

Study Guide for The Secret Doctrine, Vol. 2: Anthropogenesis

1. Introduction to Volume II: The Problem of Human Origins

Read: Preface and Introduction (1 – 16 p.)

- Overview of Volume II's focus on human evolution
- The significance of anthropogenesis (the origin of humanity) within cosmic evolution
- The difference between the physical and spiritual origins of humanity

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Volume II of The Secret Doctrine build upon the ideas presented in Volume I?
2. What does Blavatsky mean by “Anthropogenesis,” and why is it essential to understand human origins in the context of cosmic evolution?
3. How does Blavatsky differentiate between the physical and spiritual origins of humanity?

2. The Creation of Humanity and the First Race

Read: (17 – 60 p.)

- The first “root race” and its nature
- The concept of “Monads” and their evolution into human form
- The development of consciousness and physical forms in early humans
- The role of the “Lords of Flame” (the early divine beings)

Discussion Questions:

1. What is Blavatsky's definition of the first root race, and how does it compare to modern scientific theories of human origins?
2. How does the idea of “Monads” in Blavatsky's cosmology contribute to the development of human consciousness?
3. What role do the “Lords of Flame” play in the early stages of humanity's evolution, and what do they represent spiritually?

3. The Evolution of the Second, Third, and Fourth Root-Races

Read: (61 – 150 p.)

- The second root race and its ethereal nature
- The emergence of physical forms in the third root-race
- The rise of civilization in the fourth root race (the Atlantean root race)
- The role of Atlantis in the spiritual and material evolution of humanity

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Blavatsky describe the physical and spiritual evolution of the second root race?
2. What were the significant changes that took place in the third root race, and how did they lead to more developed physical forms?
3. How does Blavatsky's depiction of Atlantis and the Atlanteans compare to mythological and historical accounts of the lost continent?

4. The Fifth Root Race: The Aryan Race

Read: (151 – 210 p.)

- The rise of the Aryan race and its spiritual potential
- The Role of the Fifth root-race in humanity's karmic evolution
- The moral and intellectual qualities attributed to the Aryan race
- The relationship between the Aryan race and the other root-races

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Blavatsky describe the development of the Aryan race in comparison to previous root races?
2. What spiritual and moral qualities does Blavatsky attribute to the Aryan race?
3. How does the concept of karma influence the development of the Aryan race and its role in global evolution?

5. The Role of Karma and Reincarnation in Human Evolution

Read: (211 – 270 p.)

- The law of karma and its effects on individual and collective evolution
- The process of reincarnation and its connection to human development
- The role of human consciousness in shaping karmic destiny
- The relationship between karma, reincarnation, and spiritual ascent

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Blavatsky explain the concept of karma, and why is it central to human evolution?
2. How do the concepts of reincarnation and karma work together to explain human progress and setbacks?
3. How does the individual's karma impact both their personal life and the collective destiny of humanity?

6. The Development of Human Consciousness and the Role of Divine Intervention

Read: (271 – 330 p.)

- The evolution of human consciousness from its primal state to its higher potential
- The role of “The Sons of Wisdom” and other divine beings in the evolution of humanity
- The gradual awakening of spiritual faculties in humans
- The development of self-consciousness and intellect in the Fifth Root Race

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Blavatsky describe the evolution of human consciousness over time?
2. What is the role of divine beings, such as “The Sons of Wisdom,” in the development of humanity?
3. How does Blavatsky's concept of spiritual evolution differ from the materialistic view of human development?

7. The Role of Occultism and Secret Teachings in Human Evolution

Read: (331 – 400 p.)

- The importance of esoteric knowledge and occultism in guiding human evolution
- The transmission of hidden wisdom to select individuals throughout history
- The connection between the inner teachings of mystery schools and the spiritual awakening of humanity
- The potential of humanity to reach higher levels of consciousness

Discussion Questions:

1. How does Blavatsky view the role of occultism in the broader spiritual evolution of humanity?
2. What is the relationship between mystery schools, esoteric knowledge, and the development of human consciousness?
3. How does Blavatsky suggest that humanity can awaken to higher spiritual truths and evolve toward greater wisdom?

8. The Future of Humanity: The Sixth and Seventh Root Races

Read: (401 – 470 p.)

- The emergence of the Sixth and Seventh Root Races and their spiritual potential
- The transformation of humanity into higher beings through the process of spiritual evolution
- The eventual goal of humanity's development - becoming spiritual and enlightened beings
- The cyclical nature of human evolution and the eventual return to spiritual unity

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Blavatsky predict for the future development of humanity in the Sixth and Seventh Root Races?
2. How does Blavatsky describe the ultimate spiritual destiny of humanity?
3. In what ways does the idea of a cyclical evolutionary process suggest that humanity's spiritual potential is limitless?

9. Final Reflections

Activity: 1. Create a timeline or diagram illustrating the evolution of the root races, their key characteristics, and their relation to cosmic and spiritual laws. 2. Reflect on the connection between anthropogenesis and cosmogenesis and how understanding human evolution within this framework influences your view of human potential and destiny.

Discussion Questions:

1. After reading Volume II, how has your understanding of the origins of humanity deepened?
2. What parallels can you draw between Blavatsky's teachings and other spiritual or philosophical traditions regarding human evolution?
3. How does Blavatsky's esoteric view of human origins challenge or expand upon modern scientific views of human development?

Root Race	Time Frame (Esoteric)	Approximate Years (Gregorian)	Key Characteristics and Events
First Root Race	~300 million years ago	~300,000,000 BCE	Known as the "Imperishable Sacred Race" ; purely ethereal and non-physical beings.
Second Root Race	~150 million years ago	~150,000,000 BCE	The "Hyperborean Race" ; semi-ethereal beings living in polar regions under spiritual states.
Third Root Race	~18 million years ago	~18,000,000 BCE	The "Lemurian Race" ; physical and hermaphroditic beings, marking the beginning of materiality.
Fourth Root Race	~4.5 million years ago	~4,500,000 BCE to ~850,000 BCE	The "Atlantean Race" ; highly advanced but ultimately destroyed due to misuse of power.
Fifth Root Race	~1 million years ago	~1,000,000 BCE to Present	The "Aryan Race" ; includes modern humanity and focuses on intellectual and spiritual evolution.
Sixth Root Race	Future (~in 1 million years)	Not Yet Begun (~1,000,000 years AD)	Will emerge as a spiritual race with higher consciousness and unity.
Seventh Root Race	Far Future (~several million years)	Not Yet Begun (~millions of years AD)	The final race completing humanity's evolution before moving to a new planetary cycle.

