

*Insights to the
first chapter of Genesis*



Insights and key concepts

Genesis is a purely symbolic and kabbalistic volume.

It can neither be understood nor appreciated, if judged on the mistranslations and misinterpretations of its Christian remodellers.

The Elohistic portion of Genesis is charged with the great zoological blunder of placing the evolution of the birds before the reptiles.

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Man was the first living being to appear on earth, all the animal world coming after him.

By correlating colour, sound, form, number, and substance, the trained will of the Initiate rules and uses the denizens of the elemental world.

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The first wave of Humanity was fashioned not from earth, but from invisible Essence. So Man was born according to the image and likeness of his progenitors, resembling but not of the same Essence with Gods — a shadow of them, so to speak. And that is why in India Gods are said to have no shadows.

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The objective phenomenal world is ever impermanent because the matter of which the objects are composed continually returns to its primordial condition, where it remains invisible to mortal eyes.

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Suggested reading for students.

From our Secret Doctrine's Third Proposition Series.

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[Charles Johnston, the eminent Sanskritist and Orientalist (married to H.P. Blavatsky's niece, Vera Vladimirovna de Zhelihovsky) writes an article analysing the inner meaning of the first chapter of *Genesis*. Madame Blavatsky appends a number of footnotes to various statements by the writer.]¹

[The first thirty-four verses . . . the most ancient . . . The origin of this ancient tract . . . we can only guess at. . . . This tract splits off like a flake from the story of Adam and Eve . . . a few of the lines of cleavage may be shown.]

The esoteric teaching accounts for it. The first chapter of *Genesis*, or the Elōhistic version, does not treat of the [238] creation of man at all. It is what the Hindu *Purānas* call the *Primal* creation, while the second chapter is the *Secondary* creation or that of our globe of man.² Adam Kadmon is no *man*, but the *protologos*, the collective Sephirōthal Tree — the "Heavenly Man," the *vehicle* (or *Vahan*) used by En-Soph to manifest in the phenomenal world (see *Zohar*); and as the "male and female" Adam is the "Archetypal man," so the *animals* mentioned in the first chapter are the *sacred* animals, or the zodiacal signs,³ while "Light" refers to the angels so called.

The Elohistic portion of Genesis is charged with the great zoological blunder of placing the evolution of the birds before the reptiles.

[In the more ancient cosmogony, contained in the first thirty-four verses, the account of the formation of man is similar to, and parallel with, that of the animals. "The Elohim created man, male and female."]

"The great whale" (i, 21) is the *Makara* of the Hindu Zodiac — translated very queerly as "Capricorn," whereas it is not even a "Crocodile," as "Makara" is translated, but a nondescript aquatic monster, the "Leviathan" in Hebrew symbolism, and the vehicle of Vishnu. Whoever may be right in the recent polemical quarrel on *Genesis* between Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Huxley, it is not *Genesis* that is guilty of the error imputed.

¹ [Consult "Boris de Zirkoff on Charles Johnston," in our Theosophy and Theosophists Series. — ED. PHIL.]

² [Consult "Proposition 3 - The Seven Creations," in our Secret Doctrine's Third Proposition Series. — ED. PHIL.]

³ [Consult "The Zodiac is a veil thrown over Cosmogogenesis," in our Secret Doctrine's First Proposition Series. — ED. PHIL.]

The Elōhistic portion of it is charged with the great zoological blunder of placing the evolution of the birds before the reptiles,¹ and Mr. Gladstone is twitted with supporting it. But one has but to read the Hebrew text to find that verse 20 (ch. i) does speak of reptiles before the birds. And God said, “Let the waters bring forth abundantly the [swimming and creeping, not] moving creatures that hath life, and fowl that may fly,” etc. This ought to settle the quarrel and justify *Genesis*, for here we find it in a perfect zoological order — first the evolution of grass, then of larger vegetation, then of fish (or molluscs), reptiles, birds, etc., etc. *Genesis* is a purely symbolic and kabbalistic volume. It can neither be understood nor appreciated, if judged on the mis-translations and misinterpretations of its Christian remodellers.

[the second account . . . introduces the . . . creation of Adam from dust, and of Eve from Adam’s rib. Besides this, earlier in the [239] second account, we find that the formation of man as detailed in the first tract is entirely ignored by the words — “There was not a man to till the ground.”]

Because Adam is the symbol of the first terrestrial MAN or Humanity.²

Man was the first living being to appear on earth, all the animal world coming after him.

[Similarly, we have a second and distinct account of the formation of the animal kingdom; which, moreover, comes after the Seventh day.]

Genesis being an eastern work, it has to be read in its own language. It is in full agreement, when understood, with the universal cosmogony and evolution of life as given in the Secret Doctrine of the Archaic Ages. The last word of Science is far from being uttered yet. Esoteric philosophy teaches that man was the first living being to appear on earth, all the animal world coming *after* him. This will be proclaimed absurdly *unscientific*. But see in *Lucifer — The Latest Romance of Science*.³

[Form exists on an ideal plane, as a purely abstract conception; into this region, and the similar one of Number, pure mathematics have penetrated.]

It is through the power to see and use these “abstract” forms that the Adept is able to evolve before our eyes any object desired — a miracle to the Christian, a fraud for the materialist. Countless myriads of forms are in that ideal sphere, and matter exists in the astral light, or even in the atmosphere, that has passed through all forms possible for us to conceive of. All that the Adept has to do is to select the “abstract form” desired, then to hold it before him with a force and intensity unknown to the men of this hurried age, while he draws into its boundaries the matter required to make it

¹ See *Modern Science and Modern Thought*, by Mr. Samuel Laing. [London: Chapman & Hall, Ltd., 1885]

² [Quick overview, by ED. PHIL. There are four Adams, one for each of the preceding Root-Races:
Adam 1, Kadmon, or Heavenly Man (Second Logos).
Adam 2, of *Genesis*, the ethereal, Self-born Astral Sons of Yoga (First Root-Race, Self-Existent).
Adam 3 plus Eve, the sweat-born, asexual Sons of Passive Yoga (early Third Root-Race, Lemurian).
Adam 4, of *Genesis*, the womb-born men and women (Fourth Root-Race, Atlantean)]

³ Reference is made here to H.P. Blavatsky’s review of a work by Paul Topinard whose actual title has not been traced. It appeared in *Lucifer*, Vol. I, September 1887, pp. 72-74. See Vol. VIII, pp. 33-37, of the present Series. — *Boris de Zirkoff*.]

visible. How easy this to state, how difficult to believe; yet quite true, as many a Theosophist very well knows. The oftener this is done with any one [240] form, the easier it becomes. And so it is with nature: her ease of production grows like a habit.

By correlating colour, sound, form, number, and substance, the trained will of the Initiate rules and uses the denizens of the elemental world.

[. . . every geometrical form, as well as every number, has a definite, innate relation to some particular entity on the other planes, to some colour or tone, for instance;¹ and there is good reason to believe that this holds true of all the planes, that the entities on each of them are bound to the entities on all the others by certain spiritual relations which run like threads of gold through the different planes, binding them all together in one Divine Unity.]

Here is the key so much desired by enterprising — indeed all — students. It is by means of these correlations of colour, sound, form, number, and substance — that the trained will of the Initiate rules and uses the denizens of the elemental world. Many Theosophists have had slight conscious relations with elementals, but always without their will acting, and, upon trying to make elementals see, hear, or act for them, a total indifference on the part of the nature spirit is all they have got in return. These failures are due to the fact that the elemental cannot understand the thought of the person; it can only be reached when the exact scale of being to which it belongs is vibrated whether it be that of colour, form, sound, or whatever else.

The first wave of Humanity was fashioned not from earth, but from invisible Essence. So Man was born according to the image and likeness of his progenitors, resembling but not of the same Essence with Gods — a shadow of them, so to speak. And that is why in India Gods are said to have no shadows.

[The sacred theories of the East teach that man is the result of two converging curves of evolution, the one curve ascending through the vegetable and animal kingdoms and marking the evolution of the physical body, while the other curve descends from a super-physical spiritual race, called by some the “Progenitors” or “*Pitris*.” . . . This curve marks the downward evolution of man’s spiritual nature the development of the soul.]

There is an important point in the teachings of the Secret Doctrine which has been continually neglected. The above described evolution — the spiritual falling into the physical, or from mineral up to man, takes place only during the 1st of the two subsequent Rounds. At the beginning of the fourth “Round” in the middle of which begins the turning point upward — *i.e.*, from the physical up to the spiritual, man is said to appear before anything else on earth, the vegetation which covered the earth belonging to the 3rd Round, and being quite ethereal, transparent. The first man (Humanity) is Ethereal too, for he is but the [241] shadow (*Chhāyā*) “in the image” of his progenitors, because he is the “astral body” or image of his *Pitri* (father). This is why in India gods are said to have no shadows. After which and from this primeval

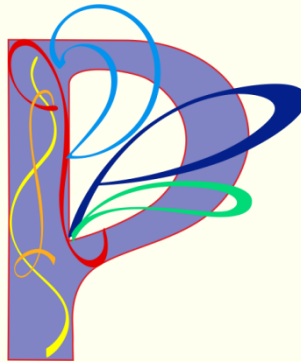
¹ [Consult Hieronymus von Mansfeld (*Comp. & Ed.*). *The True Colours of Man*, Gwernymynydd: Philaletheians UK, 2015; v. 17.15.2022; 92pp. This is our fifth Major Work. — ED. PHIL.]

race, evolution supplies man with a “coat of skin” from the terrestrial elements and kingdom — mineral, vegetable, and animal.

The objective phenomenal world is ever impermanent because the matter of which the objects are composed continually returns to its primordial condition, where it remains invisible to mortal eyes.

[The real elements are purer and more spiritual than their representatives on the physical plane.]

This is one reason for calling the objective phenomenal world an “illusion.” It is an illusion and ever impermanent because the matter of which the objects are composed continually returns to the primordial condition of matter, where it is invisible to mortal eyes. The earth, water, air, and fire that we think we see are respectively only the effects produced on our senses by the primordial matter held in either of the combinations that bring about the vibration properly belonging to those classes: the moment the combination is entirely broken, the phenomena cease and we see the objects no more.



Suggested reading for students.¹



From our Secret Doctrine's Third Proposition Series.

- ADVENTURES AND PEREGRINATIONS OF THE METAPHYSICAL ATOM
- ARDHANARISHVARA, SYMBOL OF THE HERMAPHRODITE THIRD RACE.JPG
- BLAVATSKY ON THE FORCE OF THE MINERAL MONAS
- BLAVATSKY ON THE HOLY UNION OF HIGH OCCULTISTS
- COLOURS OF OUR SEVEN PLANETS AND ROOT-RACES.JPG
- CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT OF THE GREAT SACRIFICE
- DIAGRAM 1 - ROOT-RACES IN THE FOURTH ROUND.PNG
- DIAGRAM 2 - THE FORCE OF THE MINERAL MONAS.PDF
- EVOLUTION OF THE HUMAN LIFE-WAVE ON EARTH
- GREAT GENIUS AND COUNTERFEITS
- HIGHER CONSCIENCE IS HEROIC; LOWER CONSCIENCE, COWARDLY
- LUCIFER IS CHRISTOS, INNER LIGHT
- MENTALITY AND FREEDOM BY WILLIAM ARMSTRONG FAIRBURN (1917)
- NATURE UNAIDED FAILS
- PAST AND FUTURE ARE HERE AND NOW
- PRESENTATION ON MARRIAGES MADE IN HEAVEN.PPT
- PROPOSITION 3 - BORN FROM THE PORES OF THE SKIN
- PROPOSITION 3 - COLOURS OF THE SEVEN ROOT-RACES
- PROPOSITION 3 - CREATION IN TEN OCCULT APHORISMS
- PROPOSITION 3 - CYCLE OF NECESSITY
- PROPOSITION 3 - DIAGRAM.JPG
- PROPOSITION 3 - DIAGRAM NOTES
- PROPOSITION 3 - MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN
- PROPOSITION 3 - MIND IS THE MAN

¹ Students should be fully conversant with the metaphysical concepts and learning aids set out in our Secret Doctrine's Propositions Series 1 and 2. — ED. PHIL.

**SECRET DOCTRINE'S THIRD PROPOSITION SERIES
SUGGESTED READING FOR STUDENTS**

- PROPOSITION 3 - PROMETHEUS, INDIAN TITAN AND HIEROPHANT
- PROPOSITION 3 - RISE AND DEMISE OF ATLANTIS
- PROPOSITION 3 - SEVEN WARS IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH
- PROPOSITION 3 - SONS OF THE FIRE-MIST
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE FIRST FOUR ROOT-RACES
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE FIRST FOUR ROOT-RACES (APPENDICES)
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE LAST THREE ROOT-RACES
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE LAST THREE ROOT-RACES (APPENDIX)
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE NOUS OF THE GREEKS
- PROPOSITION 3 - THE SEVEN CREATIONS
- PYGMALION-GALATEA IS AN ALLEGORY OF EARLY MAN'S SEMI-DIVINE SOUL
- THE CROSS AND THE PYTHAGOREAN DECAD
- THE DOG SYMBOLISES OUR SPIRITUAL CONSCIENCE
- THE FOUR ADAMS OF THE KABBALAH
- THE FUTURE OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT AND ITS PEOPLES
- THE VISIBLE SUN IN OUR SOLAR SYSTEM IS A BALL OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCES, GLOWING BUT NOT BURNING
- THERE IS NOTHING GREATER THAN THE DIVINING STRAWS AND THE TORTOISE
- VITALITY AND DISSOLUTION IN THE GRAND CYCLES OF EXISTENCE



- THE REAL MEANING OF THE FIRST LINE OF GENESIS

— *in our Blavatsky Speaks Series.*

