

## PANORAMIC VISION

### G. de Purucker The Esoteric Tradition pp. 774-5 and 808-10

#### 774-5

Now when the instant of death arrives, at this instant of critical change, the ethereal cord of life connecting the inner constitution with the physical body is snapped: the golden cord of thought and feeling, of what is commonly called 'life'; and instantly, like a flash of lightning, all the spiritual best of the man that an instant before was, is indrawn into the man's Monad or Essential Self, where it originated and whither it necessarily returns. This lightning-like and flashing return of the spiritual best of the man that an instant before was, as just stated, takes place at the instant of real death, which is in fact not even the instant when the last breath is expired or when the heart gives its last pulsation, because for a certain time after this, varying in individual cases, the physical brain is still truly alive, and is filled with the marvelous and rapidly changing panorama of mental visions passing before the mind's eye, which include everything that the man had been through during his life now ending – aye, even to the last and most imperfect detail. All passes through the physical brain as a wondrous concatenation of pictures, mental visions, beginning with the first feeble perceptions of childhood and continuing in uninterrupted and regular series through all the years lived through up to the very moment when the last breath was rendered and the last beat of the heart took place. When the end of this panorama is reached, then it is that like a flash of lightning, the 'best' returns unto the bosom of the Monad, and there remains until it is rejoined by the more human, i. e., inferior attributes and qualities, which in the Kâma-loka must during the next months or the next few years separate themselves from or free themselves from the kâma-rupa, which, when thus deprived of its higher part becomes the 'spook' or 'shell' previously spoken of.

One may well ask oneself whether what is thus indrawn is matter or force? It is really both but of a more ethereal substance and of more ethereal energy than those of the physical sphere, or even astral spheres, surrounding us. An electric flash, as it were, and the best of the man is gone 'to its Father in Heaven.' As Jesus said: "I and my Father are one." In all this process there is no pain; there is no suffering whatsoever; this indrawn 'best' of the man that was, his Spiritual Self or Higher Ego, will before long experience nothing but unspeakable bliss and rest, because it has 'gone' into conditions or states which are throughout akin to its own nature – the sole distinction or difference being that the Ego by degrees passes into its devachanic period, to which the nearest human analogy is sleep.

#### 808-10

But death is not yet complete even when the last breath has been exhaled, and the last pulsation of the heart has taken place, and the body to all appearances is perfectly dead, because the brain is the last organ of the physical body to die, and for some time after the heart has ceased beating, the brain still remains active, and memory, although unconsciously so to the lower Human Ego, for this short length of time passes in review in regular serial order, and without interruption or solution of continuity, every single event of the life just ended, from the greatest event thereof to the most transitory and minute. In fact the brain sees the entirety of all its past life, from the moment when self-consciousness first began to cognise exterior things in babyhood, to the last moment of self-conscious perception when the heart ceased beating, and sees it all as a continuous flowing panorama of pictures or visions, from which nothing whatsoever is or can be omitted, including therefore every virtuous thought or act, as well as every evil or ignoble deed: all passes in review; and the

Reimbodying Ego, at this its last and parting and comprehensive vision of the earth-life just ended, sees, comprehends, knows and realizes, the utter and perfect justice of all that it has suffered, and by the automatic action of its own functioning self, so to speak, receives an indelible impression thereof which remains with it throughout the devachanic interlude and aids in guiding it to the proper environment when it returns to earth for its next physical rebirth.

It might here be added that just as the panorama of the whole past life glides past it in review at the death-time, so the precisely identic picture, or series of panoramic views of the same past life which has been indelibly stamped into the fabric of being, again passes in review before its 'mind's eye' just before the Reimbodying Ego takes birth anew. The reader or student of course understands that these wonderful processes are in no sense an effort of the will of the Reimbodying Ego, but are, so to say, automatic procedures of the functioning of its own substance, from which, on an immensely smaller and more imperfect scale, a man during his earth-life has his frequent periods of 'memory' or recollection or remembrance of what has been lived through in previous years or days.

This panoramic picture of the past, great or small, according to the individual human cases, is purely automatic, as said above, and the important point to remember here is that the soul-consciousness of the Reimbodying Ego, watching this wonderful life-review incident by incident, is for the time being entirely unconscious and oblivious of everything else except this panoramic vision. Temporarily it thus lives in the past; and memory dislodges from the akasic record, so to speak, event after event, aye, even to the smallest detail; and thus it sees all its past life as an all-inclusive vision of picture rapidly succeeding picture.

There are very definite ethical and psychological reasons which by Nature's laws inhere in this process; for this rapidly moving panorama comprises the entire reconstruction, mentally speaking, of both the good and the evil done in the past life, and, as said above, imprints it all indelibly on the fabric of the spiritual memory of the man who is passing.

Finally the end comes; it has come; and then the mortal and material portions of the panorama sink into oblivion; whilst the Reimbodying Ego retains with it consciously and carries away with it the best and most spiritual and most loftily intellectual parts of these memories of the Panoramic Vision into the Devachan or Heaven-world.