and saviors of the world, of today, have parents that are hardly known. This would not be if the theory of mental and moral heredity was sound. If they had anything to transmute we would most assuredly have heard of them as well as their offspring. Whence comes this extraordinary aptitude for arts, and sciences, displayed by many children to-day? How do others derive that ferocious instinct of vice which often is strangely in contrast with the environment in which they were born? How do you account for the intellectual giants exhibiting their marvelous knowledge,—men who can calculate the law of eclipses, half a century in advance with marvelous exactitude? Heredity cannot explain this. Reincarnation furnishes the solution, if we try to see it.

These geniuses are men who have given many lives to one study, they have persistently searched for knowledge along these lines, before they are hailed as geniuses. By no other theory can we account for the marvelous power and knowledge, that some men possess. A very close observer may easily distinguish that the young souls are evil and impure,

understand this we cannot blame God for any injustice. We should know that the great thinkers reached their present state through their own will. The Fall is where he is destined. Each have shaped their own

If we begin this life with high ideal and unselfish love, to help others, we will be born in the same holy and lofty condition the next time on this planet. Evil and immoral lives are reborn in the same circumstances. There is no favoritism. One comes into a good family through his own merit, the other into evil surroundings through his own indifference. Someone may ask if we are continually coming back. Yes,—until we learn to know ourselves. Then we will know God. After we have learned all of life's lessons, then we are not required to enter any more prison house of flesh, to chain our soul down. The knowledge we gain in one life is never lost. For instance in our childhood days we may meet with an accident. When we grow to manhood, we may not remember all the circumstances in which the accident occurred, still its impression remains in the mind. In the same manner the experience gained in one life is not remembered in the next, but the impression they provide, remains with the ego during its march to perfection.

The doctrines of reincarnation and transmigration of soul begins from the remotest ages of the world. It is part of the oldest religions known to man. Upon the tombs and rock temples of ancient Egypt, which have withstood the elements for thousands of years, are deeply carved pictures of transmigrating souls. Sometimes Osiris is seated on a pyramid or on an elevated throne, with human beings ascending the stairway to him, while close at hand stands Justice with her balance and the book with the record of the wars—life (the astral body) placed in the scales, the recorder standing by to take a note of it. Here, as it is pictured, those who have attained the realization of self pass away to the right, retaining human form. Those who have not attained this state in human evolution pass to the left and down the pyramid; again some with animals' heads and human bodies, indicating their character, for our character shapes the astral body.

Be not amazed, then, at what I have told thee; you must be born again.