

which could be acquired between one period of dissolution and another, and which upon the cellular transmission hypothesis could never have been acquired at all.

The Secret Doctrine is in harmony with this fact when it says: "Pralaya is the Paranirvana of spiritual egos and monads, and does not mean annihilation. Nor is the individuality, nor even the essence of the personality lost, because reabsorbed. The same monad will re-emerge therefrom as a still higher being on a higher plane, to re-commence its cycle of evolution at the dawning of a new manvantara." And again, "Thus proceed the cycles of septenary evolution, in sevenfold nature: The Spiritual or Divine; the psychic or semi-divine; the intellectual; the passionate; the instinctual or cognitional; the semi-corporeal; and the purely material or physical natures. All these evolve and progress cyclically, passing one into the other, in a double centrifugal and centripetal way."

From this, it appears, that the monads which ensoul the forms of any kingdom of nature, or plane of consciousness, evolve from the lowest to the highest of that plane during the period of a manvantara; but, at the opening of a new manvantara, they pass on to the kingdom or plane above, *i. e.*, those subjective forces, or noumena, that cause crystallization in the mineral kingdom, will spend an entire manvantara in the development of crystal life or consciousness, but at the opening of the next manvantara they will pass into the vegetal kingdom and become the monads that will ensoul the vegetal forms. The vegetal monads will pass into the plane of animal consciousness, and become the cognitional or the instinctual in animal forms. The cognitional or the instinctual in the animal kingdom will pass into the emotional in human forms. The emotional will become the intellectual; the intellectual the psychic or semi-divine; the psychic the spiritual or Divine; and the spiritual will pass into the lowest grade of a higher septenary cycle of existence, the Dhyana Chohanian.

Thus in seven manvantaras the entire cosmos would be completely renewed, just as the physical body is completely renewed in seven years. Although a manvantara is a long period, yet this does not seem improbable.

Between the lowest and highest states of consciousness, in any kingdom, there is a wide range. Between the sponge and chimpanzee there is a vast distance which may well take a manvantara to traverse. The same may be said of the wide range between one of the Australian aborigines and the highest mahatma.

In surveying these various planes of consciousness, a very marked change is seen to take place when the human stage is reached. Below that point the monads have not acquired discernment and understanding sufficient to enable them to appreciate the why and wherefore of their existence. Their evolution must therefore of necessity be guided by some overshadowing superior wisdom. This overshadowing intelligence, the Secret Doctrine calls the Dhyana Chohans. But man can appreciate and understand the why and wherefore of his existence, and must therefore take his evolution in his own hand.

He has become a guiding factor in the evolution of the cosmos, and must recognise his calling and pursue it. If he fails to do this the cosmos will fail to recognise him. His newly acquired principle of free will makes him feel ill at ease, and we find him gravely preaching the doctrine of necessity. The entire Blockhead! How could he dispute its existence if he had no free will? At least none of the beings below him ever think of raising such a question. The same may be said of his newly acquired possibility of positive consciousness in spiritual existence, and of a hundred other things. He has just reached that positive-negative stage where his potentialities seem to be somewhat of this, and somewhat of that, but not exactly either, and he has taken to wrangling over them. This is why he is such a jargon of contradictions. But if he spends half the manvantara wrangling over these things, the Cosmos will settle the question for him. She will