

of making this supposed step; is now in the very act of stepping from the plane of self-consciousness to a higher plane, which I call 'Cosmic Consciousness.'" The nature of the new faculty is thus described, and contrasted with the simple consciousness of the higher animals and self-consciousness, by the possession of which man is distinguished from the brute creation:

"Cosmic Consciousness is a third form (of consciousness) which is as far above self-consciousness as is that above simple consciousness. With this form, of course, both simple and self-consciousness persist (as simple consciousness persists when self-consciousness is acquired), but added to them is the new faculty so often named and to be named in this volume. The prime characteristic of cosmic consciousness is, as its name implies, a consciousness of the cosmos, that is, of the life and order of the universe. There are many elements belonging to the cosmic sense besides the central fact just alluded to. Of these, a few may be mentioned. Along with the consciousness of the cosmos there occurs an intellectual enlightenment or illumination which alone would place the individual on a new plane of existence—would make him almost a member of a new species. To this is added a state of moral exaltation, an indescribable feeling of elevation, elation and joyousness, and a quickening of the moral sense, which is fully as striking and more important both to the individual and to the race than is the enhanced intellectual power. With these come what may be called a sense of immortality, a consciousness of eternal life, not a conviction that he shall have this, but the consciousness that he has it already."

Among the many possessors of the new faculty enumerated by Dr. Bucke, the following thirteen, he says, "are so great that they can never fade from human memory," Gautama the Buddha, Jesus Christ, St. Paul, Plotinus, Mohammed, Dante, Las Casas, John Yepes, Jacob Behman, William Blake, Balzac, Walt Whitman, and Sir Francis Bacon. Bacon, be it borne in mind, is, with Dr. Bucke, synonymous with Shakespeare. In these, as in all other cases of cosmic consciousness, there were certain phenomena connected with the on-coming of the new faculty, the most striking of which was a sudden sense of being immersed in flame, or in a brilliant light, this occurring entirely without warning or outward cause. From among those blessed