

Kingdoms of Life - Mahatma Letter No. 67

Fifth Session (conclusion)

Flammarion - The facts are as he surmises with slight modifications. . .

You have among the learned members of your society one Theosophist who without familiarity with our occult doctrine, has yet intuitively grasped from scientific data the idea of a solar pralaya and its manwantara in their beginnings. I mean the celebrated French astronomer Flammarion¹ — "La Resurrection et la Fin des Mondes" ² (Chapter 4 res.). He speaks like a true seer. The facts are as he surmises with slight modifications.

In consequence of the secular refrigeration³ (old age rather and loss of vital power), solidification and desiccation⁴ of the globes, the earth arrives at a point when it begins to be a relaxed conglomerate⁵. The period of child-bearing is gone by. The progeny are all nurtured, its term of life is finished. Hence "its constituent masses cease to obey those laws of cohesion and aggregation which held them together." And becoming like a cadaver which abandoned to the work of destruction would leave each molecule composing it free to separate itself from the body for ever to obey in future the sway of new influences.

The attraction of the moon (would that he could know the full extent of its pernicious influence) would itself undertake the task of demolition by producing a tidal wave of earth particles instead of an aqueous tide.

His mistake is that he believes a long time must be devoted to the ruin of the solar system: we are told that it occurs in the twinkling of an eye but not without many preliminary warnings. Another error is the supposition that the earth will fall into the sun. The sun itself is first to disintegrate at the solar pralaya.

¹ Nicolas Camille Flammarion (26 February 1842 – 3 June 1925) was a French astronomer and author and member of the Theosophical Society. The Flammarion engraving is a wood engraving by an unknown artist, so named because its first documented appearance is in Camille Flammarion's 1888 book *L'atmosphère: météorologie populaire* ("*The Atmosphere: Popular Meteorology*").

² The Resurrection and the End of the Worlds

³ Secular refrigeration – The periodical cooling and consequent consolidation of the crust of the globe: a term formerly used by geologists in reference to the supposed central heat, and even fluidity of the globe, and to the phenomena of its gradual refrigeration. *A Dictionary of Science, Literature, & Art*, Volume 3 edited by William Thomas Brande, George William Cox

⁴ desiccation - to dry out thoroughly. To preserve (foods) by removing the moisture. To make dry, dull, or lifeless.

⁵ To form or gather into a mass or whole.

The Sixth Principle

. . . Fathom the nature and essence of the sixth principle⁶ of the universe and man and you will have fathomed the greatest mystery in this our world — and why not — are you not surrounded by it? What are its familiar manifestations, mesmerism, Od force⁷, etc. — all different aspects of one force capable of good and evil applications. The degrees of an Adept's initiation mark the seven stages at which he discovers the secret of the sevenfold principles in nature and man and awakens his dormant powers.

⁶ Mystery of the Sixth Principle - Occultism calls this seventh principle the synthesis of the sixth, and gives it for vehicle the Spiritual Soul, Buddhi. Now the latter conceals a mystery, which is never given to any one, with the exception of irrevocably pledged chelas, or those, at any rate, who can be safely trusted. Of course, there would be less confusion, could it only be told; but, as this is directly concerned with the power of projecting one's double consciously and at will, and as this gift, like the "ring of Gyges," * would prove very fatal to man at large and to the possessor of that faculty in particular, it is carefully guarded.
(Key to Theosophy, Section 7, On the Various "Principles" in Man)

The Ring of Gyges is a mythical magical artifact mentioned by the philosopher Plato in book 2 of his Republic. It granted its owner the power to become invisible at will. Through the story of the ring, Republic considers whether an intelligent person would be moral if he did not have to fear being caught and punished. In Republic, the tale of the ring of Gyges is described by the character of Glaucon who is the brother of Plato. Glaucon asks whether any man can be so virtuous that he could resist the temptation of being able to perform any act without being known or discovered.

⁷ There has been an infinite confusion of names to express one and the same thing.

The chaos of the ancients; the Zoroastrian sacred fire, or the *Âtas-Behrâm* of the Pârsîs; the Hermes-fire; the Elmo's-fire of the ancient Germans; the lightning of Cybelê; the burning torch of Apollo; the flame on the altar of Pan; the inextinguishable fire in the temple on the Acropolis, and in that of Vesta; the fire-flame of Pluto's helm; the brilliant sparks on the hats of the Dioscuri, on the Gorgon head, the helm of Pallas, and the staff of Mercury; the *πύρ ἀσβεστον* (*pur asbeston*); the Egyptian Ptha, or Râ; the Grecian *Zeus-Kataibates* (the descending);* the pentecostal fire-tongues; the burning bush of Moses; the pillar of fire of the *Exodus*, and the "burning lamp" of Abram; the eternal fire of the "bottomless pit"; the Delphic oracular vapors; the Sidereal light of the Rosicrucians; the *Âkâsa* of the Hindu adepts; the Astral light of Éliphas Lévi; the nerve-aura and the fluid of the magnetists; **the Od of Reichenbach**; the fire-globe, or meteor-*cat* of Babinet; the *Psychode* and ectenic force of Thury; the psychic force of Sergeant E. W. Cox and Mr. Crookes; the atmospheric magnetism of some naturalists; galvanism; and finally, electricity, are but various names for many different manifestations, or effects of the same mysterious, all-pervading cause — the Greek *Archaeus*, or (*Archaïos*).
(Isis Unveiled, Volume 1, 125)

The Flammarion Engraving



Flammarion Engraving

The "Flammarion engraving" first appeared in Flammarion's 1888 edition of *L'Atmosphère*. In 1907, he wrote that he believed that dwellers on Mars had tried to communicate with the Earth in the past.

"Martians Probably Superior to Us; Camille Flammarion Thinks Dwellers on Mars Tried to Communicate with the Earth Ages Ago". *New York Times*. November 10, 1907. Retrieved 2009-11-14. Prof. Lowell's theory that intelligent beings with constructive talents of a high order exist on the planet Mars has a warm supporter in M. Camille Flammarion, the well-known French astronomer, who was seen in his observatory at Juvisy, near Paris, by a *New York Times* correspondent. M. Flammarion had just returned from abroad, and was in the act of reading a letter from Prof. Lowell.

Reference

Vicente Hao Chin, Jr., *The Mahatma Letters to A.P. Sinnett in Chronological Sequence*, Quezon City: Theosophical Publishing House, 1993.