

"In the beginning rose hiranyagarbha¹, born only
lord of all created beings
He fixed and holdeth up this earth and heaven. What God
shall we adore with our oblations?

-THE RIGVEDA: To Prajapati
(Macnicol 1948:32)

12. INTRODUCTION

¹ *Hiranyagarbha*: literally 'the gold-germ'; 'source of golden light'; the Sun god, 'as the great power of the universe, from which all other powers and existences, divine and earthly, are derived, a conception which is the nearest approach to the later mystical conception of Brahma, the creator of the world.'-Willis.

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INTRODUCTION:

The articles in this section pertain to the Pre-existence, the first phase of spirit existence and the first phase of the three-phase metamorphosis. There were many references to this phase in the preceding section for the obvious reason that the two are so tightly linked together. How can you separate the head from the tail of a coin? The PE phase was initiated by the creation or birth of spirits from the raw material called intelligence, as just described. As noted, there is no scriptural description of this creation process, nor is there any evidence about how long this phase existed nor "where" ² we were while we experiencing it.

This dearth of knowledge in the LDS canon³ may be intentional on the Lord's part for particular reasons. The most obvious one is the fact that there may be little advantage to mortals in understanding a great deal about their original testing phase. He is, after all, the supremely Parsimonious One who will not expend any unnecessary expense. Additionally, one might surmise that not only is such prehistory not helpful, but that it might actually negatively affect mortals, by distracting them from their purpose -or whatever they are about. However, as described in the preceding section, we were born as spirits into this state so we had to be "there", wherever it is. We spent some period of "time" in that state. And we did something.

LOCATION:

In regards to location of the PE, we might look outside the Christian canon for possible evidence, it being absent within the canon.⁴ For example, in some of the near-death literature, e.g.

² "Where" is not even the right word to use here. A state of being is what should be referred to here, spatial location being irrelevant, we believe. The state-of-being word, if we had it in human language, would connote information that would explain this "where".

³ The absence of such information in the Christian Bible can be tied to the Lord's intentions with less confidence due to the centuries of mistransmission, scribal errors, emendation, perversion, misinterpretation, etc. But if the small bit of information contained in the Pearl of Great Price is indicative of the amount of information that was available to earlier dispensation, then it is perhaps possible that Adam, Enoch *et al* actually had access to a more complete outline of the PE than we currently have.

However, we must acknowledge the fact that there are many other faiths and religions that probably have bits of information that is 'true' and which sheds light on some of these things. The problem is being able to discern which is which. The Rosacrucians, Buddhists and Druids may all have something to contribute.

⁴ Non-Christian cosmologies provide other conceptions of the creation process and some offer conjectures about the "location" of a pre-earth life. Some of them are remarkably complex and beautiful, as in the Navaho Creation Myths (See DINE BAHANE by ??????). However, there is obviously no way to verify or disprove their accuracy. For the most part, the position taken by this text is confined to the original Christian canon, as extended by latter day revelation. However, we readily acknowledge that this is an incomplete portrayal of the PE, so we would not be surprised if some of the other cosmologies offered some truth.

Note that I just referred to "Christian Canon" without referring to the additional scriptures of the LDS church. This is because the LDS scriptures ARE part of the Christian Canon, even though other Christian churches don't recognize them. That, however, is not unique. Non-Catholic Christians politely dispense with the Vulgate version because apocryphal books are included therein. To refer separately to the Christian Canon and the LDS canon would do two things that I don't want to do. First, that might suggest to some -or merely reinforce the misperception of others- that the LDS Canon is separate from or different than the Christian

Ritchie's RETURN FROM TOMORROW, there are suggestions that post-mortal spirit prison⁵ is actually right here on earth.⁶ He stated that he saw disembodied spirits on the earth in the company of live mortals. They were apparently experiencing the same thirsts and temptations that they must have experienced while they were in the body. At least that is the conclusion Ritchie reached.

If post-mortal spirit prison is indeed right here, then one may speculate that the PE might have been, or is (remember it is still going on for some of us), somewhere in this vicinity as well. However, in view of the fact that the creation of the earth may have occurred after⁷ we all had been created as spirit children, it is likely that we had another "home" or location to spend our time in during the PE. Stated differently, if we were created before this earth was created, we obviously existed or lived somewhere, on another 'planet' or in some other location. But we can't even guess where the PE is located. An interesting suggestion, raised by others, is that it, as well as the other heavens, are in different dimensioned realities.⁸

The chapter on consciousness proposes a hierarchy of spirit types, and relates them to spirit birth processes that created them from intelligence.⁹ It has specific reference to the creations of the mortal phase.

One of the major contribution of this section to the theoretical model is the next chapter, the one on free agency.¹⁰ Recall that one of the four basic principles, defined in Chapter 5. Unified Theory of the POS, is free agency of spirits, and further, that exercise of this agency is the primary mechanism whereby we

Canon, and therefore NOT Christian. Second, it is an "unnecessary redundancy"(ha).

⁵ After mortal death, spirits are sorted into two groups, each of which has its own designated area. The "disobedient" ones are allocated to an area termed "spirit prison", the 'good' ones go to "paradise". Ritchie obviously did not use the term 'spirit prison', but based on what he described, we apply the term because the experience of those disembodied spirits was hellish.

⁶ If one adopts this explanation for the location of spirit prison, then we must still search for the location of paradise. Of course, it is possible that paradise is also 'here' but in a different dimension. Or under a different set of priesthood keys or powers or some such thing. We wonder whether or not the distinction is more or a spiritual one than a physical one, though that doesn't fit with Ritchie's observations of only unhappy spirits.

⁷ Scriptural evidence either way is scanty. This perspective derives from the particular point of view adopted here, and may be incorrect. I have a firm belief, however...though I am swayed by the last person I talk with.

⁸ As already noted, the concept of different dimensioned realities, borrowed from many authors and sources, will be used frequently though this text. We believe that it is as reasonable a concept as any to discriminate between worlds or phases. We admit, however, that we don't understand much about such 3+ dimensioned realities, and that it may be wrong anyway. That's no problem because it at least gives a model or tools to work with until we are offered the truth, the definitive explanation.

⁹ Fossil hominids even have a place in this schema.

¹⁰ This chapter, 14. FREE AGENCY - PART 1, is in fact the first of two chapters dedicated in this work to that concept. The second is 48. FREE AGENCY AND THE FUTURE - FACT OF FALLACY? We dedicate so much space to it because it is one of the pivotal characteristics of the entire metamorphosis. Without free agency there could be no metamorphosis.

transform ourselves, our spirit matter, into god-like creatures, along with appropriate applications of the priesthood.

The last three chapters discuss death, birth and judgment. These are also pivotal characteristics of the metamorphosis, and we propose that they -or at least the appropriate ones from the set- occur at the perimeters of each of the three phases.¹¹

PE INITIAL CONDITIONS:

We have one more topic to broach in this introduction:

What were the initial conditions from which the PE was created?

Remember that we claim that the PE world was 'created' just as the mortal world was. This means, logically, that there are/were initial conditions from which it arose¹². We know that there is no canonical evidence to suggest that it was created, rather than having it simply exist eternally in some special set of dimensions, etc. However, as we claimed above, we believe it was a special set of conditions that was set up as a temporary rat maze for us fetal spirits who needed a safe environment in which to live. It was also an environment that also contain(ed)(s) the necessary mazes, i.e. challenges or opportunities, that we needed to test and prove our ability to handle free agency.

We are at a loss to postulate the initial conditions for the PE, so will leave this section blank for the moment. (...a few moments of silence please....)



(Later: We have now recovered.)¹³

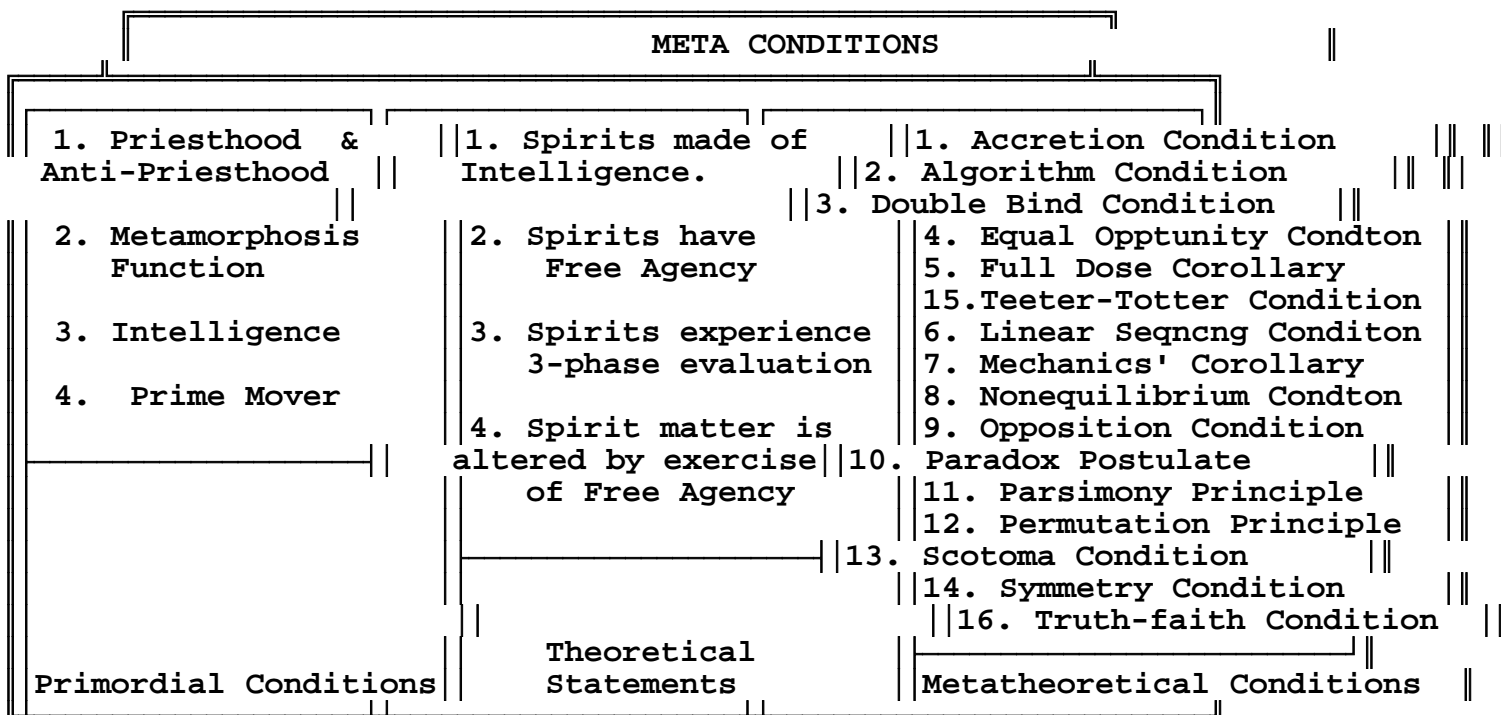
We will obviously invoke the Primordial Conditions as the

¹¹ See Chapter 51. NESTED OR CRISS-CROSSED DEPENDENCIES? for the most detailed discussion in this work of these three subsets of ordinances. There may be one set applied three time, rather than three separate sets that have no relationship.

¹² That is, it is logical if one assumes that there is economy and uniformity of processes in the eternities, and if one takes the creation of this universe and world as an example of this process. Back-extension of the model suggests that the PE, too, must have had initial conditions.

¹³ This is sort of like Sterne's "Alas, Poor Yorick", though he left a black box on the page.

ultimate nest from which the PE was created, just as they are the source of the PM world. We will re-display the pertinent table from Chapter 6 on the following page to show the meta-conditions.



The Primordial Conditions apply everywhere, everytime, everyhow. So do the Theoretical Statement. And so do the Metatheoretical Conditions. So the question really is:

What are the "physical initial conditions" that are analogous to those of this universe and world?

Since we don't know what the "physical" reality is of the PE, we can't guess what these PIC are. So we will postulate their existence as part of the theory, incorporate them by reference here, and leave them to be discovered later. The only suggestion we can dredge up, a far cry to be sure, revolves around the use of free agency.

What special conditions were needed to test FA in the PE?

The other characteristic of the PE that might be relevant involves our concept that spirits are veiled in the PE, as we are in

mortality. What 'physical' condition would allow this veiling to be in force for us?