

Letters to the Editor

Dear Vivian,

Apropos the article by Arnold Keyserling on the phenomenology of reincarnation, (Self & Society Volume VI No. 1), it should be of interest to readers to know that reincarnation has been an accepted fact in other religions, not only in the Hindu or Buddhist traditions. The present Christian objection to the hypothesis of reincarnation stems from a decision on dogma, taken by the

highly irregular Fifth Ecumenical Council of A.D. 553 - which was held without the Pope's presence or consent. However up to that point in time, reincarnation was a widely held belief even among certain Jewish sects such as the Pharisees and the Essenes. Moreover the teaching of rebirth is one of the Inner Doctrines of the Quabbalah.

Therefore, it is only comparatively recently (in terms of human history)

that ideas of reincarnation have been ignored by the establishment. Which of course, for the last few centuries has been, in the West, the Church, guided by the change in dogma previously mentioned.

Is it not likely, that a universal fact which cannot be suppressed, is persisting in coming into view? And, it makes even more sense in the modern light of the concept of evolution; in that reincarnation gives the individualised ego the possibility of a succession of opportunities for development and thereby achievement of its soul-purpose.

Furthermore, the continuation of experience as a consequence of rebirth brings to light the relevance of successive revelations for the guidance of humanity for each Age. This leads to the importance of understanding the need for, and recognition of, a Teacher for each time, in order to further the advance of knowledge and understanding in all and essentially in spiritual fields.

Yours sincerely,

Caroline A. Tosh
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Dear Vivian,

Roots and Frontiers

By some freak of chance it seems that I am one of the very few people who have had the opportunity, to hear the taped speeches of Charles Hampton Turner, President of the AHP and Jean Houston, President Elect of AHP made at the recent Annual General Conference in the United States.

What exciting and wonderful people we have spawned. What a contrast between the calm pragmatic Turner with his definition of creativity as "A novel combination of existing knowledge" and his earnest appeals for us to pay respect and honour our roots. To re-read Motivation and Personality written by Maslow in 1954, "We still have to answer most of the challenges and ideas presented there" "We do not constantly have to deal with irony and paradox and contradiction and say we are not scientists." His lucid and simple explanation of the methodology of the paradox, the ability to hold two opposite and apparently contradictory ideas in the mind at the same time, confirms that the Association has been fortunate in its choice of Presidents.

Jean Houston in total contrast comes out with a string of bawdy jokes. Then proceeds to boggle the mind with ideas and conceptions that expand the frontiers of human consciousness until I was left wondering if I (man) was a mortal or a potential god. Her concepts of the development of the human potential are such that the words of William James come woefully true when I realise how little of my intellect and physical strength I have in fact been able to actualise.

I feel that we in Britain owe a debt to the American AHP who have built a growing and changing scientific theory that has the capacity to effectively challenge existing psychological and philosophical theories.

Yours sincerely,

Alan R. Matthews
Rickmansworth, Herts.