

H.P. BLAVATSKY *SECRET DOCTRINE II*, pp. 420-22

There is one eternal Law in nature, one that always tends to adjust contraries and to produce final harmony. It is owing to this law of spiritual development superseding the physical and purely intellectual, that mankind will become freed from its false gods, and find itself finally — *SELF-REDEEMED*.

In its final revelation, the old myth of Prometheus – his *proto-* and *anti-*types being found in every ancient theogony – stands in each of them at the very origin of physical evil, because at the threshold of human physical life. KRONOS is “Time,” whose first law is that the order of the successive and harmonious phases in the process of evolution during cyclic development should be strictly preserved — under the severe penalty of abnormal growth with all its ensuing results.

It was not in the programme of natural development that man – higher animal though he may be – should become at once – intellectually, spiritually, and psychically – the demi-god he is on earth, while his physical frame remains weaker and more helpless and ephemeral than that of almost any huge mammal. The contrast is too grotesque and violent ; the tabernacle much too unworthy of its indwelling god.

The gift of Prometheus thus became a CURSE — though *foreknown* and *foreseen* by the host personified in that personage, as his name [*forethought*] well shows. It is in this that rests, at one and the same time, its sin and its redemption. For the Host that incarnated in a portion of humanity, though led to it by Karma or *Nemesis*, preferred free-will to passive slavery, intellectual self-conscious pain and even torture – “while myriad time shall flow” – to inane, imbecile, instinctual beatitude.

Knowing such an incarnation was premature and not in the programme of nature, the heavenly host, “Prometheus,” still sacrificed itself to benefit thereby, at least, one portion of mankind. But while saving man from mental darkness, they inflicted upon him the tortures of the self-consciousness of his responsibility – the result of his free will – besides every ill to which mortal man and flesh are heir to. This torture Prometheus accepted for himself, since the Host became henceforward blended with the tabernacle prepared for them, which was still unachieved at that period of formation.

Spiritual evolution being incapable of keeping pace with the physical, once its homogeneity was broken by the admixture, the gift thus became the chief cause, if not the sole origin of *Evil*. The allegory which shows KRONOS cursing Zeus for dethroning him (in the primitive “golden” age of Saturn, when all men were demi-gods), and for creating a physical race of men weak and helpless in comparison; and then as delivering to his (Zeus’) revenge the culprit, who despoiled the gods of their prerogative of creation and who thereby raised man to their level, intellectually and spiritually — is highly philosophical.

In the case of Prometheus, Zeus represents the Host of the primeval progenitors, of the PITAR, the “Fathers” who created man senseless and without any mind ; while the divine Titan stands for the Spiritual creators, the devas who “fell” into generation. The formerre spiritually lower, but physically stronger, than the “Prometheans”: therefore, the latter are shown conquered. “The lower Host, whose work the Titan spoiled and thus defeated the plans of Zeus,” was on this earth in its own sphere and plane of action ; whereas, the superior Host was an exile from Heaven, who had got entangled in the meshes of matter. They (the inferior “Host”) were masters of all the Cosmic and lower titanic forces ; the higher Titan possessed only the intellectual and spiritual fire.

This drama of the struggle of Prometheus with the Olympic tyrant and despot, sensual Zeus, one sees enacted daily within our actual mankind : the lower passions chain the higher aspirations to the rock of matter, to generate in many a case the vulture of sorrow, pain, and repentance. In every such case one sees once more —

“ A god . . . in fetters, anguish fraught ;
The foe of Zeus, in hatred held by all. . . . ”

A god, bereft even of that supreme consolation of Prometheus, who suffered in self-sacrifice —

“ For that to men he bare too fond a mind. . . . ”

as the divine Titan is moved by altruism, but the mortal man by Selfishness and Egoism in every instance.

The modern Prometheus has now become *Epi-metheus*, “he who sees only after the event”; because the universal philanthropy of the former has long ago degenerated into selfishness and self-adoration. Man will re-become the *free* Titan of old, but not before cyclic evolution has re-established the broken harmony between the two natures — the terrestrial and the divine ; after which he becomes impermeable to the lower titanic forces, invulnerable in his personality, and immortal in his individuality, which cannot happen before every animal element is eliminated from his nature. When man understands that “*Deus non fecit mortem*” (*Sap. I.*, 13), but that man has created it himself, he will re-become the Prometheus before his Fall.