

THE LIGHT OF LUXOR

SPECIAL EDITION

ANCIENT EGYPT



INDEPENDENT THEOSOPHICAL MAGAZINE

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Independent Theosophical Magazine



Theosophy

We often speak of Theosophy as not in itself a religion, but the truth, which lies behind all religions alike. That is so; yet, from another point of view, we may surely say that it is at once a philosophy, a religion and a science.

C.W. Leadbeater

The Society

"The Theosophical Society was organized for the purpose of promulgating the Theosophical doctrines, and for the promotion of the Theosophic life. The present Theosophical Society is not the first of its kind."

H.P. Blavatsky

Its Objects

1. To form a nucleus of the Universal Brotherhood of Humanity, without distinction of race, creed, sex, caste or colour.
2. To encourage the study of comparative religion, philosophy and science.
3. To investigate unexplained laws of Nature and the powers latent in man.

In extinct religions the same idea of a Trinity is found. In Egypt it dominated all religious worship. "We have a hieroglyphical inscription in the British Museum as early as the reign of Senechus of the eighth century before the Christian era, showing that the doctrine of Trinity in Unity already formed part of their religion". [S. Sharpe. Egyptian Mythology and Egyptian Christology, p. 14.] This is true of a far earlier date. Râ, Osiris, and Horus formed one widely worshipped Trinity; Osiris, Isis, and Horus were worshipped at Abydos; other names are given in different cities, and the triangle is the frequently used symbol of the Triune God. The idea which underlay these Trinities, however named, is shown in a passage quoted from Marutho, in which an oracle, rebuking the pride of Alexander the Great, speaks of: "First God, then the Word, and with Them the Spirit". [See Williamson's The Great Law, p. 196.]

Annie Besant - Esoteric Christianity

" There is still one point in the mysteries which we should not forget to consider-- the life of the disciples. A life of perfect purity was strictly required. It is a remarkable coincidence that the life in the Pythagorean school is divided into five periods, almost similar to the five steps of the preparatory path of the Hindus, as described by me in *Invisible Helpers*, and by Mrs. Besant in *The Path of Discipleship*. Almost all the forms and symbols of the present Christian religion are derived from the Egyptian mysteries. All the symbolism, for example, that is related to the Latin cross, and to the descent and sacrifice of the LOGOS, is taken from the Egyptian mysteries. I have written about this in *The Christian Creed*.

Though the mysteries of Greece and Rome, of Egypt and Chaldaea, are long ago defunct, the world has never been left without avenues of approach to the inner shrine. Even in the gross darkness of the middle ages the Rosicrucian's and some other secret societies were ready to teach the truth to those who were ready to learn; and now in these modern days of hurry and materialism the Theosophical Society still upholds the banner of true knowledge, and acts as a gateway by means of which those who are really in earnest may reach the feet of the Masters of the Wisdom."

Charles Webster Leadbeater, *The Inner Life First Series* (1911).

Trace of India In Ancient Egypt

By Charles Johnston

(FROM MANU AND HERODOTUS)

"Who is the God to whom we shall offer worship?

He whose shadow is Immortality!"

--Rig Veda.

"The Egyptian are the first of mankind who have taught the Immortality of the Soul!"

--Herodotus.

Egypt has no Stone Age. Her civilisation is as perfect at the dawn of her history as when she ceased to be a nation. Like Athene, sprung full armoured from the brow of Zeus, the old race of Egypt appears fully equipped in arts, religions and sciences.

This ready-made perfection must be the flower of some older nation's growth; and that older nation, says the author of Isis Unveiled, is Ancient India; and Menes is the Manu-Vina of Kalluka Bhatta, who was driven from his motherland, and colonized the Valley of the Nile.

Besides the evidence quoted to support this view, there is much in the history of Egypt, deciphered from the Papyri and collected from the writers of Greece, that may lead to its demonstration.

We shall bring forward from one of these, Herodotus, such facts as may shew a connexion between the Egypt he described, and the laws, religions and customs of the India of Manu's Code.

The hierarchies of India and Egypt were alike dominant: in both, a hereditary caste, strong, learned, guardians of the sacred books, monuments and sciences; hierophants of the divine mysteries.

Ceremony and ritual, the inheritance of a still greater antiquity, are all-important to the Brahman of Manus Code; and in Egypt, Herodotus tell us:

"It would be difficult to enumerate all their religious ceremonies, all of which they practices with superstitious exactness."

Many of these ceremonies are described by Herodotus, and many are identical with the Brahmanical ceremonies of the Manava Code.

Both priesthods are appointed to sacrifice to the Gods; they both slay the sacred animals on certain specific days; and both use as food the flesh of the bulls they have sacrificed. Both study their sacred scriptures, and the lives of their Gods and divine ancestors, both have certain customs on the death of their relations, and for both a system of dress is prescribed.

The Brahman of Manu is to bathe at regular periods, to wear only clean linen, to cut his hair short, to abstain from certain foods and to avoid impure contacts. He is to purify by washing if contaminated, to clean his brass bowl before eating, and to purify it by fire if polluted by and unholy touch.

From Herodotus we learn that:

"The priests of the gods in Egypt wear their hair short." And, as in India.

"One of their customs is to drink out of a brazen goblet, which it is the universal practice among them to cleanse every day."

In Egypt, as in India, bathing was a religious rite, and the tank and the temple were equally sacred. Herodotus says:

"The priesthood of Egypt was themselves

with cold water twice a day, and as often in the night, to enter clean into the service of the Gods.

Further, Herodotus tells us:

"The Egyptian priests are so regardful of cleanliness that they wear only one vesture of linen, and that newly washed.

The picture in these passages is a perfect counterpart of the Brahman of Manu:

"With hair and beard clipt, passions subdued, his mantle white, and his body pure."

The religion taught by these sacred castes was not less identical than their raiment. Setting aside their theology, and turning to the mysteries of human life, we find that both had reached the same great solutions.

The greatest and noblest doctrine in the world was common to both, and though Herodotus tells us that:

"The Egyptians were the first of mankind who taught the immortality of the Soul."

We cannot doubt that this belief was as old, if not older, in India, for it appears in the earliest Veda.

To this doctrine of the Immortal Soul, both nations added a belief in its development through many lives. The Egyptians held that the Soul—

"After three thousand years, enters a second time into a human body."

In both countries the cow was sacred and never sacrificed.

And the doctrine in Manu, as in all the Hindu Shastras, is the same and to complete the parallel, in both countries the pure doctrine of reincarnation was debased into transmigration through animals, in the popular religion.

In both countries the bull was sacred and used for sacrifice.

And in both the flesh of the bull, though used in sacrifice, was eaten by the priests.

In both countries there was a sacred succession of hierophants:

And further both priesthoods were forbidden to eat the flesh of the hog and permitted to eat geese.

In Egypt, "Each was a Piromis, the son of a Piromis."

It is difficult to see how these parallels can be the result of the independent growth, specially when taken together with the coincidences already given, and to be given.

As in India, at Aringiri, "Each hierophant is a Sankaracharya, the son of a Sankaracharya."

For the Meaning, and Indian analogies of the Egyptian "Twelve great Gods that ruled before Amasis, and the eight from whom they produced," Readers must refer to the Secret Doctrine.

The Egyptian who touches a hog is enjoined to plunge at once into the nearest water, and Brahman whom the touch of any unclean thing has defiled, can only be purified by repeated bathing.

The processions of Jaganath are identical with what Herodotus describes:

Here a light digression must be permitted. Isis, say Herodotus, is represented as a woman with horns upon her head, because the cow was a sacred animal; but Isis more often bears a crescent moon on her brow. Further, certain days of the moon.

"The priests attendant upon the statue place it upon a four wheeled car, and begin to draw it."

A curious triple parallel may be made out in the reverence paid to the cow, the sacrifice of bulls, and the meat eaten by the priests.

This connexion between Isis, the moon, the sacred cow, and the phallic sacrifices, can only be understood, apparently, by using the triple key, "Diana in heaven, Lucina on earth, Proserpine in hell.

Johnston, C., (1889), "Traces of India in Ancient Egypt," Lucifer V.5 September, pg:23



No penseis en lo que deseais hacer, sino en lo
que debeis hacer de modo que se beneficie al
prójimo.—K. H.

2
A.

Papyrus - The Gem Rameses

By William Q. Judge

The roads were thronged with the people moving toward the great square, for it was a feast of the Goddess. The temples were crowded, while long lines of men and maidens in the robes of "The Sacred" wound in and out toward the river. Music and song rose and fell upon the evening breeze, like the pulse of a throbbing heart. Here and there could be seen the Scribes, and seated in an open space, the Tale-tellers. One of these, as I rested near hem, told the tale of One who found the Gem.

"In the land of the Wise-men, there dwelt a young man. Many years had he labored in a strange mine; the 'Mine of the Priceless Gems'; - hopefully, bravely, but fruitlessly. He had long known that he who should find the Master Stone, would be free, be full of peace and dig no more, for nothing better could be found. He also knew that he who found the stone

should seek to share it with all men.

"Many small stones had he found, but they were laid aside to be used when the great stone was reached."

"Silently and steadily, he worked on, until one gloomy day when he had grown so weak that he could make but one more effort, that effort was rewarded, and before him lay the great gem. Weary, weak, but joyful, he gathered it into his bosom, and went forth to share it with others; for he who told not of his gem, or shared it not with all men, must lose the stone.

"Far he wandered, telling his wonderful story, the finding of the Priceless Stone - the stone that made men greater, wiser, more loving than all things living; the stone that no man could keep unless he gave it away." Far he wandered in his own

country, seeking to tell his story and give of the Stone to each one he met. Silently they listened - gravely they meditated and gently they said to him: 'This is Kali-yuga, the dark age. Come to us a hundred thousand years from now. Until then - the stone is not for us. It is Karma.'

"Far into another land he wandered, ever trying for the same end. Gravely they listened, quietly they spoke: 'Peace be with you. When the Lotus ceases to bloom and our Sacred River runs dry, come to us. Until then we need not the stone.'

"Over the seas unto another land he went, for fully he believed that there they would hear and share with him. The many days of wandering and the long journey across the sea had made him thin and ragged. He had not thought of this, but as he told his story he was reminded of it and many other things, for here the people answered in many ways, and not always gently." Some listened, for his story was new to them, but the gem was uncut, and they wished it polished.

"Others paused and desired him to tell his story in their tents, for that would make them exalted and famous, but they wanted not the gem. As he did not belong to their tribe, it would bring discredit upon them to receive anything from him." One paused to listen and desired some of the stone, but he desired to use it to elevate his own position and assist him in overreaching his fellows in bartering and bargaining. The Wanderer was unable to give any of the stone to such as this one.

"Another listened, but inasmuch as the Wanderer refused to make the gem float in the air, he would [have] none of it.

"Another heard, but he already knew of a better stone, and was sure he would find it, because he ate nothing but star-light and moon-beams.

"Another could not receive any of the stone or listen to the story, for the Wanderer was poor and ragged. Unless he was dressed in purple and fine linen and told his story in words of oil and honey, he could not be the possessor of the gem.

"Still another heard, but he knew it was not the gem. As the Wanderer had been unsuccessful before, surely he could not have found the stone. Even had he found it, he could not have the proper judgment to divide it. So he wanted none of the stone.

"Near and far went the Wanderer. Still ever the same. Some wanted it, but the stone was too hard, nor bright enough. He was not of their people, or was ignorant. He was too ragged and worn to suit their ideas, so they wanted none of the stone.

"Saddened, aged and heart-sore, he wandered back to the land of the Wise men. To one of these he went, telling of his journeyings and that no man would share with him the magnificent stone, and also of his sorrow that he too must lose it.

" 'Be not troubled, my son,' said the Wise One, 'the stone is for you, nor can you

lose it. He who makes the effort to help his fellow man is the rightful owner and still possesses the entire stone, although he has shared it with all the world. To each and everyone to whom you have spoken, although they knew it not, you have given one of the smaller stones which you first found. It is enough. When the Master Stone is cut and polished, then is the labor of the fortunate possessor ended. The long journeying and weary wandering,

the sorrow laden heart and tear-dimmed eyes, have cut and polished your gem. Behold, it is a white and a fair stone!

"Drawing it from his bosom, the Wanderer gazed into the wonderful light of the stone while an expression of great peace stole over his face. Folding the gem close to his bosom his eyelids closed, and he fell asleep, a wanderer no more."

William Q. Judge, Papyrus- The Gem Ramses, Theosophical Articles, Volume II, Theosophy Company, Los Angeles, 1980, p. 403-405; Path, March, 1887

"In thinking of the Lord BUDDHA we must not forget that He is very much more than merely the founder of a religion. He is a great official of the Occult Hierarchy, the greatest of all save one, and the founder in previous incarnations of many religions before this one which now bears His title. For He was the Vyasa who has done so much for the Indian religion; He was Hermes, the great founder of the Egyptian mysteries; He was the original Zoroaster, from whom came the sun and fire worship; and he was also Orpheus, the great bard of the Greeks."

Charles Webster Leadbeater, The Inner Life First Series (1911).

Papyrus

By William Quan Judge

The Tale-teller, shading his gentle eyes from the evening sun, paused a moment while he listened to the soft strains of the music as it floated out from the open Temple. The joyous crowd swept by unheeding except for one or two who dropped out of the current and were left stranded among those who had gathered at his feet. Presently he came back from the realm of harmony whither he had drifted, and as the world-light once more stole over his face he told the tale of:

THREE WHO SOUGHT OUT THE WAY

Word has gone forth over all lands "that all who sought earnestly and in the true manner should find the way to the mysterious Temple of the Veiled Goddess."

Three kings of the land, moved by the power of the words, determined that they also would become students and reach the goal.

Intu, the Illustrious, making ready for the

search, deemed nothing else could be more potent in his quest than the seal of his kingdom. Thereupon he bound on his forehead the Great Seal, a hawk.

Kour, the Magnificent, making ready for the way thought nothing could be more powerful in his searching than the seal of his kingdom. Making ready he bound upon his breast the Great Seal, a golden heart.

Kadmon, the Sorrowful -a king only by sufferance, for his kingdom consisted only of that which the others did not value -Kadmon deemed it wise also, inasmuch as they would all journey together, to take his seal; which was the two others in union; but furthermore, he blindfolded his eyes.

The three passing onward encountered many strange and unfamiliar things, for the road was new, and no wayfarer could know more than one step onward, which was the one he was taking. Upon each side, and frequently in front, barring the

way, were curious objects, sometimes pleasant and agreeable, but more often quite the reverse. The foliage of the trees was new and strange, while the fruits grew on different sort of trees, while at others the same sort of trees bore entirely dissimilar fruits. The path which they were pursuing was quite the opposite of an ordinary one, for before them it was visible but one step, while it stretched far into the distance behind them. Intu, however, had already made all plain to himself by a process of reasoning entirely his own. It was, that these things being the direct opposite of all in his own country which he ruled, therefore they could only be caused by some one different from himself -a superior being, that being must be the Goddess- therefore they were upon the right path, at least he was.

Kour thought these things delightful, they were so strange, so new. In fact they were phenomenal and he love phenomena. They gave him such queer sensations, and anything which did that or made him feel other than when in his own hand-must be caused by the Goddess -oh yes, there were on the right path, at least he was. As for Kadmon, he seeing none of these things, could only judge by that which he remembered of his own country. Each of the others, told him of their existence in their own way. This was confusing. He determined, therefore to walk onward as if he were in his own land, but to press steadily on. They were thus, in reality treading three separate paths, and in their several ways they passed many persons who had stopped to rest -to eat or sleep-

or because the way was dark and difficult; some because they were too poor, others because they were ill, footsore or blind. Intu lost some time, for he stopped to argue with many on the peculiarities of the way and the logical reasonableness of it, but he had no time to pause for aught else.

Kour felt for the wayfarers, he was sorry for and loved them. If they would only feel as he did they could go on easily, but he had no time to stop to make them feel that way.

Both Intu and he had all such people in their own lands. There was no time to waste on natural things. It was the supernatural in a metaphysical or soul-stirring way they sought.

And Kadmon, the Sorrowful, paused. In his land these were to be found also. He too realized the reasonableness of the way. He too loved it and was exalted by it. He too felt for and loved the other wayfarers. He did more-he sorrowed for them. What mattered it if he did not find the temple immediately, he was young, the others growing old and blind, there were sorrowful and weary. So he stopped and gave this thoughts and help to the ill, cheering the weary, helping the poor, and blindfolded as he was, led the blind over the step he had just passed. So interested did he become in these labors he forgot he was himself seeking the Goddess.

It was but a little distance farther on that they caught up with Intu, which was not

surprising as he had reached the end of his path. It had ended at a stone wall. As he could not scale the wall, he sat down to reason "why an ordinary stone wall should obstruct such an extraordinary path?" Being a very perplexing intellectual problem -there he remained. A little farther and Kour was passed. He had encountered a radiant maiden, partially veiled, who told him wondrous tales of strange happenings. Her manner was very mysterious, and he felt she was the Goddess. Taking her hand in his and leaning his head upon her bosom, he was so happy that he knew she was the Goddess and there he remained to dream.

And Kadmon, tarrying with the sorrowful and weary, felt the bandage slip from his eyes, as the light from the rising sun streaming in red and gold over the path fell upon and glorified the ragged wayfarers. In the brilliance over their heads he read the words: "This way lies the path to the Temple" while a soft voice breathed into his soul: "By the way of Intu alone, the path is not found. By that of Kour alone, it is not gained. Both wisely used in unison are guides, while on the road. By something, which is greater than either, only, is the Temple reached. Work on!:

And the sorrowful, taking in his own, the hands of the weary and weak, passed on.

Willian Quan Judge, (1887), "The Story Papyrus," The Path (September).



The Dirge For The Dead In Life

By Sepher (HPB)

THE fragments that we publish below form one of the most remarkable instances of so-called automatic writing when the medium, without any previous knowledge of the subject, is impelled to set down upon the paper that which is not in the brain. The medium here is a young lady who knows nothing about this dirge, but we know that it is a portion of the chant which was sung over the entranced body of the neophyte who was about to become an initiate. The original was found in Egypt among the wrappings of a mummy by the grandfather of a gentleman, a Mason, from whom we got it. Although Egyptologists may have seen the fragment, we are certain that the young lady who wrote down the verses had never heard of it before and was much puzzled by the verses, if not by the signature of "Sepher" given to her. Spiritualists may say it is something from the "spirits," but we hold the view that it is

a reminiscence from past incarnations of the one who wrote. These recollections are not so rare as is supposed, and while frequently they are not recognised as such, they nevertheless account for many strange things heard at stances with mediums and psychographic writers, as we were told it was only in the days of Ptolemy that this dirge began to be chanted over the really dead or the mummy. —[Ed.]

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KHIOS XXI.

Bind up thy head and numb thy limbs, for
hence cometh wondrous
tidings for him who hath the ear open in
the sepulchre.

Drink in of the honied words, and mix
them with precision to mingle
the bitter with the sweet.

Turn thine heart from all outer knowledge
and hold thyself open for
the knowledge of the spheres.

Now take quickly the pegs from the tents
and let them fall in, for the
mighty simoom is nigh at hand.

Art thou ready, pale mortal? Is thy head
bandaged and thy blood
inert, and hast thou parted with thy
blood?

Art thou laid down eastward, and is thy
inner ear listening for the
music of the voice of the spheres?

Listen, pale mortal.

The voice is commencing to emit sound,
and the turn of the tide is
swiftly ebbing away.

Pale mortal, lying so like an image of
Phineus* wherefore art thou
disquieted? The glitter of chariots will not
reach those dazed eyes.

The sound of the battle-axe will not
penetrate thy skull.

Now listen to the voice; thou art gone
from hence, pale mortal, and
the earth knows thee no more.

Thy bandaged head lies on the death
stretcher and thy bloodless body
is full of sweet-smelling myrrh.

Thou art a shade, blessed soul!

Thou art a shadowy vapour, pale face!

Thou art a bird of paradise, free soul!

Listen! dost thou hear the freedom of the
wind? Thou art no
longer on thine earth. '

Those groans, pale face, they proceed
from the land thou hast
quitted.

That burning heat, poor wanderer, that is

the desert thou hast passed
through.

Now quickly proceed. No more time, poor
dove, mayst thou linger, the
burning ring is thy resting step.

See thou the circle, it burns with the
seared light of a captive fire
god!

Quickly step, pale face, and place thyself
in the ring of fire.

—————

KHIOS XXII.

Now in the ring, does not the past stand
out like a sheeted fury?

Dost thou behold the list of evil
committed?

Listen! those echoes are the battle shouts,
and those shrieking, harsh
voices are thine own saved against thee.
Writhe now, poor soul; alas ! thou must
suffer.

See now the time has passed, and thou art
lifted from thy ring of
suffering.

Whence comes this change? Thy shadow
has gained intensity, and
thy form person.

Now take this key, terror-stricken dove,
and unlock that vast chest

Why tremble? Those bodies are but the
victims which thou hast
sacrificed to thy evil lusts.

Those ghastly white, staring skulls thou
hast slain with thine own hand.

Oh ! those terrible bruised hearts are only
those upon whom thou hast
trodden.

Blench not, those maimed bodies are thy handiwork.

Oh ! pale face, take brave hold. Thou hast gloried over these deeds

— why shudder now? Life taken is life left. Slain souls wait in Paradise. (In the field of Aarzoo in the original.)

Long lost hearts burn in the oil of the lamp of the king.

Hopeless maimed one's rest in the water queen's bosom.

Remember not to forget, but forget to remember.

There now, poor tired one, one more ordeal, one more flame-searching trial.

Jump quickly into the water, mark you its cool, delicate waving; why dost thou shrink? Art thou not hot and weary? It will refresh thee.

Now the time is past. Thou must jump. Days are passing, moments fleeting; jump thou, believe, jump.

There, come up now, and rest in this green grass.

Was it very terrible? Did the water burn thy very life?

Ah! so burned thou the life of others.

Pass, pass, pass!

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KHIOS XXIII.

Thou art free, see thou how beautiful are thy limbs.

Feel now how perfect is thy health.

Come away to the fire king, thy sufferings are passed.

Thou hast been tormented for a thousand and one years.

Hasten thou, no longer sorrowful wanderer, but bird of Paradise.

Fight no more, thou hast won Elysia.

Weep! Ah! thou canst not, thou hast no fount of tears.

Still thee now, still thee!

See, I bring thee onwards.

Seest thou not that thou art glorified!

See far, far ago, behind time, thy poor body.

See the bandaged head and the bloodless body, see the stuffed carcase.

Oh, laugh, laugh, laugh.

That was once thy dwelling-place.

Now come quickly, for we pass to the absorption; wait not, tarry not, linger not

Oh! beautiful, moon-faced angel!

Oh! brilliant and happy soul!

Hark thou to the tinkle of those silver bells, they are the fire king's thoughts.

Listen to the convulsions of the atoms; the demons tremble.

Listen to the beautiful songs; they are the Gunlas.

Oh, happy soul, soon must we part, for I must return to the ferry, for I must ferry souls across.

I cannot enter where thou canst enter, beautiful Bird of Paradise;

tell the Fire King when thou see'st him in his beauty that I languish to join him.

Now, good-bye, Brilliant-Bird, soar above, thou art free as air.

Thou art as a snowflake carried on the rosy pinions of the morn.

Thou art as the lovely wind that cooleth
the hot earth.

Fare thee well, free dove, fare thee well;
enter that golden glory and
pass for ever into the Fire King.

Gu nla, Gunla, Gunla. . . . Sepher.

"Our stay in Egypt with Madame Blavatsky was in many ways a most remarkable experience, as she constantly told us much of the inner side of what we saw there. She had been in Egypt before, and was well acquainted with some of the officials, with the Prime Minister, Nubar Pasha, with the Russian Consul Monsieur Hitrovo, and especially with the curator of the museum, Monsieur Maspero. I remember particularly how we went through the museum with this last gentleman, and how Madame Blavatsky was able to give him a great mass of most interesting information about the various curiosities which were under his care."

Charles Webster Leadbeater, *The Inner Life Second Series*, (1911).

Antiquity of the Game of Chess

In the Index of Isis Unveiled the student will find the statement "Chess played in Egypt and India 5,000 years ago," with reference to vol. i. p. 544, where we read as follows:

"On the walls of the palace of Amenoph II at Thebes, the king is represented as playing chess with the queen. This monarch reigned long before the Trojan war. In India the game is known to have been played 5,000 years ago."

This is now confirmed by a recent "remarkable discovery in Egypt," as the Pall Mall Gazette styles it in its issue of Oct. 21st. The remarkable discovery is as follows:

"Chess-players, with a turn for the history of their strategic amusement, will be interested to learn that all the hypotheses as to the origin of the game have suddenly been 'mated' by a recent extraordinary discovery in Egypt. It was generally assumed until now that the ancient Indians

had invented chess; and that by the Arabs. And in consequence of the Crusades, it spread from East to West. It is true the Chinese – who invented many things in times long gone by which had afterwards to be reinvented in Europe – assert that they can trace chess in their own country to about two hundred years before our era. Now, there can certainly be no doubt that in the character of the figures at present used, and in some of the words connected with the game – such as `scach` (Shah) and matt, or "mate" – an Indian, Persian, and Arabic influence is traceable.

"but here comes news of the latest excavations on the pyramid Sakkara, which have brought to light a wall-painting, on which a high official is represented as playing chess with a partner at the time of the government of King Teta, who belonged to the sixth dynasty. Professor Lepsius formerly assigned the reign of that monarch to about the year 2700 B.C. Professor Brugsch, correcting this chronology, puts it back to still greater

antiquity, namely to the year 3,300 B.C.
So that chess would have been known
in the once mysterious land of Mizraim
something like 5,200 years ago!"

Lucifer, (1893), "Antiquity of the Game of Chess," Lucifer Magazine, Vol. XIII. London,
November 15th 1893. No. 75. Pp:181.

"The Egyptians were a profoundly religious race, and they lived through the stories belonging to their faith with an intensity of reality of which only a faint reflection is now seen among Roman and Anglican Catholics on such days as Good Friday. They were psychic, and felt the play of super-physical influences, and hence were without scepticism as to the existence of higher beings and higher worlds; their religion was their very life. They built their huge Temples to produce the impression of vastness and greatness, to instil reverence into the minds of the lower-class people. All the colour and splendour of life circled round their religion. The people normally wore white, but the religious processions were gorgeous rivers of splendid colour, glittering with gold and gems. The ceremonies accompanying the celebration of the death of Osiris palpitated with reality; the mourning for the murdered God was real mourning; the people wept and wailed aloud, the whole multitude being carried away with passionate emotion and calling on Osiris to return."

Charles Webster Leadbeater and Annie Besant, *Man: Whence, How and Whither*, (1913).

Ancient Egyptian Ideas on God

In the Journal of «L' Alliance Scientifique," under the presidency of M. Leon de Rosny (Nos. 89 and 90), there is a remarkable article by E. Amelineau, Egyptologist and Coptic scholar, which demands notice. M Amèlineau, among much else of interest translates some strophes of a wondrously beautiful hymn of Thebes to Amon-Ra. It combines the ideas of Pantheism and Monotheism in a striking manner but is easily comprehended by those who have grasped the idea of the Demiurgic or Creative Logos, or Word-Soul. Thus, then it runs when Englished from the French.

"Hail to Thee, author of all forms,
One, who art single, yet whose arms are manifold,
Who watchest over men when they sleep,
And who sleekest for the good of all creatures,
God Amon, who upholdest all things.

"Hail to Thee, from all creatures,
Acclamation to Thee in every region,
Up to the height of heaven, as far as the earth extends,
(Aye), to the depths of the sea,
The Gods, bowed before Thy majesty,
Exalt the souls of Him who hath emanated them;
Rejoicing in the station of Him who is their Father,
They say to Thee: Come in peace, O Father of the fathers of all
The gods,
Who hast stretched out the sky and trodden out the earth,
Author of (all) things, producer of beings,
Highest prince, chief of the gods,
We adore the minds which Thou hast placed within us,
For thou hast energized in us and made all,
(Therefore) we give The acclaim for Thou dwellest in us.

"Hail to Thee, O Sun, Lord of truth
Mysterious (dweller) in the shrine, master
of the gods;
Kephra in his barque;
If Thou sendest forth Thy word, the god
exist;
Thou art Toom the father of mortals.
'Tis Thou who hast fixed their way of life,
who hast made their existence,

'Tis thou who dividest the nations the one
from the other
'Tis Thou who hearest the prayer of the
oppressed.
Thy heart goes out to him who cries to

Thee;
Thou freest the fearful from him who is
too bold,
And Thou judgest the mighty with the
stricken.
Lord of the source of blessing. His word is
food:
The Nile has come, led on by His love.
Lord of the palm, tall with love.
He is come to give food to mortals.
He bestows motion upon everything:
Brooding in the primordial abyss
He brought forth the charms of the light,
Therefore the gods rejoice at His beauty,
And their hearts live when they see him."

ΣΟΦΙΑ

REVISTA

TEOSÓFICA



The Pyramids and Stonehenge

By A.P. Sinnett

Two lectures delivered before The Theosophical Society, London, in 1892-93 and now reprinted in 1958 in response to re-peated requests arising out of modern interest in the Pyramids, Stonehenge and also Atlantis. Their value is felt to lie in the text as originally given, and no attempt has therefore been made to revise them.

-Publisher's note.

THE PYRAMIDS AND STONEHENGE

INDEPBNDDBNTLY of knowledge concerning the spiritual growth of humanity, with which theosophy is specially concerned, a great deal of information that could not be obtained in any other way may sometimes be acquired by theosophical students in reference to the plain external history of the world around us. Literary research in such matters very soon reaches the limit of its tether. In dealing with the re-mote past it is paralysed for want of written records, and at the best can only supplement these by interpreting a few inscriptions on stone.

With their aid we are enabled to reach back in the direction of what Mr Samuel Laing calls "Human Origins" some 5,000 years before the Christian era. But evidences which are not less certain than those of Egyptian hieroglyphics, show us that Man existed on the earth at past periods which geology fails to estimate with exactitude, but which certainly extend back millions of years. In this way we are confronted with a problem which, in its broadest aspects, only admits of two alternative hypotheses. Either for those millions of years mankind existed on the earth in a savage state, never rising above the use of the barbarous stone implements we find associated with his fossil remains, or he attained to early civilisations at remote periods, the regular historical traces of which have been lost.

Comparing these two views, mere reasoning on the basis of evidence that everyone is equally qualified to appreciate will go far to support a belief in prehistoric civilisations. In Egypt, the testimony of

the monuments and of papyrus records, already translated, carries us back to a period about 5,000 years B.C. But at that time we find ourselves just as much in presence of Egyptian civilisation as at that relatively modern epoch of Egyptian grandeur, the Eighteenth Dynasty. According to the admirable German Egyptologist, Brugsch Bey, Menes, the first king of the first dynasty mentioned by Manetho, altered the course of the Nile by constructing an enormous dyke, in order to facilitate the foundation of Memphis. He was a lawgiver, moreover, and is said to have greatly augmented the pomp and extravagance of the monarchy, thus showing himself at the same time not merely a civilised ruler, but one who had already contracted some of the vices of civilisation, a sure indication that he belonged to a declining rather than to a rising era of his country's progress. But, in truth, people have got into the way of thinking of him as if he were a primeval personage, merely because he begins Manetho's list of the kings, in so far as that list has been preserved for us by the accident of its quotation by some classical writers. The original work of Manetho vanished probably in the smoke of the Alexandrian library. It is known through other writers that Manetho spoke of Egyptian epochs long previous to that of the thirty dynasties; and even if he had not done so, the situation faintly portrayed as prevailing in the time of Menes is enough to show that it must have been the growth of a social progress extending into the past for almost immeasurable ages previously. Fifteen and not five millenniums B. c.

must be taken into account-according to some of the modern Egyptologists now engaged in translating the papyri-if we wish to frame a picture in our own minds of the rise of Egyptian civilisation.

Turning now to another modern investigation, we have to recognise that by degrees a mass of testimony has accumulated on our hands in support of the classical legend concerning the lost continent of Atlantis. The Egyptian priests whom he visited gave a great deal of information on that subject to Plato's ancestor, Solon. For a long time, modern scholarship was inclined to treat the story as a fable, one hardly knows why, because the recognised course of change on the earth's crust makes it certain that most of what is now dry land was once ocean bed, and vice versa. There is an a priori probability, therefore, that some such continent as the "fabled" Atlantis must once have existed. And now there are abundant evidences, derived from the surveys of the Atlantic bed within the last few years, to show that the site assigned to Atlantis was probably that of great land masses during some former configuration of the earth's surface. Furthermore, comparative archaeology brings out identities between the pre-historic symbolism and remains of Mexico and Central America on the one hand, and those of Egypt and Syria on the other. These point to a common origin which Atlantis would exactly supply. A persevering explorer of Mexico and Yucatan, Dr Le Plongeon, has, to quote a recent and very striking scrap of evidence, succeeded in de-ciphering the character

in which ancient Mexican inscriptions are written, and has even translated a very old manuscript saved from the vandalism of Cortez and his attendant monks. This turns out to include a straightforward record of the final catastrophe which swallowed up the last remnant of Atlantis ten or twelve thousand years ago.

The question of Atlantis is immensely important, and I am, for the present, merely referring to the chain of reasoning by which its actual existence in former days is supported. A thorough examination of the merely exoteric evidence on the subject would be a large undertaking in itself, and I have another task before me for the moment. But all theosophical students, and even cursory readers of theosophical books, will be aware that the teaching concerning the origins of the human race that have been given to the world in connection with the inauguration of the theosophical movement, gear in with that belief in the former existence of the Atlantean continent which, as I have shown, is making its way even in the outside world, which has nothing to do with theosophy. Humanity, according to all theosophical authorities, is evolved through a series of great root races, of which the Atlantean race was the predecessor of our own. I do not put forward the statement as in itself conclusive, because the whole character of theosophic teaching- as far as its really qualified exponents are concerned- is opposed to the principle of ex cathedra assertion. The regular method of instruction adopted by the Masters of occult science is to show

the student how his own interior dormant faculties may be awakened and brought to bear on the discovery of truth, whether it has to do with the planes of Nature and consciousness superior to our own, or with periods of the world's history long anterior to our own. Until the pupil is sufficiently advanced to have the power of applying his own direct perceptions to the questions he may wish to investigate, he is almost discouraged from taking the statements of others more advanced than himself, on trust. But, at the same time, we must steer a middle course between the attitude of mental servility and the attitude of narrow-minded incredulity. For the reasonable theosophic student who has found substantial ground for relying on the knowledge and bona fides of the occult Masters, from whom our current theosophic teaching has been received, the statements they make in reference to such matters as the character and place in Nature of the Atlantean race will necessarily have very great weight.

Indeed, I may go a step forward in explaining why some theosophic students at all events come to look upon facts concerning Atlantis, and the light that can be thrown by occult inquiry on the remote history of Egypt, as coming within the range of something nearer to them than the knowledge of their higher teachers.

An instrument of research is placed in the hands of theosophic students sufficiently advanced to make use of it, which actually brings a great deal of the ancient history of the earth within the reach of their

direct perception. This is the faculty of actually seeing, with an inner sense adapted to the process, former states and conditions of any place or object with which the seer or clairvoyant may be in contact. Many people of our day are so ill-informed concerning the most interesting developments of science in progress around us, as to disbelieve in clairvoyance from A to Z. To those of us who know better, that is like disbelieving in the differential calculus-an attitude of mind simply absurd in presence of recorded facts and experience. Clairvoyants may be one per mil, one in ten thousand if you like, of the population at large, but they are sufficiently numerous to make the reality of their capacities as certain as the occasional capacity of the human mind to understand the higher mathematics.

Clairvoyance has many varieties and ramifications, but that with which I am concerned for the moment has been called- rather clumsily, perhaps, by modern writers dealing with it-psychometry. In its simplest manifestation it is not very uncommon. I have met many people, besides those who have had a regular occult training, who are able, by fingering a letter, without looking at it or reading it-or perhaps by putting it to their foreheads-to get impressions concerning the person who has written it, extending some-times to an accurate delineation of his outward appearance and character. Now, this accomplishment depends upon facts of Nature that are enormously important in their wider manifestations. Psychometrising letters bears to the law under which it becomes

possible, much the same relation that the experiment of rubbing sealing-wax so as to make it attract little bits of paper, bears to the whole science of electricity. There is a medium in Nature in which pictures, so to speak, of all that has ever taken place on earth are indestructibly preserved for ever. This medium is spoken of in the occult literature of the East as the Akasa. European medieval occultists mean the same thing when they speak of the astral light. This astral light includes a record for those who can perceive and interpret it, that dwarfs to insignificance the value, for historical purposes, of all the written documents the world contains.

Psychic faculties of a very adept-like order, educated, moreover, with scientific precision, and borne up on a highly spiritualised character, are required for the complete exploration of the astral light. Such faculties belong to the higher theosophic teachers, and it is partly to their exercise that is due the knowledge concerning the remote past of the world which they possess. I say "partly" because, in truth, the higher initiates of occultism possess written records that have been handed down to them by a line of predecessors, but their own faculties enable them to verify these at any time. And, in truth, there are stages of development which many of their pupils reach from which a great deal of historical-not to speak for the moment of other sorts of-information can be gathered from the astral light. This has sometimes been called the Memory of Nature. All memory-even that of the most familiar kind-is in

truth a reading in the astral light. But the faculties that have not been developed by occult training are only capable of reading those records, at the making of which the person concerned has actually been present. Only with those have his astral senses been closely enough associated to make it possible for him to recover touch with them at will. The occultist whose astral senses are very much more delicate is able to follow other channels of association, other magnetic currents, to use the technical expression, and this hint gives us the clue to the comprehension of the psychometric faculty.

Tangible objects, as well as the inner vehicles of human consciousness, are connected by permanent magnetic currents with the astral records that have been originally established in their neighbourhood. The trained occultist, by touching or handling such tangible objects, is enabled to get upon these currents; to put his own astral senses into the same relationship with the astral records to which such currents lead, as that which normally exists between his own astral self and bygone scenes of his own life that he has witnessed. Take the case of recollections any of us may entertain of some distant place he may formerly have visited. Desirous of remembering it, he turns back his thoughts upon that page of his memory, and in a certain interior way may be said to see again the scene of which he thinks. The occultist ~ the same way lays his hand upon the stones of a building-or it may be enough for him merely to come near them-and he can follow the magnetic

thread of connection which leads back his consciousness to the early events with which they were associated.

This is the way in which, for the occultist, the pyramids of Egypt may be made to tell their own story very much more fully than it is possible to trace this with the help of fragmentary inscriptions or documents accidentally surviving the destroying influence of time. The extent to which the psychometric faculty is trustworthy in the case of people below the level of adeptship is a question that can only be considered in reference to each case in turn; but, at all events, I have had the advantage of being assisted-in such attempts as I have made to penetrate rather more deeply than usual, the mystery of Egyptian antiquities-by psychometric power of a very high order, and I have been enabled to check the information I have thus received through the fuller knowledge possessed by those from whom the teaching put forward in various theosophic books from my hand has been derived. In this way I have been enabled to build up a conception of the early beginnings of Egyptian civilisation which constitutes a coherent and intelligible sketch of the whole process and synthesises in a very interesting manner a great deal of disjointed speculation concerning the evolution of the human race towards which archaeological research of the ordinary kind has been groping its way. I will now put forward the story for the benefit of all who may be sufficiently in touch with occult methods of investigation to appreciate its *prima facie* claim to attention.

Of course, the investigation of Egyptian beginnings brings us into relations with the Atlantean race. If we go back far enough in the history of mankind-if we go back a million years-we find ourselves in the midst of a period when there was next to nothing else in the nature of a population on the earth, except the Atlantean race,-inhabiting many regions, as the earth was then configured, besides those which formed part of the continent of Atlantis-just as at the present day-to draw an illustration from one of the minor ethnological divisions of our own great race, the Caucasians inhabit many other regions of the earth besides the Caucasus. But different ramifications of the same root race may differ very widely from each other: and at a time when the main body of the Atlantean race on the continent of Atlantis had attained a very high degree of civilisation and power, Egypt, amongst other countries, was in the occupation of a relatively primitive people, whom we need not think of as savage or barbarous in the worst sense of those words, but for whom the arts and customs of civilisation were as yet a closed book.

As far back as 800,000 years ago the Atlantean continent, having all but fulfilled its destinies in the education of the human race, began to melt away. The process was inaugurated at the period just mentioned by a geological catastrophe, on a very stupendous scale; but that merely began, it did not accomplish, what is known to occult history as the submergence of Atlantis. The continent

held out against the destructive forces of Nature till about 80,000 years ago, when some considerable portions surviving till then finally dis-appeared, leaving only one big island-the Atlantis of classical tradition-which perished in a great natural convulsion about 11,500 years ago, a date originally derived from occult teaching, and approximately confirmed by Le Plongeon's discoveries, to which reference has already been made.

During the enormous period covered by the gradual submergence of the great land masses of the original continent, extensive migrations to other regions of the then existing world were accomplished by detachments of the Atlantean people. The most spiritually enlightened and advanced representatives of the race were especially involved in these migrations. The destruction of Atlantis as a physical process was proceeding *pari passu* with the moral degradation of the people. The adepts of the race shrank away as much from the incurable degeneration of their countrymen, as from the doomed continent whose fate they foresaw. It was not in that decaying and corrupt civilisation that their influence could any longer be exerted with advantage. They had to discover a younger and more vigorous human stock, on which to graft the spiritual impulse of which they were the custodians.

At that period a large part of Europe, especially of eastern Europe, was an uninhabited swamp-scarcely upheaved from the ocean to which Atlantis was

returning. But Egypt, though very different in its geography from the Egypt of the present day, was already inhabited land, as also were the countries bounding the Mediterranean on the east. Some-where about the middle of the enormous period assigned to the submergence of Atlantis, a good many of the Atlantean adepts, accompanied by considerable numbers of their uninitiated contemporaries, settled in these countries, as also by degrees, and later on, in the western regions of our present Europe, as well as in many parts of the eastern world. On ground, which is now part of our own British Islands, though it had not at that time separated itself from the main continent, Atlantean adepts left traces of their presence, some of which survive to the current epoch. In Stonehenge we possess a memorial of the Atlantean dispersion, though that structure is of more recent date than the pyramids of Egypt.

For a very long time the adept immigrants who settled in what is now Egypt did not attempt the education of the people in the arts of civilisation. They simply resided in the country, and there, no doubt, brought forward individual pupils, and upheld the higher spiritual knowledge which, however ill qualified to assimilate it the bulk of mankind at any time may be, can never be allowed to die out altogether, even if its guardians, as they sometimes may in the crises of human evolution, diminish to a few in number. What may have been the nature of the unseen spiritual influence they were bringing to bear all the while on the people amongst whom they lived,

is a question that I need not attempt to deal with here. The race around them was gradually ripened for the teachings of a lofty civilisation, and no doubt was largely augmented and elevated etymologically by the in-fusion of the immigrant blood, for, as I have said, large numbers of Atlantean people, besides those who represented the adeptship of the period, accompanied their spiritual leaders in their migrations, and mingled their descendants with the original inhabitants of their new home.

Thus, at last a time came when the seed sown amongst them germinated effectually. The adepts began to teach and rule as well as to reside in Egypt. The vague traditions as to long lines of Divine Kings who preceded those dynasties chronicled by Manetho are no mere fables of an infant humanity, as the narrow-minded ignorance of materialistic critics in the nineteenth century too often supposes them. The Divine Kings of Egypt were the early adept rulers, and the golden age of Egyptian greatness was that over which they presided, in millenniums far back in a past so remote that one almost hesitates to handle the real figures, amongst people of whom only a few as yet can have become completely emancipated from the mental fetters as regards the duration of the world's history, forged for modern Euro-peans by the imbecile interpretation put by the theology of the Middle Ages on chronological statements of the Bible. In following back the history of the earliest monuments of Egyptian civilisation, by the help of those imperishable records still to be found, as vivid as ever, in the Memory

of Nature by those who know how to gain access to its bound-less picture-gallery, we do not have to add at a venture a few extra millennia to the conventional dates of modern Egyptologists, but to measure their ages on the scale of Atlantean history. It was at a midway period between the first immigration of Atlantean adepts in Egypt and the stage of the world's progress we have now reached, that the pyramids were really built, or, in other words, a little more than two hundred thousand years ago. Closely connected as they were in their origin and purpose with occult mysteries, it is impossible to obtain from initiated informants in the present day any very precise statement concerning the design which they subserved in the beginning. I have gathered a hint to the effect that, although no doubt from the beginning used as and designed to be temples or chambers of initiation, -the great pyramid for one, certainly containing other chambers besides the three that have been discovered, -one purpose of the great pyramid was the protection of some tangible objects of great importance having to do with the occult mysteries. These were buried in the rock, it is said, and the pyramid was reared over them, its form and magnitude being adopted to render it safe from the hazards of earthquake, and even from the consequences of submergence beneath the sea during the great secular undulations of the earth's surface.

This brings me to one of the most remarkable facts about the pyramids, among those which modern research has

never suspected. Within the enormous period of their existence there has been time for more than one of those great changes in the configuration of the earth, brought about by what some geologists at all events recognise as a necessity of its constitution. The alternative elevations and depressions of continents and ocean beds are due to a slow pulsation of the body of the earth, that may be likened, as regards the surface, to the undulations of a sea that has settled down in a condition of almost perfect calm but is still gently heaving under the influence of an all but imperceptible swell. Probably there are cross currents in such undulations that may occasionally intensify and occasionally minimise them; but, at any rate, they cannot be excluded from any reasonable scientific hypothesis concerning the progress of geological growth, however far beyond the reach of our very brief historic records their last manifestations may be withdrawn.

Occult information on the subject brings some of them into view, and since the erection of the earliest pyramids one such undulation- connected with that which had to do with the final submergence of the last bit of the old Atlantean Continent- depressed the region which is now the Lower Nile valley below the level of the sea which spread over the northern part of Africa- except for the high lands near the Mediterranean coast. The west coast was also dry land at the period in question, but the present desert of Sahara was a sea, and that sea spread over the whole country now fertilised by the Lower Nile, as the

huge undulation depressed its level.

The country of the Upper Nile was not submerged, and thither no doubt the population of Egypt to a large extent withdrew, although the submergence, I understand, was cataclysmic enough in its character to involve some destruction of life among those who clung longest to the menaced region. At all events, I am told that there was a considerable migration of the people to the east and west, as well as to the south, and for a time-I do not know exactly for how long, but for a short time compared with the general course of the undulations of the great rock-sheet of the earth-the pyramids and the country round remained under water. Incidentally this will suggest that the present course of the river Nile was not that which it followed before the natural convulsion in question. The course to-day differs, I am told, as a matter of fact, from that which it followed in the age of the great pyramid's construction as high up as Thebes. The temple of Karnak is an Egyptian monument of enormous antiquity, though not so old as the great pyramid, and it never shared the submergence of the pyramid; but as far as the course of the river was concerned, that was different from what it is now, even as high up as Thebes, at the time of the erection of the temple of Karnak.

The sea again receded from lower Egypt after an interval, the exact duration of which has not been given to me, and the pyramids were again left dry. Rapidly as compared with the geological changes in progress, it was doubtless re-peopled, and

again taken in charge by the adept kings. I am inclined to regard the period which now came on as the really golden age of Egyptian civilisation. The decline did not set in till much later. But fate held another shock in reserve for the ancient state. When the last island remnant of Atlantis was submerged with cataclysmic violence about 11,500 years ago-an inundation of the oceans led to some enormous inundations, and without again becoming the bed of a sea as on the former occasion, the land of Egypt was over-whelmed with an immense flood which again dispersed its people. I do not understand that this was on such a scale as again to submerge the pyramids, but at any rate the population was drowned or driven out of the surrounding country for a time. When, in turn, this flood passed away and population spread again over the land, there began that downward movement of spirituality and culture which, from the occultist's point of view, is the final brief period of the decadence of Egyptian civilisation, though for the modern Egyptologist it includes the whole range of Egyptian history, behind which some inquirers begin to look out for the evidences of primitive man.

Probably when the decadent period began, or was some-what advanced, the tangible objects, whatever they were, which the great pyramid was designed to cover, were re-moved to some other country chosen as the headquarters of the world's adeptship. And though as long as the ancient wisdom religion survived in Egypt to any considerable extent the pyramids continued to fulfil their purpose

as temples of initiation, by degrees, no doubt, the full knowledge concerning their uses in this respect faded out from among the people. On the face of things, it would only be by initiated adepts that chambers dedicated to secret ceremonies could be put to such uses, and with the fading out of the adept element in the population, due to its own moral deterioration, the old traditions would naturally be lost. This consideration will, amongst others, abundantly account for the multiplication of pyramids in comparatively recent ages. When, certainly, there was no thought on the part of the builders of using them in connection with the introduction of neophytes to the mysteries of occult science. As late as within the last few thousand years some of the pyramids along the Nile valley have been erected. While, therefore, occult teaching entirely discountenances the conventional theory that the pyramids in all cases were put up to serve as the tombs of monarchs, it opens the door to conjectures along that road as regards some of the latest among them. From an antiquity with which the decadent dynasties had probably lost touch, the example of the earlier pyramids as a fashion in architecture had obviously been handed down.

Certainly, the coffer of the great pyramid was neither a sarcophagus nor, as Piazzi Smyth conjectures, a standard measure of capacity, but a font in which certain baptismal ceremonies connected with initiations were carried out. It is possible, however, that in the later and degenerate period of Egyptian history to which all

the Manetho dynasties belong some of the kings, losing touch with the ideas associated with the more ancient pyramids in the beginning, may have followed the fashion of their architecture, without knowing why it was originally designed, and may have put up pyramids to be their tombs. I understand definitely that this was the case, but the fact in no way militates against the explanations just given.

The great pyramid has been assigned by most Egyptologists to a king of the fourth dynasty, generally known as Cheops, or more correctly, to students of hieroglyphics, as Khufu. That monarch is supposed to have built it, and to have gone on adding to its size as long as he lived. As his reign was a long one, the enormous magnitude of the building standing on a base the size of Lincoln's Inn Fields is thus accounted for. My own information is to the effect that Khufu simply restored some portions of the pyramid that had suffered injury, also, for reasons that I have not heard stated, closing up some of the chambers that were previously accessible. It is admitted by modern Egyptologists that the evidence which points to Khufu as the builder of the pyramid is meagre, although the original guess has been quoted so often now that most writers assume it to be somehow known as a fact.

The manipulation of the enormous stones used in this edifice, as also, indeed, the construction of the great pyramid itself, can only be explained by the application to these tasks of some knowledge

concerning the forces of Nature which was lost to mankind during the decadence of, Egyptian civilisation and the barbarism of the Middle Ages, and has not yet been recovered by modern science. This branch of the subject, however, may be conveniently reviewed in connection with some other architectural bequests from the ages in which the adepts dispersed from Atlantis were still taking part in the external life of Egypt, and, indeed, of some other countries now forming part of the European continent. In England itself we have architectural remains connected with the ascendancy here at one time of Atlantean adepts, the interpretation of which has been as much clouded by fantastic theories as by the passage of the ages that have gone by since their erection.

Stonehenge is a riddle that has perplexed speculation as profoundly in its way as the pyramids themselves. Most archaeologists have assumed that it was erected by the Druids of ancient Britain, who were already disappearing as a priestly caste at the time of the Roman invasion, although still carrying on secret and sanguinary rites to which some Roman historians have referred. This somewhat crude conjecture which offered no explanation of the methods by which an uncivilised race of people like those inhabiting the Britain that Julius Caesar conquered, could have handled the enormous monoliths of which Stonehenge consists, did not satisfy Mr. James Fergusson, who has devoted so much painstaking research to the subject of the "Rude Stone Monuments", dealt

with in his interesting volume bearing that title. Mr. Fergusson had a passion for discerning a recent origin in all the remains of antiquity, and, taking advantage of the obscurity that hangs over two or three hundred years of English history, following on the abandonment of these islands by the Romans, he has developed an elaborate hypothesis, according to which Stonehenge was erected in the time of King Arthur, to celebrate one of the twelve great battles in which that hero is said to have over-thrown the Heathen. Mr. Fergusson will have nothing to say to previous arguments that had assigned a religious purpose to the great relics on Salisbury Plain, and makes them out to have been nothing more than stones set up to commemorate a victory. He could not by any intentional efforts to that end have supplied us with a more grotesque *reductio ad absurdum* of that general view of the world which regards the civilisation now around us as having grown up from an immediately preceding condition of primeval human in-fancy. One of the reasons for which Mr. Fergusson rejects the Druidical theory is derived from the impossibility of supposing that such a mere race of savages as the Romans found in Britain could have handled the stone masses of which the ruin in question consists; but he is content to pass lightly over this embarrassment in dealing with his own theory, on the assumption that after the Roman occupation the Britons would have picked up a good deal of engineering knowledge from their conquerors. The Romans themselves would have been no better able than the Britons to manipulate

the materials of Stonehenge. The "impôts" or upper stones of the great trilithons are themselves about eleven tons each in weight, and the uprights thirty tons each. It is nonsense to talk of such masses as being moved about and set up in their places with great exactitude by builders simply employing the strength of human muscles in the work. The mechanical resources of the present day would be heavily taxed to erect a second Stonehenge beside the first. Nor is the absurdity of such a hypothesis measured merely by the weight of the monoliths on Salisbury Plain. By Mr. Fergusson's own admissions we have to bring into our survey of the past the remains of Stonehenge and Avebury, and also the innumerable "dolmens" that are found about these islands, and in larger numbers in France, Spain and Scandinavia. It is no use to give an explanation that will fit in with facts in one case if it fails to square with those of another. The dolmens have to be accounted for as well as the Arthurian battle memorials. And in the case of some among the Dolems the weights to be dealt with throw those of Stonehenge into the shade. Dolmens are simple structures in which one mass of rock-the capstone-is hoisted up on three or more supports; and one measured in Cornwall, in the parish of Constantine, is computed to weigh 750 tons. Another in Pembrokeshire is a great tabular slab, big enough for five people on horseback to take shelter beneath it. What were the uses to which these strange monuments were put? The Arthurian hypothesis leaves the matter as much in the dark as the Druidical theory at which Mr. Fergusson

takes offence. And the notion that the Britons might have become qualified to raise capstones weighing 750 tons, merely because they had picked up some engineering skill by watching the Roman road makers, is too childish to consider seriously.

People who contend, with Mr. Fergusson, that the rude stone monuments must have been put up in the third and fourth centuries, because we know they have not been built since, while they could not have been erected by primeval savages, are simply-without setting out on that argument consciously-making smooth the path that conducts us back, in search of an explanation, to a civilisation anterior to our own, the traces of which have all but evaporated from the records from which, till lately, we have been constructing the history of the ancient world. Atlantis is the only rational clue to the comprehension of Stonehenge, just as it affords the only satisfactory solution of ancient Egypt.

The information on the subject to be gathered from those to whom the "Memory of Nature" is an open book, shows us the dispersed adepts from Atlantis as the founders in Western Europe of the religious rites that Stonehenge was designed to subserve. At a much later period than that which witnessed the Atlantean migration to Egypt, some representatives of the higher Atlantean occultism established themselves in the country which, in the subsequent changes of physical geography, was destined to become the British Isles. Their influence

established a civilisation among the people which did not prove of the strong and enduring character attaching to that planted in Egypt, but which, nevertheless, gave rise to considerable cities, all traces of which have now passed away. And Stonehenge was erected as a temple, in which the exoteric worship they taught to the people could be carried on. It was never covered with any roof. Its rude structure was purposely adopted by the exiles from Atlantis as a mute protest against the corrupt luxury of the perishing civilisation they had left behind. In Atlantis itself the human family had touched the nadir point of materiality. Great developments of scientific knowledge had been turned entirely to the service of the physical life, and spiritual aspiration was entirely stifled in the pursuit of material welfare. Personal luxury cultivated by those who were strong enough to secure it for themselves, was the goal to which all the energies of the race were bent. Many secrets of Nature, which the science of this fifth race has not yet recovered, were degraded to the exclusive service of physical enjoyment by the dominant classes-for an inferior, servile race also inhabited the country-and the spiritual adepts of the period turned with disgust from a community which it was not in their power to redeem. They set themselves the task of implanting amongst a simpler and relatively barbarous population abroad, whose descendants were destined, in progress of time, to melt into the next great race, the spiritual enthusiasm that might, in their case, lead on to an ennobled future. So the external ceremonies of

the religion they taught were carried on under their guidance with stern simplicity. They built their great temple, of unhewn rocks. They sought no architectural effects that would divert attention from Nature. They invested their great cathedral with no other claims to admiration but those depending on the massive grandeur of its proportions.

But how did they overcome the difficulty of manipulating the huge masses of stone, the mere superposition of which, one upon the other, seems to have demanded mechanical resources which we can hardly associate in imagination with any period but our own? For that matter, in Atlantis itself it may be found, when fuller light is ultimately cast upon its history, that mechanical resources of a very advanced order were available for any work that needed them; but the builders of that age were not exclusively dependent on appliances of the kind we now make use of in handling large masses of material: In the maturity of Atlantean civilisation some forces of Nature, now only under the control of adepts in occult science, were in general use. The adepts of the time were under no obligation to keep the secret of their existence jealously guarded; and among them was that power, so rarely exercised now that its very existence is scornfully derided by the common-place crowd-the power of modifying the force we call gravity.

It is rarely of use in public utterances in the present day, when current intelligence

is engaged in channels far removed from those of occult attainment, to speak of adept powers that are wholly out of gear with modern experience of natural possibilities. But in reference to the peculiar power to which I have just referred, the truth is that the modification of the force of gravity, by methods human ingenuity may bring into play, can only seem absurd to people who are ignorant of certain suggestive facts already within the experience of scientific investigation and, at the same time, wilfully blind to the evidence of mysterious occurrences notoriously taking place, though altogether unexplained so far, in the realm of spiritualistic experience. Theosophists are of course very far from accepting the theories of spiritualism in regard to the destinies of the human soul after death; but the external facts, familiar to the investigators of spiritualism, are facts none the less which must be fitted into their places in any conceptions of Nature framed by intelligent reasoning. The foolish crowd ignore these, because impostors are constantly detected in imitating by trickery the comparatively rare phenomena which, under the auspices of spiritual mediumship, illustrate the occasional activity of forces that set at defiance the very limited knowledge of natural secrets generally diffused amongst us at present. But the remark attributed to Galileo, *e pur si muove*, is highly applicable in this case. In face of all that has been recorded by qualified spiritualistic investigators-a body of testimony which is not affected in the smallest degree by exposures of sham spiritualism in other cases,- it is

curiously illustrative of the capacities of human stupidity, that people, fancying themselves dear-headed and sagacious, should continue to dis-credit the fact that, at spiritual seances, heavy objects are sometimes "levitated", caused, that is, to rise or even float about in the air under the influence of invisible agencies, or forces that have for the time being counteracted, as far as such objects are concerned, the usually operative force called gravity.

But that which happens only now and then, no matter how rarely, must be traceable, if only we knew enough, to the operation of some law as natural as that under which steam expands. Nor is there anything in the essence of the matter more mysterious in the fact that solid objects are sometimes repelled from the earth, -or levitated,- than in the other fact that more usually they are attracted. No modern physicist has as yet any glimmering conception as to why or how gravity works. We are no better informed at this moment than Newton, as to why the apple falls. We can, to a certain extent, measure the force which controls it; we do not know what that force is. So with magnetism. There we have an agency we can observe in action both ways-as an attractive and as a repulsive force. Stimulate an electromagnet in one way and it will attract iron; stimulate it in another way and it will repel copper, so that a mass of that metal may be visibly levitated and kept floating on nothing, apparently, at some height above the apparatus repelling it. Electricians observe and can reproduce the fact; they do not understand it. The levitation of tables and

human beings at spiritual seances can only be observed occasionally and cannot be reproduced at will-not by ordinary observers, at all events-but the fact has to be faced by reasonable men, and brought into relations with our general thinking. It is stupid to attempt an escape from the difficulty of not understanding it by declaring, in spite of the evidence, that the fact is not a fact.

When, therefore, theosophists learn from those among them in a position to become acquainted with the powers exercised by the adepts of occult science, that such persons can in the present day, as of old, modify the action of the force we call gravity, so as to levitate ordinarily heavy objects like masses of stone, there ought not to be any indignant revolt of the understanding against such a statement. As yet it is impossible to offer the ordinary reader direct evidence to that effect of a kind that is calculated to compel his belief. But the general situation, as I have shown, is such that any positive declaration of disbelief in the allegation can only be due to ignorance or stupidity. Therefore, we who have what we hold to be trustworthy information in the matter may at least put it forward, very careless of scoffing, which, in view of collateral knowledge now available, stands self-condemned as irrational. The adept custodians of that knowledge concerning the mysteries of Nature, which is filtering into the world at large by degrees as science advances, can and always have been able to control the attractions of matter in such a way as to alter the effective weight of heavy bodies

at will. That is the whole explanation of the marvels of megalithic architecture. Working under the guidance and with the help of the adepts from Atlantis, the builders of Stonehenge and of the ancient "dolmen" altars found the enormous masses of stone they used light enough to be handled with facility. Clairvoyant observers of Stonehenge have seen the process of its construction going on. The pictures of its progress are all indelibly imprinted on the Memory of Nature: they are visible now as plainly as the actual transactions were visible for those who were present. And the vision shows us the enormous masses of the trilithons being raised to their places with the help of scaffoldings no more substantial in their character than would be used to-day in the erection of a brick cottage.

Of course, although I did not interrupt my narrative of the origin of the pyramids to say so, the great stones of which they are composed were treated in the same way as the materials of Stonehenge. The adepts who directed their construction facilitated the process by the partial levitation of the stones used. This is the simple, though in one way no doubt deeply mysterious, explanation of the old-world monuments in which enormous masses of stone are employed. At the temple of Baalbec, in Syria, there are single stones built into the walls, each of which is calculated to weight about 1,500 tons. Preferring an explanation of such remains, which only seems reasonable, because it makes no appeal to forces and powers with which we are unacquainted, archaeologists have

hitherto been content to assume that, with an unlimited command of human labour, the builders of such temples as that of Baalbec may have been able to get their great stones dragged along causeways on rollers, and may somehow have hoisted them up into their places with the help of inclined planes. Such hypotheses make larger drafts upon credulity really than those involved in the, occult statement. They call upon us to believe that which is physically impossible; but the impossibility is acceptable because it is disguised in commonplace phraseology. Stone-henge and Baalbec really stand before us imperishable proofs that, in the age of their construction, whenever that may have been, the world was witness of an engineering which did not accomplish its triumphs by brute strength, but by the application of a finer knowledge than even modern engineering has as yet recovered.

I have said that it was at a much later period than that at which the Atlantean adepts, who first left the perishing continent, took up their residence in Egypt, that those who settled in Western Europe set on foot the grand and simple spiritual worship which Stonehenge in the first instance was employed to subserve. It was at a much later period even than that at which the pyramids were erected. I do not know whether there was any long residence by Atlantean adepts in Western Europe prior to the introduction of their teaching among the people. Probably there was, but, at all events, it was near the final culmination of the great Atlantean continent's submergence, about 100,00

years ago from the present time, that the grey stones still standing on Salisbury Plain were first established in their places. Among the facts concerning them, which supporters of Fergusson's grotesque theory have to pass over very lightly, is one which relates to the geological character of the stones used. The outer circle and the stones of the great trilithons are of a composition that suggest their derivation from quarries in the neighbourhood. But the inner circle and the altar stone are of a totally different formation, of a kind which cannot be identified with any rock beds in that part of England. Such stone is to be found in Cornwall, in Wales, and in Ireland, but nowhere nearer. So from one of these regions the materials of the inner circle must certainly have been brought. Reasoning of the kind that is never shocked by an absurdity, but is only offended by the suggestion that modern knowledge does not embrace all the capacities of Nature, is content complacently to suppose that the Stone-henge builders brought the massive materials in question across many hundred miles of primeval forest-covered country, or by sea-all for the sake of a battle memorial on Salisbury Plain-when abundant stone, just as good and durable, was to be had in the neighbourhood. The nature of the Stonehenge materials would be alone enough to make the Arthurian theory ridiculous, even if it would bear consideration along other lines of attack. For the purposes of a mystic temple, however, everyone who has a glimmering of occult knowledge will apprehend that there may have been considerations connected with those subtle attributes of different kinds

of stone, which occultists generally call their magnetism, that would prescribe the employment of more than one kind.

The worship of the early Druids, to give that name to the occult teachers who made Stonehenge their headquarters, was grandiose and simple. There were processions and chants and symbolical ceremonies associated with astronomical events, especially with the rising of the sun on midsummer day, when great crowds of people assembled to witness the sun's rays, at the moment of his rising, shoot through an opening opposite to the altar, and illuminate the sacred stone. There were no unholy sacrifices offered on the altar in those days, and the only external ceremony of a sacrificial nature that took place had to do with a libation of milk that was poured over the stone. In accordance with the elaborate symbolism of early occult rites, a great deal of importance was attached to the serpent as an emblem of multifarious significance, and as the adept Druids could easily control these creatures, an actual living serpent was made to glide up into the altar stone at the sunrise ceremony and lap the milk. There is some truth, but much more misconception, in prevailing notions concerning what is called the "Serpent Worship" of olden times. The failure of modern students of religion to discriminate between worship and the use of symbols has had to do with graver misconceptions even than those which have entangled the commonplace interpretations of serpent worship.

The chief Druid of the Stonehenge

ceremonies in the days of the pure worship in the beginning used to march in some of the processions with a live serpent round his neck. Later on, when the adept influence was no longer present-many millenniums later-the degraded chiefs of the Druid decadence used to keep up the old tradition in so far as it lay in them to do so, but for prudential reasons wore a dead serpent, -a more fitting emblem than they supposed of the state of the faith they represented. Lower and lower its practices became debased, until the once sacred altar stone was deluged no longer with milk, but with the blood of human victims, and this was the only sort of Druid worship, of which, through Roman historians, we have any written records. How did it happen that so terrible a change came on? The age apparently, as far as ancient Britain was concerned, was not sufficiently advanced to provide the earlier adepts with a continuous line of successors. Eventually, it is to be presumed, one by one, no doubt, the earlier adepts ceased to incarnate among the people they could not lead on to the path of true spiritual progress. In Egypt the graft they planted took a firm hold of the stock to which it was attached. In Britain it did not, and thus, while Egypt remained to a comparatively recent period a land of high civilisation, and one of the principal centres of fifth-race adeptship, Britain relapsed back into barbarism. Up to only a few thousand years before the Roman conquest it remained still faintly tinged with the remote traditions of its vanishing civilisation, then it sank to its lowest condition of decay before the commencement of its modern cycle of

progress within the historic period.

This sweeping survey of a past that will be more fully recalled, no doubt, in progress of time, as the world learns better to appreciate the inner faculties of man—slight and sketchy though it be, has only been rendered possible by much patient gleaning on my part, opportunities being made use of as they arose. It is possible

at a later date that I may be able to fill up some details, but I hope the imperfect suggestions of this paper may meanwhile be accepted as contributing in some measure to show how imperatively necessary it is to bring the Atlantean origin of all civilisations belonging to our age into the scheme of our thinking if we are to hope for anything resembling a correct interpretation of the ancient world.

