

The Aquarian Theosophist

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Rig-Veda On Gambling

The following excellent remarks are probably the oldest in the world upon the vice of gambling. They are found in Rig Veda, X 34. It is admitted that these Vedic hymns are anterior to the time of Homer and Hesiod.

The Hindus claim an antiquity for them which carries us back thousands upon thousands of years prior to the oldest date allowed by European Orientalists. Those who have a theosophical acquaintance with the Vedas will incline to the estimate of the Hindus, inasmuch as European opinion is constantly altering on the subject, and besides has not had quite a century of experience in which to form itself. Muir says these hymns were composed certainly 1,000 years before our era, but that is too ridiculously low an estimate and will have ere long to be revised upon further proofs and discoveries. The present hymn is given as showing what was then thought of gambling.

"THE tumbling airborne products¹ of the great Vibhidaka tree delight me as they continue to roll upon the diceboard. The exciting dice seem to me like a draught of the soma-plant growing on Mount Miyavat. My wife never quarrelled with me nor despised me; she was kind to me and to my friends. But I for the sake of the partial dice have spurned my devoted spouse. My mother-in-law detests me, my wife rejects me. In my need I find no comforter.

"I cannot discover what is the enjoyment of the gambler any more than I can perceive what is the happiness of a worn-out hack horse. Others pay court to the wife of the man whose wealth is coveted by the impetuous dice. His father, mother, brothers cry out: "We know nothing of him; take him away bound!"

"When I resolve not to be tormented by them because I am abandoned by my friends who withdraw from me, yet as soon as the brown dice, when they are thrown, make a rattling sound I hasten to their rendezvous like a woman to her paramour. The gamester comes to the assembly glowing in body, asking himself "Shall I win?"

"The dice inflame his desire by making over his winnings to his opponent. Hooking, piercing, deceitful, vexatious, delighting to torment, the dice dispense transient gifts and again ruin the winner; they appear to the gambler covered with honey. Their troop of fifty-three disports itself, itself disposing men's destinies like the God Savatri whose ordinances never fail. They bow not before the wrath of the fiercest. The king himself makes obeisance to them. They roll downward, they bound upward. Having no hands they overcome him who has. These celestial coals when thrown on the diceboard scorch the heart though cold themselves.

[Cont'd on p2.../](#)

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¹ The seeds of the tree used for dice.

“The destitute wife of the gamester is distressed, and so too is the mother of a son who goes she knows not whither. In debt and seeking after money the gambler approaches with trepidation the houses of other people at night. It vexes the gamester to see his own wife and then to observe the wives and happy homes of others.

“In the morning he yokes the brown horses – the dice; by the time when the fire goes out he has sunk into a degraded wretch. He who is the general of your board, the first king of your troop, to him I stretch forth my ten fingers to the east in reverence. I do not reject wealth, but I declare that which is right when I say:

“Never play with dice; practice husbandry; rejoice in thy prosperity, esteeming it sufficient. Be satisfied with thy cattle and thy wife, the god advises.

“O dice, be friendly to us and no more bewitch us powerfully with your influence. Let your wrath and hostility abate: let others than we be subject to the fetters of the brown ones, the dice.””

Original article by W.Q.Judge, Path, July 1893

Living a Simple Life

Patience and fortitude are necessary to stand the pressure

by a correspondent in Austria

I have studied Theosophy since three years but never visited the ULT² in Vienna. Therefore, my wife and I decided to join a meeting of the lodge. The meeting took place on May 25, 2010 at 3 o'clock p. m. We went by the underground to the office of the ULT. At one of the most important shopping malls we had to leave the underground station. It was a wonderful day. The sun blazed down of a cloudless sky. A lot of people spent the afternoon there, wandering aimlessly, gazing into the shop windows or were sitting in front of the cafés.

We had to go a short distance straight on and then turned left into a small side street. It was a quiet street with high old buildings on

both sides. When we reached the address of the ULT we had to ring as the door was closed. The house was a massive grey block of masonry. After a short time the door was opened. An old woman welcomed us friendly. When she led the way I noticed she was limping. Entering the meeting room we seemed to be in another world. It was a dark small room. In the middle of it there was a wooden table with six chairs. The light from a lamp above the table swarmed in dusty bars into the room. There was a lot of old furniture, a chest of drawers with a fax machine on it stood in a corner. An old gentleman who was sitting at the table was astonished to see us.

After the introductions we took place and explained that we wished to join the meeting. But there only were the old lady, the old gentleman, my wife and I. We felt depressed by this atmosphere and the conversation was a bit troublesome. After a while the old people placed confidence in us and told us that there only were a few members who were about eighty years old. There were no computer and internet as there was no money to buy such equipment and they were too old to operate it. The old lady wrote by hand the monthly program.

Further they had problems with the owners of the house. They wanted to get rid of them. Then they could redecorate the apartment and get a higher rent. Now there was a little break and the old woman served tea and cookies.

The old woman was the head of the lodge. Her father had translated theosophical books from English into German in the thirties and founded the ULT Vienna. During World War II the lodge had been closed by the Nazis. After the war her father had reopened the lodge. She had always worked in the lodge and after her father's death she became the head of it.

As I glanced at my watch I was astonished as it already was 6 o'clock p. m. Now we had to leave. We said goodbye and promised to keep in touch.

The old lady led the way to the exit. When we left the house the sun was low on the horizon and reaching the main street there was a lot of traffic - rush hours. My wife and I could not believe that there were people who were living such a simple life. We both glanced at each other and decided to visit soon our new friends again.

² We believe the writer refers to the TS Adyar Lodge. Eds.

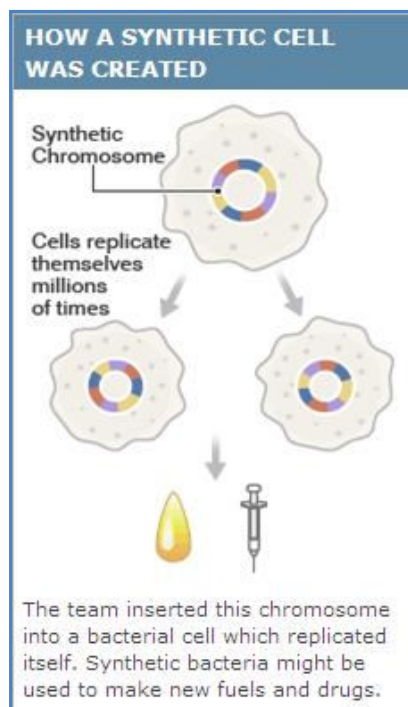
The things were going hard with these old people. But they tried to push harder along the way. Patience and fortitude are necessary to stand pressure.

These old people are an example for living a simple life in accordance with Truth and Love. Such a life is more difficult today as sensual pleasures and their continuous enjoyment are so important for our affluence society.

In this connection we should remember the simple life of Gandhiji. His aim was to identify himself with the poorest and the lowliest and thus realize Brotherhood. He said

“Non-possession is allied to non-stealing. A thing not originally stolen must nevertheless be classified stolen property if one possesses it without needing it...”

We should recall these words in our daily life!



Dr Venter likened the advance to making new software for the cell.

The new bacteria replicated over a billion times, producing copies that contained and were controlled by the constructed, synthetic DNA.

'Artificial life' breakthrough

Thursday, 20 May 2010, News Q&A Ethics Profile
By Victoria Gill Science reporter, BBC News

The synthetic cell looks identical to the 'wild type' Scientists in the US have succeeded in developing the first living cell to be controlled entirely by synthetic DNA. The researchers constructed a bacterium's "genetic software" and transplanted it into a host cell.



The resulting microbe then looked and behaved like the species "dictated" by the synthetic DNA.

The advance, published in Science, has been hailed as a scientific landmark, but critics say there are dangers posed by synthetic organisms.

The team was led by Dr Craig Venter of the J Craig Venter Institute (JCVI) in Maryland and California.

'New industrial revolution'

Dr Venter and his colleagues hope eventually to design and build new bacteria that will perform useful functions.

"I think they're going to potentially create a new industrial revolution," he said.

"If we can really get cells to do the production that we want, they could help wear us off oil and reverse some of the damage to the environment by capturing carbon dioxide."

Dr Venter and his colleagues are already collaborating with pharmaceutical and fuel companies to design and develop chromosomes for bacteria that would produce useful fuels and new vaccines.

But critics say that the potential benefits of synthetic organisms have been overstated.

Dr Helen Wallace from Genewatch UK, an organisation that monitors developments in genetic technologies, told BBC News that synthetic bacteria could be dangerous.

"If you release new organisms into the environment, you can do more harm than good," she said.

"By releasing them into areas of pollution, (with the aim of cleaning it up), you're actually releasing a new kind of pollution.

"We don't know how these organisms will behave in the environment."

Dr Wallace accused Dr Venter of playing down the potential drawbacks.

"He isn't God," she said, "he's actually being very human; trying to get money invested in his technology and avoid regulation that would restrict its use."

Ethical discussions

Dr Gos Micklem, a geneticist from the University of Cambridge, said that the advance was "undoubtedly a landmark" study.

But, he said, "there is already a wealth of simple, cheap, powerful and mature techniques for genetically engineering a range of organisms. Therefore, for the time being, this approach is unlikely to supplant existing methods for genetic engineering".

The ethical discussions surrounding the creation of synthetic or artificial life are set to continue.

Professor Julian Savulescu, from the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics at the University of Oxford, said the potential of this science was "in the far future, but real and significant".

"But the risks are also unparalleled," he continued. "We need new standards of safety evaluation for this kind of radical research and protections from military or terrorist misuse and abuse.

"These could be used in the future to make the most powerful bioweapons imaginable. The challenge is to eat the fruit without the worm."

“ The risks are unparalleled, we need safety evaluation for this kind of radical research and protections from military or terrorist misuse. ”

Julian Savulescu
Oxford University ethics professor



SOCIAL NETWORKING AND INTERNATIONAL THEOSOPHY CONFERENCES

by Truth Collins

In case anyone has not yet noticed, social networking is profoundly changing the culture and possibly the way we view reality. ITC (International Theosophy Conferences, Inc.) now has a non-profit Facebook page. To access, go to www.facebook.com/itcinc There you will find we have over a hundred members and on the way to two hundred. Some may feel that Theosophy does not belong in "social networking" or that Theosophy should not even be on the Internet. But if Theosophy is to take its place in the world then we need to be involved where people live. Links to the teachings must be kept accessible in the social sphere of the Internet. Emphasis is undeniably shifting from print material to the digital realm. Therefore it makes practical sense to extend the awareness of Theosophy to the digital realm. If we do so then we will help keep the awareness of Theosophy available to those seeking it out.

YAHOO groups are still active and contain the largest online repository of written exchanges among theosophists to date.

How did all this develop?

A little history may help.

Early Internet based social networking technology mainly consisting of sharing written text, whether that text was shared in an online forum or by way of some sort of instant messaging system. Online groups, e.g., Yahoo Groups, used to be mainly utilized as forum spaces for posting strings of written messages.

Just to provide more information from this world, here are some things which "caught our eye."

- Interactive websites: Websites that allow visitors to contribute and interact with each other are becoming more popular.
- Mobile Internet access: People are increasingly using their "smart phone" to connect to social network Internet sites.

- Popularity. Statistics now show that the majority of people with Internet access have social networking profiles.
- Employment. Social networking skills are increasingly becoming a requirement in the workplace.
- Augmented reality. Social information is affecting our perception of the "real world." For example, GPS enabled, location aware, smart phones are increasingly being used by people to access alternative layers of information about the real world, whether of pictures of a location, ratings of a restaurant, or live streaming content, etc.

We now live in a social networking world. Facebook has over 400,000,000 registered users. There are at least 100 social networking sites giving focus to Asia, Europe, and all parts of the world. Our task is to keep the Theosophy alive while continuing to refer to the original source.

<http://www.theosconf.org/MAY%20ISSUE%20PDF/index.html>

The Necessity to Form a United Consciousness

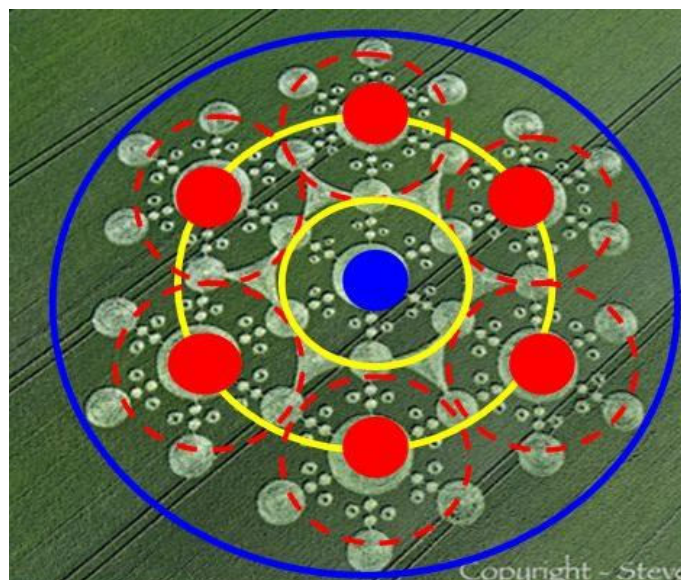
This pictogram is an Extraterrestrial Civilizations (ECT) instruction about necessity to form immediately a united consciousness of our civilization.



This crop circle shows a huge number of individual cells and cells of the united consciousness. They form a various mosaic. This

variety shows intense ETC expectation of the united consciousness of our civilization formation.

Everywhere in the picture is also illustrated the principle of the united consciousness formation – by combining two cells of individual consciousness is formed one united consciousness cell with an expanded brain area.



So, first of all a brain area of an individual cell is represented in the center – **a blue circle**, and external border of a cell – **a blue contour line**. **Yellow circles** show expansion of brain area at the Transition of people of Earth from individual consciousness to united consciousness of all mankind.

Red circles show brain areas of united cells. Circles shown by dotted lines represent cell borders. It should be noted that the central blue circle and red circles have equal diameter. Therefore, in the center also the united cell is shown. Brain area is marked by a blue circle, and border – by yellow circle.

There are 7 such circles. The number seven means the seventh planet in the solar system - the Earth. Hence, this story is about people of Earth.

[... continued on link below](#)

(From an article "Decoding pictogram 25th June Wiltshire, England" by "two women-scientists from Russia – Victoria Popova Dr.Sc., Ph.D. and Lidia Andrianova Ph.D." showing their research for decoding of crop circle pictograms. Eds)

<http://www.cropcircleconnector.com/2010/whitesleethill/articles.html>

CORRESPONDENCE

ULT letter 2010

Dear Editor

The ULT letter 2010, accessible at <http://www.esoteric-philosophy.com/> brings us insights on the vitality of the Theosophical Movement.

It shows how the present cycle, full of contrasts and challenges, is being dealt with by theosophists around the world. It affirms the value of creativity, the interdependence and interconnection between individual spiritual quest and humanity's collective journey.

Talking about vitality reminds us that the Theosophical Movement may be seen as a living organism, as stated in the article "The Seven Principles of The Movement" <http://www.filosofiaesoterica.com/ler.php?id=800>

"Seen as a living organism, the theosophical movement is like that Ashwattha tree which grows with its roots above, its branches below."

There is one profound and ideal level that has sustained Theosophy throughout the ages and cycles, and many manifestations of it in the physical world.

U.L.T. stands as a robust branch of this tree, and its vitality reflects connection to that root level, where eternal wisdom enlightens our minds and warms our hearts.

Fraternally

M.V.

Avaaz Victory saves Whales

forwarded from an Australian correspondent

Dear friends,

We did it! The proposal to legalise whale killing went down in flames in Morocco -- and our campaign helped to tip the balance.

In a few short weeks, we built the biggest whale-saving petition in history, signed by an extraordinary 1.2 million of us worldwide, and delivered it directly to key delegates at the International Whaling Commission meeting. In the end, the 24 year old whaling ban was upheld.

The pro-whaling lobby tried to use political favours to win a so called 'compromise' that amounts to a quota for hunting whales, but as tension grew in the closed-door talks, ***our massive petition became a top story on the BBC's world news, and we worked with friendly negotiators and other allies to put pressure where it was most needed*** and draw greater global attention.

The Australian environment minister Peter Garrett received our petition for like-minded governments in front of the world's media and said "Thank you very much Avaaz. It is a great pleasure to be here and accept this petition ... I believe the people of the world's voices need to be heard. I certainly hear them today."

The US delegation greeted us saying -- "Avaaz! We saw your billboard at the airport!" and delegates were overheard excitedly discussing our giant real-time petition counter outside the meeting as it blew far past the million mark.

After the meeting, one European negotiator told us: "We've managed to keep the ban in place...I've been checking the petition online. I was very impressed by how fast the numbers are rising and seeing people signing from across the world."

This is an important victory for whales -- and for global people power -- ***together we demonstrated that international decisions can be shifted by a little bit of well-placed effort from a lot of people everywhere.***

Over its short lifespan, our movement has exploded through a simple democratic idea: that people power can stand up and win against powerful special interests. Whether it be protecting whales, countering corruption, supporting authentic democracy movements or fighting for a global climate deal, we are coming together to bridge the gap between

the world we have and the world most people everywhere want.

Now, if enough of us chip in just a small amount for Avaaz's member-funded campaigning, we'll have the strength to win even more victories. Click here now to donate --

https://secure.avaaz.org/en/whales_reportback_2/?v

With hope, Avaaz



Luis hand-delivers the Avaaz petition to Australian environment minister Peter Garrett at the IWC summit.

Open Letter to Adyar on WQJ Case

from a correspondent in Edinburgh, UK

Being wise and cultured, friends, I am sure you are aware of how modern Greece is causing concern to the whole Euro currency at present.

A young woman who worked and earned her way there was surprised that most, if not all, the tall buildings there had no roofs. This was due to the fact that Income Tax laws in Greece allowed the proprietors of these tall constructions to ESCAPE paying any tax so long as the edifice was not yet complete.

We all know how H.P.B taught us the key to understanding the laws of natural occultism – it was by “analogy and correspondence” – from the know to the unknown, eg by sound, colour, vibration etc.

Further the top intelligentsia in Greece, which include surgeons earning large fees, wanted their patients to pay in cash only – to avoid tax.

Like a reservoir filled with water, drop by drop, the reservoir has now burst its banks and is drowning out the Euro.

W.Q.Judge has rightly been called The Keystone of the Theosophical Movement – wherever thought has strived to be free the Movement is to be discerned. Let us kindly restore to H.P.B's true friend and helper, the place he rightly deserves. The sooner the better. That noble soul W.Q.J did not crave any

recognition during his life. I close with a quotation from Robert Crosbie for the 14th May (from the book of daily readings).

“It is a crooked world all tangled up with false actions born of false ideas of life. The present generation has a right to a presentation of truth; a few will benefit greatly—and all, to some extent; but the time will come when the truth shall prevail, and all the more convincingly because of having stood through seas of error and rocks of determined opposition. Knowing this, we can confidently go on, patiently, yes, even cheerfully, since even those who flout the truth now will sometime come to know it; for these, too, we serve and wait.”

The Friendly Philosopher, Robert Crosbie

Your old laptop is needed!

The newly built Haiti Lodge, located at Jacmel near Port-au-Prince, has asked if you have an old laptop that is not needed?

They are setting up a internet-based learning facility at the Lodge and require new PC hardware to replace the ones lost in the earthquake.

Contact the Editors at tcc@clara.co.uk or the Lodge directly on haititheosophie@yahoo.fr to arrange shipment.

WQJ & The Adyar TS in London UK

To the Editors,

Surfing the TS England to pull off a couple of Rupert Sheldrake videos on animal psychism and found this, which I thought would be of interest..(probably you know of this page):

"Of the persons present at the preliminary meetings, those who remained to contribute to its firm establishment included **Colonel Henry Steel Olcott (President)**, **Madame Helena Petrovna Blavatsky (Recording Secretary)** and **William Quan Judge (Counsel)**."

<http://www.theosophical-society.org.uk/html/study.htm>

Cheers, O

WISDOM IN ACTION

**“one who doth
forevermore endure”**

Cycles govern all the time and everywhere. Hence the Theosophical Movement of this time and those things which follow it; the coming in touch of this, that, or the other individuals— singly or in pairs—with it. Some hear and pass on; some remain. There is always freedom of choice, the choice in such case being not merely one determination, but made up of many moments of choice in past lives—a conjunction which some are wise enough to perceive and, forsaking all others, “cleave unto,” while swinging around the cycle of existences.

Yet even this wisdom was acquired— comes from experience; there should be confidence in us in view of that fact.

We have chosen before, but did not “cleave”; yet the Great Law brings back again to us that which we once have chosen. That Great Law is the law of cycles, the process of karmic action.

“We meet our karma in our daily duties,” is a good saying to bear in mind, and in the performance of those duties come our tests. We should therefore do what we have to do, simply as duties, regardless of whether that performance brings us praise or blame. All the energy would, then, be expended in the performance of duties, and there would be nothing left for the personal idea to subsist upon.

I fully appreciate your generous and good-intentioned purpose, which is to make one who has learned something better able to help and teach others; and if among others you are included, that is your karma, as it is also my good karma to receive help at your hands.

Well, here is good luck to you in your try for “business.” Do not distrust yourself; have confidence in the powers which you embody; seek only to do your duty; holding to that end, all necessary power will be available.

Be steadfast, calm and fearless, as becomes one who doth forevermore endure.
As ever, R. C.

FROM THE FRIENDLY PHILOSOPHER BY R. CROSBIE

**Next month
“discovering our mental machinery”**

*Druid reduces
accidents from 6 to
zero*

Austrian authorities say Druids have been so successful in dealing with motorway accident blackspots in one area that they plan to extend the project nationwide.



Arch druid Ilmar Tessmann was called in as a last resort after a high

number of fatal accidents were reported on a straight stretch of motorway near Salzburg.

He said the crashes were caused by radiation from a nearby mobile phone mast disrupting the area’s normal ‘terrestrial’ radiation. Installing the monoliths has successfully counteracted that, he claimed.

Austrian motorway authority ASFINAG said it was sceptical at first and kept the project a secret. ***But it went public after the druids’ efforts cut the number of deaths at the notorious crash site from six a year to zero in two years.***

<http://www.metro.co.uk/weird/827498-druids-use-rock-and-magnets-to-stop-road-accidents>