

No fruit of consciousness, apparently, is ever lost. A similar law to that of the Conservation of Energy can be posited—the Law of the Conservation of Consciousness. Such are the conclusions I would draw from the facts of Feeling, and their conduct in the Altruistic Act.

*Justus*.—These views differ considerably from well-known conceptions—such as Extinction of the Individual, Absorption into an Infinite Being, obliteration of the personal consciousness, Nirvana, blind will struggling to live, and the various notions of spiritualism and theological tradition. William James seems to hold something partly analogous—judging from a letter to Bergson in 1907, in which, attributing man's spiritual aspirations to suggestions through an extension of his subliminal self, he uses the phrase "coalescence with the Divine."

*Chateaucclair*.—But the approach of James to the problem is very different, and so are the other features of his theory.

To one point of view men should make up their minds; after death we shall still form part of the same universe, and very possibly inhabit this same globe for ages (of which all the protoplasmic forms are a kind of leafage), continue to visit somewhat similar scenes,—if in other ways,—and to move through aspects and events not unrelated to those on which we look through our present "windows."

Our life is not temporary and bounded by a few years or a few miles, but is the total and eternal evolutionary life. And as with the future, so with the past. We have often lived before. These trees, these dawns, these friends, that seem so familiar, and heavenly; are the old dawns, the old groves, the old friends, modified by progress and history.

Our life has been, and eternally shall be, a continuity, seeking and ever more successfully gaining and giving (which are the same thing) happiness, and escaping and shielding from (which are the same thing) pain; in deep and perpetual oneness and growing coalescence, with that Race—which is our true Race,—the boundless Universe, Indwelt and moved by its universal Nos, and winning towards that wondrous perfection of Happiness which the great religious instinct dreams of as Heaven.

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