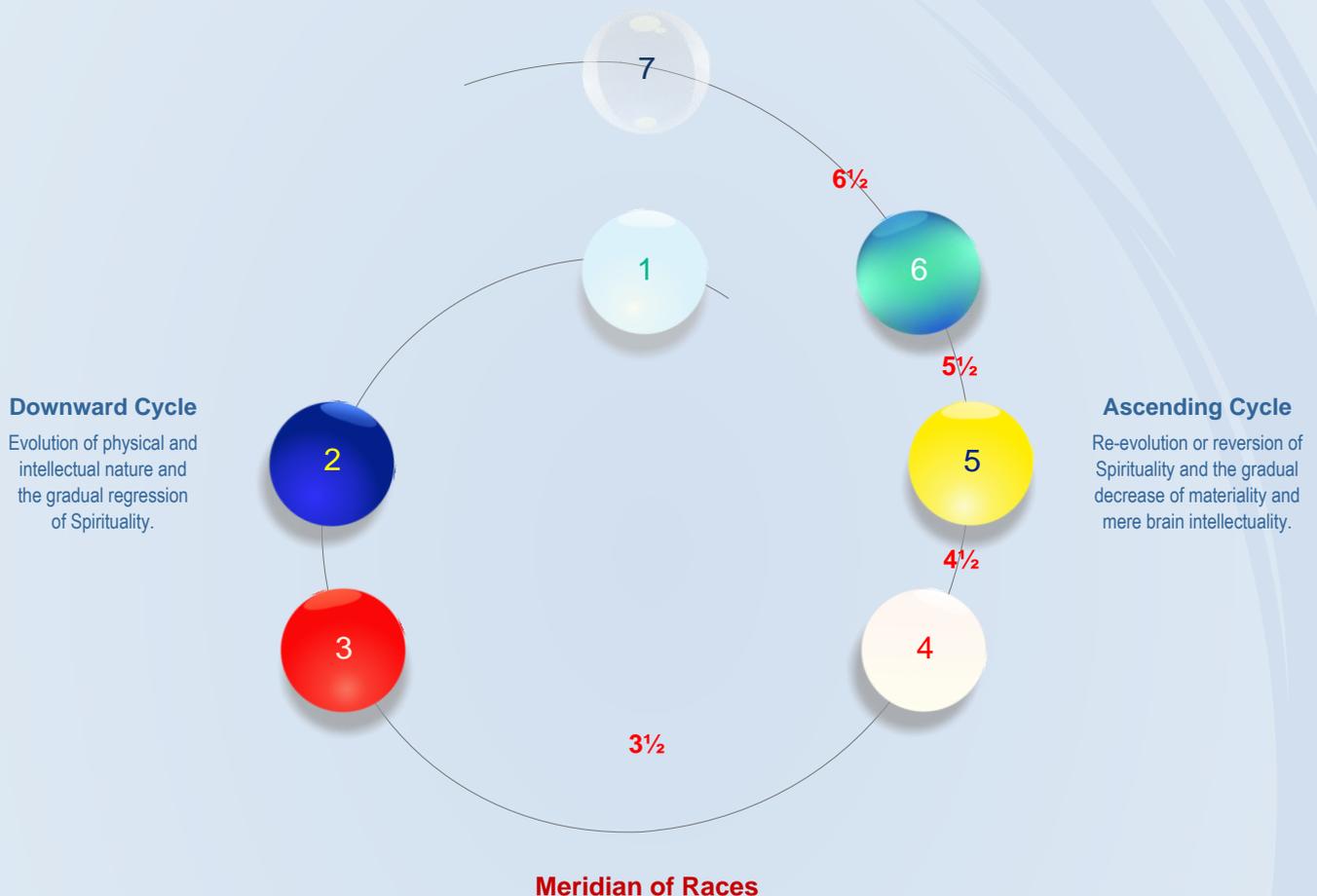


Evolution of Root-Races in the Fourth Round

“We [the Fifth Root-Race] in our first half [of duration] onward [on the now ASCENDING arc of the cycle] are on the mid point of [or between] the First and the Second Races — falling downward [i.e., the races were then on the descending arc of the cycle]. . . . Calculate for thyself, Lanoo, and see.” (Commentary, xx)

Calculating as advised, we find that during that transitional period — namely, in the second half of the First Spiritual ethero-astral race — nascent mankind was devoid of the intellectual brain element. As it was on its *descending* line, and as we are parallel to it, on the *ascending*, we are, therefore devoid of the Spiritual element, which is now replaced by the intellectual. For, remember well, as we are in the *manasa* period of our cycle of races, or in the Fifth, we have, therefore, crossed the meridian point of the perfect adjustment of Spirit and Matter — or that equilibrium between brain intellect and Spiritual perception.



Humanity has crossed the meridian of perfect adjustment between Spirit and Matter, or equilibrium between spiritual perception and brain intellect

One important point has, however, to be borne in mind. We are only in the Fourth Round, and it is in the Fifth that the full development of Manas, as a direct ray from the Universal MAHAT — a ray unimpeded by matter — will be finally reached. Nevertheless, as every sub-race and nation have their cycles and stages of developmental evolution repeated on a smaller scale, it must be the more so in the case of a Root-Race. Our race then has, as a Root-race, crossed the equatorial line and is cycling onward on the Spiritual side; but some of our sub-races still find themselves on the shadowy descending arc of their respective national cycles; while others again — the oldest — having crossed their crucial point, which alone decides whether a race, a nation, or a tribe will live or perish, are at the apex of spiritual development as sub-races.

From *The Secret Doctrine*, II pp. 300-1. Diagram redrawn and coloured by Philaletheians EU.

