

THE DESIRE NATURE IN HUMANITY

John Pater

'The primary reason for reincarnation is 'Cosmic Will', which impresses itself upon the Ego, appearing in an individual as a desire for manifestation. It is one of the greatest desires operating within humanity and expresses itself in its various manifestations in unconscious will impulses'. This is also known as trishna- *the thirst for existence* (there does not appear to be a similar word in western esotericism). This desire element was structured by the spiritual world so that humanity could advance in its evolution in a progressive manner, although at times this does not appear to be achieved in a smooth fashion.

Individuals, today, carry within themselves a whole host of largely unconscious and, to a lesser extent, conscious sympathies and antipathies as their desire nature. Within each individual lie the unmanifested desires to commit the greatest good and the greatest evil. Desires mould individuals in their behaviour here on earth. Individuals have become what they are through this desire element operating within them. In the past this desire nature in humanity worked through the deep layers of unconsciousness and progressed its evolution. This desire element was held in balance by spiritual beings. As individuals became more self-conscious religions, traditions and external laws regulated the desire element, within each individual. Through human messengers and teachers the spiritual world guided the religious life and traditions. In 1875 and 1902 two great spiritual teachers, Helena Blavatsky and Rudolf Steiner, made public the spiritual mysteries to the West by presenting appropriate concepts which could satisfy the thinking of individuals in the West. Their impulses were a counter to the surge of materialism, which was beginning to seduce humanity into desiring only the outer world.

Today, as religions, traditions and external laws are losing their beneficial control over society, a new element has been added to humanity's behaviour. This can be called freedom. Individuals, in certain aspects of their behaviour, can now choose to consciously go against their externally given desires. In fact individuals are now able to remould their given desires to the point where they can become an expression of noble thinking and higher feelings in acts of freedom. But, as we progress into the future new externally given desires will enter into humanity's sphere and will become destructive with time unless they are consciously taken up.

One area where sympathies have become unbalanced is in the area of sexuality. The sexual force is an extremely strong beneficial force of sympathy that assists humanity to continue its own kind by drawing a man and a woman together by its influence. The sexual force is also one of the highest spiritual forces. Karma beneficially uses this force so that two people to come together in a soul manner that would not possible had this force not been there. In the Atlantean civilisation the sexual act took place instinctively between a couple as if they were experiencing a beautiful dream. In later times, when the act became conscious, its expression was regulated by external religions, laws and traditions which is no longer the case today. In the west sexually explicit material is now freely available and, just recently, it is available by means of the Internet where there is very little chance of detection and hence no outer repercussions. Unbridled sexuality is becoming more prominent and it seems that the only regulating influence will be the individual in his own freedom in deciding how he or she behaves with respect to it. It seems as though western civilisation is, to some extent, preoccupied by these sexual forces as is illustrated by its frequent prominence on television, movies, magazines and in general conversation. In a way, it can be said that many individuals are now being driven by sexual forces with scant regard for other individuals and are, partially diverted from the realities around them. This cannot possibly be healthy for civilisation. Something that was once pure, regulated and is of the highest spirituality has now taken on a distorted character in some areas.

A further but more recent and sinister area of unbridled sympathy or desire, which has become prominent within western society, is addiction through the use of drugs such as heroin. Individuals, once they become addicted, lose themselves in the pursuit of this habit, as the force of desire is so strong and possessive that previous codes of behaviour are forsaken in pursuit of the fulfilment of this desire. It can also be said that many drug addicts had already a diminished desire for life before they started taking drugs and the drug addiction is but a substitution for a healthy desire for life.

The desire to be acknowledged by others, can be said to be one of egoism. Taken too far it becomes destructive but applied at the right time and place it can actually assist humanity in its evolution. A recent form of constructive group egoism is the desire for recognition and acknowledgment of the female gender in the written and spoken word (this issue has bewildered many poor males who didn't realise what hit them in their contented state of the status quo). This illustrates a recent healthy advance in humanity's development towards individualisation through new desire elements entering into the conscious sphere of humanity. Whereas in the past traditions were the sole guiding factor in male-female relationships, today the desire to be acknowledged as an individual is becoming dominant and whilst this is progressive in many respects, many marriages, in the West, are coming to grief because of this. Individuals now desire to work out their own individual inner impulses rather than out of traditions as was in the past. As such, it is now common that behaviour that puts the other partner into an inferior position is becoming less tolerated in the West. Hence, in the expression of these new desires there can be negative repercussions if individuals are not able to encompass these new impulses in a balanced manner.

Whilst there are the negative desire qualities coming into expression, we must be cognisant of the positive desires which have entered and are entering into the sphere of humanity. We can look back in time to the great Buddha where for the first time the teaching of compassion was given to humanity, at the time the old clairvoyance, which was in the possession of general humanity, was rapidly fading. Before this time all desires that resembled compassion for one's fellow human being were solely related to blood relationships and Law. In the seventeenth century a feeling, for the first time, arose that slavery was wrong. In the twentieth century capital punishment started to be progressively phased out in a large number of countries. Today, we can sense in humanity a general desire for the protection of the earth from wanton destruction by pollution other environmentally unsound practices.

How these new desire elements, which are entering into humanity, will manifest, now depends upon how we work together with others in consciously creating appropriate social forms, which reflect the spirituality in humanity and upon our own efforts as individuals. The creation of these new social forms will not be easy as much effort will be required. If we ignore these new desire elements and let them run their natural course then they will appear as negative qualities where individuals will become swamped by them and will be relentlessly driven by them in the future. If we embrace and master them with consciousness, with spiritual knowledge and in freedom, then they will assist in humanity's progressive evolution. So what can be the future purpose and origin of this changing desire element in humanity especially when it can lead to negative outward symptoms such as chronic depression and stress which, as a result of unfulfilled desires, are now becoming the norm?

To answer this we need to look at the third stage of the earth's physical development, known as the **Lemurian** period and only here can we, for the first time, speak of the individuality in a human being. At this time individuals began their emergence from the group soul of humanity by receiving their 'divine spark' or Ego. This period can be approximated to be from the time when the earth was molten until the time when mammals first appeared. Humanity's actions were largely instinctive and the causes for these were instilled into individuals by higher spiritual beings, ie externally given desires dictated individual behaviour. An individual's inner consciousness existed in a blissful state within the "bosom of the gods" or the spiritual world as, at the same time, external deeds were performed on the physical plane. This condition is known as the Paradise of the Christians, Muslims and Jews or the Golden Age

of the Hindus. Although an individual was conscious, there was no self-consciousness. An individual felt itself to be part of the whole divine world. Human physical bodies, which bore very little resemblance to the present physical body, were extremely rarefied. Humanity lived, in the sphere of the clouds, ie. Paradise was above the solid earth. A human physical body at that time could be said to be a 'force' body or 'phantom' body in which physical laws operated. This body was invisible to present day sight. Physical death, if one could call it such, was experienced like the putting on of a new set of clothes. The important point to note is that in this state an individual's inner life was filled with the contents of the divine world and all its actions were determined from without, by beings external to itself. Yet this was a state of blissful contentment; a state of no conscious suffering, pain or death. However, **individuals had no freedom** or awareness of themselves as individuals. When individuals fulfilled any desires (all desires were externally implanted by higher spiritual beings) they experienced a state of blissfulness.

Spirits in opposition to our immediate creators (Lucifer & Co.: - the serpent and the apple) changed the direction of humanity's evolution by influencing the astral body. This influence is symbolised by the Jewish, Christian, Muslim temptation and the expulsion from paradise or the descent into ignorance of the Hindus. Humanity now descended further into matter, than was intended by our immediate creators, by attracting the ashy mineral substances into the then 'perfect physical body'. Thereby humanity gradually lost its direct contact with the spiritual world such that today it is commonplace to even deny its existence. As a result of this premature incarnation into matter, reincarnation, death, evil and suffering appeared but at the same time individuals now had the possibility of knowing good from evil **and the possibility of individual freedom**. Had his influence not entered into humanity's sphere then individuals would have evolved but would not have had the possibility of acting out of their own freedom. All human actions would have remained the result of impulses and desires implanted by higher spiritual beings. **The development of true freedom is one of the reasons for our creation.**

Humanity's evolution does not take place in a smooth manner and this can be observed in the culmination of the rise of a civilisation and then its decline and destruction. The seeds of civilisations are carried over into the next civilisation. At times, there is a need to offset new impulses with other moderating impulses. In the above example, one of the effects of the Luciferic impulses entering into the astral bodies of individual human beings was that it allowed for the possibility of freedom. It also allowed for the possibility of evil (goodness without the possibility of evil is not freedom). In fact this impulse would have eventually turned humans into highly intellectual but brutal animals which would have caused humanity to cease its progressive evolution. A cosmic being, known as Visva Karman in Hindu philosophy or the Christ in western esoteric knowledge, descended into a physical body in the year 30 AD in order to counteract some of the retrogressive aspects of the Luciferic impulse by working with and enhancing the ego nature of humanity and without taking away the gift of the possibility of freedom. So what lies ahead and what is the purpose of progressively bearing and transforming new sympathies and antipathies?

Our age can be called the Post Atlantean epoch, which can be divided into sub epochs. Each sub epoch is 2,160 years in duration and is under the influence of a particular sign of the Zodiac. Our present 5th sub post-Atlantean epoch commenced in 1413 under the influence of the sign of Pisces. This present age can be said to be the first period in history where individuals can truly have the possibility of acting out their own freedom without a controlling influence from the spiritual world. This can be observed in western cultures where individuals are now required to make their own decisions in many aspects of their lives as previous traditions, laws and religious views are now no longer able to offer sufficient guidance. As a consequence, whilst outer material circumstances have never been better, individuals, in their inner lives, are experiencing tremendous challenges and change. A negative symptom of this is that employment analysts predict that social workers and counsellors are the growth industries of the future. There seems to be recognition that more and more individuals will be afflicted by inner turmoil that will not be resolved by the individuals themselves. This view is well justified as one sees the increase of inner emptiness, stress, depression, marriage and relationship breakdown, violence and dehumanisation within the workplace.

Up until recently humanity inwardly grew without having to contribute consciously to its own growth. Karma solved many problems. However this will be not the case for the future. The spiritual world has 'decreed' that individuals now have the tools to develop spiritually out of their own capacities of free will. New sympathies and antipathies will progressively make their appearance in humanity. If taken up in a conscious manner and worked upon in a balanced manner then spiritual **progress** will be made. But if ignored, then individuals will sink into inner disharmony, sensuality and materialism and much hardship will arise through these new unconscious desires. Rudolf Steiner gives the example of how individuals will progressively gain the ability for perceiving their karma if they are prepared. On the other hand, for those who are unprepared this new force of perception for one's karma will manifest as nervous disorders in that it will inwardly trouble unprepared individuals.

In the future there will be two pathways available to individuals; firstly there will be the pathway of conscious self-development, where the new sympathies and antipathies will be taken up in a balanced manner and **transformed into new faculties of spiritual perception**. In the sixth post Atlantean period, in about 3,580 AD, the community of Philadelphia will arise where spiritual brotherly love will prevail (communism was a premature and inappropriate attempt at this). Secondly, there will be those who have succumbed to the new sympathies and antipathies and these individuals will be driven by the grossest egotism. This will eventually lead to the destruction of civilisation during the seventh post Atlantean sub epoch, which starts in the year 5750 AD. In the same manner that Atlantis was destroyed by water and Lemuria was destroyed by fire our present Post-Atlantean epoch will be destroyed by evil. This event is known as '**The War Of All Against All**'. This will not be a war in today's sense but will be literally a **war of all against all** where egotism will have grown so destructive that each individual who has succumbed to it will be relentlessly driven against each other. An idea of this can be gained by looking at an example where in certain parts of America a white person will see a black person (or vice versa) passing him by and an immense hatred arises to the point that he has to restrain himself from violence.

As with the destruction of the civilisations of Lemuria and Atlantis, where a small group of individuals were chosen to carry on the next civilisations (Manu or Noah chose and prepared selected individuals to inaugurate the Ancient Indian civilisation through the seven Rishis), so will a small group of individuals consciously raise themselves above the destructive sympathies and antipathies of 'War of All Against All' and carry forward human evolution into the sixth major epoch but under entirely different conditions from those which exist today.

The following chart is a brief of earth evolution within the 4th round and 4th globe-

Major Physical Earth Epochs	Post Atlantean sub Epochs	Major Characteristics of the Post Atlantean Epoch
Polarian		
Hyperborean		
Lemurian (<i>the fall, geological records commence</i>)	Ancient Indian ☉	-The beginning of religion - <i>The world is Maya</i> ~7200 BC
Atlantean (<i>the flood</i>)	Ancient Persian II	-Working with the Earth ~5070 BC
	Egypto-Chaldean ☿	-Working with the laws of space (<i>sentient soul</i>) ~2907 BC
	Greco-Roman ♀	-Man becomes a personality, <i>logical deduction</i> ~747 BC
	†	(<i>intellectual soul</i>)
Post Atlantean	Present ⋈	-Individual freedom (<i>consciousness soul</i>)~1414 AD
Sixth Epoch (<i>1st death</i>)	Sixth ☿	-Common individual wisdom and brotherhood. <i>Christianity reaches fulfilment</i> . Manas ~3580 AD
Seventh Epoch (<i>2nd death</i>)	Seventh ♃	-War of all against all. ~5750 AD

Individuals who are expecting an external spiritual Utopia in the near future will be sadly disappointed. On the other hand those who feel the hopelessness of the situation and see only destruction in the future need not despair as these negative forces are being used to spiritually raise and strengthen humanity for its rightful place within the spiritual world order.

From the Greatest Evil will arise the Greatest Good.