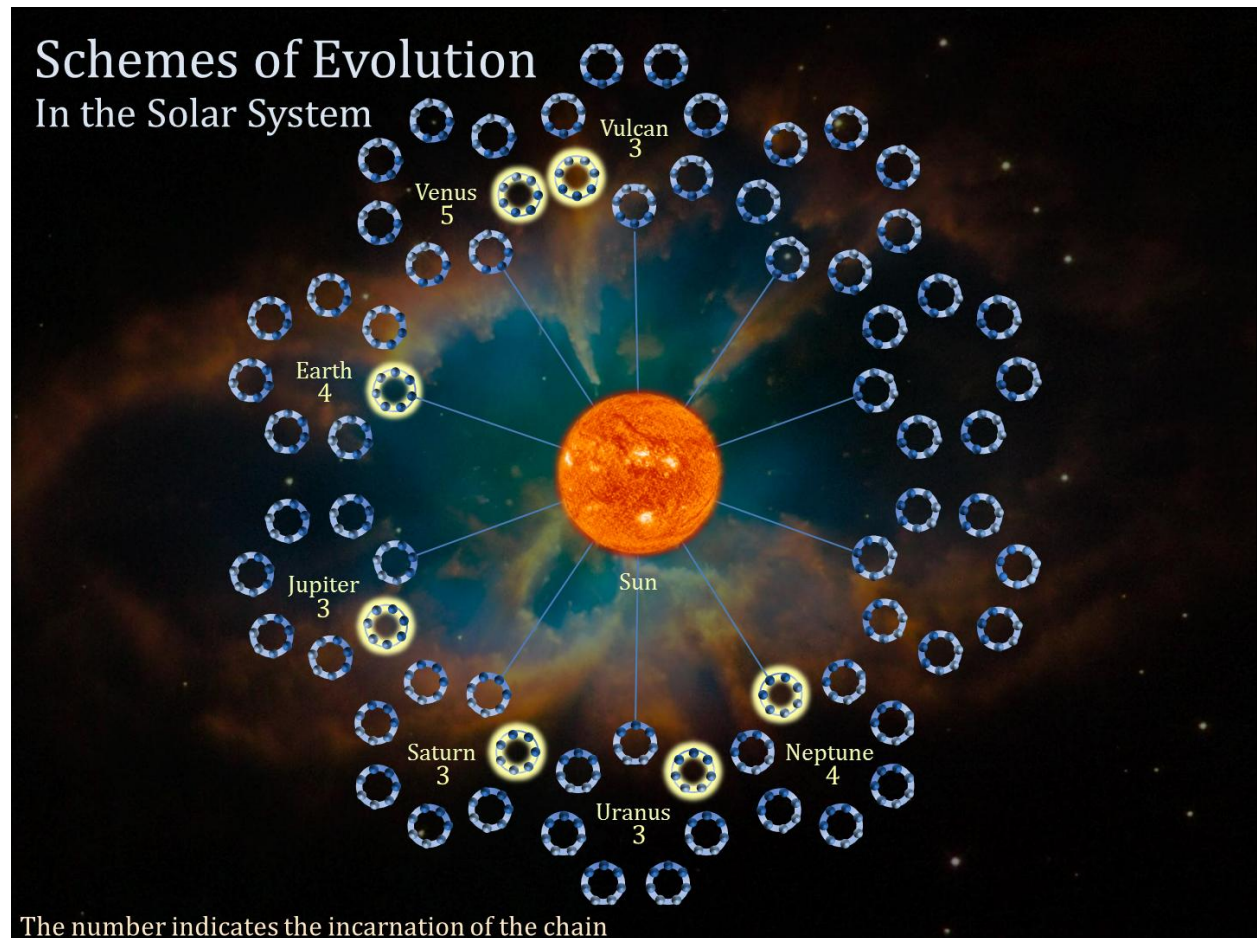


Chapter 2- Schemes of Evolution

Part 7 - Schemes of Evolution in the Solar System



The Ten Schemes of Evolution

There is, then, nothing surprising in the fact that we find, in the order of our Solar System, the continual recurrence of the number Seven. Because of this, it has been called a 'sacred number'; a 'significant number' would be a better epithet. The moon's life divides itself naturally into twice seven days of waxing and an equal number of waning, and its quarters give us our week of seven days. And we find this seven as the root-number of our Solar System, dividing its departments into seven, and these again divided into subsidiary sevens, and these into other sevens, and so on. The religious student will think of the seven Ameshaspentas of the Zoroastrian, of the seven Spirits before the throne of God of the Christian; the Theosophist of the supreme Triple Logos of the system, with His Ministers, the "Rulers of seven Chains,"¹ round Him, each ruling His own

¹ These have been called Planetary Logoi, but the name often causes confusion, and is therefore here dropped.

department of the system, as a Viceroy for an Emperor. We are concerned here with but one department in detail.

The Solar System contains ten of these, for while rooted in the seven, it develops ten departments, ten being, therefore, by Mystics, called the 'perfect number'. Mr. A. P. Sinnett has well named these departments 'Schemes of Evolution', and within each of these Schemes humanities are evolving or will evolve. We will now confine ourselves to our own, though never forgetting that the others exist, and that very highly evolved Intelligences may pass from one to another. In fact, such visitors came to our earth at one stage of its evolution, to guide and help our newly-born humanity.

(MWHW - Preliminaries)

The Schemes of Evolution Are Named After Globe D

The seven Schemes of our Solar System may, for convenience sake, be named after the globe D of each, this being the globe best known to us; these are: Vulcan, Venus, Earth, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune (*In the diagram, the Globes D are indicated by the lines coming from the Sun*). In the Scheme to which our Earth belongs, the Chain which preceded our terrene Chain was the third of its series, and its one physical globe, globe D, was the globe which is now our Moon; hence the third Chain is called the lunar, while the second and first Chains are designated only by numbers; our Earth Chain, or terrene Chain, is the fourth in succession, and has therefore three of its seven globes in physical manifestation, its third globe, C, being what is called the planet Mars, and its fifth globe, E, what is called the planet Mercury.

Comments on Certain Schemes

The Neptunian Scheme also, with Neptune as its globe D, has three globes of its Chain in physical manifestation - C and E being the two physical planets connected with it, the existence of which was mentioned in Theosophical literature before they were recognized by Science - and hence has reached the fourth Chain of its series.

The Venusian Scheme is reaching the end of its fifth Chain, and Venus has consequently lately lost her Moon, the globe D of the preceding Chain.² It is possible that Vulcan, which Herschel saw, but which, it is said, has now disappeared, is in its sixth Chain, but on that we have no information, either direct or mediate. Jupiter is not yet inhabited, but its moons are, by beings with dense physical bodies. (MWHW - Preliminaries)

The Chains in our Solar System

Our solar system at the present moment contains ten chains, each consisting of seven globes, and these are evolving side by side, though at different stages. Seven of them are represented upon the physical level by one or more globes, but the three others exist only on higher levels. The number of globes on the physical plane which a chain has at any given time depends upon the stage of its evolution. The globes of each chain present us with a small cycle of evolution descending into denser matter and then ascending out of it, and in an exactly analogous manner the successive incarnations of a chain also descend into denser matter and then ascend out of it. Our own chain is at the present moment at its lowest level of materiality, so that of its seven planets three are on the physical plane, two on the astral and two on the lower mental. (IL2 - The Planetary Chains)

² It may be remembered that the Moon of Venus was seen by Herschel

The Seventy Planets

Each of these seventy planets (*only one chain in a scheme is active or incarnated at a given time*) may be regarded as having a definite location in space and as revolving round, or in some way depending upon, our sun. Of these seventy planets only twelve are physical, and even of those twelve one is not yet recognized by science and two others have only lately been discovered.

- Vulcan
- Venus
- Earth, Mars Mercury
- Jupiter
- Saturn
- Uranus
- Neptune and Globes C and E (the trans-Neptunian objects Pluto and Eris)
- ?

The existence of Vulcan was accepted by some astronomers a century ago, but as it cannot now be found, the scientific men of the present day hold that the earlier observations were incorrect. No astronomer had dreamt of the two planets beyond the orbit of Neptune³ at the time when they were first mentioned in Theosophical writings, but now their existence is admitted in consequence of the deflections which they have produced in certain cometary orbits. (IL2 - The Planetary Chains)

Evolution Is Taking Place in Every Inch of Space

Besides those on the seventy planets of which we have spoken, there are other evolutions taking place, every inch of place being utilized. Even in the koilon⁴ itself there may be an evolution going on of which we know nothing and can imagine nothing. We know as yet so little of this marvelous system to which we belong; all this teaching of Theosophy which has so changed our lives is but the lifting of a tiny corner of the veil. All space is filled with life, and there are even lower orders than that of the physical plane. It sometimes happens that a human being comes into touch with that lower evolution, but that is always undesirable. Yet it would be a great mistake to speak of the inhabitants of this lower world as wicked. Certainly that evolution brings harm to us if we become entangled with it, but that is because it is not meant for us. (IL2 - The Planetary Chains)

Physical Planets of the Seven Chains

Vulcan

Of the seven chains that have physical planets, taking them in order, beginning with the nearest to the sun and working outwards, we have first Vulcan, with only one physical planet, which is small and must be very hot. The Vulcan chain is in its third incarnation, but we are given to understand that its scheme of evolution is not destined to bring the entities concerned with it to as high a level as will be ultimately attained by the inhabitants of our own planet.

³ Possibly the trans-Neptunian objects Pluto and Eris

⁴ Koilon - the bubbles of which the atom is built are themselves only holes in koilon, the true aether of space. *The Hidden Side of Things* by C.W. Leadbeater

Mercury

Mercury is the next planet, and belongs to the earth-chain.

Venus

Venus is the only physical planet of the chain of which it is a part. It is in the seventh round of its fifth incarnation, and it represents the most advanced degree of evolution yet attained by humanity in this solar system. Being so far advanced, it has been able to afford assistance to other and less developed evolutions; from it, as we know, descended the Lords of the Flame⁵, who gave so great a stimulus to the progress of humanity in the middle of our third root-race.

Satellite of Venus

It is a remarkable fact that the astronomers of a hundred and fifty years ago recorded several observations of a satellite of Venus, whereas now it is quite certain that no such orb exists. The usual supposition is that those earlier astronomers erred. But this is scarcely likely in view of the number and character of the witnesses, and also their repeated observations. It was seen by astronomers as well-known as Cassini⁶ and Short, in 1761, and that not once but many times, and with different telescopes. It was observed by Scheuten during the whole of its transit along with Venus in the same year; it was seen four times by Montaigne, and again in 1764 by Rödkier, Horrebow and Montbaron. It was estimated to have a diameter of about two thousand miles. It is surely more probable that all these astronomers were right in their observations, for we are told that in our seventh round the moon will disintegrate and we shall be left without a satellite. It may be only a coincidence that Venus is in its seventh round, but it is a curious one.

Earth and Mars

The next planets are our Earth and Mars, and these two, along with Mercury, are the three physical planets of a chain which is in its fourth incarnation. Our Earth is the lowest and most material of the series - planet D, while Mars is our planet C and Mercury our planet E. A good many of the more advanced members of our present humanity were not upon the planet Mars when the life-wave last swept over it, as will be explained later; but the great bulk of the human race has certainly passed through a series of incarnations on that planet, and we have left behind us many traces of our occupation, of which the present inhabitants are abundantly availing themselves. When our present occupancy of the earth ends for a time, we shall all pass on to the somewhat less material life of the planet Mercury, where the average level of consciousness may be somewhat more extended than it is here, since ordinary humanity will then possess what is now called etheric sight. There are no

⁵ Lords of the Flame, the Children of the Fire-mist, the great beings who came down from Venus nearly eighteen million years ago to help and to lead the evolution of humanity on our chain. (*The Inner Life*, Vol.1 First Section, *The Great Ones* by CWL)

⁶ Neith is the name given to an object first sighted by Giovanni Cassini, which he believed to be a moon of Venus. It has since been determined that no such moon exists. In 1672, Giovanni Cassini found a small object close to Venus. He did not take great note of his observation, but when he saw it again in 1686, he made a formal announcement of a possible moon of Venus. The object was seen by many other astronomers over a large period of time: by James Short in 1740, by Andreas Mayer in 1759, by Joseph Louis Lagrange in 1761, another eighteen observations in 1761, including one in which a small spot was seen following Venus while the planet was in transit across the Sun, eight observations in 1764, and by Christian Horrebow in 1768.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Neith_%28hypothetical_moon%29

grounds whatever, so far as I know, for the statement made by a recent writer that the real names of Mercury and Venus have been interchanged. Indeed, we know a great deal about these planets which makes the idea inconceivable.

Asteroids

Next come the asteroids - material which will make a world some time; but we do not count them now.

Jupiter

The giant of the solar system, Jupiter, has a chain of its own. It is in an early stage of its evolution, being very much too hot for life, such as we know, to exist on its surface; but its satellites are inhabited. Its surface has seas of molten metals, and similar conditions exist on all the outside giant planets. It has a density about that of water, if you take the whole mass; but what we see is really the outside of a mass of cloud thousands of miles in depth - so we get a false estimate of the actual size of the planet itself. The Jupiter scheme is at present in the second round of its third incarnation. We are told that this system will eventually raise its humanity to an extremely high level.

Saturn

Next we come to Saturn, with its wonderful system of rings and satellites. It is the only physical planet of its chain. It also is in an early round of its third incarnation, and we understand that the development connected with it is slower than most of the others, but that it will ultimately reach exalted levels.

Uranus and Neptune

As to the schemes to which the outer planets Uranus and Neptune belong, we have but little information, though we know that the latter is in its fourth incarnation, because of the fact that to it belong also the two other physical planets whose orbits lie outside its own⁷. The conditions existing on all these gigantic outer members of the solar systems must be altogether so entirely different from those on the small inner planets that it is practically impossible to form any idea of the sort of life which must be lived by their inhabitants, even in the future when the globes have cooled down.

Summarizing the System of Evolution

Summarizing the System of Evolution	
7 Branch Races	1 Sub-race
7 Sub-races	1 Root-race
7 Root-races	1 World-period
7 World-periods	1 Round
7 Rounds	1 Chain-period
7 Chain-periods	1 Planetary Scheme
10 Planetary Schemes	Our Solar system

⁷ Possibly the trans-Neptunian objects Pluto and Eris

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(IL2) - Leadbeater, C.W. *The Inner Life*, Vol. 2, Wheaton: The Theosophical Press, 1942
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