

The Law of Periodicity – from Manvantara to the moods

When I was about the age of twelve I had the first conscious contact with the concept of periodicity which I discovered from a fictional story a “zebra philosophy”. This influenced deeply my attitude to life. The “zebra philosophy”, like life, is like a zebra pattern – streaky, white line following the black one. Therefore if you are on the black line, and you run as quickly as you can, you will know that dead ahead will be the white line; if you are on the white line, you can run your course peacefully, enjoy it. A pattern of cycles and opportunities can be seen...

Now I have found out the basis of my childhood’s “philosophy”, has a strong similarity to the second fundamental proposition, The Law of Periodicity, one of the basic laws governing existence, affirming - “There is a basic law called the Law of Periodicity.

1. This law governs all manifestation, whether it is the manifestation of a solar Logos through the medium of a solar system, or the manifestation of a human being through the medium of a form. This law controls likewise in all the kingdoms of nature.” [TCF, 6]

By this law there is following every active period a corresponding equal period of rest. As it is stated, the Law governs all manifestations, so there are periods of different duration. The greatest periods are called Manvantara (active periods of the Universe) and Pralaya (the period of complete rest), and have been called poetically as the Days and Nights of Brahma. These periods are practically infinite although they are always of a certain length, and “they have never had a commencement, i.e., there never was a first Kalpa, nor will there ever be a last one, in Eternity.” [SD I, 368]

The Law of Periodicity governs all manifestations, but the Absolute as stated by the first fundamental proposition is the one Constant, unchanging from universe to universe. “The Absolute, the ONE LIFE, is eternal, invisible without beginning and end.”

The Absolute is characterized by Motion or as it is poetically called, The Great Breath – “... there is no rest or cessation of motion in Nature.” [SD I, 97] or

“Motion (the Breath) becomes the whirlwind and sets them into rotation.” [SD I, 97]

The Great Breath expresses the appearance and disappearance of the Universe as an outbreathing (activity period) and inbreathing (rest period).

Pralaya may be contemplated as a state of latency, where Time is not; a universe in Pralaya does not cease to exist but still exists in potential. This is a state of ‘Being’ as opposed to the period of ‘expression of that Being’, we call manifestation.

What is periodicity? Periodicity is the quality of occurring at regular intervals or periods, so this implies that something is repeated.

Repetition may occur in time as cyclic activity during greater or lesser periods of time. Repetition in fact expresses in cycling a particular series of circumstances. Repetition in space governs the matter of the solar system - not unlike the activity of vibration.

Some examples of repetition from the [TCF, 274]

- a. The solar system repeating its activity.... Repetition in Space.
- b. A planetary chain repeating its activity.... Repetition in Time.
- c. The constant consecutive reverberation of a plane note, of a subplane note, and of all that is called into objectivity by that note....
Plane Repetition.
- d. The tendency of atoms to perpetuate their activity, and thus produce similarity of circumstance, of environment and of vehicle....
Form Repetition,

The Law of Periodicity has another name – it is the Law of Cycles (or Circles). Cycle is a period of time, a period of life, in the beginning of which cause is generated and in the end of which its consequences work itself out. The Law of Periodicity imparts a general principle that everything in the manifested universe has three great cycles – birth, life and death or appearance, growth and disappearance. We are born, we are growing and developing (if we do it) and finally we die. There is no first Manvantara and there will not be a last Manvantara, but there is the first day of one’s life and the last day of one’s life, as beginning and end of the manifestation cycle, as the end is the beginning of the cycle of pralaya.

In everyday life we know periods like day and night, cycles of four

seasons, years of 365 (366) days, human being's life cycle beginning with the birth and ending with death; there are manifestation and non-manifestation through cycles of solar and planetary systems and even of the whole universes.

The Law of Periodicity is the basic law and governs all manifestations including universes, solar and planet systems, it controls in all the kingdoms, in a man and in an atom as well. The Law operates everywhere and at all times. There are certain other laws in the system, which are linked with the basic one, like the law governing matter, Law of Economy; the law governing soul, the Law of Attraction; the law governing spirit, The Law of Synthesis, the seven systemic laws, which govern the manifestation of our solar Logos and many other laws. "Each law sweeps periodically into power and each plane has its period of manifestation and its period of obscuration." [TCF, 6]

One of the most important cycles we know is the cycle of reincarnation, where the evolution of the human soul takes place. The period of activity, when is possible new karma, which begins after the birth of the body and the period of rest, when the new karma is not possible, after the death of the body. The soul cannot act on the outer planes during the rest period. This is the period of assimilation. If we have the body we make choices, we can use our free will; if we have made our choices (causes), we are responsible for them and so we are bound with our choices and we receive the consequences and effects – all in the active period of the cycle. "The Secret Doctrine teaches the progressive development of everything, worlds as well as atoms; and this stupendous development has neither conceivable beginning nor imaginable end. Our "Universe" is only one of an infinite number of Universes, all of them "Sons of Necessity," because links in the great Cosmic chain of Universes, each one standing in the relation of an effect as regards its predecessor, and being a cause as regards its successor." [SD I, 43] Life is growth, growth is changes. Time has been defined as a succession of states of consciousness.

Consciousness is the capability to know, the faculty of apprehension

and concerns the relations of the Self to the not-self. In the morning we wake up with the same state of consciousness what we had in the evening before we slumbered; in the beginning of a new incarnation we have the same state of consciousness which we had in the end of the previous incarnation. But if we have the same level of consciousness in the end of the current incarnation, then it is the wasted time, the wasted incarnation.

And finally – our moods are the objects of the Law of Cycles too, they arise and subside, they may be stronger and weaker. One moment we feel bright and light and we may work hard, the other our attitude to the world has darkened, we see the world like through the black glasses and we have not power to create and work. Our moods are dependent on our emotional temperament or the astral form. We all have had periods when our intellect (the mental form) just refuses to understand the book we are reading, but the week or the month later we are surprised how easy it is to grasp the material now. Our intellectual nature had been under the impact of our emotions.

If we are acquainted with the Law of Periodicity we are ready to meet such kind of changes in our moods using our mental power and being aware of qualities of the soul or using again the zebra pattern - if you are on the black line, do run as quickly as you can...