



Theosophical Society Point Loma - Blavatskyhouse

Literature, supporting the study (on Sunday, December **17**, 2023)
of the lecture of Barend Voorham (on Sunday, December **10**, 2023)

Series: **Karma, your destiny!**

Lecture: **Who and what defines your destiny?**

Helena P. Blavatsky on Karma

The Secret Doctrine, Vol. I, pp. 639 and 643-644

[639] Those who believe in *Karma* have to believe in *destiny*, which, from birth to death, every man is weaving thread by thread around himself, as a spider does his cobweb; and this destiny is guided either by the heavenly voice of the invisible *prototype* outside of us, or by our more intimate *astral*, or inner man, who is but too often the evil genius of the embodied entity called man. Both these lead on the outward man, but one of them must prevail; and from the very beginning of the invisible affray the stern and implacable *law of compensation* steps in and takes its course, faithfully following the fluctuations. When the last strand is woven, and man is seemingly enwrapped in the net-work of his own doing, then he finds himself completely under the empire of this *self-made* destiny. It then either fixes him like the inert shell against the immovable rock, or carries him away like a feather in a whirlwind raised by his own actions, and this is — KARMA.

(...)

[643] An Occultist or a philosopher will not speak of the goodness or cruelty of Providence; but, identifying it with Karma-Nemesis, he will teach that nevertheless it guards the good and watches over them in this, as in future lives; and that it punishes the evil-doer — aye, even to his seventh rebirth. So long, in short, as the effect of his having thrown into perturbation even the smallest atom in the Infinite World of harmony, has not been finally readjusted. For the only decree of Karma – an eternal and immutable decree – is absolute Harmony in the world of matter as it is in the world of Spirit. It is not, therefore, Karma that rewards or punishes, but it is we, who reward or punish ourselves according to whether we work with, through and along with nature, abiding by the laws on which that Harmony depends, or — break them. (...)

But verily there is not an accident in our lives, [644] not a misshapen day, or a misfortune, that could not be traced back to our own doings in this or in another life. If one breaks the laws of Harmony, or, as a theosophical writer expresses it, “the laws of life,” one must be prepared to fall into the chaos one has oneself produced. For, according to the same writer, “the only conclusion

one can come to is that these laws of life are their own avengers; and consequently that every avenging Angel is only a typified representation of their re-action.”

Gottfried de Purucker on Webs of Destiny

The Esoteric Tradition, Vol. I, pp. 472-473

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<https://blavatskyhouse.org/literature/gottfried-de-purucker/the-esoteric-tradition-vol-1-2/>

(...) All Nature may be viewed as a vast and incomprehensibly great Cosmic Web, into which everything that is is woven, because forming a component part of the Cosmic Whole; and it is from this fundamental conception or conceptual philosophical idea that the Esoteric Philosophy, in its own forms of graphic or descriptive expression, speaks of the relations of all beings to each other and to the environing Cosmic Whole as of the nature of a Web — an inextricably interwoven, interlocked, interlinked, and interpermeant fabric of lives.

Thus it is that Man, as such an individual minor organism, is throughout eternity interwoven and interlocked with the environing cosmic strands of the great Web of Life; and he therefore repeats perforce, in all his ideations or feelings and their consequent results, the Cosmic Pattern or Law and Substance which form the Universe in which he lives and moves and has his being. Every thought he has, every emotion he experiences, and every action consequent upon the impulses arising from these thoughts and emotions, is thus to be seen as forming a most intricate and fascinating Web of Destiny which man is constantly weaving around himself, and which, in very truth, is from one point of view *himself*.

(...) the teaching of the Esoteric Philosophy, the Esoteric Tradition, is that man is a *willing* agent throughout his beginningless and endless course of destiny — in other words, he constantly exercise his modicum of Free Will. His will is free precisely in proportion with the degree which he has attained in rising towards self-conscious reunion with the spiritual divinity which is his own individual inmost essence, i.e. his Monad, the Self of his many human selves manifesting as reincarnations or reimpodiments in the spheres through which he passes.

The general doctrine of the weaving of such Webs of Destiny as man is continuously involving himself in by means of the exercise of his own free will, is what is called in the Esoteric Philosophy by the Sanskrit term *Karman* — the doctrine that everything, thought or emotion or inner impulse, is followed by ineluctable consequences or results or effects, which thus man involves himself in, and by so doing weaves the strands of the web of destiny in which at any moment he finds himself.

Gottfried de Purucker on ‘What you sow, you will reap’

Questions We All Ask, Series II, pp. 318-320

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(...) This is a faithful exposition of what we Theosophists call our doctrine of Karman, of Consequences, that ye sow what ye reap, that ye reap what ye sow. Enjoy ye happiness and peace and riches in this life? Ye have sown them by corresponding action in some past life or

lives. Suffer ye now? Are ye broken-hearted, weary, heavy-laden? You have done it yourself, my Brother. Nature is not mocked. Her fundamental essence is consciousness and her fundamental law is reaction — consequences. What you put into the ground of your character, you will reap; what you sow into yourself by thought and will and feeling, makes your character. Thus you build yourself through the ages; and if you do evil to some other, that evil will come back to you. You know the old saying: “Curses come home to roost.” They do, indeed.

Here is the scientific basis for ethics. Ethics are not mere conventions. There are indeed conventional ethics; but the essence of ethics, the fundamental principle that right is right and wrong is wrong, that dishonor is wrong and that honor is right, that just dealing is right and that unjust dealing is wrong — these fundamental things which I call ethics, are based on Nature's fundamental law.

Sow beauty into your character by your thoughts and acts, and you will become beautiful. Sow love in your character by your aspirations and thoughts and acts, and love will build your character to be lovely, and you will meet the guerdon of love, which is love. Be lovely and you will be loved; be hateful, and the very fact of your thinking and feeling hate, distorts your character, twists it. The torsion is tremendous, because your will and feeling are with it, and you will return with a twisted and distorted character, which may even manifest in a twisted and distorted body, the natural reaction on the physical body of the indwelling energy of your character.

Sow love, and reap it; sow hate, and reap it. Sow good-will, deeds of kindness and brotherhood — and you will receive good-will, and deeds of kindness and brotherhood. Be peaceful, and you shall receive peace; be kindly, and kindness will be your guerdon. Forgive, and forgiveness will be yours. Strive, and you will gain; aspire, and what you aspire to you shall reap; for within you dwells an indomitable will springing from the very heart of the Universe; and to a man who uses his will aright and who uses his will with a will, naught can oppose his progress. If he fails, it is because his will lacks practice; and if he uses that will for evil purposes, if he abuses it, Nature will react upon him exactly according to what he did and gave.

Use your divine part, the divine part of yourself, that spiritual will — use it with a will on the side of right, of love, of peace, of brotherhood, of happiness to others. Nature's reaction upon you will bring back to you all that you have sown. Ethics are man's way of expressing his consciousness of the harmony and symmetry and beauty inherent in the Universe.

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