Evolution of Consciousness through the Root Races

DHY Course 120 Short Paper
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Time is said to be a succession of states of consciousness, and we can see such unfoldment at the many levels of microcosm and macrocosm.¹ This essay will outline the changes in consciousness and associated manifestation through the unfoldment of the root races over time as Spirit expresses progressively more purely through matter and the seven rays cycle through expressing more fully in form.

First, though, a brief review of the broader context is in order. According to the Law of Periodicity, which governs all of manifestation², all that is manifest passes through three main cycles: (1) birth/appearance/involution into identification with matter, (2) life/growth/evolution out of identification with matter, and (3) death/disappearance/obscuration.³ This, again, applies to all of the many iterations and reiterations of manifestation that constitute the myriad levels of macrocosm and microcosm (these are relative terms). We can think of it in terms of an analogy that is familiar to us, the breathing cycle. It is as if everything in manifestation goes through the cycle of in-breath and out-breath, but it is a spiraling cyclicity as evolution proceeds. The spiral-cyclic activity that includes evolution and our progress upon the Path of Return is seen at the many levels of manifestation, including that of the human individual and that of the root races.

Manvantara refers to a time of activity or manifestation;⁴ pralaya refers to an intervening period of rest or non-activity when the subjective or esoteric is not in objective or exoteric manifestation.⁵ This too is observable in both macrocosm and microcosm at multiple levels, although the time frames of these cycles on the higher (more macrocosmic) levels are almost unimaginable to the concrete mind. Currently, according to the Master DK, we have (at least) a five-fold alignment, being in a solar system of the fourth order (the second major one), the fourth scheme in the system, the fourth chain in the scheme, the fourth globe in the chain (the densest/most physicalized one), and the fourth round.⁶ It is in the context of this fourth round on the fourth globe in the fourth chain in the fourth scheme in this system that the seven root races are briefly outlined below. Each of the seven root races contains seven subraces.

The first and second root races, and the first part of the third, preceded the implantation of the spark of mind in humanity, an event known as individualization that was brought about by the Solar Angels and raised man from animal-man, a member of the third (animal) kingdom in nature, to the fourth kingdom in nature, humanity. Not much information is available about the first two root races, and of course the coming sixth root race and even more so the seventh can be known only by means of correspondence, or per information imparted by DK or Helena P. Blavatsky (HPB).

If we look at the big picture of the root races, we can see the descent into matter and the ascent back out of matter. The point of furthest descent into matter is placed by HPB at about the middle of the third root race. Now at about the middle of the fifth root race, per HPB we are approximately comparable to the midpoint of the first root race in spirituality, albeit with intellectual function which that first root race did not possess.⁷ Hence we can see that the extreme materiality of our current root race has a place in the evolution of life in this round. We must certainly continue to work to overcome
this materiality in preparation for the sixth root race, but the knowledge that there is a reason for this in the evolutionary unfoldment of consciousness may assist us in releasing any judgment to which we may still be prone, albeit this too will be superseded, as with all events that were once “progress” but become hindrance, potentially incurring “lost time.” HPB shows the spirituality of the seventh root race (from about the mid sixth root race) exceeding that of the first root race, demonstrating the spiraling “upward” that characterizes the evolution of consciousness (rather than a static or rotary cyclicity).

However, it should be noted that other sources place the nadir of descent into matter in the middle of the Atlantean root race, presumably based on a symmetrical division of the 7 root races midway through the fourth, much as the fourth globe is the most densely physical.

Of note, although the root races are categorized below for ease of readability, it should be noted at the outset that (1) they overlap considerably, and (2) characteristics of each develop and change throughout the course of a root race; they are not static within a root race, but develop from one subrace to the next, as they develop from that which preceded them and toward that which is to follow.

**First root race**

In the works of Alice Bailey, the first root race is called the Adamic. The form ensouled was astral, and “huge and indefinite,” by which we may understand that what we currently consider the ‘form’ of a human being was not yet present, and they had not yet gathered physical atoms to create a dense physical form. It is stated that the first root race developed the sense of hearing. The first root race was marked by “nebulosity of a profoundly volatile condition” and “movement and the accompaniment of heat is their distinguishing quality.” We read in The Secret Doctrine of HPB that the first root race followed and proceeded from the Spiritual Lives, the Self-Existent, projected by the absolute Will and Law, which are the first to come at the dawn of every rebirth of the worlds, the seed Manus, or the Prajapati and Pitris. From these proceeded the first root race, or we might say the first proto-humanity in this round, the self-born who are the “astral” shadows of their progenitors, also known as the lunar ancestors or lunar lords. This subtle body was “devoid of all understanding (mind, intelligence, and will). The inner being (the higher self or Monad), though within the earthly form, was unconnected with it” because the link, manas, was not present yet. According to Phillip Lindsay, synthesizing the work of HPB, they were chhayas, or shadows (Chhaya is Sanskrit for shade or shadow), the self-born, and were senseless, sexless and mindless, progeny of the Lunar Pitris. They were ethereal beings, non-intelligent but perhaps highly spiritual, not yet having fully descended into identification with matter. Reproduction was by fission: a part of the astral substance would separate off and produce another organism, much as many single-celled organisms reproduce today. A hypothesis is that they did not die, but created the second root race by budding and merging with it. This root race is considered highly spiritual because not yet fully descended into matter, but these beings did not yet have a developed intellectual capacity.

Ray 7 is said to have come into full expression in the first root race, with 7th ray souls in full expression in the first root race, and major influences being the 7th and 1st subraces.

**Second root race**

In the works of Alice Bailey, the second root race is called the Hyperborean. Their forms were still not dense initially, but had become somewhat more physicalized, now being etheric rather than just astral. This race is also described as “huge and indefinite, like the first root race.” To the hearing which the first root race possessed, in the second root race is added the sense of touch. It is also stated that the Law of Cohesion was particularly active during the second root race (as we would expect by the Law of Correspondences, as it is the second of seven systemic laws). With increased activity of the Law of
Cohesion, “a definite cohesion is noticeable, and form is more clearly recognisable in outline, albeit still etheric.”  

Per HPB, the second race was known as the sweat-born and the boneless, and emanated from the first root race. HPB further states that the second root race had the first “primitive and weak spark (the germ of intelligence),” although the Solar Angels had not yet individualized these beings by implanting the spark of mind. Additionally, HPB states that the second root race was also sexless, but reproduced by budding (similar to the first, but it appears that the size of the ‘bud’ was decreasing over time, to a point where it apparently was akin to sporulation), and later this race may have been early hermaphrodites. The second root race, after substantial overlap with the third, was mostly destroyed by water to make way for the third.

Ray 6 is said to have come into full expression with the second root race, with 6th ray souls in full expression in the second root race, and major influences being the 6th and 2nd subraces.

Third root race
With the third root race, known as the Lemurians, we see the development of the first race that we would call truly human, as the descent into matter progressed. This root race included several forms of reproduction, starting with the sweat-born as were their second root race progenitors, progressing through a stage of androgynous/hermaphroditic egg-bearing forms, and progressing to separation of the sexes. The forms were large compared to present day standards, now of dense physical substance, fully physical beings, “towering giants of godly strength and beauty.”

However, the most outstanding feature of the third root race is that individualization occurred about halfway through the third root race, third and fifth subraces being the major influence, approximately 18.5 million years ago: the implantation of the spark of mind into humanity by the Solar Angels (also known as Agnishvattas, and by many other names). These are Venusian (fifth ray) consciousnesses who perform the tremendous (and prolonged, from the point of view of a human individual lifetime) service of creating the soul out of their own substance to act as an intermediary between spirit and matter until we disidentify sufficiently from the personality to allow the latter to act as a vehicle for more direct expression of Spirit/Monad in form. Individualization was “the first great human crisis.” It was individualization, the implantation of the spark of mind, which shifted nascent humanity from the animal kingdom (third kingdom, “animal man”) to the human kingdom (fourth kingdom). With this event, possible because of the great sacrifice of the Lords of the Flame, man became a conscious human being.

The early Lemurians coexisted with the dinosaurs (we must keep in mind that the Lemurians were far taller than we are today, and the “focus of the life force was also in the region of the adrenal glands, producing animal courage and resistance to shock”), until the advent of mind. When the fires of mind arrived with the Lords of the Flame, the resulting catastrophic and chaotic planetary conditions may be what ended the dinosaurs, perhaps to make way for other forms, including the coming intellectual humanity (the spark of mind was implanted, but it would take some time to come to fuller development). Of note, the current time-line of science is incorrect, according to the Ageless Wisdom, to place the end of the dinosaurs at 65 million years ago.

The separation of the genders occurred shortly before the implantation of the spark of mind, one might speculate in preparation for the flowering of the separative tendency of the concrete mind. Humanity was not yet as separate from the animals as we currently experience being, and apparently interbreeding was possible, as we are told that part-human, part-animal forms resulted from interbreeding between the two.

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What we refer to as the third eye, previously dominant and actually the first eye (hence we have the “myths” of the ancient Cyclops, representing actual beings), started to atrophy as physical sight developed and separative tendencies took the upper hand.37

During the third root race, control of the physical body became the challenge and the first task, and the first initiation became a possibility and a goal of advanced humanity, although at that time was still a high attainment, being the highest initiation possible for groups.38 The highest initiation of which advanced individuals were capable at that time was the third initiation, the transfiguration of the personality.39 DK tells us that the sutratma (the life thread) was dominant in the life expression in Lemuria; the physical body, the form nature, and the externalized density were the “focus of life exuberant, productive and vital."40

Lemuria, we are told, was destroyed by fire (in stages, by earthquakes and volcanoes), as much of that root race of humanity was removed in preparation for the next root race, although as always there is much overlap between the remnants of one root race and the next.41

Ray 5 is said to have come into full expression in the third root race (consistent with the implantation of the spark of mind during this root race), with fifth ray souls in full expression in the third root race, major influences being the fifth and third subraces, the physical vehicle of man being perfected and the spark of mind being implanted by the Solar Angels, governing rays being 1, 7, and 5.42

Also of interest are the following changes through the course of the first three root races, particularly given our current fifth root race tendency to take our physical bodies and their requirements as a given: “The first, second, and earliest third races did not eat as we do now, but took material into the body for nutrition by osmosis, in much the same way as our lungs draw nutrition from the air. The first root race and much of the second knew no death as we understand it, but they knew a time of limits; each generation melted into the next. Towards the end of the second race, its individuals fell asleep, as it were, and faded out, and this was the beginnings of what we now call death. With the third root-race, death became the rule, since the bodies became sufficiently solidified and individualized to die when their store of vital energy had been exhausted."43

Fourth Root Race
The fourth root race, known as the Atlanteans, further developed the spark of mind, but with ‘soft’ rays being dominant influences on this root race (rays 2, 4, and 6), manas was not yet at its peak in this round. Nonetheless, they developed a culture of great technical knowledge and sophistication, probably exceeding our own. With the physical nature having been dominant (and the goal of control for advanced humanity) in Lemuria, with Atlantis it was the astral nature that was dominant and the goal of control for advanced humanity. The consciousness thread of the antahkarana began to function in Atlantean humanity (having been dormant in Lemuria), bringing with it sensitivity and awareness, but also desire and reactivity, and therefore the development of widespread glamour (the first indications of glamour having arisen from the disciples and aspirants of Lemurian times).44 Active sensitivity was a prelude to full consciousness, and the astral vehicle was a controlling factor. The mind was fairly quiescent, except for advanced humanity (only with the mind could the astral body be controlled). Atlanteans were psychic/mediumistic, clairvoyant and clairaudient. However, without an active mental function, they were not able to interpret what they experienced or distinguish the source, recognize the glamour that was being created and controlling them, or (for most Atlanteans) take subjective action to
dissipate their glamour. They were caught in the pairs of opposites characteristic of glamour and the astral plane, and “they simply lived and felt.”

With the sexes fully separated, and with psychism and astralism dominant, there was a substantial tendency to over-identification with and over indulgence in sexuality. However, now that it was known to be ‘wrong,’ interbreeding with animals (which was still occurring) generated karma (done in Lemuria by those without mind to distinguish proper from improper action, it did not generate karma). It also generated more of the half-human, half-animal beings that science still identifies wrongly as our ancestors/genetic precursors.

The Atlanteans were still much taller than current humanity, but shorter in stature than the Lemurians, who in turn were smaller than their less physically dense precursors.

The goal, again, for advanced Atlanteans was control of the astral body (control of desire, control of reactivity, dissipation of glamour, etc.), representing the second initiation. Of note, with much of current humanity still Atlantean in consciousness (although not Atlantean in body), this remains a goal for much of humanity, and in fact humanity as a whole is only now on the verge of the first initiation, after which the focus can be shifted to control of the astral body in preparation for the second initiation. By correspondence to the third initiation being the highest initiation possible in Lemurian days, it can be postulated that the highest initiation possible for individuals in Atlantean days was the fourth initiation.

The great war between good and evil, we are told, took a very externalized form in the Atlantean race (and, as noted below, will again in the sixth root race).

Atlantis was eventually destroyed in stages by water (it appears that the ‘soft’ ray races are destroyed by water and the ‘hard’ ray races by fire). Plato’s island called “Atlantis” was simply the last remnant of Atlantis to sink, about 11,000 years ago. Substantial earth changes occur as each root race is ending, to make way for the next, including further shifting of continents, with some receding to the ocean floor and new land masses appearing, as well as shifts of the earth’s axis.

Also of interest in helping to dispel some of the illusion that contemporary science perpetrates (often with good intentions), remnants of the Atlanteans who survived the cataclysm include those people to whom science today refers as Paleolithic, e.g., Cro-Magnon man in Europe, as well as very ancient Chinese and Hindu cultures, etc. The Cro-Magnons were not our earliest fully human forbearers as science states, but were the survivors of a once highly sophisticated civilization, the Atlantean (and preceding that, the Lemurian), giving way in time to the flowering of the fifth root race. The root races preceding our own are part of our history, but a part that is not yet recognized by the orthodox (veiling) approach that remains dominant at this time.

Ray 4 is said to have come to full expression in Atlantis, with fourth ray souls in full expression in the fourth root race, major influences being the fourth and sixth subraces, the astral/emotional vehicle of man being perfected, and governing rays being 2 and 6.

**Fifth root race**
With the fifth root race, we come to our own, the Aryan root race (different meaning from use of the same term by the Nazis). In this the mind comes to its fullest development in this round, as we know by correspondence (fifth root race, fifth plane of mind, fifth ray). Of note, the mind can be expected to
come to fuller expression in the fifth root race of the fifth round, and in the fifth round a major challenge facing humanity as a whole will be to transcend lower/concrete mind and function from the higher subplanes of the mental plane, the abstract/egoic levels, a challenge which faces advanced individuals on the Path today.

The third and final thread of the antahkarana becomes active in the fifth root race, the creative thread (representing the third aspect, as the first and second threads noted above represented the first and second aspects respectively), and we can begin for the first time to consciously build the antahkarana and make our progress on the Path of Return intentional. However, in doing so we must deal with other effects of the fifth ray, such as separation and concretion. It is these that have created our current state of excessive materialism, focus on manufacturing of physical objects, and lack of awareness of unity. We certainly must continue to work to overcome these, but again it can help to reduce judgment (a glamour which promotes separation) to realize that these have their place in the evolution of consciousness.

Of note, we are past the halfway point in the fifth root race, moving from the fifth to sixth subrace, and at the point of beginning to usher in the sixth root race, currently via ushering in the sixth subrace, which is said to be developing substantially in America, although involved individuals are found worldwide. This transition calls us to transform the excessive materialism and separation into aspiration for spiritual ideals and known unity, and the service orientation that will come with these shifts.

It can be expected that at some point earth changes involving fire will once again occur to prepare the way for the coming root race, the sixth.

With control of the mind being the goal in the fifth root race, the third initiation (the transfiguration) is the goal for advanced humanity, and by correspondence again, the highest initiation possible for advanced individuals in the fifth root race would be the fifth initiation.

Ray 3 is said to come to full expression in the fifth root race, with third ray souls in full expression in the fifth root race, major influences being the third and fifth subraces, the intellect being perfected (for this round), governing rays being 3 and 5.

**Sixth root race**

Here we move into the realm of future events, but we can hypothesize about these based on what Master DK tells us and based upon correspondence. Just as a great battle between the forces that would promote Light and those that would oppose Light took place during the fourth root race, another such can be expected to come to the fore in the sixth root race. This battle rages on currently at the astral and etheric levels, and will again materialize more fully. DK says that the “final break” between the two sides in this dichotomy will occur for the present round in the sixth root race, with “the true Armageddon about which so much has been taught” occurring before the seventh root race (although those who oppose Light will not truly be defeated as such until a subsequent round). This great division “will have its roots in the mental world,” one might hypothesize between forces that seek to remain identified with the concrete mind, and those that have transcended it and are functioning on the higher subplanes of the mental plane (abstract/egoic levels), a conflict which will reach fuller expression in subsequent rounds, as noted above. A correspondence to this on a smaller scale will occur during the sixth subrace of the fifth root race, currently in the process of forming.
With soft rays dominant in the sixth root race, as they were in the fourth, we can expect a far more sensitive nature than is currently dominant in our ‘hard’ ray root race, but on a higher turn of the spiral than we saw in the fourth, and with progress having been made in the dissipation of glamour. We can expect the physical bodies to be smaller and more refined, and the sensitivity and awareness more fully developed. One might speculate that it will be the fuller expression of Spirit in matter that one would expect to characterize the sixth root race, since it will be further along in the evolutionary arc, which will bring the conflict with the dark forces (who oppose fuller expression of light) to the fore. (However, it should be noted again that sixth root race issues can be expected to come to fuller expression in the sixth root race of the sixth round, just as the expression of the fifth root race characteristics can be expected to come to fuller expression in the fifth root race of the fifth round.)

In the sixth root race, the intuition will be developed as the fourth plane (buddhi) is increasingly reached by humanity, and we might postulate based on correspondence that the fourth initiation will be the goal for advanced humanity, with the sixth initiation being the highest initiation possible for advanced individuals in the sixth root race.

Ray 2 will find full expression in the sixth root race, with second ray souls in full expression in the sixth root race, major influences being the 2nd and 6th subraces, the intuition being perfected, governing rays being 2 and 4.64

**Seventh root race**

As this is further from us in the future, we may not be able to speculate as much about it except by correspondence. The head center will be fully awakened.65 Also of note, the ability to synthetize will increase in the sixth root race, and even more so in the seventh. Mind will not be as focused on the externalized/objective world as it is now, but on the inner/subjective reality, with abstract mind and intuition increasingly active and consciously utilized.66 “The sixth and seventh root-races in those cycles are always synthetific; their function is to gather up and synthetise that which has been achieved in the earlier five. For instance, in this root-race, the sixth and seventh sub-races will synthetize and blend that which the earlier five have wrought out.”67

In the seventh root race, the planetary center that corresponds to the base of the spine in the human will be awakened, but only when right relationship is established between the planetary sacral center (the animal kingdom) and the planetary throat center (humanity).68 The seventh root race will demonstrate “dual attainment, love in activity,” and this will be the basis of the third system of Will or Power.69

We can also expect the physical body to further refine and become smaller in size and more sensitive, and perhaps even less dense physical, progressively throughout the six and seventh root races. Also, hermaphroditism will probably reappear, although in more refined form than in the earliest root races. These coming two root races in this round can also be expected to be increasingly spiritual and less materialistic, and perhaps more intelligent as well, although less identified with the concrete mind (moving into the abstract and intuitional levels). The development might be hypothesized to reach the plane of intuition in the sixth root race, and the plane of Atma or Will in the seventh root race, completing integration of the Spiritual Triad energies in the manifest form and thus perfecting expression of the Spirit or Monad in form for this round.
Based on correspondence as above, we might expect the fifth initiation to be the goal for advanced humanity, with the seventh initiation being the highest initiation possible for advanced individuals in the seventh root race of the current round.

Ray 1 will find full expression in the seventh root race, with first ray souls in full expression in the seventh and final root race of this round, major influences being the first and seventh subraces, further fusion of spirit and matter being brought about, the governing rays being 1, 7, and 2.\(^7\)

**Conclusion**
As outlined above, we can see the spiral-cyclic progression through full expression of the rays in this round of root races, from the seventh ray in the first root race to the first ray in the seventh root race, as matter vibrates progressively more in harmony with Spirit and thus more purely expresses Spirit. We also note that humanity as a whole is now on the arc of return in this round from involutionary descent into matter, now on the evolutionary upward arc, the Path of Return.

We must keep the context in mind as well, that a further turn of the spiral at the next macrocosmic level “up” will recapitulate the root races in the fifth round, in which the fifth root race will have an even more powerful correspondence of fives and bring the principle of manas to further refinement and fuller expression. This will precipitate further crisis as functioning via lower/concrete mind (i.e., lower subplanes of the mental plane) will in turn need to be transcended by humanity as a whole and replaced with functioning via abstract mind/egoic levels (i.e., higher subplanes of the mental plane), and subsequently buddhic levels; these are tasks confronted by advanced humanity today. Regardless of future iterations, one of the tasks at hand for us in this root race in this round is to use the principle of mind with which we have been endowed by the Solar Angels to assist current humanity on the Path of Return, including dissipation of glamour which would cloud the way, burning it away with the light of mind; and then progressing to higher levels of the mental plane and above, as we activate the antahkarana and build the bridge to the abstract mind and to the intuition.

“When Spirit and matter sound the same note evolution will cease,”\(^7\) as the work of evolution will have been accomplished – for that cycle.

**Endnotes**
3. Ibid., pp. 6-7.
6. Ibid., p. 363. It should be noted that the word “round” is also used to refer to different time periods (e.g., Alice A. Bailey, Esoteric Astrology (New York: Lucis Trust, 1951), p. 410).
10. For example, Morya Federation Course 120 reference material, Continents and Races, p. 12.
11. Alice A. Bailey, A Treatise on Cosmic Fire (New York: Lucis Trust, 1951), footnote 56, pp. 121-122, although per Phillip Lindsay and other sources, including HPB, the several Adams referenced in the Bible...
may refer to different root races, e.g., Phillip Lindsay, The Hidden History of Humanity (Kearney, NE: Morris Publishing, 2006), pp. 398-404.

12 Alice A. Bailey, A Treatise on Cosmic Fire (New York: Lucis Trust, 1951), footnote 56 on pp. 121-122; also p. 351.

13 Ibid., p. 579.


15 Ibid.


17 Ibid.


20 Ibid., p. 351.

21 Ibid., p. 579.


23 Ibid., p. 165.

24 Ibid., p. 166.

25 Ibid., p. 167.


27 Phillip Lindsay, The Hidden History of Humanity (Kearney, NE: Morris Publishing, 2006), pp. 188-189; of note, with the egg stage, we can see further refinement and specialization of the budding or sporulating form of reproduction.


36 Ibid.


40 Morya Federation Course 120 reference material, Continents and Races, p. 12.


42 Morya Federation Course 120 reference material, Continents and Races, p. 10.


44 Ibid., pp. 109-111.


46 Morya Federation Course 120 reference material, Continents and Races, p. 13.


53. Morya Federation Course 120 reference material, Continents and Races, p. 1.
56. Ibid., pp. 391-392.
58. Morya Federation Course 120 reference material, Continents and Races, p. 7.
63. Ibid.
67. Ibid., p. 164.

Bibliography
Morya Federation Course 120 reference material, Continents and Races, p. 12.