

COURSE SYNTHESIS NO. 22

THE ESOTERIC REASONS FOR THE NECESSITY OF RELIGIONS AND INITIATIC SCHOOLS

The first, logical reason for the existence of mystery schools and religions is, of course, the fact that there are men and women who have a thirst for the spiritual and the divine. But the essential reason is of a different order.

For something to exist, an energy that permits it to exist is necessary. Thus in order for the earth and humanity to continue to exist and evolve, a certain energy is necessary. This energy is etheric, an energy of life, and it must be produced in sufficient quantity and constantly renewed.

The three sources of the production of this energy are as follows:

- the dissolution of human etheric bodies following death – this is the principal source;
- all acts springing from true religious faith – in our day this source has almost completely dried up;
- conscious and voluntary acts at the service of a higher goal. With such acts, a part of the etheric energy produced serves the evolution of the earth and humanity (the rest firstly permits the action to be carried out completely, and secondly contributes to the person's own evolution).

The essential reason for the existence of religions is this necessity of the production of etheric energy. And the same is true concerning the existence of esoteric schools or mystery centers. As we have seen, the third source of production of etheric energy is the expression of a free will; such a will can only begin to exist in someone who frees himself of all his inner compulsions and pressures (his desires, educational conditioning, and so on), and this liberation presupposes a path of evolution in the context of a school.

If the etheric energy is not produced in sufficient quantity, if there are not enough acts springing from religious faith or not enough conscious and voluntary acts, the forces of karma are obliged to create situations that permit a greater production of energy through the first source, that is to say, the dissolution of human etheric bodies upon their death. Thus is the real reason for all the wars, great epidemics and catastrophes, as well as the increase in the number of earthly incarnations in our time.

This means that each voluntary act at the service of a higher ideal may allow a human being somewhere on earth to be saved.