

*Who shall deliver us  
from tribulation?*



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## Who shall deliver us from tribulation?

*The spirits of the departed, or divine providence?*

**Tribulations are our own thoughts and deeds  
rebounding upon us with equal force.**

First published in *The Theosophist*, Vol. V, No. 5 (53), February 1884, pp. 111-12. Republished in *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (EDITOR'S NOTE TO "SPIRIT GUARDIANSHIP, OR WHAT?") VI pp. 139-41.

[Foreword by Boris de Zirkoff: Dr. C.W. Rohner, of Benalla, contributes some interesting facts about people being found uninjured after falling out of fast-moving trains, or having other "miraculous" escapes from impending dangers. He also cites some cases of unconscious prevision of accidents and illustrates this by two occurrences out of his own life. To this H.P. Blavatsky adds the following note:]

### **Editorial Note by H.P. Blavatsky.**

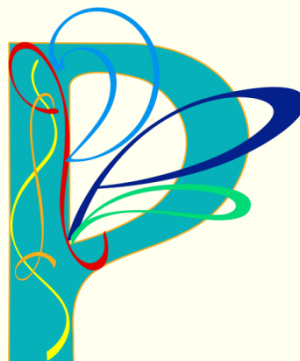
Let us, for a moment, grant that the facts given above by the estimable doctor point to something that is neither blind chance nor miracle: what are the other explanations that could be suggested? No other possible but the following: it is either "Spirit Guardianship," or *Divine Providence*. This — to the Spiritualists and believers in a personal God — sets the problem at rest. But how about the dissatisfaction of those who cannot be brought to believe in either the spirits of the dead as concerned [140] with our earthly events, or in a conscious, personal deity, a telescopic enlargement — true, magnifying millions of times — still but an enlargement of the human *infinitesimal infusoria*?

- Truth to be heard and get itself recognized as one, must be a self-evident truth to all, not merely to a fraction of humanity.
- It must satisfy one and all, answer and cover every objection, explain and make away with every hazy spot on its face, destroy every objection placed on its path.

And if events of the nature of those given by Dr. Rohner are to be attributed to the protection and guardianship of “Spirits,” why is it, that to every such *one* case of *miraculous* escape, there are 10,000 cases where human beings are left to perish brutally and stupidly without any seeming fault on their part, their death being often the starting point of the most disastrous subsequent results, and this with no providence, no spirit interfering to stop the merciless hand of blind fate?

Are we to believe that “the sleeping child” and the “miner” were two very important units in humanity, while the many hundreds of unfortunate children who perished a few months ago at Sunderland during the terrible catastrophe in the theatre,<sup>1</sup> and the *hundreds of thousands of human beings* — victims of last year’s earthquakes — were useless dross, with no “spirit hand” to protect them? It is pure sentimentality alone, with selfish pride and human conceit to help it, that can evolve such theories to account for every exceptional occurrence.

*Karma*, and our inner, unconscious (so far as our physical senses go) prevision can alone explain such cases of unexpected escapes. If Dr. Rohner knows of children who fell out of trains and cars running “at the rate of forty miles an hour,” who were neither killed nor hurt, the writer knows of two lap dogs who madly chasing each other fell from the terrace of a house over sixty feet high and, with the exception of a stiffness of a few hours’ duration in their limbs, came to no other grief. And, we have seen but the other day, a young squirrel falling out of its nest, a voracious crow pouncing upon it and actually seizing it, when suddenly as though struck with some thought the hungry [141] carrion-eater dropped it out of its mouth, flew lazily away, and perching upon a neighbouring branch, gave the mother-squirrel the time to rescue her little one. Had these dogs and squirrel also “guardian-spirits” to protect them, or was it due to *chance* — a word by the bye, pronounced by many, understood by very, very few.



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<sup>1</sup> [Referring to a disaster that occurred on the 16<sup>th</sup> June 1883 at the Victoria Hall in Sunderland, England, when the distribution of prizes and free toys at a children’s Variety show caused a crowd crush resulting in 183 children (aged between 3 and 14 years old) to be crushed to death due to compressive asphyxia and trampling.]

## Suggested reading for students.



### From our Constitution of Man Series.

- A CONGENITAL PREPONDERANCE OF FIRE ELEMENTALS MAKES A MAN IMPERVIOUS TO FIRE
- ANCIENT BELIEFS IN THE IMMORTALITY OF SOUL
- ANCIENT OPINIONS UPON PSYCHIC BODIES
- APOLLONIUS COMFORTS A BEREAVED FATHER
- ASTRAL BODIES OR DOPPELGÄNGERS
- ATMAN IS A RAY FROM A SPARK OF UNCREATED RAY
- BLAVATSKY ON ÆTHROBACY AND FAKIRS
- BLAVATSKY ON OCCULT DEVELOPMENT
- BLAVATSKY ON THE DUAL ASPECT OF WISDOM
- BLAVATSKY ON THREE ESSAYS BY É. LÉVI
- BLOOD IS THE FIRST INCARNATION OF UNIVERSAL FLUID
- CHINESE BELIEFS ABOUT THE HUMAN SOUL
- CICERO'S DREAM OF SCIPIO AND MACROBIUS' COMMENT
- CLASSIFICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES IN MAN
- CONCERNING THE DOCTRINES OF THE THEOSOPHISTS
- CONSTITUTION OF MAN – DRAWING
- CONSTITUTION OF MAN – ESOTERIC
- CONSTITUTION OF MAN – OVERVIEW
- COSMOS AND DEITY IN MAN (DRAWING)
- DAS' SCIENCE OF THE EMOTIONS (1908)
- DEATH AND IMMORTALITY
- DEATH AND POST-MORTEM STATES
- DEATH HAS NO TERRORS
- DEVACHAN, DREAM REALM WHERE PURE SOULS ARE REWARDED
- DREAMLESS SLEEP

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**SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS**

- ELIPHAS LEVI ON DEATH AND SATAN
- EMOTIONS' TRIUNE NATURE
- EVOLUTIONARY TRANSMIGRATION OF MATERIAL PARTICLES IN NATURE
- FACING SEVEN VIRGINS IN THE HALL OF JUDGMENT
- FROM THE STRONGHOLD OF YOUR SOUL, CHASE ALL YOUR FOES AWAY
- HAIR IS THE RETAINER OF PRANA
- IN DEEP SLEEP WE DREAM NO MORE AND CONFABULATE WITH THE STARS
- IS SUICIDE A CRIME?
- JUDGE ON THE INNER CONSTITUTION OF MAN
- JUDGE ON THE OCCULT NATURE OF MAN
- LÉVI ON DEATH BEING THE BIRTH-PANG OF LIFE
- LIFE IS AN INDESTRUCTIBLE UNIVERSAL FORCE
- LOW BUFFOONERY AND MOCKING LAUGHS
- LYMPH IS A MASQUE FOR NYMPH
- MAN IS THE CAUSE OF GLOBAL WARMING
- MAN, THE JEWEL OF THE UNIVERSE (THEOSOPHICAL JEWELS)
- NEED OF A SPIRITUAL VOCABULARY
- NO NEED FOR EXPENSIVE FUNERALS
- NOUS AUGOEIDES OF THE NEOPLATONISTS
- NOUS MOVES MAN
- OEDIPUS AND SPHINX UNRIDDED
- OSIRIS AND TYPHON, HIGHER TRIAD AND LOWER TETRAD
- PLATO ON THE APPLE OF THE EYE
- PLATO'S TWO HORSES
- PLUTARCH COMFORTS APOLLONIUS
- PLUTARCH COMPARING PASSIONS AND DISEASES – TR. WHITE
- PLUTARCH ON BOASTED WISDOM, FORTITUDE, MAGNANIMITY, AND TEMPERANCE
- PLUTARCH ON EXERCISES PROPER FOR A SCHOLAR – TR. POOLE
- PLUTARCH ON PLATO'S PROCREATION OF THE SOUL – TR. PHILIPS
- POST-MORTEM WANDERINGS OF THE WICKED SOUL
- PREMATURE AND PHENOMENAL GROWTHS
- PSYCHOLOGY LACKS ENTIRELY KNOWLEDGE OF THE SOUL
- PSYCHOMETRY IS THE NATURAL BUT LATENT FACULTY IN US

**CONSTITUTION OF MAN SERIES**  
**SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS**

- REAL DREAMS ARE ACTIONS OF THE TRUE SELF
- RELEASING THE ASTRAL SOUL FROM ONE'S ASHES
- SEMI-EXOTERIC OVERVIEW OF THE INNER CONSTITUTION OF MAN
- SEPTENARY ANTHROPOS (THEOSOPHICAL JEWELS)
- SEPTENARY IS THE CONSTITUTION OF MAN
- SIXTH SENSE IS REASON OVER INSTINCT
- SPECULATIONS ABOUT REINCARNATION AND MATERIALIZED SPIRITS
- SPIRIT AND PERISPIRIT
- SUBBA ROW ON KAMA-LOKA
- SUBBA ROW ON THE SEVENFOLD PRINCIPLE IN MAN
- SUBBA ROW ON THOUGHT TRANSFERENCE
- SYNESIUS CONCERNING DREAMS
- THE AQUILINE NOSE IS ROYAL AND NOBLE
- THE DEVOTIONAL LOVE AND NOBLE ASPIRATIONS OF LOWER MANAS
- THE ESOTERIC PHYSIOLOGY OF MAN
- THE HEART IS THE ORGAN OF SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS
- THE IMAGE-MAKING POWER
- THE LIFE PRINCIPLE
- THE MASTER ATOM IS MAN'S SPIRITUAL SOUL
- THE MOON REGULATES THE PRANA OF NATURE AND MAN
- THE OCCULT INFLUENCE OF MAN'S ACTIVE WILL
- THE PERISPIRIT OF ALLAN KARDEC
- THE PROPHECY OF GENERAL YERMOLOV
- THE SUTRATMAN OF THE UPANISHADS
- THE TWO VOICES OF LORD TENNYSON
- THE VOICE OF THE WILL IS THE ATOMIC POINT
- THREE CUBITS OF THE EAR, FOUR OF THE STALK
- TIBETAN TEACHINGS ON AFTER-DEATH STATES
- TROUBLES FROM UNDISSOLVED EX-DOUBLES
- TWO SPIRITS UNITED IN THE ELYSIAN FIELDS
- WHEN INNER AND OUTER MAN ARE OFF-KILTER
- WHEN THE GREEN IS OVERCOME WITH AZURE
- WHEN THE SERPENT SLOUGHS OFF HIS SKIN

CONSTITUTION OF MAN SERIES  
SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS

- WHY SECLUDING WOMEN DURING THEIR MENSTRUAL PERIOD?
- WOE FOR THE LIVING DEAD



- MADAME BLAVATSKY ON KARMA AND REINCARNATION

— *in our Secret Doctrine's Second Proposition Series.*<sup>1</sup>



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<sup>1</sup> Students may consult with profit the metaphysical concepts, study notes, and learning aids set out in our Secret Doctrine's Second Proposition Series.