

“Reincarnation and Karma”

Presentation, February 28, 2016, at the Quest Bookshop in Seattle, by Stanton Stevens

Online resources:

<http://www.laurency.com> – All that has been translated into English is available here.

The Basic Esoteric Dictionary, The Explanation, Knowledge of Reality, all good starting points

<http://www.lucitrust.org/> - The writings of the Tibetan, Dwal Khul, via Alice A. Bailey

<http://theosophical.org/> - The Theosophical Society, the first re-introduction of esoterics to the public.

<http://onepurelove.com> - Stanton’s website, talks and handouts are there with other things

Books:

Only two Laurency books are available in print in English (though all are in print in Swedish). Both are available at Quest bookshop, or can be ordered from the Laurency website mentioned above.

Knowledge of Reality - a review of Eastern and Western philosophies, contrasted with Hylozoics

The Philosopher’s Stone – cosmology, evolution, the stages of humanity, higher worlds

Books related to the talk topics:

Winged Pharaoh, Joan Grant – The story of a past life in ancient Egypt

Life as Carola, Joan Grant – The story of a past life in renaissance Italy

Return to Elysium, Joan Grant – The story of a past life in 2nd century BC Greece and Italy

Many Lives, Many Masters, Brian Weiss, MD – a psychiatrist researches reincarnation

See Ed Alden for a CD or download with the Laurency material in English, and many Theosophical texts.

Ongoing:

Rainbow Bridge meditation group - 6-8 PM Tuesdays in Port Townsend - stanton.k.stevens@gmail.com

Alice A. Bailey study group – Led by Karen Johannsen: ksjohannsen@gmail.com

More by Laurency related to this talk:

Knowledge of Life Three, Chapter 1 – Reincarnation <http://laurency.com/L3e/L3e11.pdf>

Knowledge of Life One, Chapter 9 – The Law http://laurency.com/L1e/kl1_9.pdf (THE LAW OF REAPING)

Quotes – All from the writings of Henry T. Laurency

Knowledge of Reality

Chapter 1, The Problems of Reality, Part One <http://laurency.com/KVe/kr1.pdf>

1.1 What Most People Do Not Know

27 The Indian explanation of reality is itself superior to that of the West. It is a doctrine of development, of the pre-existence of the soul, of rebirth, and of karma, that is, the law of sowing and reaping. It asserts that there are other worlds than the physical and undertakes to prove this to serious and honest inquirers who are prepared to undergo its methods of developing the rudiments of higher kinds of objective consciousness existing in man. It thereby refutes the agnostic's and the skeptic's denial of superphysical knowledge, of existence being ruled by laws, of development, etc., thereby clearing the way for esoterics.

1.34 The Fourth Natural Kingdom

25 When the individual leaves his worn-out organism with its etheric envelope, he goes on living in his emotional envelope and, when this is dissolved, in his mental envelope, and when this too is dissolved, he waits, asleep in his causal envelope, to be reborn into the physical world, which is incomparably the most important, since it is in this world that all human qualities must be acquired, and it is only in this world that he has the possibility of freeing himself from emotional illusions and mental fictions. Life between incarnations is a period of rest in which man does not learn anything new. The quicker the self can free itself from its incarnation envelopes, the quicker it develops.

Chapter 7, Yoga in the Light of Esoterics <http://laurency.com/KVe/kr7.pdf>

7.7 Rebirth

1 The most unhappy proof of the yogis' ignorance of reality is their belief in metempsychosis. They do not even know that reversion from a higher to a lower natural kingdom is precluded, that man cannot be reborn as an animal.

2 The mightiest authority of the Ramakrishna yogis, next to the school founder himself, is Vivekananda. He maintained in all seriousness that his dog was an incarnation of a dead friend of his.

3 It is high time that they abandoned this exceedingly compromising error and explained to their followers the fundamental difference between belief in metempsychosis, belonging to popular superstition, and the esoteric knowledge of reincarnation.

4 This ignorance is the best proof that the yogis cannot study their previous incarnations and that none of them has been able to become a causal self. If anyone has succeeded in this, he has ceased to be a yogi. When the individual has acquired objective self-consciousness in his causal envelope, the envelope that is needed in order to pass from the animal to the human kingdom, he can study all the incarnations which this permanent envelope has lived through. The causal envelope cannot incarnate in an animal body.

5 It is part of man's dharma that he must do all he can to reduce the suffering in the world, for all beings and in all circumstances. Those who refuse to help when they can, are guilty of an omission that has consequences and by no means the least ones.

6 The Brahmins' conception of karma as being inevitable destiny, that you “stand in the way of karma” by trying to relieve suffering and distress, is evidence of a fatal ignorance of life. Nobody can “stand in the way” of a law. If anyone is to suffer, then no power in the world can prevent that. The suffering we have caused to others can be made good through voluntary “sacrifice” in future lives.

The Philosopher’s Stone

Chapter 3, Esoteric Life View <http://laurency.com/DVSe/ps3.pdf>

The Stage of Culture

3.27 The Conception of Right at the Stage of Culture

2 International political formations arise through associations of nations. Wars, revolutions, national chauvinism belong to the past (at the stage of culture – ed). The knowledge of reincarnation has demonstrated the idiocy of racial hatred, religious hatred, sex hatred, etc. As we know, the individual alternates in being born a man or woman; with white, yellow, red, or black colour of his skin; a Buddhist, Jew, Christian, or Moslem; sometimes in the highest social stratum, sometimes in the lowest. According to the law of reaping, the fanatic is born (often immediately) into the race, religion, nation, etc. that he intensely hates, in order to have the experiences necessary to him. Then he goes on throughout many incarnations, hating alternately all races, religions, the opposite sex, etc.

The Law of Reaping

3.58 The Law of Reaping and Suffering

1 Happiness as well as suffering is our own doing. All suffering is consequences of mistakes about the life laws of freedom and unity. Nobody has to suffer who has not himself inflicted suffering on other beings. All suffering we cause others will in due time become our own suffering. If an individual’s suffering is incurable, then he has inflicted incurable suffering on others.

2 Nobody can suffer for the sake of another. Nobody can exempt anybody from a bad reaping by taking his sufferings on him. We can take the sufferings of others on us, voluntarily suffer more than is intended for a particular incarnation, only in case we still have a bad reaping remnant. But by this we do not exempt others from their reaping, just put it off till a later occasion.

3 Suffering is of three kinds: physical, emotional, and mental. The physical suffering, which is the most difficult to cure, science tries to relieve. The emotional can be related to the elemental of reaping, hatred, or ignorance. The suffering of hatred is essentially fear. That of ignorance is connected with imagination and the will. Imagination can strengthen or weaken suffering almost to any extent whatsoever. Suffering can be dispelled by an act of will, by refusing to suffer, refusing to attend to anything which causes suffering, by noble indifference, stoicism, heroism. The mental suffering can depend on mental defects. But usually it is caused by brooding or concern as consequences of uncontrolled thinking, and it is removed by “thinking of something else”.

5 The inevitable suffering according to the law of reaping is usually just a fraction of the actual suffering. Nine-tenths of the sufferings of the civilizational individual depend on his wrong manner of meeting suffering, and on his aversion to controlling his attention, imagination, and will. Anyone who has attained the stage of culture, has most of his suffering behind him. Anyone who has definitely placed himself under the law of unity, can never more be put in insuperable difficulties in future incarnations.

6 Suffering is seldom incurable. Most kinds of suffering are limited in time as well as in extent and intensity. Even an incarnation of suffering can present oases in the desert of life.

7 We should always seek remedies for suffering wherever help can be obtained; always, everywhere, in all respects fight all kinds of suffering, and never tire. Such efforts result in good sowing according to the law of unity, and counteract evil in the world.

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3.65 The Factors of Reaping

9 The reaping elemental is an emotional-mental being, which is formed according to the law of reaping. Attached to the aura it follows the man throughout his life, seeing to it that the part of his sowing intended to be reaped, is reaped. It discharges itself with unflinching precision and, if required, with an irresistible force, when occasions exist. It can make the individual say and do things that he does not mean. It affects him with faults which otherwise would be impossible. It can strengthen his complexes to reach any affective intensity whatsoever. Its vibrations can influence other beings to the advantage or disadvantage of the individual. It can also be regarded as a vibrational centre of the kinds of vibrations determined. Of course it can, when necessary, serve as a guardian spirit in such circumstances of life as do not belong to bad reaping, or call for assistance from the central of aid. Such vain efforts can the individual thus spare himself. Everything is so well arranged that he cannot suggest any improvement.

The Way of Man

Chapter 1, Introductions <http://laurency.com/MVe/wm1.pdf>

Introduction: On Mankind at the Stage of Ignorance

1.72 The Christian Church

1 The hostility to the Christian religion such as it appears in many people is easy to explain by esoterics. The reincarnations of the approximately 50 million people who were the victims of the theologians' hatred in torture-chambers and at the stake cannot nourish any love of that religion.

Chapter 3, The First Self <http://laurency.com/MVe/wm3.pdf>

REINCARNATION

3.28 What Reincarnation Means

6 The only definite thing about our separation from the organism with its etheric envelope is the “month” (actually, sun sign) of some year. The continuity between incarnations implies that we are reborn with the sun and the ascendant in the same zodiacal sign (“the same month and the same hour”) as where we left the physical envelopes the last time. We continue precisely where our physical life was interrupted from its causal context, and our new life is connected where our old life ceased. Rebirth is no random occurrence but our incarnations make up a connected chain of the life energies.

3.29 The Importance of Reincarnation

2 You cannot be grateful enough for the fact that it is by reincarnating that you have an increasingly more rational conception of reality; that you are liberated from your envelopes of incarnation with their wrong attitude to life in all respects. In our next life there is not much left of whatever in this life we take to be truth and reality. It is a real blessing that we may learn ever more rational ideas and thereby become ever less disoriented in reality. That, at least, we should be able to learn from history with all its madness.

Chapter 9, The Second Self <http://laurency.com/MVe/wm9.pdf>

9.35 The Laws of Life are the Basis of Our Life

3 “Reincarnation and karma” (rebirth and destiny) were the two first and the incomparably most important facts that the planetary hierarchy had proclaimed to mankind after it decided to publicize the

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esoteric knowledge. The law of rebirth is a thing that people cannot do anything about. It is inescapable, whatever people think and believe. But their future destiny is their own business. The individual is weaving it every moment with his consciousness expressions: thoughts, feelings, words, and deeds.

Knowledge of Life One

Chapter 9. The Law http://laurency.com/L1e/kl1_9.pdf

9.8 The Knowledge of the Law

7 The knowledge of the laws of life affords us the necessary trust in life. That is no blind faith, which always runs the risk of being subject to doubt, uncertainty, fear, always is afraid of the criticism of ignorance or injudicious propaganda.

8 The knowledge of the laws of life is more important for us than the knowledge of reincarnation, which we in any case can do nothing about. Having a knowledge of the laws of life, however, we can learn to live so as not to make our future lives more difficult but instead make them propitious and life-promoting.

9.62 Collective Sowing and Reaping

1 Not everything affecting the individual needs to be his personal reaping but may belong to collective reaping. We are responsible for the various collectives to which we belong. We have undeserved advantages from conditions over which we have no power. The same is true of disadvantages. We derive advantages from the wealth, culture, etc., of a nation. We must share the responsibility for the mistakes of our nation, class, family. Also mankind makes up a collective, and we must share in its good and bad sowing and reaping.

2 All must suffer for all. But also individual reaping is unavoidable.

3 The individuals who are present when collective sowing is reaped always have their own sowing to reap. Injustice in respect of life does not exist.

9.67 Atonement

3 There are two ways of making good the suffering you have inflicted on every living creature (not just people). The one way (on lower levels, where the will to unity is non-existent) is the negative one: experiencing the same kind of suffering yourself. The other way is to atone for your violations of the law of unity by serving others (superficially viewed as “sacrifice”).

4 Most people concentrate stubbornly on the negative way, and it is this that has totally perverted the idea of “karma” into one of retaliation (an invention by hatred and vengefulness).

Knowledge of Life Five

Chapter 20, Science <http://laurency.com/L5e/L5e20.pdf>

20.6 Science Denies Superphysical Reality

6 Science is physicalism and recognizes nothing superphysical. It refuses to recognize the existence of material worlds of higher kinds. It refuses even to consider the question whether the individual survives the destruction of his organism. It will be forced to do so. Sooner than one hundred years hence researchers will be able to film the process of dying, follow how the etheric envelope sets itself free from the organism and how the emotional envelope subsequently frees itself from the etheric envelope.