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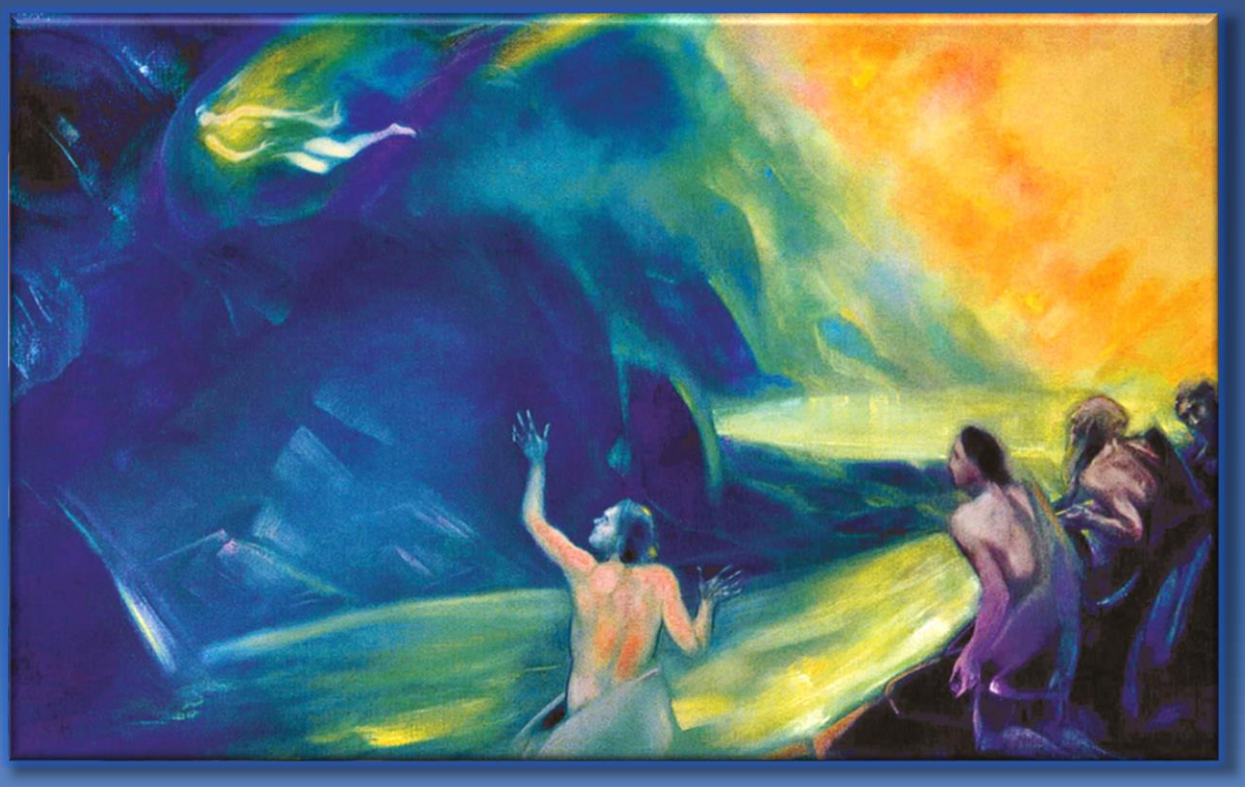
Letters on Living Ethics

Introduction to Agni Yoga



7. Reincarnation - yes or no?

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Cover image: „Hope“, painting by Svetoslav Roerich 1940.

Reincarnation – yes or no?

1. The continuation of life after death

There are generally three ideas or theories regarding the continuation of life after death:

First: Death is the end of everything, there is nothing left of man. The soul is merely a function of the brain that ends with death. Only phantoms with weak nerves believe in the continuation of a soul after death and sometimes see ghosts. One lives only once and therefore enjoys life to the full.

Second: Man possesses an immortal soul and this soul lives on after death, but only in an eternally constant, i.e. static state, in which there is no further development - perhaps because of the desire for eternal rest. According to this idea man also lives only once. His soul is created by God at birth or at procreation and develops in life either for good or for evil, whereupon it is then rewarded by the stay in heaven or eternally punished in hell.

Third: At a certain stage of evolution, a divine monad descended on the human soul, which was developed and individualized out of the animal kingdom, and thereby first created a primitive man. His task is to perfect himself from level to level over the course of aeons until he overcomes it by working in matter. In this way, man achieves a certain degree of perfection, which enables him to free himself from the connection with the gross matter. Since this task cannot possibly be accomplished in a single life, but extends over millions of years, life is not unique. This is just like a link in a long chain of reincarnations on Earth, the meaning of which lies in an evolutionary perfection. The end of these reincarnations is with the overcoming of matter until the soul has risen, so to speak, an octave higher and has reached Nirvana, the state of a higher creative activity.

This third theory, which is inherent in Theosophy and LIVING ETHICS, clearly indicates the necessity of reincarnation (re-embodiment). The sense of this rebirth is a constant perfection and refinement, which is why the return of the human soul to an animal is generally excluded and would mean a huge step backwards. The souls of all people of today have often lived on earth as man or woman before their present birth, but not as animal or plant. Eternal times ago, man evolved from the plant and animal kingdoms before the soul had become a permanent, self-confident and individual being.

Point one is unacceptable for a thinking person for good reasons. **Every unique life is completely meaningless. It contradicts every sense of justice because of the total diversity of all human beings**, which is why even the great pessimist Schopenhauer accepted a transmigration of souls. In nature there is no death in the sense of a complete dissolution into a "nothing". Life cannot be completely destroyed, but withdraws temporarily into a subtle environment and preserves the experiences gained for the new formation. No experience is lost. Where else would the geniuses and highly gifted souls come from, who were born to untalented parents? A proof that the souls of some children are much older than those of their parents.

The second theory, which is generally represented by the whole of Christianity today, is also unacceptable to a thinking and justly feeling person. Life resembled a terrible trap into which all who do not make use of the church's means of grace fall. What is a single life on earth in comparison with eternity, if one has to imagine under it a temporal infinity that cannot be expressed in numbers. It wouldn´t be even a second compared to those eons that are ahead of us in the regions of heaven or hell. Should man perhaps decide his fate for all eternity in such a short moment? What if man does not even come to his senses properly in that single life without the possibility of further development or reparation? Such a theory is absolutely unacceptable and contradicts the concept of divine all-goodness, all-mercy, all-love and all-justice.

Therefore only the third theory remains. It is all just by the possibility of unlimited development based on its own efforts, both from the religious and the philosophical-ethical point of view. This means that it is fair to all people and is therefore acceptable to everyone.

Even those who have fallen and been rejected are granted a return to the human community, which civil law also grants if evidence of improvement has been provided. However, in the cosmos, no one is given a gift. Every achieved goal is the result of one's own efforts. No guilt is absolved without redemption. In this, too, we see the rule of the absolutely just law of cause and effect or karma.

So life continues after death. We will see all our loved ones again, whether spouses, parents, children, siblings or friends, but also the enemies. It is said that at least 50 percent of all encounters in life come from previous incarnations. Hence also the sympathy or antipathy at first sight. The karmic threads go back thousands of years.

2. Rebirth – a law of nature

It is unfortunate that in the Occident the law of rebirth is almost completely unknown, because it is one of the most important natural laws of all, just like karma. Evolution only takes place with the help of reincarnation (rebirth). This means the development of consciousness and the exchange of imperfect or less perfect forms for more perfect ones.

There would be no way to perfection if one and the same form existed eternally. However, the development of the form has been perfectly proven by anthropology and biology. Even a superficial acquaintance with science convinces us that life develops and that the forms of plants, animals and humans are also subject to perfection. Just compare the oldest skull and bone finds of our ancestors with the physique and forms of contemporary humans. You will notice that the development of forms is even much faster than the development of consciousness and character. The development of the forms is completed in today's indigenous people and the difference to the consciousness of the true cultural people is still quite big.

If there were no evolution and no perfection of life carried out by the law of re-embodiment, then primitive man would still exist in the same primitive state - in both the physical and intellectual sense - as he existed millions of years ago. But what has transformed the primitive caveman into the present cultural man? It is metamorphosis - a transformation of form - which in turn is the result of the influence of metempsychosis or perfecting of soul through rebirth.

By the action of this wise law, the core of the human spirit, which is immortal by nature, is compelled to immerse itself in a series of mortal shells. Step by step this shell as well as the human soul itself becomes more and more perfect, since the physical shell is only its image. At the same time the physical shell is also being spiritualized by the perfection of forms and by the action of the spiritual emanations, at the same time also finer and more delicate and the spirit is becoming richer in consciousness through the contact with matter and the accumulation of experience. But people still see - skillfully in the distortion of truth - in the physical body the main tool and in the soul or immortal being something secondary or even an imagined function of the human intellect.

The law of reincarnation is not a dogma. No one is forced to believe in it by the threat of torments of hell. Nevertheless, it remains a law of nature whether someone believes in it or not. Everyone is automatically rewarded or punished, regardless of whether he knows about Karma or not. Laws of nature are there to regulate life. One can follow them and thus becomes the master of his destiny.

3. The purpose of rebirth or reincarnation

Human evolution demands reincarnation. If there were only one person outside the influence of this law, it would be a great dissonance in the general harmony of cosmic life, where everything is wisely and purposefully arranged and where the change of phenomena of life is repeated with an inevitable regularity. The uniformity of cosmic life and the uniformity of the laws of evolution know no exceptions in their rules. The development of all life is the same. The life of plants, animals and human beings, even of angels, archangels and supreme masters is subject to the same inalterable laws of evolution. There is no stagnation in evolution, and all life

pushes towards an infinite development.

Only the ignorance of Western people and their total lack of knowledge of the fundamental cosmic laws could lead to the illogical conclusion that people live only once on earth and that death would be the end of life. This meant that any further developments were impossible. Life and its evolution can only be understood if we consider the law of reincarnation.

Reincarnation has above all a twofold aim. First, the perfecting of forms, that is, the transformation or exchange of imperfect or less perfect forms into more perfect ones. Second, the development of the consciousness that is inherent in the form of the soul and that it needs for its unfolding on the earthly plan.

The human being has an individual consciousness and has its own centre for it. He has to develop his individuality, his ego or what is generally known as the soul. The lower realms of nature, from the animals downwards, do not have an independent consciousness, but have **spiritual concordance** of the species. In order to reach the higher, superhuman state and to complete the earthly evolution, man is destined to return to earth very often or to step on the earthly plane. **For this purpose, the human soul travels through all basic races, cultural epochs and forms of community one after the other, in order to develop, through its own efforts and its own creative activity, all higher qualities up to divinity, which is embedded in our soul as the final goal.**

The unfolding of all these possibilities arises from the mutual influence of the fundamental conditions of evolution: on the one hand through impacts and actions of all forces of nature from outside, on the other hand through the response to them by means of the vibrations of the human organism from within. The essence of the law of reincarnation consists in the fact that man acquires an ever more perfect way of life and experience through a chain of successive lives on the physical plane of being and in the periods between the embodiments, that is, in the time of his non-physical state on the higher mental level- in the Deva-Chan (pronounced Devatschan) according to the Indian terminology, or according to the Christian one: in paradise - his skills and character expanded and perfected.

Every life is like a school assignment, like a certain job or mission to be fulfilled. If the human being was successful in solving the tasks taken on or set, he moves faster in his evolution. If he has been less successful, he will oft-times return to the same conditions and environment in which he had not achieved success. This refers mainly to the training of character and the repayment of karmic debts. With this character and the abilities created in the previous lives, man generally enters the new life, with each new life continuing the previous one and starting at that stage of development at which man stopped in his previous life.

„Man determines his own destination in Cosmos. To say that destination is but the flow of evolution is to make man a ball of fate. Fate, Cosmos, Infinity—define it as you will, but the assertion that man is carried along by the tide of evolution without the participation of his will means separating him from Cosmos. I say that the spirit, in its kernel, has a predestined infinite path in Cosmos. The tendency to dissociate oneself from the affirmed path becomes the way which carries the spirit off into space. In the kernel of spirit we shall find that path which leads into Infinity. Search in the kernel of the spirit! "(INF-I, § 86.)

„ One may regard a chain of incarnations as a sequence of separate lives, but it is better to look upon the entire chain of incarnations as one life. Truly, life is one; from the moment of mastering the human consciousness, life with all it involves does not cease, and the surrounding cosmic currents evoke the same sensations in all phases of life. This is one of the most binding conditions of life, proving the innate oneness of all principles. One could call the time of incarnation a sleeping dream or a waking day, depending on one's point of view. In the past perhaps it was a sleeping dream, but in the future it will perhaps be an awakening. This depends upon the success of one's evolution. ....."(AY, § 450.)

It is difficult to imagine the series of lives each of us went through for the purpose of reaching the present state of development - likewise, how often everyone has yet to return to earth.

4. Reincarnation in the mirror of the world religions

No world religion has ever taught that man lives only once, neither Christianity nor Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Shintoism, Lamaism, etc.. Even the primitive indigenous peoples know the concept of reincarnation. **More than half of mankind believes in rebirth or in the repeated resurrection of the soul in the flesh.** This knowledge is only considered heretical in the Christian Occident, but is becoming more and more widespread here as well.

In the Orient, where this belief has never been unknown, one often has only vague and distorted ideas of rebirth, often expressed in a kind of transmigration of souls with an ongoing return to the animal kingdom, although Buddha gave precise instructions.

The law of reincarnation served as the basis of all creeds among all peoples of the Orient and also of the Occident. It was never unfamiliar to mankind, not even in ancient times among the Egyptians, Greeks, Romans and Germanic peoples. There was no reason for Jesus to mention or emphasize this law even amongst the Jews.

The Holy Scriptures are usually written down in a symbolic or often secret language, as mankind's consciousness has to mature gradually to come closer and closer to the truth. That is why one must not read the scriptures by letter, but must familiarise oneself with the secret symbols and also understand how to read many things between the lines.

However, this art was always understood by only a few knowledgeable or experienced disciples of the Great Teachers, who were persecuted at all times and exterminated by all means. It went so deep that in some centuries there was no one left who know how to interpret the secret aphorisms and symbols of the Holy Scriptures. As a result, a lot of original knowledge was lost, the truth was often removed from the Bibles and strange terms were put in their places.

Hence the belief in the rebirth of ignorant church teachers was expelled from Christianity at a council in Constantinople as early as the sixth century because it contradicted the personal and material interests of these dogmatists.

Hints found in the Christian Bible

The Christian gospels were all written several decades after the crucifixion of the Great Teacher. Therefore, one should be surprised that after such a long time they were still relatively correctly written down and not completely distorted. Nevertheless, due to ignorance, lack of understanding or even under dark influence, nasty mistakes and falsifications have crept into the copies and translations. Last but not least, appropriate cuts were made and important findings were deleted, such as the knowledge of the law of cause and effect and the law of re-incarnation. And yet we still find some clear indications of rebirth that were initially ignored, which is why they are still officially overlooked by theologians today. At that time they couldn´t be completely removed from them because of the general spread of the Bible. Today they only catch the eyes of those who know the secret religious teachings and thus the true teachings of Christ. It is therefore possible to determine what Christ really said and what was only later added or deleted in the Gospels.

We find the following reference to rebirth in Matthew (17): *„The disciples asked him, Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first? Jesus replied, To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands. Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist."* (Matth. 17/10-13) Here we find a clear indication that the Baptist John was the reborn prophet Elijah.

Furthermore, we read the following reference in John in the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus: "*Truly, I say to you, Without a new birth no man is able to see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus said to him, How is it possible for a man to be given birth when he is old? And Jesus, answering, said, Are you the teacher of Israel and have no knowledge of these things? Truly, I say to you, If a man's birth is not from water and from the Spirit, it is not possible for him*

to go into the kingdom of God. That which has birth from the flesh is flesh, and that which has birth from the Spirit is spirit. Do not be surprised that I say to you, It is necessary for you to have a second birth." (John 3/3-10)

Also in John we find another, hitherto unnoticed passage: "*And when he went on his way, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, was it because of this man's sin, or the sin of his father and mother, that he has been blind from birth? Jesus said in answer, It was so that the works of God might be seen openly in him."* This means the work of karma. The preceding sentence: *It was not because of his sin, or because of his father's or mother's." (John 9/ 1-3),* was obviously added by an ignorant Bible copyist.

The question posed by the apostles proves that, as disciples of Jesus, they knew of the possibility that someone in an earlier incarnation had taken on a debt that would only have an effect in a later life. Incidentally, the same view is already expressed in the Old Testament: *"The wrongdoing of their fathers, to the third and fourth generation." (Exodus 20/5)* But why should innocent children atone for the sins of their parents? **Because the later children are the former ancestors.** We find the same opinion in the doctrine of karma, which says that the accumulated karma can go back up to four incarnations.

Jesus shared many secrets and religious truths exclusively with his disciples, for the purpose of secret oral transmission to worthy disciples and followers. He withheld much more knowledge and wisdom, for otherwise He wouldn´t have said to the disciples: "I have much to tell you, but you cannot grasp it yet.

Just as the apostles died almost exclusively as martyrs for their faith, so too were their experienced disciples completely exterminated during the period of persecution of Christians in the first centuries. Therefore, the reborn dark ones, who once were Pharisees and scribes demanding the crucifixion of the divine Master and the destruction of his disciples, were able to creep into the church as Doctors of the Church and Dogmatists. The knowledge about the religious contexts and the cosmic laws of the universe was therefore forcibly removed, and with it the understanding of the already existing knowledge about the law of reincarnation.

In place of a dynamic development and completion to infinity, the theologians put the static state of heaven and hell, where every further development freezes. And that is why they do not longer understand that passage in the Gospel of Matthew anymore, which says: ***"Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect".*** *(Matth. 5/48)*

But even the heavenly Father of earthly mankind is by no means the crown of divine perfection. Nor is he the sole creator of the worlds. Apart from the earth there are innumerable larger worlds, which are also inhabited and are directed by divine creators. Our "heavenly Father" also strides further into an unknown far infinity. But how would this path of perfection be possible, if not through the evolutionary process of numerous reincarnations. Evolution extends over millions of years, and in its continuation in the higher worlds even over billions and even more years. Never in a single life can a human being reach the state of his own bliss or the divine state of the heavenly Father or the MOTHER OF THE WORLD. This path to unlimited perfection is only possible through numerous rebirths and efforts. Of course, those who have suffered one or more setbacks in previous incarnations are not excluded forever, **because they can make up for their missteps in a new life through appropriate efforts.**

5. Rebirth and world literature

Although in the Christian West the belief in re-embodiment was considered heretical, famous Western personalities have more or less clearly expressed the idea of rebirth for purely logical reasons.

The following occidental poets, thinkers and cultural pioneers have made a confession in this regard: Giordano Bruno, Voltaire, Kant, Lessing, Herder, Goethe, Schiller, Grillparzer, Rückert, Geibel, Novalis, Hebbel, Rosegger, Jean Paul, Victor Hugo, Tolstoy, Nietzsche, Richard Wagner and Ibsen. Testimonies from Plato, Pythagoras, Seneca and Ovid have been preserved from the pre-Christian cultural epoch.

Herder:

“What is born must die,
What dies there is reborn.
Man, you don't know what you were,
Get to know what you are now
And expect what you will be.”

Lessing:

"Oh, but why should every individual man not have existed more than once in this world? Is this hypothesis so laughable merely because it is the oldest? Why should I not come back as often as I can to acquire new knowledge, new skills? Do I take away so much at once that there is no point in making the effort to come back?” (Education of the human race)

Goethe:

„The soul of man is like the water,
It comes from heaven, it returns to heaven,
And down again to earth must go,
Ever changing.”
(Song of the spirits over the waters)
„Tell me, what does Fate intend for us?
Say, how it bound us so strictly, purely?
Oh, in some far off time you must
Have been my wife, been a sister to me.“ (To Charlotte Von Stein)

Tolstoi:

„…As we live through thousands of dreams in our present life, so is our present life only one of many thousands of such lives which we enter from the other more real life and then return after death. Our life is but one of the dreams of that more real life, and so it is endlessly, until the very last one, the very real the life of God.“

Victor Hugo:

„…When I go down to the grave I can say, like so many others: "I have finished my day’s work." But I cannot say, "I have finished my life." My day’s work will begin the next morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes in the twilight to appear with the dawn. I improve every hour because I love this world as my fatherland. My work is only a beginning. The thirst for the infinite means infinity.“

Novalis:

„Shouldn't there perhaps be a death yonder -
the result of which be earthly birth?“

Jean Paul:

„"Let a view (the belief in the rebirth), which a Plato, a Pythagoras and whole peoples and times did not despise, at least get their full justice. “

Schiller:

“Were once our beings blent and intertwining,
And therefore still my heart for thine is pining?
Knew we the light of some extinguished sun-The joys remote of some bright realm undone, Where once our souls were ONE?
Yes, it is so! - And thou wert bound to me
In the long-vanish'd Eld eternally!
In the dark troubled tablets which enroll
The Past--my Muse beheld this blessed scroll-

"One with thy love my soul!"
(Mystery of Reminiscence)

Grillparzer: "Will our time deny me,
I'll let it go easily.
I come from earlier times,
To go into another."

6. Reincarnation as the basis of evolution

Life unfolds at all times from the lowest realms of nature. It is an eternal process of becoming and passing away that man can only observe to a small extent. It leads an evolution from the mineral over the vegetable, animal and human realms into the sphere of the super-human and divine. The transition of the individual circles of consciousness into a higher one takes place in the course of cosmic rounds. The "secret and esoteric knowledge" transmitted by "Elder Brothers" teaches that humanity, as the fourth stage of the natural kingdom, also developed in the fourth cosmic round. The middle of the fourth round is also the middle of seven rounds, which form a cosmic chain. In this middle moment spirit and matter are seeking a connection and meet in man.

The purpose of the whole evolutionary development is the broadening of consciousness and the transmutation of matter into spirit. Man as a transmutator must therefore become aware of his higher purpose, because this is mostly not yet the case, painful impulses occur in each case. However, these are often karmically caused by the human being himself, if he doesn't act in accordance with the cosmic laws. In this way he himself causes suffering, which now becomes his educator!

The lower nature pulls us back again and again. It is well known that it is easier to fall down than to rise up.

Even the animals learn together as a group through the experiences gained in life for the development of character. As the younger brothers of humanity, individual highly developed species are already waiting to enter the human kingdom. In some cases they have already reached their elder brothers (the humans). All that remains for them, so to speak, is the development of the intellect.

The experiences in life are gathered from rebirth to rebirth, in the animal kingdom as well as in the human kingdom. However, while the animal soul enters into its **spiritual concordance** of the species after physical death and hands over the treasure of the collected experiences there, the human being remains an immortal individuality even after death. The human will return with the old experiences in order to expand them anew by working in matter and living together with other fellow human beings. It is a lengthy process of evolution, and anyone who does not consciously shape his development will therefore make only a very slow progress. Most people get stuck in completely useless and worthless dalliances of life.

The number seven and its significance for evolution

Due to the fact that the number seven has a special significance for evolution and the law of rebirth, it seems appropriate to devote a short chapter to it here. For example, the sevenfold constitution of man was referred to, in Lesson 5. Many readers already know the mystical and sacred meaning of this number.

Seven is above all the number of perfection and indicates victory over matter. It is remarkable that a number-Kabbalistic calculation of the names of those great Sons of God and Masters of Wisdom who are of the greatest importance for the evolution of the 5th and the coming 6th Root Race, namely Jesus, Morya and Koot Hoomi, yields in all cases, despite the difference in the letters, the number seven, thus results in victory.

The number seven, applied to evolution, shows us that a cosmic scheme directed by a planetary Logos is divided into seven chains. A chain is circled seven times, and each round or Manvantara is again divided into seven world periods. In each world period seven root races develop, and each root race again consists of seven sub-races.

Furthermore, occult science knows seven spheres or planes of existence, each of which, however, is again divided into seven sub-planes. We also have seven fundamental tones, seven colours of the rainbow and seven days in the week. The rhythm of seven is also proven in the human organism; growth proceeds in periods of seven years. The people speak of seven heavens (see planes of being), of Seven Wonders of the World, of the book with the seven seals. Moses reports that God created the world in seven days (periods). The number seven also plays a major role in fairy tales. There are stories about seven dwarfs, seven mountains, seven little goats, seven Swabia, seven ravens, etc.

7. The four absolute proofs of rebirth

I. The law of evolution of consciousness and forms

a) Involution and evolution

The main meaning of evolution is that the divine spirit immerses itself in matter and tries to spiritualise it in order to transmute it from the lower state into a higher one. Matter is chaotic by its nature and threatens in turn to devour and annihilate the achievements of the spirit. Hence, the great difficulties in this struggle and the incessant struggling which has no end even after death. Man is the transmutator to whom this task has been assigned and he must solve it under all circumstances.

The immortal "I" or "ego", which descended as a spark of light from the "divine monad" onto the physical body of man, which had evolved out of the animal kingdom, had taken on the task of spiritualising matter. In order to achieve this goal, it must go through a complete round.

Such a round is like the full turn of a spiral through 360 degrees. This is because at the end of a round, the monad will have lifted the spiritualised body an octave higher, so to speak, and at the same time turn inwards. If the movement were to take place only in a circle, man would not be able to move forward in evolutionary terms. He must therefore turn upwards and inwards. Occultly speaking, the first half of this round is called immersion in matter or involution. Man comes out of a relatively spiritual state, acquires a more solid body and gradually a higher consciousness. Having reached the lowest stage of immersion in matter, involution ends and evolution begins on the right side, the return from matter to a higher stage of spiritualisation. On this path of evolution or return to the »Father's house« the decisive development of consciousness takes place.

The upper half of the round shows a predominance of the spiritual primordial beginnings in man, the lower half, however, a predominance of matter. Humanity at the present stage is at the end of involution and at the transition to evolution. At the moment the state of greatest adherence to matter has been reached, which is why the detachment from it and the return to the spirit causes the greatest difficulties until the wheel of evolution has broken the deadlock. Hence the terrible situation of humanity today, which is known as Kali-Yuga or dark epoch.

It is gradually approaching its dramatic climax, but only with the greatest pain and catastrophic events, because the greater part of humanity cannot overcome its total adherence to matter and violently resists spiritualisation. Only a few people have finished their involution and entered the spiritual path.

b) The development of races

On each planet, including our earth, man must pass through seven basic races and in each basic race seven times seven sub-races or branches. Each basic or root race consists of seven sub-races. Seven lives in 49 sub-races or 7x7x7= 343 lives constitute the minimum of one passage on earth. In addition, there are numerous unsuccessful or less successful incarnations, so that the number usually increases considerably. The maximum number of incarnations in a planetary round is 777 according to cosmic laws. We can therefore see that here too the number seven has a very special significance. The humanity of our planet is currently passing through the fourth round and belongs to the 3rd, 4th or 5th root race, depending on the skin colour.

As remnants of the third root race - the so-called Lemurians - are the various dark-skinned tribes.

From the 4th root race - the Atlanteans - the following sub-races are still preserved: 3rd Indians, 4th Chinese, 5th Primordial Semites, 6th Akkadians, 7th Mongols, Japanese and Malays.

The 5th root race is formed by the Aryans with the following sub-races: 1. Hindu and Egyptian, 2. Arabs, 3. Iranians and Persians, 4. Celts, Greeks and Romans, 5. Germanic peoples and Slavs, 6. Anglo-Americans, 7. South and Central Americans. From the 5th root race, according to secret science, the coming 6th root race will be formed. Each development of a new race is a step towards the new perfection of humanity and the expansion of consciousness. The members of the 5th basic race were incarnated in the older root races in earlier epochs. Each succeeding race develops a higher culture and knowledge. Man is never a perfected being and is therefore subject to all the mutations decided in the law of evolution. The changes associated with this law are inevitable. It depends on man himself whether these are beneficial and useful to him or pernicious and harmful. Whoever opens the different sides of consciousness towards infinity will unfold the hidden forces of beauty and harmony.

II. The law of cause and effect (Karma)

In cooperation with the law of reincarnation, karma shapes human evolution. Here lies the motor force that leads us to self-perfection. Every human being has an accumulated karma and it is completely impossible to pay off his or her debts in a single lifetime. Considering that we had to immerse ourselves in matter, it is impossible to attain in a single life that level of perfection which means eternal bliss. That is why karma also requires the law of reincarnation.

Those people who aren't yet familiar with karma and rebirth may be frightened by the necessity of having to live a greater number of lives on earth, since they have already grown tired with a single life and feel no desire to return. **In the Occident, the faithful are led to the grave by Christian priests with the bad wish: "O Lord, grant him eternal rest," instead of asking: "O Lord, grant him (or her) a happy resurrection."** Certainly, there is also the possibility of a corresponding rest in the interim periods, but as is well known, constant inactivity and sloth never lead to happiness, but to dissatisfaction with oneself. Happiness lies only in creative activity. One must also bear in mind that human consciousness can only develop in the incarnate state and the theories and teachings learnt in the Subtle World or the intermediate realms only stick if one can also apply them in practice. Theoretical knowledge without practice in life is lost. We must therefore return to life again and again to expand our experiences and abilities, quite apart from the fact that natural law also compels us until we have ceased to create negative karma.

All perfection is the result of persistent efforts, sacrifices, sufferings, hardships, disappointments and, above all, good deeds. In any other way, it is impossible to overcome

the illusions of matter. No desires, no theoretical ideas and no blood of salvation can achieve this goal, but only one's own persistent striving for perfection can. Only those people are freed from the necessity of rebirth who have overcome matter, i.e. who have reached the level of an "Archat or Tara" (4th education).

a) Beginning and end of karma

Karma begins only from that moment on when man first comes out of the equilibrium between mind and matter. In other words, in the first quarter on the upper half of the round, there is no karma because man did not yet have the fifth principle - the intellectual mind. He was still a child spiritually and therefore could not be held fully responsible. Moreover, due to the extremely difficult living conditions of that epoch, the karmic debts were still being paid off in the same lifetime.

At the beginning of the last quarter, karma ends because the balance between spirit and matter is restored. At this time, in the middle of the coming 6th root race, spiritual development will already have progressed so much that people will no longer allow negative karma to arise through their higher knowledge. They will refrain from such deeds that entail unpleasant consequences. Because of the momentary transition from involution to evolution, at the deepest point of immersion in matter, the effects of the karmic law are most severe. Since humanity has reached this point today, its hard lot also finds a cosmic explanation.

b) Separation of the sexes

The original human being was an undivided entity, i.e. the male and the female primordial beginning were still united in one person. Therefore, he was also still in a spiritual equilibrium. From an occult point of view, this perfect human being is known as an "androgyne”[1].

But one must not confuse this androgyne, which no longer exists in the present basic races, with a so-called hermaphrodite or hybrid. These are failed attempts at sexual union. The latter will only be achieved in the middle of the 6th root race, when the negative karma ceases at the same time.

In the 6th basic race man shall also reach the state of the condensed astral. The gross material body of today will then increasingly no longer required.

With the moment of the separation of the sexes, which took place in the middle of the 3rd root race or when crossing the upper spiritual quarter of the round to the lower material half, the negative karma also began. Therefore, according to legend, the separation of the sexes is also identical with the first Fall or with the expulsion of man from Paradise.

There is a profound cosmic truth in the fact that one must separate from one another and experience the suffering of being divorced in order to be able to approach and unite again in supreme bliss. In order to find each other, you have to lose each other beforehand. In order to unite, one must first separate. In order to reach perfection, one must sink into imperfection.

The moment of reunion of the separated primordial beginnings means the end of negative karma at the same time , the dissolution of all old ties and debts towards those partners with whom one has walked a part of life together. All suffering and enmity should dissolve into happiness, joy and harmony.

c) Change of sex

One must also mention that during the separation of the sexes, a complete division of the male and female primordial beginning did not take place, but in each part a remainder of the opposite pole remained. This is the reason why one part of the primordial beginning, either the male or the female, always predominates in the body. On the path to perfection, the human being has to collect and store all experiences within himself, including those of both sexes, and therefore the laws of evolution enable a change of sex. However, if the woman always had to remain a woman and the man always a man, then the harmony of life would be disturbed.

[1] *Androgyne - masculinity and femininity in one person (meaning personality characteristics, not gender traits)*

Arguably, there is no absolute limit to the number of incarnations in male and female bodies. This depends primarily on the soul concerned to transform the life experiences gained into lasting abilities and knowledge. However, the elder brothers or masters of wisdom teach that more than seven or less than three incarnations in one and the same sex in succession are rare. Often one encounters women with a distinctly masculine character and men with feminine dispositions. This means that such souls have only changed sex in this incarnation and the balance between sex and character has not yet been found.

III. The law of diversity

The third proof of the absolute necessity of re-embodiment is the inequality of all human beings in the world. Indeed, there are no two equal people on earth. But why this inequality? Why is one rich, the other poor, one gifted, another completely untalented, one master, the other servant? Why is one beautiful, the other ugly, one healthy, the other sick, etc.? One could continue these contrasts, which seem absolutely unjust and would have to outrage a just-thinking person if there were no compensation, to infinity.

A balancing justice in the cosmos can only come into effect in the course of numerous incarnations and cancel out the seemingly unjust diversity by the fact that everyone has to experience all these opposites in order to gather the necessary experiences. For the most part, the contrasts, as far as they form a disadvantage for the individual, are even the result of cosmic necessities. Poverty, however, is not a cosmic disadvantage. Even diseases that cause much pain not only lead to the repayment of karmic debts, but even form a fundamental prerequisite for the total overcoming of matter. Only when we are thoroughly disgusted with matter and the human being can be happy without desire or passion, even in misfortune and in the greatest suffering, spiritualisation is assured.

The explanations of the diversity of human beings given today by the representatives of the Christian churches, but also by science and philosophy, do not even stand up to superficial criticism. The only reasonable explanation of inequality lies in the deeds, desires, aspirations and efforts of individual human beings in the course of numerous incarnations. Those who strive naturally reach their goal more quickly than those who waste their lives in games, sports and amusements.

On the other hand, there must be diversity. Because if people were completely alike in all respects, life would not be possible and there would be great disturbances in human society.

After all, the striving of the earth's citizens is not the same for all. Some are indolent, others diligent. The one, on the other hand, has acquired manifold experiences, knowledge and abilities in numerous incarnations, the other still has to learn a great deal in order to even come close to the abilities of his role model. The geniuses of humanity were not given anything either; they all acquired their abilities themselves in the course of numerous rebirths.

It is a common misconception that children are the spiritual product of their parents, they are only the physical and have a similar character even without blood relationship. Otherwise it would be impossible to lawfully recognise the character of the child from its countenance and appearance. **Every child has already brought its own character and abilities from previous incarnations.** It is not uncommon for children in one and the same family to differ not only in talents but also in characteristics from the other siblings and also from the parents. If character and abilities correspond with the dispositions of the parents, this is proof that before conception the Lords of the Law of Karma, who supervise rebirths in the ethereal realm, were able to select a very suitable pair of parents who offered the most favourable possibilities, also biologically and physically, for the development of the new earth citizen.

In many cases, children and parents are also spiritual relatives from previous incarnations. However, upbringing and environmental influences will also strongly influence the

character traits. Nevertheless, it has never been possible to raise two naturally different characters, even if they are bodily siblings, to be like-minded people. Fortunately, this is completely beyond the control of parents and educators.

IV. The law of poetic justice

Those who deny reincarnation also deny absolute poetic justice. **Only a repeated resurrection in the flesh is capable of rebalancing the diversity and inequality of human beings with the associated injustices of life in a truly just manner.** In later lives the roles must be reversed until every human being can be content and happy.

The absolute poetic justice must exist. If it did not exist, life would be utterly meaningless, for there would be no order, no harmony and no hope of happiness and joy either. But since the belief in cosmic justice is embedded in the depths of human consciousness, the law of rebirth is the only hope of balancing diversity and inequality. Only through this can everyone attain the same possibilities, abilities and the same glory and beauty, which in turn do not know any limits. What Christ and the Masters of Wisdom have become through numerous rebirths on other inhabited worlds and on earth, every human being can achieve. But no earthly person will ever catch up with these Sons of God, because THEY too do not stand still in their development, but hurry on eternally.

The Christian world robbed itself of the most joyful hope when it excluded the doctrine of re-embodiment from their confessions. Not only did it deprive life of its meaning, but it also deprived God and the universe of absolute justice. Without belief in reincarnation, the inequality of human beings that prevails in the world must inevitably give rise to discontent and grumbling against the higher guidance of the universe. No wonder if numerous people have become atheists, if in ignorance of cosmic laws they accuse God and at the same time are indignant at the injustice of fate. Only the doctrine of rebirth can inspire the joyful hope that we will be resurrected in a better world each time. In a world that offers us the possibility of moving towards a glorious and unlimited perfection by virtue of our own efforts.

Looking at the countless stars, our hearts are filled with hope and the firm belief that we too will one day be co-creators in this gigantic and unlimited universe.

8. Quotations from Living Ethics

„There are some who suppose that man is continuously dying; others know that man is incessantly reborn. The former are motivated by fear, the latter by joy. The former suggest death to themselves, the latter recognize life. Thus, man to a large extent predetermines his own future. One may be confident that he who destines death for himself does not know about the Higher World. He may display outward ritual, but his heart is far from the truth. Affirmation of life is affirmation of Light. The human spirit is immortal, but such a simple truth is not close to people; for they care more about the body than about the spirit.“ (AUM, § 118.)

„Not only is it difficult to assimilate the law of karma, it is still more difficult to perceive the elementary law of incarnation. Yet the scriptures of the most ancient times often spoke of such a change of life. Often have the dwellers of the Subtle World communicated to earthly people their tidings. Frequently people remember about their former lives. For whole ages reincarnations have been acknowledged, but later they were again forgotten and it was even forbidden to think about them. It is difficult to comprehend the reason for such a struggle against the evidence. Sometimes it would have seemed that the wise ones wished to turn their attention only to the future, but such wisdom would be one-sided. People should aspire to unlimited knowledge. One should not command a man not to know. A man should not be deprived of his right to self-perfectment. Let it be known and remembered that the Teacher of life draws a line between past and future. Thus, let us not close our eyes to reality. The law of incarnation is just. The kernel of the spirit is inviolable and eternal. Infinity affirms Eternity, but everyone can visualize Infinity—which means everyone can realize Eternity.

One should not deny the statements of children about their past lives. Essentially they know what has taken place around them. Especially nowadays there often will be rapid reincarnations. Many dwellers of the Subtle World are hastening to return, and herein is expressed the growth and acceleration of evolution. And in such quickening may be seen a rapprochement between the worlds.“ (AUM, § 97.)

„It may be understood why comparatively little was said about reincarnations in the ancient Teachings. On the one hand, enough was known about them; on the other, it would not have been useful to direct attention to the past. Only people with especially broadened consciousnesses can delve into the past without harm to their advancement. For a small consciousness, a glance backwards may be ruinous. People must be in a state of continual preparation for the future. Only in such a state of consciousness can they harmonize earthly life.

Even in moving into a better apartment people select their best possessions, and no one takes his dirty rags with him. Just as carefully and worthily must man prepare for his dwelling in the Subtle World.“ (AUM, § 535.)

„We do not abandon Our brothers-in-labor on Earth. We measure their true opportunities for success against the earthly evidence. A sower can always change fields without forfeiting his usefulness. So also can Our brothers change their field of labor when they know that Near Ones vigilantly watch their creative work and striving of spirit. We are often asked about the death of Upâsikâ. Was it really impossible for Us to postpone her departure until the completion of the books? Thus ask the nearsighted ones, who cannot embrace the supermundane conditions. It would have been cruel of Us to bind Upâsikâ by exacting a vow that she remain in her unhappy circumstances. On the contrary, We searched for the right combination of conditions, so as not to impede the progress of that spirit. It should be known that if that best combination had been missed, Upâsikâ would have once again been subject to attacks. Also, the opportunity for the right incarnation for her—in time and in place—would have been lost. With true cooperation, each brother must know that the best possibilities have been chosen for him. This knowledge will be his sustenance through all difficulties. It is the pledge of the Community. Can the individual himself know when he has begun or completed something? In the physical body it is impossible to know all about oneself. Many lives forge one chain of consciousness, and one should leave it to the faithful Brothers to pronounce the hour when the Lotus2 will open. They can decide on the needed goal-fitness, and in this decision and in the depth of trust lies a mastery over karma.“ (AY, § 141.)

„ The spirit shudders at the thought of death. But when consciousness penetrates the essence of Be-ness, the conception of Oneness is confirmed. When the spirit understands how ceaselessly the manifestations of life flow, the continuity of all chains may be indicated. The chain of thought, the chain of action, the chain of effects, the chain of strivings, the chain of lives—each chain predetermines the succeeding one. The creativeness of the magnet of life lies in these chains. The spirit must shudder not at the thought of death and change but at the thought of sundering the chain. If one could observe the records of disrupted chains borne in space, the spirit verily would shudder. When the great shifting is brought about, only he will succeed who has adhered to the oneness of evolution.“ (INF II, § 51.)

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[2] *Lotus – Chakra, centre of higher consciousness, see lesson 20*

Build a “Star”

Many responsible-minded and worried people today demand a practical action that promises maximum success without attracting much attention, without affiliation to a club or without political risk. In this way they live up to positive expression to their sense of responsibility towards the world situation. Working on the "Star" helps to alleviate not only spiritual but also material distress. It is therefore important to be concerned, at least a few times a day, sending out good thoughts, not for oneself, but above all for the world and for peace. Then the general mental work will also become accustomed to selfless aspirations, and there will be the hope that through such concentrated powers of thoughts the power of evil can be successfully reduced and averted. If millions of people voluntarily made themselves available to such a work, those men and women who would be fit for their purified thinking and noble character, could be able to protrude without great difficulty in religion, politics and social life in order to establish a fair and peaceful world order for the benefit of all people.

„Aum – Tat – Sat – Aum“

Source of light in the universe,
pour out light into human thinking,
it become brighter on Earth!

Source of love in the universe,
pour out love into all human hearts,
May love blossom on Earth!

Source of wisdom in the universe,
pour out knowledge and wisdom,
let cognition prevail on Earth!

Source of peace in the universe,
strength peace and justice,
may felicity and joy be on Earth!

Source of power in the universe,
seal the door to evil,
that the plan of the good will be fulfilled!

„Aum – Tat – Sat – Aum“

(For further information see Lesson no. 6).

Source:

Works of the blessed Mahatma Maitreya Morya:

Blossoms of Morya`s Garden:

Abbreviations:

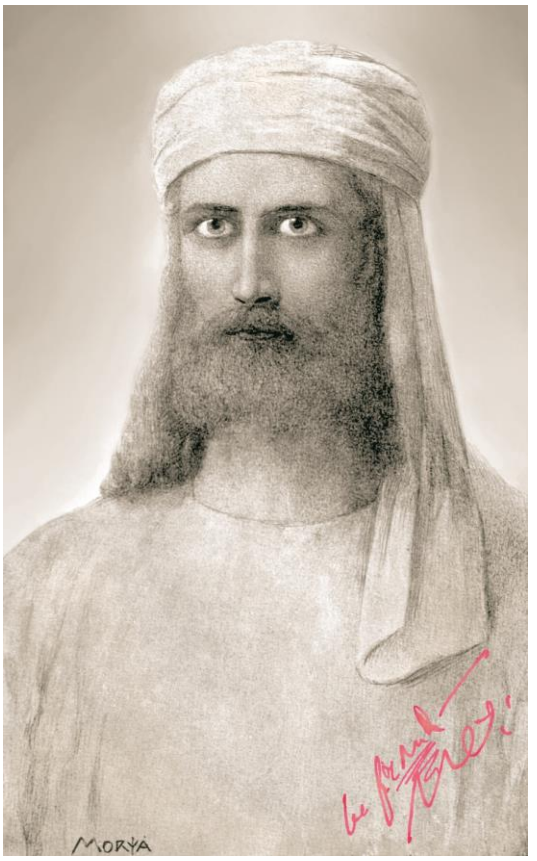
Leaves of Morya's Garden I,	LMG I	§§ 387
Leaves of Morya's Garden II,	LMG II	§§ 358

New era:

COMMUNITY	COM	§§ 275

Doctrine of Living Ethics in seven themes:

AGNI YOGA	AY	§§ 670
INFINITY I	INF I	§§ 400
INFINITY II	INF II	§§ 518
HIERARCHY	HIE	§§ 460
HEART	HEA	§§ 600
FIERY WORLD I	FW I	§§ 666
FIERY WORLD II	FW II	§§ 470
FIERY WORLD III	FW III	§§ 618
AUM	AUM	§§ 600
BROTHERHOOD	BH	§§ 610
SUPERMUNDANE	SMU	§§ 955



MORYA – Indian Rajput prince, whose spirit had been raptured to the great spirit of MAITREYA and was enlightened or overshadowed by him. This portrait drawing commissioned by the artist Hermann Schmiechen in 1884 was often repainted. However, the copies only achieved a resemblance to the "face of the teacher", which is why repainted copies can lead to failure in meditations!

LEOBRAND – Leopold Brandstätter (* 20th February 1915 Wallern, † 26th February 1968 Linz), was an Austrian nature philosopher and humanist.
His writings are concerned with ethics, humanities, psychology, philosophy, politics, ideology of the world and architecture.
In the 1950s he translated the Agni yoga doctrine from Russian together with a Baltic-German team, thus paving the way for this philosophy in German-speaking countries.
Leobrand founded a (non public) school for Living Ethics. Decades before the introduction of teaching ethics in public schools he had already written 36 lessons of Living Ethics, as the first interdenominational teaching aid for ethical training. He gave countless lectures and conducted seminars. Recordings of Leobrand‘s lectures are available. These historical audio documents offer the possibility to understand/think along the philosophical analysis of the great thinker Leobrand and open up new horizons for life´s spiritual dimension. Philosophical accuracy and clarity of expression are Leobrand‘s trademarks.
The new concept of God is particularly noteworthy. For this new and completely independent concept of God, a new term was created: "UNIVERALO“. Leobrand‘s concept is explained on a hierarchical basis, it detaches itself from the abstract and merges with the whole existence. It includes many philosophical and historical concepts as well as advanced knowledge of relatively immortal spiritual fields of force. Leobrand therewith expressed the first and only humanistic definition of God within a new worldview and pulls the rug from under atheism. The new concept of God is as dynamic as nature itself and thus indicative of the forthcoming independent humanities.
Other highlights are his work for a united Europe and for a forthcoming pannational world union. Many of those great-sounding ideas of Leobrand are already self-evident reality.

Works:

1955 - 1961: 36 lessions, **Briefe über Lebendige Ethik** (*letters on Living Ethics* **-** in translation)
1957: **Psychische Energie** (*Psychic energy* - humanities and psychologie)
1958: **Heilung durch psychische Energie** (*Healing by psychic energy* - humanities and health)
1966: **Freude** (*Joy* - philosophy)
1967: **Der Ausweg** (*The way out* - politics)
1968: **Neues Europa und Welt ABC** (*New europe and world ABC* - politics)
1968: **Das neue universelle Weltbild** (*The new universal world view* - world view)
1968: **Spiralik** (*Spiralik* - architecture of the future)
1953 - 1968: reprint, articles in magazines (partly unpublished manuscripts)
1976: **Der auferstandene Gott** (*The resurrected god* - humanities, compilation of articles)
1962 - 1967: **Lectures** and seminars on all his works (recordings MC in German language)

Activities:

1949: Establishment of a **peace league**
1953: Establishment of the (not public) „**School for Living Ethics**“ and magazine
1960: Publication of the magazine „ **Spirale und grüne Wacht**“ (nature protection and biotechnology)
1961: Publication of the magazine „ **Weltreichspirale**”
1962: Establishment of the association „ **Welt-Spirale**“ - ethical society of progress and renewal of the world, and magazine.

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Joy – Peace – Freedom

Serve peace and welfare of the world!

Overview of the „letters on living ethics, Introduction to Agni yoga“ from LEOBRAND:

Basic information ethics

1. The truth about yoga
2. Problems of spiritual renewal
3. The meaning of life
4. Karma and forming of fate
5. Might and meaning of thoughts
6. Self-help through proper thinking
7. **Reincarnation – yes or no?**
8. The meaning of suffering
9. Absolution or personal responsibility?
10. Dharma and life-task
11. Death and Rebirth
12. Devotions and sacrifice
13. The relationship of the sexes
14. Marital problems
15. Living Ethics and education
16. Living Ethics and everyday life
17. Living Ethics and nutrition
18. Living Ethics and art

Spiritual training

19. Living Ethics – doctrine of life
20. Chakras or centers of higher consciousness
21. The spiritual meaning of the heart
22. The widening of consciousness
23. The subtle constitution of man
24. Monad or spiritual grain
25. The construction of the universe and Cosmoses
26. Subtle world
27. Fiery world
28. Brotherhood
29. The universal understanding of God
30. The Mother of the world
31. Occultism – yes or no?
32. Danger and meanders of occultism
33. Good and evil
34. The coming new world
35. Infinity
36. The path to become a master

Only a repeated resurrection in the flesh is capable of rebalancing the diversity and inequality of human beings with the associated injustices of life in a truly just manner. Every life is like a school assignment, like a certain work or task to be fulfilled. If man has been successful in solving the tasks undertaken or given, he will move faster in his evolution. If he has been less successful, he will often return to the same conditions and environment in which he had not achieved success. This refers mainly to the training of character and the repayment of karmic debts. Every child has already brought his own character and abilities from previous incarnations. Every perfection is the result of persistent efforts, sacrifices, sufferings, hardships, disappointments and above all good works.

„Welt-Spirale“
www.welt-spirale.com
Ethical society for progress and world renewal