

were formerly associated? Reincarnation, occurring under cyclical and Karmic law, brings again into physical existence Egos who made the history of a date corresponding in characteristics and tendencies to those which mark the cycle of their re-appearance. Thus it is that history repeats itself, modified, of course, by fresh combinations and different conditions in which it transpires. The same factors being present, similar results must ensue, a relative differentiation from a prior manifestation being due to whatever modification the factors themselves may have undergone in the process of development, and to a consequent alteration of their individual relationship and reciprocal action. Egos who were formerly associated with each other in past lives are brought together again in fresh circumstances, to work out the fulfilment of Karmic interaction until all inharmony is mutually adjusted. This explains also our predilections and antipathies—why we like or dislike persons whom we think we meet for the first time.

The rise and fall of nations, while broadly accounted for by cyclical law, is more specifically explained by the contemporaneous reincarnation in groups of the more progressive minds from a nation which no longer affords scope for their expansion into a young and vigorous centre of activity, there to impart an impetus to the upbuilding of a fresh power in civilization. Simultaneous with the decline of the Roman Empire, there was the founding of another and greater colonizing power, Great Britain, which so closely resembles its prototype—particularly in its national trait as a dominating, civilizing and governing people and its legal and social constitution—that no stretch of imagination is required to regard the English as a reincarnation of the Romans, as the French are also said to be of the ancient Greeks. One must be ingenious indeed to be able to formulate a more reasonable theory, consistent with observed facts, than that of reincarnation under Karmic law.

WHY WE CANNOT RECOLLECT OUR FORMER INCARNATIONS.

The fact that a vast majority of mankind have no defined recollection of having lived before is no valid argument against reincarnation. We have but to understand the relation of the mind to its organ, the brain, to see at once why that which precedes birth is to the average person more or less a blank. Does not that intuitional poet, Wordsworth, say:

"Our birth is but a sleep and a forgetting;
The soul that rises with us, our life's Star,
Hath had elsewhere its setting,
And cometh from afar.

* * * * *

Earth fills her lap with pleasures of her own;
Yearnings she hath in her own natural kind,
And even with something of a mother's mind,
And no unworthy aim,
The homely nurse doth all she can
To make her foster-child, her innate Man,
Forget the glories he hath known,
And that imperial palace whence he came."