

*The European history
is entirely at sea*



Abstract and train of thoughts¹

Question 1 4

Question 2 5

Civilization is an inheritance, a patrimony that passes from race to race along the ascending and descending paths of cycles. 5

In its dark ages, Europe rejected the testimony of Antiquity, calling such sages as Herodotus and other learned Greeks the Fathers of Lies. 5

Question 3 6

The European History is entirely at sea — both literally and figuratively.

Lemuria and the Atlantic Continent with their high civilizations, were submerged and drowned. The two catastrophes were separated by just 700,000 years. 6

Our present Fifth Race began in Asia a million years ago. 6

Greek, Roman, and even Egyptian civilizations are nothing compared to the civilizations that began with the Third Race. 7

Greeks and Romans were small sub-races, and Egyptians part and parcel of our own “Caucasian” stock. Look at the latter, and at India: having reached their highest civilization and learning, both went down. Today’s India, one of the first and most powerful off-shoots of the mother Race, is still struggling to resume her place in history. 7

A series of far greater civilizations than our own existed before (as well as after the Glacial Period) at various points of the globe, reached the apex of glory, and died. 8

The Chaldees were at the apex of their Occult fame well before the so-called “Bronze Age.” 8

The highest people now on earth, in terms of spirituality, belong to the first sub-race of the Fifth Root-race — the Aryan Asiatics. The highest, in terms of physical intellectuality, are those of the last sub-race of the Fifth, the “White Conquerors.” 9

Question 4 10

Question 5 11

Black magic, bestiality, selfishness, and self-adoration spelled the demise of Atlantis and the rise of evil.

The British Islands will be the first to be destroyed by submarine volcanos and water; France and other lands will follow suit. When they reappear, very few seas and great waters will be found then on our globe. 11

¹ Frontispiece by Bahman Pezeshkzad.

The approach of every new obscuration is always signalled by cataclysms, earthquakes, and fire.

Though perfected in materiality, the Atlanteans degenerated in spirituality. Atlantis and its proud Fourth Race inhabitants sunk 856,000 years ago, coinciding with the elevation of the Alps. 12

When our present race reaches its zenith of intellectuality, and its peak of materialistic “civilization,” unable to go any higher towards absolute evil, its progress will be arrested by one of such cataclysmic changes; and it’s sub-races will go down their respective cycles, after a short period of glory and learning. 12

See the remnants of the Atlanteans, the old Greeks and Romans, how great, how short, and how evanescent were their days of fame and glory! 12

Every race had its adepts, who are allowed to give out as much of their knowledge as the men of that race deserve. The adepts of the last race will be far higher than any of the preceding races, for among them will abide the future Planetary Spirit, whose duty will be to instruct or “refresh the memory” of the first race of the Fifth Round men after this planet’s future obscuration. 13

Question 6 14

What emerges at the end of time is the collective personal experience skimmed off every new fifth principle in the long series of being. 14

Separated from matter, Spirit becomes the absolute negation of life and being, whereas matter is inseparable from it. 14

Life is not only readily convertible into other aspects of the all-pervading Force, it can be actually infused into an artificial man. Frankenstein is a myth only so far as he is the hero of a mystic tale. The physicians of the last sub-race of the sixth Race will inoculate life and revive corpses, as they now vaccinate against infectious diseases. 14

Question 7 16



From A.T. Barker (*Transc. & Comp.*), edited by C. Humphreys & E. Benjamin. *The Mahatma Letters to A.P. Sinnett from the Mahatmas M. & K.H.* (1st ed. 1923). Madras: Theosophical Publishing House, 1962 (3rd ed.) [Combined ed.]¹

Questions 1-7, from A.P. Sinnett to Master K.H., in: Mahatma Letter 23a (93a) p. 142; 3rd Combined ed. Received at Simla: October, 1882.

Answers from Master K.H. to A.P. Sinnett, in: Mahatma Letter 23b (93b) pp. 145-56; 3rd Combined ed.



Question 1

Is there any way of accounting for what seems the curious rush of human progress within the last two thousand years, as compared with the relatively stagnant condition of the fourth round people up to the beginning of modern progress?

The latter end of a very important cycle. Each Round, each ring, as every race has its great and its smaller cycles, on every planet that mankind passes through.

Our fourth Round Humanity has its one great cycle, and so have her races and sub-races. The “curious rush” is due to the double effect of the former — the beginning of its downward course; — and of the latter (the small cycle of your “sub-race”) running on to its apex. Remember, you belong to the fifth Race, yet you are but a *Western* sub-race. Notwithstanding your efforts, what you call civilization is confined only to the latter and its off-shoots in America. Radiating around, its deceptive light may seem to throw its rays a greater distance than it does in reality. There is no “rush” in China, and of Japan you make but a caricature.

A student of occultism ought not to speak of the “stagnant” condition of the fourth Race people” since *history* knows next to nothing of that condition “up to the beginning of modern progress” of other nations but the Western. What do you know of America, for instance, before the invasion of that country by the Spaniards? Less than two centuries prior to the arrival of Cortés there was as great a “rush” towards progress among the *sub-races* of Peru and Mexico as there is now in Europe and the U.S.A. Their sub-race ended in nearly total annihilation through causes generated by itself; so will yours at the end of its cycle. We may speak only of the “stagnant conditions” into which, following the law of development, growth, maturity and decline every race and sub-race falls into during its transition periods. It is that latter condition your *Universal* History is acquainted with, while it remains superbly ignorant of the condition even India was in, some ten centuries back. Your sub-races are now running toward the apex of their respective cycles, and that History goes no further back than the periods of decline of a few other sub-races belonging most of them to the preceding fourth Race. And what is the area and period of time embraced by its *Universal* eye? — At the utmost stretch a few, miserable dozens of centuries. A mighty horizon, indeed! Beyond — all is darkness for it, nothing but hypotheses. . . .

¹ Throughout our study notes, the *Mahatma Letters to A.P. Sinnett* are cited by two numbers: the first, corresponds to the “combined edition” of A.T. Barker, edited by C. Humphreys & E. Benjamin (1st ed. 1923); 3rd ed., Madras: Theosophical Publishing House, 1962. The second number (in parentheses), refers to the “Chronological edition,” as arranged and edited by V.H. Chin Jr. Quezon City: Theosophical Publishing House, 1993. — ED. PHIL.]

Question 2

Or has there been at any former period during the habitation of the earth by fourth round men, civilizations as great as our own in regard to intellectual development that have utterly passed away?

Civilization is an inheritance, a patrimony that passes from race to race along the ascending and descending paths of cycles.

In its dark ages, Europe rejected the testimony of Antiquity, calling such sages as Herodotus and other learned Greeks the Fathers of Lies.

No doubt there was. Egyptian and Āryan records and especially our Zodiacal tables furnish us with every proof of it besides our *inner* knowledge. Civilization is an inheritance, a patrimony that passes from race to race along the ascending and descending paths of cycles. During the minority of a sub-race, it is preserved for it by its predecessor, which disappears, dies out generally, when the former “comes of age.” At first, most of them squander and mismanage their property, or leave it untouched in the ancestral coffers. They reject contemptuously the advice of their elders and prefer, boy-like, playing in the streets to studying and making the most of the untouched wealth stored up for them in the records of the Past. Thus during your transition period — the middle ages — Europe rejected the testimony of Antiquity, calling such sages as Herodotus and other learned Greeks — the Father of Lies, until she knew better and changed the appellation into that of “Father of History.” Instead of neglecting, you now accumulate and add to your wealth. As every other race you had your ups and downs, your periods of honour and dishonour, your dark midnight and — you are now approaching your brilliant noon. The youngest of the fifth race family you were for long ages the unloved and uncared for, the Cendrillon¹ in your home. And now, when so many of your sisters have died, and others still are dying, while the few of the old survivors, now in their second infancy, wait but for their Messiah — the sixth race — to resurrect to a new life and start anew with the coming stronger along the path of a new cycle — now that the Western Cendrillon has suddenly developed into a proud wealthy Princess, the *beauty* we all see and admire — how does she act? Less kind-hearted than the Princess in the tale, instead of offering to her elder and less favoured sister, the oldest now, in fact since she is nearly “a million years old” and the *only* one who has never treated her unkindly, though she may have ignored her — instead of offering her, I say, the “Kiss of peace” she applies to her the *lex talionis*² with a vengeance that does not enhance her natural beauty. This, my good friend, and brother, is not a far stretched allegory but — *history*.



¹ [Referring to the Cinderella, the “Little Glass Slipper,” a folk tale embodying a myth-element of unjust oppression and triumphant reward.]

² [The Law of Retaliation]

Question 3

Even the fifth race (own) of the fourth round began in Asia a million years ago. What was it about for the 998,000 years preceding the last 2,000? During *that* period have greater civilizations than our own risen and decayed?

The European History is entirely at sea — both literally and figuratively.

Lemuria and the Atlantic Continent with their high civilizations, were submerged and drowned. The two catastrophes were separated by just 700,000 years.

Our present Fifth Race began in Asia a million years ago.

Yes; the fifth race — ours — began in Asia a million years ago. What was it about for the 998,000 years preceding the last 2,000? A pertinent question; offered moreover in quite a Christian spirit that refuses to believe that any good could ever have come out from anywhere *before* and *save* Nazareth. What was it about? Well, it was occupying itself pretty well in the same way as it does now — craving Mr. Grant Allen's pardon, who would place our primitive ancestor the "hedgehoggy" man, in the early part of the Eocene Age! Forsooth, your scientific writers bestride their hypothesis most fearlessly, I see. It will really be a pity to find their fiery steed kicking and breaking their heads some day; something that is unavoidably in store for them. In the Eocene Age — even in its "very first part" — the great cycle of the fourth Race men, the Atlantians, had already reached its highest point, and the great continent, the father of nearly all the present continents, showed the first symptoms of sinking — a process that occupied it down to 11,446 years ago, when its last island, that, translating its vernacular name, we may call with propriety *Poseidonis*, went down with a crash. By the bye, *whoever* wrote the review of Donnelly's *Atlantis* is right: Lemuria can no more be confounded with the Atlantic Continent than Europe with America. Both sunk and were drowned with their high civilizations and "gods," yet between the two catastrophes a short period of about 700,000 years elapsed; "Lemuria" flourishing and ending her career just at about that trifling lapse of time before the early part of the Eocene Age, since its race was the *third*. Behold, the relics of that once great nation in some of the flat-headed aborigines of your Australia! No less right is the review in rejecting the kind attempt of the author to people India and Egypt with the refuse of Atlantis. No doubt your geologists are very learned; but why not bear in mind that, under the continents explored and fathomed by them, in the bowels of which they have found the "Eocene Age" and forced it to deliver them its secrets, there may be, hidden deep in the fathomless, or rather *unfathomed* ocean beds, other, and far older continents whose strata have never been geologically explored; and that they may some day upset entirely their present theories, thus illustrating the simplicity and sublimity of truth as connected with inductive "generalization" in opposition to their visionary conjectures. Why not admit — true, no one of them has ever thought of it — that our *present* continents have, like "Lemuria" and "Atlantis," *been several times already* submerged and had the time to reappear

again, and bear their new groups of mankind and civilization; and that, at the first great geological upheaval, at the next cataclysm — in the series of periodical cataclysms that occur from the beginning to the end of every Round — our already *autopsized* continents will go down, and the Lemurias and Atlantises come up again. Think of the future geologists of the sixth and seventh races. Imagine them digging deep in the bowels of what was Ceylon and Simla, and finding implements of the Veddahs, or of the remote ancestor of the *civilized* Pahari¹ — every object of the civilized portions of humanity that inhabited those regions having been pulverized to dust by the great masses of travelling glaciers during the next glacial period — imagine him finding only such rude implements as now found among those savage tribes; and forthwith declaring that during that period *primitive* man climbed and slept on the trees, and sucked the marrow out of animal bones after breaking them — as civilized Europeans, no less than the Veddahs will often do — hence jumping to the conclusion that in the year 1882 A.D. mankind was composed of “man-like animals,” black-faced, and whiskered, “with prominent prognathous and large pointed canine teeth.” True, a Grant Allen of the sixth race may be not so far from fact and truth in his conjecture that during the “Simla period” these teeth were used in the combats of the “males” for grass widows — but then metaphors has very little to do with anthropology and geology. Such is *your* Science. To return to your questions.

Greek, Roman, and even Egyptian civilizations are nothing compared to the civilizations that began with the Third Race.

Greeks and Romans were small sub-races, and Egyptians part and parcel of our own “Caucasian” stock. Look at the latter, and at India: having reached their highest civilization and learning, both went down. Today’s India, one of the first and most powerful off-shoots of the mother Race, is still struggling to resume her place in history.

Of course the 4th race had its periods of the highest civilization. Greek and Roman and even Egyptian civilization are nothing compared to the civilizations that began with the 3rd race. Those of the second were *not* savages but they could not be called civilized. And now, reading one of my first letters on the races (a question first touched by [Master] M.) pray, do not accuse either him or myself of some new contradiction. Read it over and see, that it leaves out the question of civilizations altogether and mentions but the degenerate remnants of the fourth and third races, and gives you as a corroboration the latest conclusions of your own Science. Do not regard an unavoidable *incompleteness* as inconsistency. You now ask me a direct question, and, I answer it. Greeks and Romans were small *sub-races*, and Egyptians part and parcel of our own “Caucasian” stock.² Look at the latter and at India. Having reached the highest civilization and, what is more, *learning* — both went down. Egypt as a distinct sub-race disappearing entirely (her Copts are a hybrid remnant). India — as one of the first and most powerful off-shoots of the mother Race, and composed of a number of sub-races — lasting to these times, and struggling to take once more

¹ [Also known as Pahadi or Parbati, an Indo-Aryan ethnic group living in the Himalayan regions of India, and sharing cultural and linguistic ties with Nepal’s Khas-Arya.]

² [Consult “Egypt was the image of heaven on earth and temple of the whole world,” in our Atlantean Realities Series. — ED. PHIL.]

her place in history some day. That History catches but a few stray, hazy glimpses of Egypt, some 12,000 years back; when, having already reached the apex of its cycle thousands of years before, the latter had begun going down. What does, or *can* it know of India 5,000 years ago, or of the Chaldees — whom it confounds most charmingly with the Assyrians, making of them one day “Akkadians,” at another Turanians and what not?¹ We say then, that *your* History is entirely at sea.

We are refused by the *Journal of Science* — words repeated and quoted by M.A. (Oxon) with a rapture worthy of a great medium — any claim whatever for “higher knowledge.” Says the reviewer:

Suppose the Brothers were to say “point your telescope to such and such a spot in heavens, and you will find a planet yet unknown to you; or dig into the earth, . . . *etc.*, and you will find a mineral,” . . . *etc.*

Very fine, indeed, and suppose that was done, what would be the result? Why a charge of plagiarism — since everything of that kind, every “planet and mineral” that exists in space or inside the earth, is known and recorded in our books thousands of years ago; more; many a true hypothesis was timidly brought forward by their own scientific men and as constantly rejected by the majority with whose preconceptions it interfered. *Your intention* is laudable but nothing that I may give you in answer will ever be accepted from us. Whenever discovered that “it is verily so,” the discovery will be attributed to him who corroborated the evidence — as in the case of Copernicus and Galileo, the latter having availed himself but of the Pythagorean MSS.

A series of far greater civilizations than our own existed before (as well as after the Glacial Period) at various points of the globe, reached the apex of glory, and died.

The Chaldees were at the apex of their Occult fame well before the so-called “Bronze Age.”

But to return to “civilizations.” Do you know that the Chaldees were at the apex of their Occult fame *before* what you term as the “bronze Age”? That the “Sons of Ad” or the children of the Fire Mist preceded by hundreds of centuries the Age of Iron, which was an old age already when what you now call the Historical Period — probably because what is known of it is generally no history but fiction — had hardly begun. We hold — but then what warrant can you give the world that we are right? — that far “greater civilizations than our own have risen and decayed.” It is not enough to say as some of your modern writers do — that an extinct civilization existed before Rome and Athens were founded. We affirm that a *series* of civilizations existed *before*, as well as after the Glacial Period, that they existed upon various points of the globe, reached the apex of glory and — died. Every trace and memory had been lost of the Assyrian and Phoenician civilizations until discoveries began to be made a few years ago. And now they open a new, though not by far one of the earliest pages in the history of mankind. And yet how far back do those civilizations go in comparison with the oldest? — and even them, history is shy to accept. Archaeo-geology has sufficiently demonstrated that the memory of man runs back vastly further than history has been willing to accept, and the sacred records of once mighty nations preserved

¹ [Consult “Chaldeans, Hierophants of the Aryan Root-Race,” in our Atlantean Realities Series. — ED. PHIL.]

by their heirs are still more worthy of trust. We speak of civilizations of the ante-glacial period; and (not only in the minds of the vulgar and the profane but even in the opinion of the highly learned geologist) the claim sounds preposterous. What would you say then to our affirmation that the Chinese — I now speak of the inland, the true Chinaman, not of the hybrid mixture between the fourth and the fifth Races now occupying the throne — the aborigines, who belong in their unallied nationality wholly to the highest and last branch of the fourth Race, reached their highest civilization when the fifth had hardly appeared in Asia, and that its first off-shoot was yet a thing of the future. When was it? Calculate. You cannot think that we, who have such tremendous odds against the acceptance of our doctrine would deliberately go on *inventing* Races and sub-races (in the opinion of Mr. Hume)¹ were not they a matter of undeniable fact. The group of islands off the Siberian coast discovered by Nordenskjöld of the “Vega” was found strewn with fossils of horses, sheep, oxen, *etc.*, among gigantic bones of elephants, mammoths, rhinoceroses and other monsters belonging to periods when man — says your science — had not yet made his appearance on earth. How came horses and sheep to be found in company with the huge “ante-diluvians”? The horse, we are taught in schools — is quite a modern invention of nature, and *no man* ever saw its pedactyl ancestor. The group of the Siberian islands may give the lie to the comfortable theory. The region now locked in the fetters of eternal winter uninhabited by man — that most fragile of animals — will be very soon proved to have had not only a tropical climate — something your science knows and does not dispute — but having been likewise the seat of one of the most ancient civilizations of that fourth race, whose highest relics now we find in the degenerated Chinaman, and whose lowest are hopelessly (for the profane scientist) intermixed with the remnants of the third.

The highest people now on earth, in terms of spirituality, belong to the first sub-race of the Fifth Root-race — the Aryan Asiatics. The highest, in terms of physical intellectuality, are those of the last sub-race of the Fifth, the “White Conquerors.”

I told you before now, that the highest people now on earth (spiritually) belong to the first sub-race of the fifth *root* Race, and those are the Aryan Asiatics; the highest race (physical intellectuality) is the last sub-race of the fifth — yourselves the white conquerors. The majority of mankind belongs to the seventh sub-race of the fourth *Root-race* — the above mentioned Chinamen and their off-shoots and branchlets (Malayans, Mongolians, Tibetans, Javanese, *etc.*, *etc.*, *etc.*) and remnants of other sub-races of the fourth — and the seventh sub-race of the third race. All these, fallen, degraded semblances of humanity are the direct lineal descendants of highly civilized nations neither the names nor memory of which have survived except in such books as *Popul Vuh* and a few others unknown to Science.



¹ [Allan Octavian Hume, 1829–1912, member of the Imperial Civil Service in British India, political reformer, ornithologist, and botanist. He was one of the founders of the Indian National Congress, a party that led the Indian Independence Movement (1857–1947). Hume was an early Theosophist and the recipient of some letters from Mahatmas K.H. and M.]

Question 4

To what epoch did the existence of the Continent of Atlantis belong, and did the cataclysmical change which produced its extinction come into any appointed place in the evolution of the round — corresponding to the place occupied in the whole manvantaric evolution by obscurations?

To the Miocene times. Everything comes in its appointed time and place in the evolution of Rounds, otherwise it would be impossible for the best seer to calculate the exact hour and year when such cataclysms great and small have to occur. All an adept could do would be to predict an *approximate* time; whereas now events that result in great geological changes may be predicted with as mathematical a certainty as eclipses and other revolutions in space. The sinking of Atlantis (the group of continents and isles) began during the Miocene period — as certain of *your* continents are now observed to be gradually sinking — and it culminated — *first*, in the final disappearance of the largest continent, an event coincident with the elevation of the Alps; and *second* with that of the last of the fair Islands mentioned by Plato. The Egyptian priests of Sais told his ancestor Solon, that Atlantis (*i.e.*, the only remaining large island) had perished 9,000 years before their time. This was not a fancy date, since they had for millenniums preserved most carefully their records. But then, as I say, they spoke but of the “Poseidonis” and would not reveal even to the great Greek legislator their secret chronology. As there are no geological reasons for doubting, but on the contrary, a mass of evidence for accepting the tradition, Science has finally accepted the existence of the great continent and Archipelago and thus vindicated the truth of one more “fable.” It now teaches, as you know, that Atlantis, or the remnants of it lingered down to post-tertiary times, its final submergence occurring within the palaeozoic ages of American history! Well, truth and fact ought to feel thankful even for such small favours in the previous absence of any, for so many centuries. The deep sea explorations — especially those of the Challenger, *have* fully confirmed the reports of geology and palaeontology. The great event — the triumph of our “Sons of the *Fire Mist*,” the inhabitants of “Shamballah” (when yet an island in the Central Asian Sea) over the selfish but not entirely wicked *magicians* of Poseidonis occurred just 11,446 ago. Read in this connection the incomplete and partially veiled tradition in *Isis*, Volume I, *pp.* 588-94, and some things may become still plainer to you. The corroboration of tradition and history brought forward by Donnelly I find in the main correct; but you will find all this and much more in *Isis*.



Question 5

I find that the most common question asked about occult philosophy by fairly intelligent people who begin to enquire about it is “Does it give any explanation of the origin of evil?”¹ That is a point on which you have formerly promised to touch, and which it might be worthwhile to take up before long.

Black magic, bestiality, selfishness, and self-adoration spelled the demise of Atlantis and the rise of evil.

It certainly does, and I have touched upon the subject long ago. In my notes on Mr. Hume’s MSS., “On God” — that he kindly adds to our Philosophy, something the latter had never contemplated before — the subject is mentioned abundantly. Has he refused you a look into it? For you — I may enlarge my explanations, but not before you have read what I say of the origin of good and evil on those margins. Quite enough was said by me for our present purposes. Strangely enough I found a European author — the greatest materialist of his times, Baron d’Holbach — whose views coincide entirely with the views of our philosophy. When reading his *Système de la Nature*, I might have imagined I had our book of Kiu-te before me.² As a matter of course and of temperament our Universal Pundit will try to catch at those views and pull every argument to pieces. So far he only threatens me to alter his *Preface* and not to publish the philosophy under his own name. *Cuneus cuneum trudit*.³ I begged him not to publish his essays at all.

The British Islands will be the first to be destroyed by submarine volcanos and water; France and other lands will follow suit. When they reappear, very few seas and great waters will be found then on our globe.

[Master] M. thinks that *for your purposes* I better give you a few more details upon Atlantis since it is greatly connected with *evil* if not with its origin. In the forthcoming *Theosophist*⁴ you will find a note or two appended to Hume’s translation of Éliphas Levi’s *Preface* in connection with the lost continent.⁵ And now, since I am determined to make of the present *answers* a volume — bear your cross with Christian fortitude and then, perhaps, after reading the whole you will ask for no more for some time to come. But what can I add to that already told? I am unable to give you purely scientific information since we can never agree entirely with Western conclusions; and that ours will be rejected as “unscientific.” Yet both geology and palaeontology bear witness to much we have to say. Of course your [modern] Science is right in many of her generalities, but her premises are wrong, or at any rate — very faulty. For instance she is right in saying that while the new America was forming, the ancient At-

¹ [Consult “The Origin of Good and Evil,” and “The Original Sin is a Jewish invention,” in our Black versus White Magic Series. — ED. PHIL.]

² [Consult “Mahatma Letter No. 10,” or “A Master of Wisdom on God,” in the same series.]

³ [wedge drives wedge]

⁴ [November 1882]

⁵ [Consult the “Rise and Demise of Atlantis,” our third Major Work.]

lantia was sinking, and gradually washing away; but she is neither right in her given epochs nor in the calculations of the duration of that sinking. The latter — is the future fate of your British Islands, the first on the list of victims that have to be destroyed by fire (submarine volcanos) and water; France and other lands will follow suit. When they reappear again, the last seventh Sub-race of the sixth Root race of present mankind will be flourishing on “Lemuria” and “Atlantis” both of which will have reappeared also (their reappearance following immediately the disappearance of the present isles and continents), and very few seas and *great waters* will be found then on our globe, waters as well as land appearing and disappearing and shifting periodically and each in turn.

The approach of every new obscurations¹ is always signalled by cataclysms, earthquakes, and fire.

Though perfected in materiality, the Atlanteans degenerated in spirituality. Atlantis and its proud Fourth Race inhabitants sunk 856,000 years ago, coinciding with the elevation of the Alps.

When our present race reaches its zenith of intellectuality, and its peak of materialistic “civilization,” unable to go any higher towards absolute evil, its progress will be arrested by one of such cataclysmic changes; and its sub-races will go down their respective cycles, after a short period of glory and learning.

See the remnants of the Atlanteans, the old Greeks and Romans, how great, how short, and how evanescent were their days of fame and glory!

Trembling at the prospect of fresh charges of “contradictions” at some future incomplete statement I [would] rather explain what I mean by this. The approach of every new “obscurations” is always signalled by cataclysms — of either fire or water. But, apart from this, every “Ring” or Root Race has to be cut in two, so to say, by either one or the other. Thus, having reached the apex of its development and glory the fourth Race — the Atlanteans were destroyed *by water*; you find now but their degenerated, fallen remnants, whose sub-races, nevertheless, aye — each of them, had its palmy days of glory and relative greatness. What they are now — you will be some day, the law of cycles being one and immutable. When your race — the fifth — will have reached its zenith of *physical* intellectuality, and developed the highest civilization (remember the difference we make between *material* and *spiritual* civilizations), unable to go any higher in its own cycle its progress towards *absolute* evil will be arrested (as its predecessors the Lemurians and Atlanteans, the men of the third and fourth races were arrested in their progress towards the same) by one of such cata-

¹ [Theosophists will remember that, according to Occult teaching, Cyclic pralayas so-called are but *obscurations*, during which periods Nature, *i.e.*, everything visible and *invisible* on a resting planet — remains *in statu quo*. Nature rests and slumbers, no work of destruction going on upon the globe even if no active work is done. All forms, as well as their astral types, remain as they were at the last moment of its activity. The “night” of a planet has hardly any twilight preceding it. It is caught like a huge mammoth by an avalanche, and remains slumbering and frozen till the next dawn of its new day — a very short one indeed in comparison to the “Day of Brahmā.” — *Secret Doctrine*, II p. 660 *fn.*]

clysmic changes; its great civilization destroyed, and all the sub-races of *that* race will be found going down their respective cycles, after a short period of glory and learning. See the remnants of the Atlanteans — the old Greeks and Romans (the modern belong all to the fifth Race); see how great and how short, how evanescent were their days of fame and glory! For, they were but sub-races of the seven offshoots of the “root race.” No mother Race, any more than her sub-races and offshoots, is allowed by the one Reigning Law to trespass upon the prerogatives of the Race or Sub-race that will follow it; least of all — to encroach upon the knowledge and powers in store for its successor. “Thou shalt not eat of the fruit of Knowledge of Good and Evil of the tree that is growing for thy heirs” we may say with more right than would be willingly conceded us by the Humes of your sub-race. This “tree” is in our safe-keeping, entrusted to us by the Dhyāni-Chohans, the protectors of our Race and the Trustees for those that are coming. Try to understand the allegory, and to never lose sight of the hint given you in my letter upon the Planetaries.¹

Every race had its adepts, who are allowed to give out as much of their knowledge as the men of that race deserve. The adepts of the last race will be far higher than any of the preceding races, for among them will abide the future Planetary Spirit, whose duty will be to instruct or “refresh the memory” of the first race of the Fifth Round men after this planet’s future obscuration.

At the beginning of each *Round*, when humanity reappears under quite different conditions than those afforded for the birth of each new race and its sub-races, a “Planetary” has to mix with these primitive men, and to refresh their memories, and reveal to them the truths they knew during the preceding Round. Hence the confused traditions about Jehovahs, Ormazds, Osirises, Brahms, and the *tutti quanti*. But that happens only for the benefit of the *first* Race. It is the duty of the latter to choose the fit recipients among its sons, who are “set apart” to use a Biblical phrase — as the vessels to contain *the whole stock of knowledge* to be divided among the future races and generations until the close of that Round. Why should I say more since you *must* understand my whole meaning; and that I *dare* not reveal it in full. Every race had its adepts; and with every new race, we are allowed to give them out as much of our knowledge as the men of that race deserve. The last seventh Race will have its Buddha as every one of its predecessors had; but, its adepts will be far higher than any of the present race, for among them will abide the future Planetary, the Dhyāni-Chohan whose duty it will be to instruct or “refresh the memory” of the first race of the fifth Round men after this planet’s future obscuration.

En passant, to show to you that not only were not the “races” *invented* by us, but that they are a cardinal dogma with the Lama Buddhists and with all who study our esoteric doctrine, I send you an explanation on a page or two in Rhys Davids’ *Buddhism*² — otherwise incomprehensible, meaningless and absurd. It is written with the special permission of the Chohan (*my* Master) and — for your benefit. No Orien-

¹ The letter in answer to yours, I believe, where you question me about C.C.M., S.M. and Mrs. K.

² [Consult “Master KH on higher metaphysics,” in the same series, to find out how unreformed Western mind is unable to grasp the essence of Buddhistic exegesis.]

talist has ever suspected the truths contained in it, and — you are the first Western man (outside Tibet) to whom it is now explained.

Question 6

Closely allied to this question would be another often put. “What is the good of the whole cyclic process if spirit only emerges at the end of all things pure and impersonal as it was at first before its descent into matter?”

And the portions taken away from the fifth?

My answer is that I am not at present engaged in excusing, but in investigating the operations of Nature. But perhaps there may be a better answer available.

What emerges at the end of time is the collective personal experience skimmed off every new fifth principle in the long series of being.

What emerges at the end of all things is not only “pure and impersonal spirit,” but the collective “personal” remembrances skimmed off every new fifth principle in the long series of being. And, if at the end of all things — say in some million of millions years hence, Spirit will have to rest in its pure, *impersonal non-existence*, as the ONE or the Absolute, still there must be “some good” in the cyclic process, since every purified *Ego* has the chance in the long *interims* between objective being upon the planets to exist as a Dhyāni-Chohan — from the lowest “Devachanī” to the highest Planetary — enjoying the fruits of its collective lives.

Separated from matter, Spirit becomes the absolute negation of life and being, whereas matter is inseparable from it.

Life is not only readily convertible into other aspects of the all-pervading Force, it can be actually infused into an artificial man. Frankenstein is a myth only so far as he is the hero of a mystic tale. The physicians of the last sub-race of the sixth Race will inoculate life and revive corpses, as they now vaccinate against infectious diseases.

But what is “Spirit” pure and impersonal *per se*? Is it possible that you should not have realized yet our meaning? why, such a *Spirit* is a nonentity, a pure abstraction, an absolute blank to our senses — even to the most spiritual. It becomes *something* only in union with matter — hence it is always *something* since matter is infinite and indestructible and *non-existent* without Spirit which, in matter is *Life*. Separated from matter it becomes the absolute negation of *life* and *being*, whereas matter is inseparable from it. Ask those who offer the objection, whether they know anything of “life” and “consciousness” beyond what they now feel on earth. What conception can they have — unless natural born seers — of the state and consciousness of one’s individuality after it has separated itself from gross earthy body? *What is the good* of the whole process of life on earth — you may ask them in your turn — if we are as good as “pure” *unconscious* entities before birth, during sleep, and, at the end of our career? Is not death, according to the teachings of Science, followed by the same state of unconsciousness as the one before *birth*? Does not life when it quits our body

become as *impersonal* as it was before it animated the foetus? Life, after all, the greatest problem within the ken of human conception, is a mystery that the greatest of your men of Science will never solve. In order to be correctly comprehended, it has to be studied in the entire series of its manifestations, otherwise it can never be, not only fathomed, but even comprehended in its easiest form — life, as a state of *being* on this earth. It can never be grasped so long as it is studied separately and apart from universal life. To solve the great problem one has to become an occultist; to analyse and experience with it personally in all its phases, as life on earth, life beyond the limit of physical death, mineral, vegetable, animal and spiritual life; life in conjunction with concrete matter as well as life present in the imponderable atom. Let them try and examine or analyse life apart from organism, and what remains of it? Simply a mode of motion; which, unless our doctrine of the all-pervading, infinite, omnipresent Life is accepted — though it be accepted on no better terms than a hypothesis only a little more reasonable than their *scientific* hypotheses which are all absurd — has to remain unsolved. Will they object? Well, we will answer them by using their own weapons. We will say that it is, and will remain for ever demonstrated that since motion is all-pervading and absolute rest inconceivable, that under whatever form or *mask* motion may appear, whether as light, heat, magnetism, chemical affinity or electricity — all these must be but phases of One and the same universal omnipotent Force, a Proteus they bow to as the Great “Unknown” (see Herbert Spencer) and we, simply call the “One Life,” the “One Law” and the “One Element.” The greatest, the most scientific minds on earth have been keenly pressing forward toward a solution of the mystery, leaving no bye-path unexplored, no thread loose or weak in this darkest of labyrinths for them, and all had to come to the same conclusion — that of the Occultists when given only partially — namely, that life in its concrete manifestations is the legitimate result and consequence of chemical affinity; as to life in its abstract sense, life pure and simple — well, they know no more of it today than they knew in the incipient stage of their Royal Society. They only know that organisms in certain solutions previously free from life will spring up spontaneously (Pasteur and his biblical piety notwithstanding) — owing to certain chemical compositions of such substances. If, as I hope, in a few years, I am entirely my own master, I may have the pleasure of demonstrating to you on your own writing table that life *as life* is not only transformable into other aspects or phases of the all-pervading Force, but that it can be actually infused into an artificial man. Frankenstein is a myth only so far as he is the hero of a mystic tale; in nature — he is a possibility; and the physicists and physicians of the last sub-race of the sixth Race will inoculate life and revive corpses as they now inoculate small-pox, and often less comely diseases. Spirit, life and matter, are not natural principles existing independently of each other, but the effects of combinations produced by eternal motion in Space; and they better learn it.



Question 7

Can you, *i.e.*, is it permitted ever to answer any questions relating to matters of physical science? If so — here are some points that I should greatly like dealt with.

Most undoubtedly I am so permitted. But then comes the most important point; how far satisfactory will my answers appear even to you? That not every new law brought to light is regarded as adding a link to the chain of human knowledge is shown by the ill-grace with which every fact unwelcome for some reason to science, is received by its professors. Nevertheless, *whenever I can* answer you — I will try to do so, only hoping that you will not send it as a contribution from my pen to the *Journal of Science*.

