

Cosmic Evolution: Chapter 1, Chains and Rounds, Part 6

Doctrine of the Septenary Chains of Worlds

For the benefit of those who may not have read, or, if they have, may not have clearly understood, in Theosophical writings, the doctrine of the septenary chains of worlds in the Solar Kosmos, the teaching is briefly thus: —

Life Evolves on Seven Globes in Seven Rounds

1. Everything in the metaphysical as in the physical Universe is septenary. Hence every sidereal body, every planet, whether visible or invisible, is credited with six companion globes. . . The evolution of life proceeds on these seven globes or bodies from the 1st to the 7th in Seven Rounds or Seven Cycles.

After Seven Rounds the Chain Dies

2. These globes are formed by a process which the Occultists call the “rebirth of planetary chains (or rings).” When the seventh and last Round of one of such rings has been entered upon, the highest or first globe “A,” followed by all the others down to the last, instead of entering upon a certain time of rest — or “obscuration,” as in their previous Rounds — begins to die out. The “planetary” dissolution (pralaya) is at hand, and its hour has struck; each globe has to transfer its life and energy to another planet.

The Seven Rounds Form an Arc

3. Our Earth, as the visible representative of its invisible superior fellow globes, its “lords” or “principles” . . . has to live, as have the others, through seven Rounds. During the first three, it forms and consolidates; during the fourth it settles and hardens; during the last three it gradually returns to its first ethereal form: it is spiritualised, so to say.

Humanity Develops Fully in the Fourth Round

4. Its Humanity develops fully only in the Fourth — our present Round. Up to this fourth Life-Cycle, it is referred to as “humanity” only for lack of a more appropriate term. Like the grub which becomes chrysalis and butterfly, Man, or rather that which becomes man, passes through all the forms and kingdoms during the first Round and through all the human shapes during the two following Rounds. Arrived on our Earth at the commencement of the Fourth in the present series of life-cycles and races, man is the first form that appears thereon, being preceded only by the mineral and vegetable kingdoms — even the latter having to develop and continue its further evolution through man . . .

During the three Rounds to come, Humanity, like the globe on which it lives, will be ever tending to reassume its primeval form, that of a Dhyan Chohanian Host. Man tends to become a God and then — God, like every other atom in the Universe.

“Beginning so early as with the 2nd round, Evolution proceeds already on quite a different plan. It is only during the 1st round that (heavenly) man becomes a human being on globe A (rebecomes) a mineral, a plant, an animal, on globe B and C, etc. The process changes entirely from the second round; but you have learned prudence . . . and I advise you to say nothing before the time for saying it has come. . .” (Extract from the Teacher’s letters on various topics.)

Every Life-Cycle on Globe D is Composed of Seven Root-Races

5. Every life-cycle on Globe D (our Earth)¹ is composed of seven root-races. They commence with the Ethereal and end with the spiritual on the double line of physical and moral evolution — from the beginning of the terrestrial round to its close. (One is a “planetary round” from Globe A to Globe G, the seventh; the other, the “globe round,” or the terrestrial).

This is very well described in “Esoteric Buddhism” and needs no further elucidation for the time being.

The First Root Race were the progeny of the Lunar Ancestors

6. The first root-race, i.e., the first “men” on earth (irrespective of form) were the progeny of the “celestial men,” called rightly in Indian philosophy the “Lunar Ancestors” or the Pitris, of which there are seven classes or Hierarchies. As all this will be sufficiently explained in the following sections and in Volume II., no more need be said of it here.

Blavatsky, H.P. *The Secret Doctrine*, Volume I, 158-160

¹ We are not concerned with the other Globes in this work except incidentally.