

MORYA FEDERATION
ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION, STUDY AND SERVICE

Ancient Education

A Term Paper for Course 370

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INTRODUCTION

Many of us share a deep interest in the field of education - whether as students, teachers, or lay-persons concerned about our schools and universities. So, what exactly is education? Turning to a dictionary, I found the following definition: "1. the act or process of imparting or acquiring general knowledge, developing the powers of reasoning and judgement, and generally of preparing oneself or others intellectually for mature life."¹ Thus we can see that education is an essential component of preparing one for life in every field of endeavor, from Agriculture to Zoology.

In what ancient time might the process of education have begun? How might it have changed and evolved since that beginning? These questions have led to this general study into the beginnings of education and to obtain a better understanding of its evolution until approximately 5,000 BCE, which archaeologists currently consider the advent of writing (which they believe first occurred in parts of southwestern Asia). If we do not study and understand our beginnings, we can become confused with where we are and where we are going. "Progress, far from consisting in change, depends on retentiveness. When change is absolute there remains no being to improve and no direction is set for possible improvement: and when experience is not retained, as among savages, infancy is perpetual. Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."² [emphasis mine]

To understand the beginnings and evolution of education, I believe it important to understand the beginnings and evolution of our planet and of humanity itself - not only from the current scientific viewpoint, but also from an occult perspective. Therefore I have included in this paper brief discussions on planetary evolution, human evolution, and educational evolution. Each of these discussions compares the scientific and occult viewpoints and timelines.

Due to the potential for this study of becoming a long dissertation, I have limited the time period as stated above. There are no resources available in the outer world literature prior to that time, so a fair amount of conjecture - both scientific and occult - about these subjects is necessary. Many people may find the occult conjectures made to be unreasonable. However, that which is currently taught in our schools regarding the evolution of our planet and of humanity is based on limited knowledge and much conjecture anyway, so I think it reasonable to seek a balance, and perhaps find and realize deeper truths than those found only in outer appearances.

PLANETARY EVOLUTION

From both the current scientific and occult perspectives, our planet Earth is relatively ancient. This study has found significant differences between the two theories in the overall planetary age and of the geologic periods that have been established. However, I believe that it is only the current scientific perspective which is being taught in traditional schools and colleges around the world. In order to study the occult understanding of Earth history, one has to search through a variety of sources (some of questionable veracity).

From the current scientific perspective: **astrogeophysicists** study material found in space and theorize about the formation of celestial bodies (such as our planet); **geologists** study the solid and liquid matter of Earth, the biology of ancestral inhabitants, and theorize about the history and processes that have shaped our planet; **anthropologists** study the origin, behavior, and development of humans; and **paleontologists** study fossils. "When it comes to determining the age of stuff scientists dig out of the ground, whether fossil or artifact, 'there are good dates and bad dates and ugly dates,' says paleoanthropologist John Shea of Stony Brook University."³ 'Good dates' are established using at least two different methods by independent labs, and ugly dates are based on an often popular approach of 'It's that old because I say so.'

Relative dating methods, such as *biostratigraphy* (fossils found within rock layers), *paleomagnetism* (magnetic polarity flip-flops over time), *tephrochronology* (volcanic deposits with a unique geochemical fingerprint) and *relative chronology* (the stylistic evolution of decorative arts) are comparative approaches providing only approximate dates within periods previously established either by known or by speculated means. **Absolute dating**

¹ "Education," Def. 1. *The Random House Dictionary of the English Language*, (New York: Ransom House, 1973) 454.

² George Santayana, *Reason in Common Sense*, (London: Archibald Constable & Co. Ltd., 1906) 284.

³ Gemma Tarlach, "Scientific Dating Methods," *Discover* July/August 2016, 34.

methods, such as *radiocarbon* (sometimes called carbon-14 used on organic matter), *single crystal fusion* (argon-argon and potassium-argon used for dating rocks), and *uranium series* (various methods based on uranium isotope decay rates) - all within a family of radiometric dating techniques, and *thermoluminescence* (used for dating artifacts exposed to high temperatures), *optically-stimulated luminescence* (used to calculate when an artifact was last exposed to sunlight), and *electronic spin resonance* (measures trapped electrons using magnetic fields) - all within a family of trapped charge dating techniques, are said to provide an actual age for samples being tested. Scientists consider both of these overall methods useful in providing accurate dating when used within their tolerance ranges. For instance, in the absolute methodology, radiocarbon dating is only useful to 40,000 years old. Uranium series dating is used for samples believed to be 40,000 to 500,000 years old. The single crystal fusion method is used for samples believed to be at least 500,000 years old. The accuracy of these methods is based on the belief that unstable isotopes of radioactive elements have decayed into stable isotopes at consistent rates from their initial formation.

The theories presented by scientists regarding Earth’s geologic history are generally stated and taught as ‘facts,’ since it is these experts who have arrived at certain conclusions based on limited physical evidence which has been discovered. Difficulties with the presented scientific ‘facts’ include: 1) there has never been full agreement among scientists regarding Earth’s age and the theorized geological periods, and 2) Earth’s theorized age has changed significantly over the last 130 years. How this has changed will be looked at later in this section. As a caveat to the theorized ages, we are told that “All dates are approximate and based on research in the fields of anthropology, archaeology, genetics, geology, and linguistics. They are all subject to revision based on new discoveries or analyses.”⁴

From the occult perspective, for us to estimate the age of our Earth is quite difficult. The calculations involve the years of the Great Kalpa, the Yugas, and their relationship to an Age of Brahma (411,040,000,000 years). “But we have no knowledge at what time precisely the evolution and formation of our little earth began. Therefore it is impossible to calculate its age, unless the time of its birth is given — which the teachers refuse to do, so far.”⁵ The ‘teachers’ referred to are the Masters of Wisdom who serve the divine evolutionary plan.

The current occult theory of Earth’s age was written about in *The Secret Doctrine* by H. P. Blavatsky, with the first two volumes originally published in 1888. This occult theory has been expanded upon, and/or attempted to be explained, by Steiner, Leadbeater, Bailey, Cayce, and others. We are told the periods of time presented in these books are in general accordance with Hindu philosophy. We are also told that we can find correspondences with this theory and the cosmology taught in Buddhism, Jainism, the Jewish Kabbalah, and other ancient traditions. So, the basis of the occult theory comes to us from ancient texts, legends and myths which science has chosen to ignore and/or disparage.

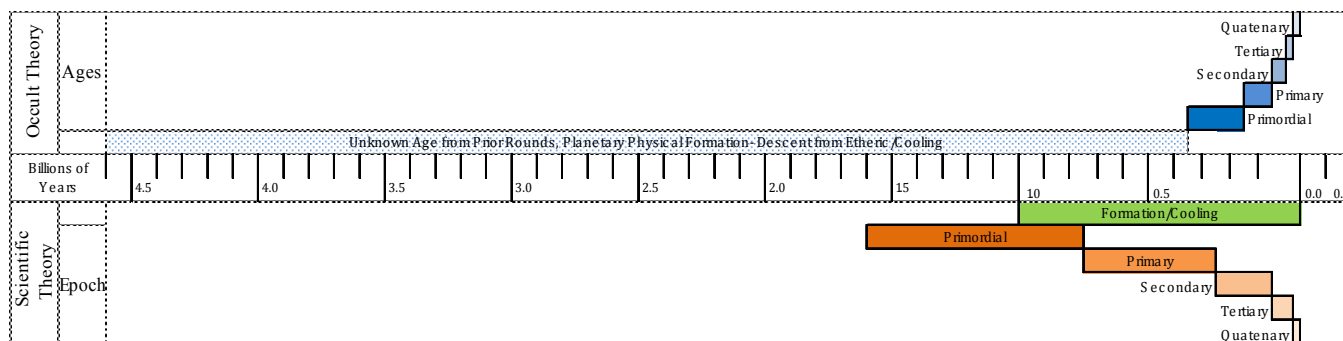


Figure 1: 1888 Comparison Between Occult and Scientific Theories

In Figure 1 we see the age of Earth and their associated geologic periods as theorized by both occultism (above the timeline) and science (below the timeline) at the time of publishing *The Secret Doctrine*. The occult theory

⁴ “Timeline of Human Prehistory,” *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*, n.d., accessed August 14, 2016, <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_human_prehistory>.

⁵ Helena P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine: The Synthesis of Science, Religion and Philosophy, Vol. I-Cosmogonesis*, (London: The Theosophical Publishing Company, Limited, 1888) 206.

does not identify an actual planetary age as we are said to be in the fourth of seven rounds of the Earth chain. This theory states that the first sedimentary deposits occurred 320 million years ago, with the timeline in the figure starting before the 4.6 billion years shown to account for the prior three rounds. From the age of the first deposits 320 million years ago, and using the assumed thickness of the rock strata, the **Primordial Age** lasted until 148.8 million years ago; the **Primary Age** lasted until 45.76 million years ago; the **Secondary Age** lasted until 8.96 million years ago, the **Tertiary Age** lasted until 1.6 million years ago, and we are currently in the **Quaternary Age**.

In this figure, the Periods within each Age or Epoch are given the same name in both the occult and the scientific theories in an effort to provide a means of reconciling the two. In analyzing the ages of the human root-races associated with each of these Ages, Blavatsky suggests that it “is probable that the results here given allow somewhat too long a period to both the Tertiary and Quaternary, as the *Third Race* goes very far back into the Secondary Age.”⁶

At the time of publishing *The Secret Doctrine*, the final date given by various scientists for the Earth’s formation, encrustation, and the cooling of the crust sufficiently to sustain plant life, varied anywhere from 10 million to one billion years ago. In spite of this large discrepancy, scientists also gave the time period for the Tertiary Epoch as lasting anywhere from 2.5 to 15 million years, and “no two geologists and naturalists seem to agree on this point...”⁷ To establish the time allotted for each geologic period following formation of the crust, the thickness of the deposits of rock strata was used. Based on the thicknesses of the rock strata and the estimates of time required for their deposition, the crust formation must have begun at least 1.61 billion years ago. The **Primordial Epoch**, lasting until 748 million years ago, included the Laurentian, Cambrian and Silurian Periods, and in each of these is found some form of life (leaving us to speculate as to how life forms suddenly appeared, since Biblical creation is rejected). The **Primary Epoch**, lasting until 230 million years ago, included the Devonian, Coal (Carboniferous) and Permian Periods. The **Secondary Epoch**, lasting until 65 million years ago, included the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods, being the time of the dinosaurs (and mammals at the end of this epoch). The **Tertiary Epoch**, lasting until two million years ago, included the Eocene, Miocene and Pliocene Periods, and although higher mammals were evolving, humanity had not yet appeared. The **Quaternary Epoch** included the Paleolithic, Neolithic and Historical Periods, in which we are currently. It is in this epoch which current science believes humanity first appeared.

Figure 2 compares the current scientific theory with that of occultism. We see there have been no changes in the dates assigned to the occult theory. However, we see that science has changed greatly, now estimating the age of the Earth to be between 4.5 and 4.6 billion years old, which is the beginning of the **Precambrian (or Cryptozoic) Eon**. This age estimate is based upon meteorites and moon rocks. “No one has found any rocks on earth from this era. Only meteorites from space and moon rocks are this old.”⁸ The oldest chunks of Earth’s crust, found in western Greenland, have been dated at 3.8 billion years old. This Eon, covering the vast bulk of Earth history, consists of the **Archean Era** ending about 2.5 billion years ago, and the **Proterozoic Era** ending about 543 million years ago.

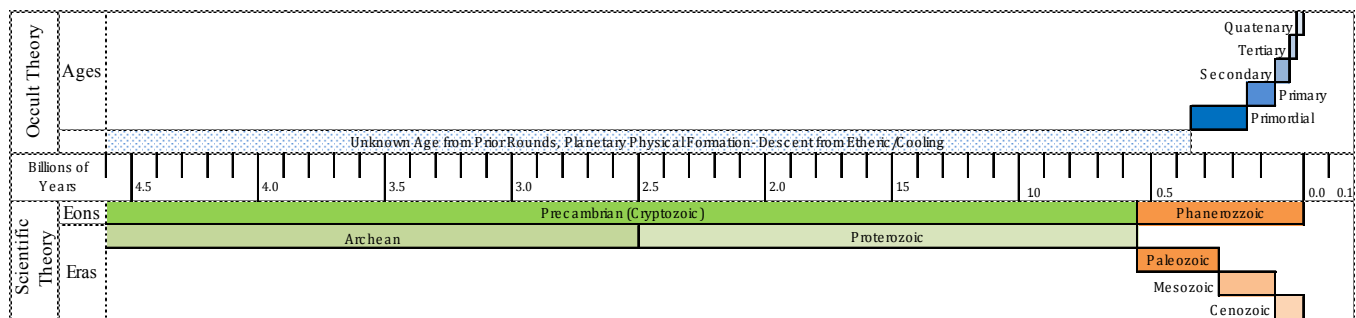


Figure 2: Current Comparison Between Occult and Scientific Theories

⁶ Helena P. Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine: The Synthesis of Science, Religion and Philosophy, Vol. II-Anthropogenesis*, (London: The Theosophical Publishing Company, Limited, 1888) 710.

⁷ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine, Volume II*, 693.

⁸ Randall Schaetzl, *The Precambrian Era*, Michigan State University website, n.d. accessed August 14, 2016 <<http://geo.msu.edu/extra/geogmich/Precambrian.html>>.

We then moved into the **Phanerozoic Eon** which includes the **Paleozoic Era** lasting from about 543 million years to 248 million years ago, and includes the Cambrian, Ordovician, Silurian, Devonian, Mississippian, Pennsylvanian, and Permian Periods (each having certain epochs assigned). The **Mesozoic Era** lasting from about 248 million years to 65 million years ago, and includes the Triassic, Jurassic and Cretaceous Periods (each having certain epochs assigned), and the **Cenozoic Era** lasting to the present. This era includes the Tertiary Period (divided into the Paleocene, Eocene, Oligocene, Miocene, and Pliocene Epochs), and the Quaternary Period (divided into the Pleistocene and Holocene Epochs). The names which current science has given for the periods and epochs within each of these eras are not necessarily reflected in the occult theory.

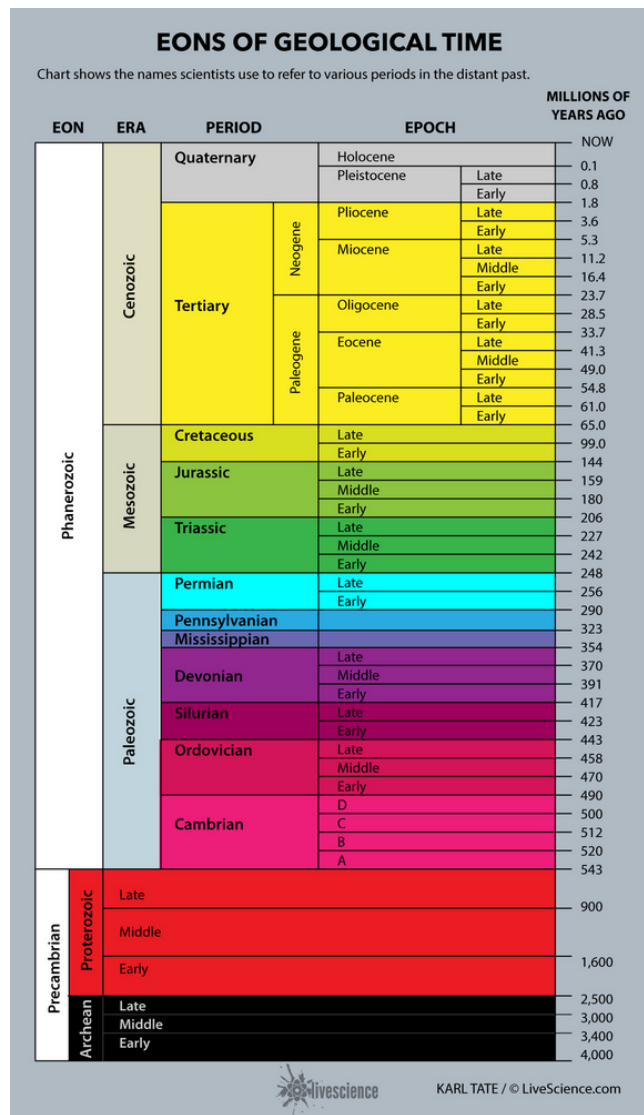


Figure 3: Geological Ages

scientific world considers this group the “experts” of the human past, so their hypotheses are taught as fact. As new fossil and artifact discoveries are made, the facts must be changed to fit the new information. However, it often takes much time to change scientific ‘facts,’ since new discoveries often conflict with the status quo, resulting in initial disbelief in the discovery and ostracism toward the discoverer.

Figure 3 shows some current scientific thought regarding the divisions of geologic ages.⁹ It should be noted that various sources show differing dates for some of those shown in this chart. Therefore, it can be stated that science has not yet achieved total agreement in their geologic aging. Some scientists have even added a new epoch, called the Anthropocene, or ‘new man,’ with its start in 1950 CE, as a result of fallout from nuclear tests, the exponential increase in burning of fossil fuels, and permanent traces of pollution. Some believe that this change “‘might be used as encouragement to slow carbon emissions and biodiversity loss’ or ‘as evidence in legislation on conservation measures.’”¹⁰ Each epoch usually lasts several million years or more, but by entering the atomic age prematurely, this change seems to make sense. Even Bailey refers to this change in human evolution when stating “The intelligence of humanity now is of such a nature that certain earlier initiations no longer exist, and mankind has shown itself to possess the potentialities which will enable its individual units to tread not only the one or two cosmic Paths hitherto open to them, but all of them, if given the right training. This the **premature discovery of the release of atomic energy** has well demonstrated to the Hierarchy.”¹¹ [*emphasis mine*]

HUMAN EVOLUTION

Archaeologists investigate the origins of humanity and ancient cultures through the study of fossilized human skeletons, pottery shards, and various types of tools. This scientific discipline organized and became established in the 19th and 20th centuries. Based on the limited number of artifacts which have been discovered, archaeologists have hypothesized certain human evolutionary paths. The

⁹ Chart from <http://www.livescience.com/43354-precambrian-time.html>, accessed August 10, 2016.

¹⁰ James Owen, “New Earth Epoch has Begun, Scientists Say,” *National Geographic*, April 6, 2010, accessed August 20, 2016 <<http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2010/04/100406-new-earth-epoch-geologic-age-anthropocene/>>.

¹¹ Alice A. Bailey, *The Rays and The Initiations*, (New York: Lucis Publishing Company, 1960) 412.

The types of dating methodologies discussed in the previous section (pages 1 and 2) are used for dating the fossils of human bones and other artifacts.

Using the fossil record and artifacts which have been discovered to date, archaeologists hypothesize that humanity evolved from an ancestor common with African apes, with the split occurring six to seven million years ago. The oldest pre-Homo hominin fossils now found are dated to 7 - 6 million years ago, during the late Miocene Epoch. This is from a partial skull and jaw fragments which were discovered in 2001 in northern Chad, and named **Sahelanthropus Tchadensis**. Other old fossils discovered in various parts of Africa include the **Ardipithecus Ramidus** (found around 2009 and dated to 4.4 million years old, which include a partial skeleton and other fragmentary finds), **Australopithecus Afarensis** (found in 1974 and dated to 3.8 - 2.9 million years old, long considered our direct ancestor but now thought to be only a cousin), **Australopithecus Prometheus** (found in 1994 and dated to 3.7 million years old, and is the most complete early hominin fossil known), and **Australopithecus Africanus** (first found in the 1920s and dated to 3.3 - 2.1 million years old, now suggested to more likely be our direct ancestor).

The oldest hominin fossil discoveries in Europe are dated to 430,000 years old which were found in Spain (more than two dozen individuals and which are most closely related to the Neanderthals); those in Asia date to 1.8 million years old and were found in Georgia (at least five individuals, generally classified as a subspecies of Homo Erectus); and in the Americas artifacts found are stated to date to 14,800 years old, and were found in Chile (no human bones were found but there was evidence of human habitation, but which may date to 18,500 years old or more). Java Man, found in Indonesia in the late 19th century, was the first example of Homo Erectus which is believed to be our immediate ancestor. Archaeologists believe that primitive humans moved from Africa into Asia about 1.8 million years ago, then into Europe about 900,000 years ago.

Science recognizes that there has been an evolution of physical features, suggested by the various names which have been assigned to the fossil record. There is no recognition by science of a genderless and etheric humanity; the physical, emotional, mental and spiritual development of humanity through the root-races; nor that the early physical humans were giants, matching with other plant and animal life of those time periods.

At the time of publishing *The Secret Doctrine*, and for some fundamentalist religious traditions still, western theology dated the world creation at 4092 BCE, and the flood of Noah at 2448 BCE. At this same time, geologists and physicists set the date for the hardening of the Earth's crust from between 10 million to 1 billion years ago, and anthropologists set the date for humanity appearing as anytime from 25,000 to 500,000 years ago. There appears to be theological misunderstanding of religious texts that are not reconcilable with the geologic record. Over the past 125+ years, the time periods hypothesized by scientists for the Earth's formation and the appearance of humanity have been greatly revised. And yet the Occult theory and doctrine, which has not changed, continues to be discredited by theology and science at large.

The occult theory for the appearance and development of humanity is obtained from ancient tradition, sacred texts, legends and myths, and by seeking for and presenting the deeper and hidden meanings within those instruments. To provide a basis for acceptance of these theories, in *The Secret Doctrine* Blavatsky included ancient and modern evidence, providing numerous corroborating references to the ancient records, including historical names for historical periods.

Occult theory teaches that humanity, as it has evolved through its various forms and states of consciousness, has existed on the Earth from the very beginning of this fourth Round of the Earth chain. It also states that the appearance of humanity preceded the appearance of other animals, noting that this is consistent with the Biblical account of creation whereby Man was formed by God before other living creatures.¹² This is totally different than what is taught by current science. "That man was *not the last member in the mammalian family*, but the first in *this Round*, is something that science will be forced to acknowledge one day."¹³ The first two root-races, the Chhaya (estimated duration between 150 and 70 million years ago) and the Hyperborean (estimated duration between 79 and 27 million years ago), were formed of ethereal substance, did not manifest into dense physical matter, they were genderless and mindless, but highly spiritual. This changed with the third root-race, the Lemurian (estimated duration between 38 and four million years ago).

¹² Genesis 2:4-20.

¹³ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine, Volume II*, 155.

In the middle period of the Lemurian root-race, following the great process of individualization and separation into the male/female genders, humanity was physically giant, ape-like, cunning but intellectually senseless, and morally irresponsible. The primordial spirituality of this being was overshadowed by its nascent mentality. It is during this period that, through mating with animal species lower than themselves, humanity created the missing link which, in the tertiary period, became the remote ancestor of the real ape now found in the pithecoïd family.

Toward the end of the Lemurian root-race, when the transition of humanity into the Atlantean root-race was occurring, humanity may still have been physically giant with an ape-like appearance, but the overall size had been greatly reduced, the body texture had improved, and the being was becoming more rational. Occult theory posits that these humans were already thinking and speaking. In the Trans-Himalayan Wisdom Tradition, we are told that the Atlanteans had developed a great civilization. In spite of the speculations made by the scientists of our current era, this humanity “was higher than we are with all our sciences and the degraded civilization of the day: at any rate, the Lemuro-Atlantean of the closing Third Race was so.”¹⁴

In the Atlantean root-race (estimated duration between 18.5 million to 12 thousand years ago), language was perfected and knowledge increased. At the middle of this racial period, being the deepest point of materiality of the involutory/evolutionary cycle, the world was “teeming with the results of intellectual activity and spiritual decrease.”¹⁵

The fifth, or Aryan, root-race commenced about 1,050,000 years ago, or about 200,000 years before the initial sinking of Atlantis (approximately 850,000 BCE). This is also the same time which geology has assigned to the first glacial period and deluge which occurred about 850,000 years ago.

EDUCATIONAL EVOLUTION

Some sort of educational processes must have been occurring with and for humanity since our appearance on this globe. Once physical manifestation had occurred, we can surmise that initially that which had to be learned would focus on the physical world of survival and reproduction. The aspect of survival would likely include: 1) the types of food to eat, as well as what not to eat; 2) methods for hunting and gathering; 3) protection from predators and harmful aspects of the physical environment; and 4) creating shelter of some kind from the elements. Learning the means and processes of reproduction would be necessary for continuation of the species.

As humanity became more adjusted and attuned with the physical world, educational processes may have begun to include adjustment to feelings and emotions. We can positively state that whatever science may think and teach, occultism knows and teaches differently, “from time immemorial — from Manu and Hermes down to Paracelsus and his successors.”¹⁶

Modern Scientific Teachings

From the earliest times, all types of knowledge was transmitted from person to person, and from generation to generation. Knowledge which was imparted had to be memorized. As human society grew from family groups, to tribes, and to more complex forms of association, specialization in performing the tasks of survival was introduced. As this specialization rose, the knowledge for survival tasks became more complex. “To be able to function in complex societies, man needed some way of accumulating, recording, and preserving his cultural heritage. So with the rise of trade, government, and formal religion came the invention of writing, by about 3100 BC.”¹⁷

The evolution of humanity as hypothesized by Charles Darwin in his landmark book *On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection* (1859) and his later *The Descent of Man* (1871) is taught by science as fact, rather than as a hypothesis to be proven. Darwin believed that all living creatures descended from a common ancestor, and that humans and the apes share a common specific ancestor (hence the search for the “missing link.”) Based

¹⁴ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine, Volume I*, 191.

¹⁵ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine, Volume I*, 189.

¹⁶ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine, Volume I*, 281.

¹⁷ Robert Guiseppi, “The History of Education,” *International World History Project*, n.d. accessed August 24, 2016 http://history-world.org/history_of_education.htm.

on the currently discovered fossil record, erect-walking bipedalism originated at least 3.5 million years ago, and the earliest known use of stone tools occurred about 2.5 million years ago. The skulls found that have been dated to the earlier period show no significant expansion of brain capacity over the anthropoid apes, however the canine teeth no longer projected above the adjacent teeth. Anatomical evidence suggests that perishable tools (perhaps made from wood) were created and used during this time. The use of tools is an indicator that some form of teaching must have occurred so that the design and use of the tools would continue and proliferate. "Even though actual tools have not been discovered, it seems unlikely that a relatively slow-moving terrestrial biped lacking defensively enlarged canine teeth could have survived without them."¹⁸

Based on other aspects of the archaeological record, scientists suspect that the rudiments of speech developed about 200,000 years ago. This is stated to be one of the points which differentiate Homo Sapiens from Homo Erectus, and is likely also an indication of an ability to more readily pass along knowledge which has been acquired. Evidence for the control and use of fire for warmth and food preparation also dates to about 200,000 years ago. This evidence also speaks to the need for some form of teaching to pass along the acquired knowledge.

Another form of technology believed to be developed about 20,000 years ago is the use of string to create nooses, nets and snares. These devices permitted the capture of smaller and more plentiful prey with much less exertion as compared to hunting with spears or axes. Again, the design and use of these devices necessitated a degree of teaching.

Remaining in the pre-historic period (prior to the development of writing), the scientists believe that agriculture was developed about 10,000 years ago, leading to full-scale farming and of settled farming communities. Without the teaching necessary to pass this knowledge along, it would have been lost to us.

Since there is no specific reference within the materials I consulted to the necessary training in the use of tools, of fire, of string technology, and of speech, these are just suppositions on my part.

Occult Teachings

From an occult perspective, education of some kind has occurred for at least the last three root-races of humanity - the Lemurian, Atlantean and Aryan - dating to perhaps 20 million years ago. For each of these races of humanity, the teachers and guides have pursued a planned process of development. These racial guides have furnished to the divine kings and leaders who have taught humanity the arts and sciences needed and expressed in those periods. In the Lemurian race, the planned process was development of the instinct; in the Atlantean race it was development of the intellect; and in the Aryan race it is development of the intuition. Each race has produced those persons who have achieved the highest attainment possible in those times, blending these three aspects of development. "When these three are developed and functioning you will have a civilised, cultured and spiritually awakened human being. A man will then be instinctively correct, intellectually sound, and intuitively aware. His soul, his mind, and his brain will be functioning as they should and in right relation to each other, thus again producing coordination and correct alignment."¹⁹

Since it is said to be against occult law to reveal secrets which are divulged while initiated into higher levels of consciousness, we have been left only with hints as to what the types of education might have included. Homer's *The Odyssey*, ca. 800 BCE, references the Atlantes (whom we call the Atlanteans) and their land. The writings of Plato (428 - 347 BCE) merged the history of Atlantis into one event, being the cataclysm of one island about the size of Ireland. "The Atlantes and the Atlantides of mythology are based upon the Atlantes and the Atlantides of history. Both Sanchoniathon and Diodorus have preserved the histories of those heroes and heroines, however much these accounts may have become mixed up with the mythical element."²⁰

"If our knowledge of Atlantis was more thorough, it would no doubt appear that in every instance wherein the people of Europe accord with the people of America, they were both in accord with the people of Atlantis. . . . It will be seen that in every case where Plato gives us information in this respect as to Atlantis, we find this agree-

¹⁸ Robert Guiseppi, "Human Origins," *International World History Project*, 2001, accessed August 12, 2016 <http://history-world.org/human_origins.htm>.

¹⁹ Alice A. Bailey, *Education in the New Age*, (New York: Lucis Publishing Company, 1954) 50.

²⁰ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine, Vol. II*, 761.

ment to exist. It existed in architecture, sculpture, navigation, engraving, writing, an established priesthood, the mode of worship, agriculture, and the construction of roads and canals; and it is reasonable to suppose that the same correspondence extended down to all the minor details.' (Donnelly, "Atlantis," p. 194.)"²¹

In the myth of Atlas, we find an allegory combining and personifying the continents of Lemuria and Atlantis into one symbol. We are told that the races of both continents were taught by divine Masters, and both of these early continents have been submerged into the oceans. Poets have attributed to Atlas a superior knowledge and universal wisdom, particularly with the ocean depths. Jean Sylvain Bailly (September 15, 1736 - November 12, 1793), a French astronomer, mathematician, freemason, and political leader, extensively studied the ancient classics and traditions, and saw that the arts and sciences came from sources even more ancient and learned than the Hindu Brahmans. Voltaire (born François-Marie Arouet, November 21, 1694 - May 30, 1778), a French writer, historian and philosopher, shared this same belief. So much of the ancient writings, through poetry and prose, reveal the lost history of humanity - when we are able to perceive it with our inner vision.

In the **Lemurian Root-race** humanity was in its infancy: coordination was limited, polarization was unsteady, there was little mentality, and most people functioned more consciously on the emotional level than on the physical. The guides of this early race, through the direct and silent guidance of the 'Nameless One,' provided to humanity its first notions of the arts, sciences, and spiritual knowledge. In following the evolutionary plan, these guides taught the development of the chakras and stimulation of the brain so that humanity would become self-conscious on the physical plane. Their objective was to bring about a realization of the kingdom of God within. It is said that the teaching methods they used were more physical than what is now permissible. Remnants of these methods can be seen in degraded phallic teaching, tantric magic, and in Hatha Yoga (for control of the physical body). "The infant humanity of Lemurian and early Atlantean days had to be taught what they [Page 381] were by means of symbols and methods which to us would be crude, impossible and of a nature which the race should have transcended for many millions of years."²²

The teaching of the Lemurian race, after individualization occurred and the genders became separated, also included the means of procreation, and the knowledge of good and evil. This is captured in Genesis 2:4 through 3:7 in the story of the creation of Adam and Eve, and their eating from the Tree of Knowledge. In spite of the guides of the race teaching the essentials of cause and effect, and those units of humanity witnessing that the effects of their actions were physically apparent, easily perceived, and immediate; yet the race fell subject to the impulses of their animal nature. It was during this root-race that the earliest types of venereal disease appeared, eventually affected the entire race, and led to its demise.

Another teaching which has been handed down to us from the Lemurian root-race is the influence of the Moon as it now affects us. This ancient thought is not based on any true radiation or influence, but a tradition (which even antedates Lemuria) that it appeared to be a living and vital entity. In the ancient teachings of the Masters, it is recognized that the Moon is a dead form with the thought effect coming from that ancient thoughtform. This is why esoteric astrology speaks of the Moon veiling Vulcan (for an undeveloped or average person) or Uranus (for a highly developed person).

The ideal to be developed in the **Atlantean Root-race** was a religious mysticism, expressed in the way of feelings, of a felt but unseen deity. The racial development was sensitive and highly emotional, but it was generally occurring unconsciously. The emotional consciousness of the Atlantean race is difficult for us to understand in our budding mental consciousness. Their attitude toward deity was also sensitive, and religious activities were mystical and devotional, but without any mental understanding. The emotional characteristics of God, the fear evoked by God's wrath, the sense of awe, and of blindly following some individual who appears sensitive to a higher power have been brought forward to us in our time. There was no educational system, as we understand the term, as the advanced kings and priests of that period intuited and the masses obeyed.

During this racial period there was rampant, ruthless, insatiable desire, with little-to-no mental process, except in the leaders of the race. The masses responded only to teaching through visual events and not to verbal instruction. The idea that psychological attitudes bring about physiological conditions (both good and bad), and a recognition

²¹ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. II, 761.

²² Alice A. Bailey, *A Treatise on White Magic*, (New York: Lucis Publishing Company, 1951) 380-1.

of the phenomenon of death had to be dramatized in some definite and objective manner. During this period a mental relationship was established between one's individual action and a resulting death, which brought about a great step forward in human consciousness.

In the Atlantean race, Laya Yoga was taught to further develop control of the chakras and to teach that the spinal cord is a reflection of the sutratma (the Life and Consciousness connection between the higher and lower Self), and is expressed in three nerve channels. We are warned that the old forms and formulas for this yoga are basically unsuited for our present stage of development.

Astrology began to be taught in the Atlantean race, and the zodiac was explained and studied. The word Virgo has descended from an ancient Atlantean root name applied to the Mother principle, since matriarchal societies dominated that race. For this we can find references in myths and legends, such as with Lilith who was the last of the Atlantean Virgin Goddesses, and in the stories of the Amazons whose queen Hercules defeated. The glyph for Sagittarius used for this race was the centaur - half man and half horse. This was a symbol for the development of the human soul, its objectives, its identification with form, its desires and aspirations. The keynote of the Centaur, as the personality, is ambition.

The ancient legends and myths speak of giants, such as the Titans (being Gods in the ancient Greek myths) and Goliath in the Biblical story. Current teachings dismiss the idea of there ever being giant humans, yet "in nearly every mythology - which after all is ancient history - the giants play an important part."²³

The Atlanteans preserved the teachings telling how their parent root-race became more arrogant with every generation due to acquiring superhuman powers, and how the race gradually was responsible for its own demise. "Those records reminded them of the giant intellect of the preceding races as well as of their giant size. One finds the repetition of those records in every age of history, in almost every old fragment which has descended to us from antiquity."²⁴ These teachings have been passed along to the fifth root-race through legends and myths.

In the current **Aryan Root-race**, the teachings about reincarnation, found primarily in eastern religions, come to us from the Atlantean period. The early Aryan sub-races preserved those teachings, as well as teachings about giants, and the cause of the sinking of that great continent and near total destruction of that race. The records told of the giant size of humanity, their superior intellect and of acquiring superhuman powers. It is those powers used selfishly which resulted in its destruction. "One finds the repetition of those records in every age of history, in almost every old fragment which has descended to us from antiquity."²⁵

Patanjali, considered the founder of the Raja Yoga School, compiled teachings which had been given orally for many centuries. With his actual birth date unknown, there is much controversy around his time of incarnation, with western authorities suggesting dates anywhere from 820 BCE to 300 BCE, and with some even suggesting that he followed the birth of Jesus. More knowledgeable Hindu authorities give a date as far back as 10,000 BCE. The Masters of Wisdom teach that this system of yoga, or soul-union, has been used since the beginning of the fifth, or Aryan, root-race. Raja yoga is a fundamental teaching of the Trans-Himalayan Wisdom Tradition now being spread to western disciples, and is believed to be the teachings closely connected with the Essenes and the early Christians in their mystical training and thought.

CONCLUSION

There yet remains a wide gulf to be crossed in order to reconcile the teachings promoted by science and those of occultism. Although there are elements of truth contained in both systems, scientists continue to ignore and/or denigrate everything which does not fit within their self-imposed limitations of the physical world. Most believe that if it cannot be measured with instruments of the five senses, it obviously cannot exist. Occultism seeks to bring together the divinity of both spirit and matter. "The Secret Doctrine is the common property of the countless millions of men born under various climates, in times with which History refuses to deal, and to which esoteric

²³ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. II, 754.

²⁴ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. II, 760.

²⁵ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. II, 760.

teachings assign dates incompatible with the theories of Geology and Anthropology. The birth and evolution of the Sacred Science of the Past are lost in the very night of Time; and that, even, which is historic — i.e., that which is found scattered hither and thither throughout ancient classical literature — is, in almost every case, attributed by modern criticism to lack of observation in the ancient writers, or to superstition born out of the ignorance of antiquity.”²⁶

In ancient pre-historic times it was generally the religious traditions which sought to provide education for humanity. We have looked briefly at the educational subject matter included in those ancient traditions, which focus was on the inner and subjective life, and not necessarily to a life in the outer objective world, and seldom was there an attempt to synthesize the two aspects. As ages passed and teachers lost the original visions, it became easy for the teachings to become mired in distortions. “In treating of Cosmogony and then of the Anthropogenesis of mankind, it was necessary to show that no religion, since the very earliest, has ever been entirely based on fiction, as none was the object of special revelation; and that it is dogma alone which has ever been killing primeval truth.”²⁷

It is once again time to end the petty grievances and seek the essential truths underlying all knowledge, whether it comes from scientific study through the physical senses, is received through mystic vision, or is intuited. Let us recognize the divinity within all life expressions in all kingdoms of nature. “Perhaps in the turning of the great wheel of life, we are due again to revert to the ancient method of specialized training for the special individual—a reversion which will not involve a discarding of mass education. In this way, we may ultimately unify the methods of the past and of the East with those of the present and of the West.”²⁸

²⁶ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. II, 794.

²⁷ Blavatsky, *The Secret Doctrine*, Vol. II, 797.

²⁸ Alice A. Bailey, *From Intellect to Intuition*, (New York: Lucis Publishing Company, 1932) 24.

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