

RAGNAROCK, THE AGE OF FIRE AND GRAVEL---Was the prehistoric world destroyed by the misuse of scientific knowledge?

MANLY PALMER HALL

Not long ago a book that was issued back a number of years entitled "Gentlemen, You Are Mad", took up the probability of a previous world having been destroyed by atomic energy. Of course, there is no historical foundation for such a belief, but it is an interesting problem with which to speculate, especially in the light of the increasing use of universal energy in the scientific development of military defensive and offensive mechanism.

There is a record that goes back, a long way back in the history of our race, a record of a lost world that was destroyed long prior to Atlantis, even before the Lemurian world, described in the sagas and eddas of the Scandinavians as Ragnarock, the Age of Fire and Gravel. This is supposed to coincide with the destruction of a planet, now a group of fragments revolving or rotating around our Sun. This planet, or what is now the asteroids of the Sun, was destroyed by some kind of combustion at a remote time, and according to Ignatius Donnelly in his book on Ragnarock, large pieces of this planet struck the earth, one fragment struck in the area of the Great Lakes, forming the Great Lakes, tilting the earth's axis, and caused the Glacial Period.

That an ancient world long ago existed in this solar system is sustained and supported by nearly all ancient religions and mythologies. According to the Hindu records there was a planet that was destroyed because of the corruption, destruction and evils of its people. The Greeks had a similar belief in the destruction of a whole planetary system. And in the Bible we have the story of the planet Lucifer, the most brilliant star of the morning, <sup>that</sup> was driven from heaven by the Army of Light under the leadership of the archangel Michael. The story of the fall of Lucifer is supposed to be the story of Ragnarock. That such a astronomical phenomenon did take place is well established by the solar changes which occurred, but the reason for these changes have never been clearly defined. While we cannot hope by astronomical or geological means to go into the analogy, there are legends that ancient people believed definitely that moral forces were responsible for the destruction of this old world.

Most of you probably have read some parts of the elder Eddas, or the younger Eddas of the Scandinavian people, in which you find the story set forth relative to the destruction of the old world of the Gods. This story is set forth in the great operatic theme of Richard Wagner, the Gotterdammerung, or the Twilight of the Gods, where, according to ancient legends on the great planes of Vahalla were fought the last great battles of the Wars of the World. Here was the great struggle over a vast period of time between good and evil for supremacy, Gods and Demons struggling for supremacy until the last day when the World Tree itself collapsed, and the whole world of Gods and Demigods fell into the abyss and perished utterly. This collapse of the old universe which preceded the formation of the human race as we know it, is referred to as Ragnarock, and that is where the term Ragnarock came from, from the ancient scriptural books and poems of the Nordic people.

What could have destroyed the world of the Gods and Demigods? Let us go back and study the legends and records of these ancient people. First of all, let us consider it astronomically in terms of our present knowledge of the solar system, and also in terms of Eastern esoteric convictions which have been widely distributed through world history. According to the ancient belief the planets of the solar system were the steps or rungs of a series of ladders, each step representing a different level of evolution. No two planets had the same level or degree of development; nor did they

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sustain the same kind of life. Certain planets were more highly evolved than others. Others were not so highly evolved, and each contained within its substance a septenary order of beings. Each had its minerals, plants, animal and human kingdoms and its superhuman hierarchies. Each planet was, therefore, a world in itself, a world in which evolution was fulfilling its purpose, a world in which living things were growing up in an environment appropriate to themselves, each perfecting its own life-wave according to the law of its kind and time. There is no planet on which life is exactly the same as on this one, because life is an adaptation to its environment. If the air pressure was not exactly the way it is, if the chemistry of our earth was not in the exact compound it is, we would not look, or appear as we do. We are the products of the adaptation of life to the requirements of its environment. Grosser worlds produce different types of life; more attenuated spheres produce a different type of life. We know on a planet such as Mercury, which is closer to the Sun, life must be more attenuated or it would be burned to pieces immediately, and we have no reason to doubt that Mercury is inhabited by organisms adapted to that heat, and to those creatures it is a normal atmosphere for their function. The same is true of Saturn, which occupies a distant place from the Sun. Its atmosphere is much heavier than we know, and the forms of life upon that planet would have to possess a great deal more internal source of power in order to survive.

We have already been studying the structural forms of Saturn and Jupiter, and the question now arises, which may not be completely answered, although it may be, as to the possibility that Saturn and Jupiter do not merely reflect light, but have a certain amount of internal energy and luminosity within themselves. That might be possible. Being further from the source of light from the Sun there is a greater requirement, in order for them to survive, for them to possess their own light and life as an individual planet. It is the same with human beings, the farther removed they are from a common life and light the more they must develop a life and light of their own, and the more distant planets from the Sun must develop greater internal vitality in order to be able to maintain their living organisms. Jupiter we know is much less dense than the earth, and the organisms that we develop here could not be sustained on Jupiter. If Jupiter has the gravitational pull which the earth possesses, the forms we know would be pulled down through the surface to the core, because its surface is less dense than our planet.

So each of these planets has its own wave of life, and in each wave of life growth is a struggle toward obedience. Everywhere in the universe the natural instinct of all human life is to disobey. This disobedience may come through simple ignorance or through wilfulness. Ignorance is the inability to obey because we do not know the laws; wilfulness is the belief that we are stronger than the laws of life and can direct them to our own purposes. Primitive life <sup>is not</sup> does not know enough to be wilful, but nearly all sophisticated life is wilful. The sophisticated life leads to self-will by which the human being divides himself from the Divine Will of God. This self will is part of evolution. There is no type of being that does not pass through the experience of self-will. We often refer to young people as being on top of Fool's Mountain. That is when they think they know everything, when we know that they do not, but that we are the ones who know everything. When a small child believes it knows everything we regard it as a sign of ignorance, but when an adult believes he knows everything, we consider it is a sign of maturity, when in fact he does not know very much about anything. But there is this wilfulness that comes in the middle part of the evolutionary process.

We have only a very sketchy belief or knowledge as to the way life is evolving on other planets. Many books have been written on the subject, one by a dear old Jesuit priest two or three hundred years ago, giving a limited discussion of life on other planets, basing his writings on the

traditions of Eastern people. While there have been some fine phantasies on the subject, we know very, very little, but we are reasonably sure by analogies of our own world that people, or living things on other planets, are always passing through the experiences of growth. We can get some idea of the particulars by the study of life on this planet. For example, we know that in the course of time there has been an interchange of life in the Cosmos. In their studies the Piccard brothers discovered outside our atmosphere so-called space is filled with tiny, vibrant centers of life which they called spores. These spores live in space without the requirement of any atmosphere such as we know. They live in what to us is a vacuum. They are floating about in free space, probably cast off by other planets, and it is possible in passing through space we are leaving behind us oceans of spores, living organisms that are swept away from our planetary atmosphere into space. In the past that has happened to other worlds with the result there are on our planet a number of orders of life which originated on other planets. Probably the most commonly known of this interchange of life are wheat and bananas, neither one of which has any evolutionary history on our planet. They probably come from one of our neighbors, likely Venus, and may give us a clue of the things that grow on other planets. Probably by study of the interplanetary spores we can reconstruct the flora of other planets.

Each planet exists as a sphere of evolving life wave. We have a right to believe that some of these life waves are inferior to our own because of location in space; that others are nearly like our own, but not exactly, slightly less or slightly more than ours; and others infinitely greater and wiser than ours. These different groups of evolving life originally numbered among themselves another planet. This other planet, Ragnarock, in practical terms, a term we have given it, was not very different from our own, possibly slightly higher in evolution than we are. This planet must have existed in periods back in terms of millions of years. It existed at a time when our planet possessed no civilization whatever, a time in which we were struggling to orient ourselves, a world of fog and mist. We had never produced a thoughtful person, we had never built a city when Ragnarock was a bright star in the morning sky. It is quite possible that Ragnarock was slightly in advance of ourselves; that this planet passed through a civilization similar to what we know today, or slightly higher, millions of years ago. Doubtless this civilization was different. They may not have built cities such as we know, they may not have built nations, we have no record of that. Possibly their civilization was an internal process, but certainly they were growing, certainly they were experiencing and passing through certain evolutionary processes at that time.

Now it is very rare in astronomical knowledge for any heavenly body or world to be destroyed. It is extremely rare for any part of the universal machinery to go awry, and to have done so bespeaks unusual circumstances of some kind, -- most unusual. What those circumstances are we have no record, but we must believe and are entitled to believe that those circumstances were due to something that happened in the cultural life of those people. We must realize that laws, being universal, apply to all worlds not only our own. A life wave, an evolving system of living creatures, is not destroyed without a reason, yet that it was destroyed, practically instantaneously, is to be found in the records of many ancient people. These records are an internal experience of the human race, not from outside sources, but from the childhood, infant memory of our people, evolving as a dream of infancy we have forgotten, comes this feeling, this subconscious belief that sometime this star fell from heaven, was shattered and destroyed and that the creatures on it were cast into exile. If this is true, there must have been some terrific cause for it. Nature does not destroy worlds easily, and in our mechanical orbit of the solar system, the possibility of planets colliding is practically nil. Each world has its own orbit and place, and it is rare that any planet deviates markedly from its place.

If Ragnarock was there at one time, it had been there for hundreds of millions and billions of years, and during that time it went on its way naturally, normally and perfectly. It is not that nature just eliminated it. Nature's laws, seemingly, always force orders of life to fulfill their destiny by setting up patterns which human beings intensify until these patterns become the basis of their survival or destruction.

This leads us back to the legends again, and these legends say there was a rebellious people, a people that revolted against the will of heaven, and always great tragedy followed rebellion against the will of heaven. We think of the will of heaven now as something offending our concept of Deity and an angry God exterminating his people because of their disobedience, but that is not the way ancient people understood the will of heaven. The will of heaven was the law of life. Those who disobeyed the will of heaven were those who broke the law of life. It is not that a vicious or uncomfortable Deity gets peeved and punishes his people, but that any creature who disobeys universal law cuts himself off from any part of universal life. That which disobeys loses its place in the plan. That which voluntarily turns its back to its own source and cause cuts itself off from that source and cause, and in that way signs its own death warrant.

So the old legends went, whether from the Polynesians, high Asians, Africans, American Indians or Eskimos, there is always that belief in a world that went before this one, always the story that it was destroyed by disobedience, by the individual rebelling against the will of heaven. In the Bible we have the story very clearly given in regard to the planet Lucifer, the Light Bearer, which is described as being the bright star of the morning. We believe Venus was the star of the morning, but according to the ancients the brightest star of the heavens was this star or rebel angel. Your devil worshipers of Persia have a very complicated and complete story of this fall of the Star of the Morning, and all of the evil consequences that came as the result of the fall of the Crown Jewel Star of Heaven.

This rebellion against the will of heaven can only be regarded as a violent disobedience against the laws of heaven. This disobedience would have had to be something of the highest magnitude, something that could not be remedied by lesser means than the disintegration of a planet. Such disobedience, such wilfulness is explained in the Bible by the simple story that Lucifer desired to be recognized as equal to God; in other words, usurpation of Divine Power. It is the setting up of the human or non-Divine status in opposition to Deity. It was man trying to be greater than God.

Now of course, upon the planet Ragnarock it was probably not man or anything we would liken to a human being, but we have no way of describing it in any other terms, so we will have to use these terms and you will have to be patient. But we will have to assume that there was something similar to man on Ragnarock, something that had individual capacity to rebel, something that had an infinite ego and a great conviction that it could rebel against the universe; that it could bind universal purpose to its own selfish ambitions and purposes. This being a common, carnal sin, we may project this concept into the circumstances surrounding Ragnarock in ancient time.

So we have from the Bible and other sacred books a clear and simple statement of what was the crime of that time. The crime was the effort to dominate the universe, the effort to remove Deity as the sovereign power, and to place the ego of man, or its equivalent, in the place of God. It was self-will thrown against Divine Will; it was the rebellion of the human mind against the Infinite. We have a small parallel to the same idea in the story of the Tower of Babel in which human beings attempted to erect a building that would reach heaven. The Tower of Babel is any way in which the human mind attempts to reach the Divine Power. The result was the confusion of tongues and punishment, and the tribes were cast into exile for taking over the Divine Prerogative.

We may go further to find what was the cause of the destruction of Ragnarock in terms of mechanics. The God of Israel, the secret God of the Jews

of the Ancients was the archangel Michael, not Jehovah. Jehoval was the exoteric Deity, but the archangel Michael was the esoteric Deity worshipped by the Cabalistic mystics, by those who understood the secret of the Mercavah, the Chariot of Fire, the Shechinah, the glory of the Lord. The archangel Michael was the initiate's Deity, the symbol of Universal Power, the symbol of the mysterious Fire Breath that we have in the doctrines of Asia, the Universal Life Power. This mysterious deity whose flaming sword and power led the heavenly hosts, the Generalissimo of the Divine Armies, was the symbol of Universal Power itself. And it was the Universal Power that turned upon the fallen angel and destroyed him.

Now let us leave Ragnarock for a moment and come down to some of the things that we are doing here today. We have been experimenting for some time with some very mysterious forces, one of them being our concept of atomic energy. Needless to say atomics is only the beginning, it is only one of the outer layers of a power we know nothing of. We have not the imagination to realize what could be done with the same process we are now using. We have developed a method by which a small article weighing only a few pounds is capable of destroying a city. If we knew the secret of the energy, and knew how to release it, there is enough power in that same amount of energy to not only blast a city, but to completely disintegrate a Planet. We would not have to use more, only go deeper into the secret processes of atomics. We are only on the surface. We have not as yet discovered anything in comparison with the potentials that are in it. Of course, it may not be given to us to know more, but we know that the bombs that were dropped are now obsolete. We have found the key and the scientific mind will not be satisfied until it finds the keyhole it fits into.

What is our motive? What are we trying to do? What is the basic imagination which lies behind the development of all these processes? Well, I suppose if we thought it through carefully we would come to the conclusion there is no particular imagination, any particular purpose or plan, but when we get ourselves into a difficulty, we try to find some way to get out. We spend thousands of years trying to get out of difficulties. There is no large plan. I do not think the average human being, or any group of human beings, has any dynamic reason for the atomic bomb. We were at war with Japan, we wanted to end it in the quickest way possible, so we dropped two little bombs and now have to live with the consequences. There was no particular plan. But power inevitably brings plans. We cannot have the potentials of limitless energy without releasing the potentials of limitless ambitions. The bomb becomes its own burden. Sometime we must make a great decision as to how it must be used, and we will discover to our sorrow that each one of these new and useful improvements brings with it a heavy burden of use and a terrible burden of misuse application. These things are hard to control. The human being is not mature enough to administer them wisely. There are secret ambitions in the world, and there are people planning how, by the use of atomics, to make the world an enslaved people. The man who controls the bomb controls the world, but the problem is to find the individual who can control himself in releasing the bomb, and that is not so easy.

Well, the end that we are approaching is the same thing that was recorded in ancient times. This rebellion against the will of Deity is not usually someone getting up and saying, "I do not like God and I think I will disobey him," it is the creation of patterns without the consideration of universal principles. We are all rebels here on earth because nothing we have done in recent centuries has taken into consideration the laws of Deity. We build our cities without any thought or idea of what the Universe wants us to do. We want to do certain things, therefore, we do them and then wonder why we are unhappy. The human being has built a civilization without any consideration of the biological laws governing his own species. His specie will not change, it will adapt and take a considerable amount of punishment, but the requirements of the human being will be met, regardless of the world he builds. He requires a science that will patch up his dis-

obedience, and a large part of progress is a method to make disobedience endurable. We break all the laws of our kind and glorify science that will perpetuate us while we do it. We eat badly, live badly, and pass the crown on to the individual who invents the toothbrush in order that we may save our teeth. The animal kingdom gets along without the toothbrush because it does not eat the things we do. If we ate as we should it would not be necessary to have toothbrushes, but as long as we do not, we have to have toothbrushes. And so we have industry. Industry is sustained by our disobedience to natural law. If we all did what we ought to when we ought to, two-thirds of the world would be bankrupt. A large part of industry is sustained by our mistakes, a large part by our disobedience. We are all rebels without knowing we are rebels, by the simple process of not caring, our education makes no effort to find out what nature wants us to do, our religion makes no effort to find out what nature wants us to do, our politicians never observe universal law,--they make their own,-- industry pays no attention to biology and physics,--except in the manufacture of goods that are profitable. We are, without knowing it, rebels, rebelling against every pattern set up by the universe.

So we are not so different from the Atlanteans, and what destroyed the Atlanteans? We only know in an abstract way that black magic was employed by the ancients, so we assume that a group of sorcerers in long black robes sat around and evoked evil spirits. Nothing of the kind happened. It is very unlikely that any nation hoped to make a pact with the Devil, the black magic was the misuse of power, which is the secret of ruin. They probably did it with a good spirit and with a good hope, and were probably able to create a number of realistic philosophies to prove why they should do it, and by the time it was disproved it was too late. So they probably never realized how wrong they were, for after they got into difficulty they assumed it was a whim of the Devil and not their own fault.

The black magic of the Atlanteans was not some kind of a black seance with goblins floating around in space, it was a long program of ignoring the laws of life, it was living contrary to the law and making no apology, it was centuries and centuries and centuries of selfishness,--that was the black magic. It was the development of things they wanted with no regard for the things they needed. It was involved with the most difficult of all problems to cope with, that is, the instinctual desire on the part of the individual to do as he pleases, and his desire to interfere with that which is for his own good. In other words, just plain wilfulness. Wilfulness always arises from ignorance. No individual who was not ignorant would disobey. You have to be ignorant to disobey in the same way you have to be ignorant to be an egotist, you have to be ignorant to be foolish. You cannot do these things if you have perspective, but most people do not have perspective, therefore, they make a good job of it.

So in this problem it was not Atlanteans evoking Mephistopheles at a cross-road at midnight that caused the destruction of Atlantis, it was the gradual collapse of all ethics and ideals. As previously pointed out, it was the gradual descent of the Atlantean state into the most perverted of all policies, war policy. War destroyed Atlantis. War destroyed the ancient world. It was said that the Atlanteans were the first to wage war upon our planet, the first ones that wanted to use aggressive means to get what they want, and it was during this war that the wrath of the gods descended and destroyed the continent. What is meant by the "wrath of the gods"? This might have a bearing on the subject.

Not long ago in looking over a Buddhist sacred book I found something that was very interesting pertaining to how long ago gun powder was discovered. We do not know exactly, but we credit the Chinese with it about the time of Genghis Khan, but in one of the dialogues in this book someone asked Buddha how Nirvana could be explained. Buddha replied the extinction of the personality through the attainment of Nirvana can be symbolized by the disappearance of gun powder after being lighted. That was five or six hundred

years B.C., therefore, they must have known something about the explosive processes of gun power at that time, so that proves gun powder is older than we have believed. A Hindu scientist, <sup>Sunkar Bisay</sup> declared the Hindus were able to manufacture electric batteries 3000 B.C. We know that Hostilius of Rome was electrocuted while experimenting with electricity in his laboratory, so that would push electrical experiments in the Mediterranean back 2500 years. Also on the early shrines and temples in the East they put sword blades for lightening rods 5000 years ago, so there is no reason to doubt that antiquity had considerable knowledge of things we have forgotten or lost track of.

That the destruction of Atlantis should agree in time with its first and only war is interesting. The Atlantean land armies were led against Greece. This happened thousands of years before the Trojan war. During this campaign a tremendous number of people must have migrated across to the continent of Europe and drifted through the Mesopotamian area across the face of Europe. While they were gone on this expedition their islands were destroyed, leaving these armies stranded upon the European continent. They may have founded what was known as the Egyptian civilization, we do not know, but this we do know, when the Pyramids were built, at least 5000 years ago, whoever built them had a thorough knowledge of astronomy and mechanics. They were not built by a primitive people, but by a highly cultured people. The individuals who designed the Pyramids would probably be in mathematics not terribly inferior to Mr. Einstein. It would take a lot of knowledge to be that. As a man he was probably much superior to Mr. Einstein for the reason Einstein has had the advantage of the entire history of mathematics, had the advantage of all the scholars that have gone before him. He is building today on a broad platform already established by men going back thousands of years. What the Atlanteans had to build upon, we do not know, maybe they had a long tradition, but maybe they explored their own minds for these things. Certainly they did not have a Euclid to help them. They did not have all these things that came after them, how much they had that went before, we do not know.

But it is quite possible that the Doctor of Atlantis, or Egypt, --back of that dark curtain of history we do not know too well, --but somebody back in that time, four or five thousand years ago, someone designed the Pyramids, and in order to do it he had to have a thorough knowledge not only in architecture, but in mathematics and astronomy. He knew the orientation of the earth, knew how to orient the building to the eleventh decimal. He knew the distance between the earth and each planet in the solar system, for they are all incorporated in that Pyramid. He knew the water and land distribution on the earth, because he had the dead center, yet he had no way of finding out at that time as far as we know, yet he knew it. And I am willing to say that the average mathematician, sitting in the shadow of the great Pyramid with his text book left at home, asked to make that calculation without reference to logarithms would have trouble.

I talked to a very fine architect who had made a careful examination of the Pyramids and I asked him what it would cost today to duplicate the Pyramids. He was a man who had built many twenty million dollar buildings. He said, "Well, if you want my candid opinion it could not be done. Maybe it could be, but it is almost beyond human estimation. We could do it if you would let us cheat on the material. If you would let us pour concrete instead of stone, if we could cover steel instead of using balance and leverage, if you would permit us to use material we regard as more appropriate rather than the type they used. For one thing we have lost the river Nile, which is no longer high enough to permit the landing of wood and stone. It would be a tremendous problem. There is not enough money in the treasuries of the world to build the Pyramids again, and only a great expert could even attempt it. With the original to copy from, it would test any scientific skill we have today." And there are many other things as important as the Pyramids, but not so well known, that represent a tremendous amount of cultural attainment. Whoever built these monuments of the past was not an ig-

norant man, but a man who contained in his own personality a considerable amount of the knowledge of Einstein and Millikan.

What was the secret of Atlantis? There is a peculiar legend,--Lord Bulwer-Lytton, in "Zanoni" and the "Strange Story", has told something to help keep the legend alive,--in the ancient world they had a strange force or power, called Vril, by which all forms of mechanism could be motivated, yet Vril required no motive power. You could have a little box the size of a cigar box and with that you could run a trainer an airplane, or anything of that kind. Well, that is supposed to be a legend. Many people say there could not have been such a thing, if there had been it would not have been forgotten. But it could be forgotten. We have forgotten so much, one more thing would not count. With the destruction of a civilization the size of Atlantis, many things could be wiped out or passed on to the barbarians who would not know the meaning of it. It is quite possible that in some mysterious way the Ancients touched our theory of atomics, just how we are not sure. They may have approached it from a different angle ~~than we have~~. We have approached it by the laborious means of a laboratory, they probably did not do it that way. Today we are graduating young men in making maps and charts and things of that kind, making them efficient in charting and things of that nature. In ancient times they did not do that. Aristarchus without any scientific mechanism of any kind, without the help of telescopes or anything of that kind, measured the diameter of the earth and arrived within fifty miles of our present calculation, simply by his mind alone. We have externalized all of our equipment, we have built bigger telescopes and more elaborate machinery. The ancient approached it differently, his approach was to enlarge the man himself, the human being was his own scientific laboratory. By thought, reason, skill and judgment he was able to make all these calculations which the modern scientist is able to prove mechanically. Any scientist will admit that Leucippus knew the theory of atomics, but knew it theoretically; Democritus knew the theory of atomics, and it was from him there came knowledge of units of energy; Socrates knew the theory of atomics,--all these men knew atomics, but they knew them intellectually, they discovered them as a natural necessity in the structure of the world. They discovered them with a laboratory but by virtue of reason. That which is necessary must exist. Maybe this was a hypothesis to begin with, but it becomes a fact by necessity and by an extension of the mind, and it was perfectly possible for the whole theory of atomics to be perfected intellectually, as it probably was. We can see by a careful study of Leucippus how much he knew. Socrates described water. He said it was not liquid, that it was composed of minute solid particles fall over each other, so small it appeared to be a fluid. He had no way of knowing, he just reasoned it out. He never saw these particles himself.

So if you go back far enough and study the human mind it is quite possible the individual did develop tremendous knowledge which belongs in the sphere of thought instead of the sphere of experimentation. If we penetrate inwardly rather than outwardly, we reach another perspective the modern world knows nothing about, but formed a large part of antiquity, and that is, how to internalize, to rationalize, to develop the science of internal function. Just as surely as the atom can be broken by certain forms of electrical energy, so an atom can be split by the mind. The human mind can perform the same experiment. It is possible to do anything with the human mind that is done with machinery.

Well, we have been building bigger and better machines but not bigger and better minds. We have made the mind dependent upon the machine. It has never occurred to the human being that his own mind can cure him so he has developed a very elaborate therapeutics of medicine and herbs. He uses his mind only to remember the names on the bottle. The same thing is true in science, we use the mind to remember the thoughts of great scientific minds and for the combining of certain mechanic formulas, we use our mental energy to build and create these machines with which to do it. It does not occur



to us to use the mind to detonate matter. That would be magic, and magic is really only that which is <sup>not</sup> understood. It is not necessarily something supernatural. To the Fiji Islander an automobile is a miracle. To the Digger Indian an airplane is a miracle. These things are supernatural to the degree that we cannot understand them, but to the individual who develops the science of the use of his own mind the possibility of the release of mental energy seems only natural.

To go back, we have more and more records of people who possessed and used these magical powers. We do not understand them very well, but they go with primitive people. Let us detour at this point to point out an example. Every year in the Southwest they have a Festival called the Gallup Festival. Tribes of Indians come from all parts of North America to take part in this great revival of a religious ceremony. This year at the Gallup Festival a group of Navajo Indians performed the Feather Ceremony. They are a comparatively primitive people. We may say that the Atlanteans were about their degree of culture. We will not admit that the Atlanteans could parallel our degree of culture, as we are the most wonderfully advanced that God ever produced. The Atlanteans were about like these Navajo Indians.

The Feather Ceremony consisted of two groups of Indians sitting on the ground about ten feet apart facing each other. Before them was a basket on which rested a feather of an eagle,--not a little, fluffy, downy feather, but a good, solid eagle feather. Then the chants began between the two groups. After a while the feather was suspended above the basket. If the performance is exceptionally good and everything is all right, and there are not too many scoffing Anglos around to break the vibration, this feather will levitate. It was a heavy wing or tail feather of an eagle, not one you could blow into the air, and it floated in the air while the chanting went on. Assuming that these are primitive people, I wonder how many classes of graduates of technology it would take to get that feather up in the air. If we had enough machinery we might get it up there. We might even be able to do it by means of magnetism by moving in a hundred thousand dollars worth of equipment, which would be the way we would go about it. We would dig a hole in the ground below the feather; we would put something up in the sky even if we had to use an airplane to do it. Maybe we would slip a little piece of iron in with the rest, and then when we got the feather up in the air we would say, "See, we can do anything they can!" But they do it with a song. We don't sing that well, or something.

All right, that is magic, it is performed every year and we have not noticed any group of scientists going into paroxysms over it. They choose to ignore it because it is a simple thing done by simple people, but it is something we cannot do. If we want to go back to the old days when Atlantis was the King of the World, maybe they could make feathers float in the air, too. Maybe somewhere along the line they started to think and pray for themselves, praying no longer for the good of all. They began singing songs to conquer empires. They used magic to hurt someone else. They used it for aggression rather than perfection. They got to dreaming, as so many people have, of becoming rulers of the world. Then their chant began to be selfish and the dark magic began that finally resulted in the destruction of an old order of life, long before our memory or time.

All right, let us go again into space with this dear old planet Ragnarock. That planet was probably much further along than we are now. We like to think, and I rather think there is a fair ground for the belief, that our peculiar mechanical civilization is part of our vibratory rate, that it is part of the necessity of our present civilization. It is unlikely that any planet that reached the degree of civilization that we have reached has not passed through equivalent experiences. If they were more highly evolved than we are their experience would be on a higher level. Age, strength, power and skill, all these things add up to great dimensions. Perhaps they knew the secrets of universal energy, we do not know. Perhaps they built machines, I doubt it. It is more likely they used the

same instrument the primitive man used, the magic of the mind. They had in themselves the power to control elements which we have never thought of or tried to develop, but there is an abundance of evidence that such a science existed and that certain human beings have attained to a considerable degree of proficiency in that science. It is possible in their great evolution, in their great desire, in their great sense of strength, these people said to themselves "We are greater than the law. Laws are made for men to break. The human being of Ragnarock is supreme, he is the destined master of all things, he will build things that will fly out to other planets, he is going to become king of all things." Like Alexander on this planet, they may have been looking for other worlds to conquer. Maybe they had jet-propulsion, maybe they didn't, but they had something by which they regarded themselves as greater than the law. They were proud, and pride cometh before a fall. They must have had considerable knowledge to have left behind them the legend that they were strong enough to declare war upon heaven. Led by the flashing archangel, Lucifer, they attempted to overcome the host of stars ruled by Michael.

You can put the same symbolism in our day-dream of going out and conquering other planets. The planets, after all, were the angels of the ancients. They were the wheels filled with eyes in Ezekiel's vision. Whatever we feel we are much the same. I wonder how many of the men who worked on the atomic bomb realized the nobility of great wisdom. I wonder how many of them honestly realized the magnitude of what they did? Since they have made this great discovery, and it was a great discovery in science, there has been considerable discussion, books have come out, and these men have been trying to clarify their religious convictions. There was a storm of protest that came from the laity, so most of these men have written something about their religious convictions. I read the article Einstein wrote on his belief in God. It did not sound exactly convincing. He really discussed everything but his belief in God. He hedged that very carefully and got out without being sure of what he believed. Einstein's religion sums itself up in the idea that everyone should get along together and be happy; that the religion of the physicist is the joy of discovery, that what constitutes an acceptable standard of living is his laboratory, his work and the hope that tomorrow he will make another discovery. Theoretically all these discoveries should be beneficent, but the chief joy is not in the beneficence but in the discovery. To do that which has not been done before is the joy of the human being. I might say his theory of philosophy is not as good as his theory of mathematics. The same is true of most of these men. They do not jell well in their philosophies of life,--most of them do not have any. They have perfected through their own skill instruments with which to change the destiny of the world, although they do not know what direction the destiny should take.

Perhaps something like that happened back on Ragnarock; that is, the race of people on Ragnarock found their own world too small, they could no longer be satisfied even on a planet, they dreamed they would conquer all space. We have not gotten there yet but we are getting there. There is no end to the things that we want to do. We could be perfectly happy subdividing the Milky Way and selling it off in fifty foot lots. We have got to be bigger and better all the time. In this struggle for power, this struggle to conquer universal energy, back in those days, we have the story of the individual who started something he could not finish. He started forces he could not control and he passed these forces on to other human beings and in the end they destroyed themselves.

Now, according to some of our old legends God looked down from Heaven and decided people were so bad they had to be eliminated, but nature does not work that way. We personalize everything and there is nothing personal in it. It is not Deity looking down and punishing us, it is ourselves getting ourselves into trouble. It is not the Gods saying, "Let us destroy it because it is not a good planet." When an individual gets to a certain de-

degree of decadence he destroys himself. So what might happen at any time is not that Deity would destroy us, but combatting human creatures, in their ambitions, in their greed, in their relentless, remorseless desire to do what they want to do, start something and go too far. One of the things many people are worrying about is whether the planet can sustain atomic power and survive at all? Suppose somebody dropped a bomb upon an arsenal of atomic bombs. The idea is to drop them one at a time, but suppose one nation stored up several hundred in one place, and another nation dropped a bomb upon it. Perhaps that would be just a little more than the earth could stand. It might wobble a little; it might wobble just enough to shake us off. It would not take much, we are nearly as well settled as we think. One tiny wobble and we would not be here. Those things might happen. It would not be that Deity directly did it, it would be that the human being, by lowering his standards, gradually undermines his own way of life until he destroys himself, and that is the punishment of the Gods. It is not that the Gods destroy, but that the ones the Gods would destroy they first make mad and they destroy themselves. Wherever there is selfishness there is the possibility of ultimate destruction; wherever there is avarice and ambition for false profits the world is in danger of disintegration. So in ancient times, due to some member of humanity, or neo-humanity, taking hold of something he could not use, could not control, there was this combustion in space.

The old records in East Asia explain it was like a tremendous star exploding in the sky in all directions, that the nights were lighted as day, that there was the most terrible roaring and rumbling in space, that when the vibrations reached the earth the earth tipped about like a ship in an angry sea, and all through space these specks of light exploded in the atmosphere of other planets, peppering the Moon and Mars, and this tremendous piece struck the earth and dug into the earth to a great depth, leaving what is now known as the Great Lakes, tipping the earth's axis and creating the glacial tip that resulted in a large part of the pre-historic animals on the planet being destroyed.

So we have the possibility of such a thing happening. If it did happen it might put an end to a whole order of life, a planet gone in space. It would produce a tremendous effect upon our planet, changing the flora and fauna. It accounts for the reason why we find prehistoric mastodons with green food undigested in their stomachs. All these creatures were a part of a tropical world that changed so rapidly they did not have time to disintegrate. These things are all part of this picture.

Now about twenty-five or thirty years ago a man wrote a book hazarding the possibility that the ancient orders of this world had been swept away by the misuse of energy, and that the disintegration was so complete there was no record left of it, and that we might do it. At that time we were not particularly close to the atomic bomb, but today the book is of vital interest as everything in it is becoming true. We are approaching a cross-road of use and abuse which we must face.

In these days we have other problems. In crossing the country this time I noticed a number of people thinking in terms of Noah's Ark. One group is building an atomic bomb-proof place, where the members may retire through the Armageddon and come forth at the proper time to be fruitful and replenish the earth. Well, that type of thinking belongs to another kind of life, because that type of escape mechanism would be comparatively useless today. If the atomic bomb can repeat the Ragnarock experiment it does not make much difference where any one of these frightened people are at the moment. That is the way it goes, and against those things we have only philosophy and ideals to guide us. The idea of trying to build a bomb-proof shelter is not such a good idea.

We have considerable evidence of panic in the public mind. There is nothing to be worried or frightened about because we are also learning at the same time that security is no longer a matter of collectives, it is an individual problem. The same book that describes the fall of the archangel

Lucifer, and the destruction of the old world tells us very simply that "ten thousand may fall upon the righthand and ten thousand may fall upon the left-hand, but that the just man cannot be moved." The individual is gradually coming into the realization his security is in his own keeping. That is the great lesson in this experience. We began this intensive course during the depression when we learned that things we had depended upon for our security could not be depended upon. We got a further lesson from the war. We know that there is no security in our world. Now that might seem to be a discouraging discovery, but it is one of the most encouraging discoveries we have ever made, because some day we will discover happiness and security are in our own names. That is the only place we will find them and we should begin to build on that premise. Security is something we must have as individuals, not because our world is safe or our institutions are sound, but because we are safe, we are sound, and we have values inside ourselves that are indestructible. It is the only security we have, the only solution to a number of pressing problems.

We look around us and discover the lack of ideals and ethics we regard as necessary. We are surrounded by people exploiting us or others. We are appalled at the deterioration of the integrity of the mass of people. We believe that some <sup>thing</sup> very terrible will inevitably happen unless we get people back on the right track. It is not going to be that way. The only answer is the individual solution of his own dilemma. We have reached the point we cannot depend upon others for those qualities and principles we must discover inside ourselves. If we can discover them inside ourselves the destruction of the world cannot destroy us. The world is not the solution to our security, it is not the source of our security. That is why it is very important to build up a philosophy of life, to perfect our beliefs and dreams and proceed toward the attainment of our individual security, a security that does not require the world to be any better than it is for us to be happy, a world in which we should be ready to be useful, but a world we do not have to reform to make ourselves happy, because that very instinct to reform is part of our egotism. We stand ready to serve whenever it is indicated, but to believe that we cannot be happy until the rest of the world does as we would like it do is the supreme stupidity. The rest of the world would be utterly miserable doing what we want them to do. We have to build more and more against these tides of time and circumstances because they are flowing more and more rapidly. We have to get deep enough to find values underneath things that look all confused and upset. We have to go far enough underneath the facts of things to find the law at work. We have to find those laws so completely that we no longer have any doubt about them. We have got to realize the generation is not going to the dogs, that nothing in nature is moving backward, that everything is moving forward into experience, we have got to go deep enough to find the principles of truth fulfilling themselves in the chaos of the world. We have got to educate ourselves, we have got to realize our world has failed us as far as our education is concerned, but it must fail us, no one can educate anyone else in the last analysis, we must educate ourselves. The world can teach you stenography or bookkeeping to earn your living, but to find the answers to the problems of life, we must discover them ourselves. In essential arts and philosophies we must make our own convictions strong against the world. It is only when we do this that we are secure.

When we are secure there is no atom bomb problem because we realize that the experience is part of the evolution of strange little creatures we call humanity, which grow more rapidly when uncomfortable, and less rapidly when comfortable. The fact we are more uncomfortable than ever before is a sign of the dynamics of evolution at the present moment. The fact that institutions long established are collapsing is not a sign of disintegration but of the emergence of the individual. It is apparently an evil sign, but in reality it is a good sign. The only bad sign is

inertia when the individual drifts and has no conclusions about anything. He calls himself comfortable but he is really in a coma, nothing ever happens. As long as he is uncomfortable, up-set, a little bit afraid and very dissatisfied with himself, he is normal. Any General will tell you an army is in good condition only when the various members of it are finding fault. The moment the army stops complaining it is a bad sign. We are complaining creatures. No matter what happens, we wish it were otherwise. It will remain that way until we find the one thing that solves the problem. We are like squirrels picking up acorns, casting them aside until we find the one we want and that one we keep. All these things we give up, this kaleidoscope of upheavals, things we do not like, styles, systems and programs changing constantly, that which is here today and gone tomorrow,--all that must continue in human life until the individual finds what he wants and then he does not give it up, does not turn from it. We feel that world conditions are affecting the lives of people. Homes are upset, families are breaking up, everything you can think of is at sixes and sevens, but all of this is not due to outside circumstances, primarily, it is due to our internal weakness. We have not released sufficient strength to hold our world together by the strength of our internal life. It is never the stress of the world that is our undoing, it is the weakness of ourselves; it is never the misery of the world that makes us miserable, it is our inability to orient ourselves.

I am very much intrigued by this new program of education called the Great Books Program. All over this country middle aged folks are enrolling in this program of study. They are not listening they are taking part in it. There is no professor only a chairman keeping order. Each one makes his own contribution and is studying the great books of the world. They are under the supervision of the University of Chicago president. This program is a popular thing demanded by the people and they are discussing Descartes, Plato, Lord Bacon's Novum Organum and Aristotle's logic. Many of them have never finished high school, and each one has discovered somewhere in life something is missing. You do not enroll in the Great Books Program for six months, you enroll for life and you get no credits. There are no credits. You go once a week or twice a month, or something of that kind. As long as you live you are going to gather together with other people to think, to study, and to improve your mind. There are young people in their teens and others in their eighties in the Great Books Program. The younger people go to find a better way of life, the older to put in order what they have experienced. This is the will of the people to learn. Do you think the Great Books Program could have been without the depression of '29? Do you think it could have been without this war or the atomic bomb? It was not until the individual had the fear of God put in his heart that he had the inspiration to do something. As long as he could drift along he was content, but now comes the deluge and he says, "Now, boys, let's get together and do something about the deluge." He used to believe he could leave the deluge to his descendants, but now he knows it may come in his own lifetime. We all felt secure as long as we thought we could pass this on to another generation and we would be in our little two by sixes at the time it happened, but now comes the possibility we may live to see it. There is a possibility that someone may get nasty at almost any minute on the subject of dynamics, so in this emergency we all become mighty thoughtful people. Some are born thoughtful, some attain it, but most of us have to have it thrust upon us, and that is what is happening to us. So people who previously thought the dollar was the only thing worth living for are now signing up for life to study Plato because they find consolation in Plato and very little in the dollar. They have a sneaking suspicion <sup>that they</sup> may not survive the deluge.

After studying the financial situation of the little country of Hungary it makes us wonder. The value of the pengo used to be about five to our dollar, but at the time of the reissuance of the new currency in Hungary the last quotation was 500 thousand trillion pengos to a dollar.

You can't use a wheelbarrow to carry them in, as they used to the German mark, you have to hire a van and you haven't any money to pay for the van. So you wonder how much consolation stocks and bonds are going to be. So in this emergency you decide to study Plato's "Republic", an admirable notion, long over-due. It may or may not be that we will prevent the deluge, but whatever happens sometime we will sit down in space among the stars and say, "It was a great deluge while it happened." We are going to face things a little more wisely and realize all these things are growing pains in the perfection of ourselves. We have made mistakes and others before us have made mistakes, and in this graveyard of emptiness we see around us are the ruins of tens of thousands of empires of stone, iron and wood, all the externalization of their dreams and purposes, and now these dreams and purposes are not even dust in space.

There are all through space great units of mental and spiritual energy. These were once struggling, hoping, dream/things that had not the strength to survive. The empires are gone but these spiritual forces are strong. Everything we do outwardly generally collapses; everything that we do inwardly is perfected and sustained and out of great experience we learn to build more solidly. All our ambitions finally come to the end of Atlantis or Ragnarock. All that we become internally we keep and all we amass externally we lose.

We are now approaching a point of transition where the insecurities of our life are turning us toward the contemplation of internal and eternal things. It is good because of the fact that we have begun to awaken. Perhaps we have something that neither the Atlanteans nor the Ragnarockeans ever had, and whereas they perished we are being tested and tried and will come through. But our great hope is that we build our internal life and strength and wisdom to use and not abuse the principles of life about us. If we try to become rulers of the world we will go into the limbo with the rest, but if we awaken to the administration of our internal lives according to the laws of life, we may be the first to survive. There is no reason why we should not. Atlantis never produced a philosopher, we have. Atlantis never produced a great idealist, we have. Therefore perhaps in us is the seed of survival that, learning from the past, we shall go forward. But we are getting nearer the time of decision when the individual must pick up the responsibilities of his world or he will not survive. This is the burden of the book written years ago. It was also the burden of the scriptures of ancients for thousands of years, that we live in a world exactly administered, that each law is administered for the greatest good of all. If we obey we live; if we disobey we die, and there is never a time in all our history when we will ever have strength enough or faith enough to disobey. We will never be that good. As we grow truly wise and great we lose our desire to disobey. Obedience is life, disobedience is death. Wisdom is the internal knowledge that gives us the strength to obey. Ignorance is the internal darkness that obscures Truth, that makes it impossible for us to obey, because we do not know. Ignorance must be removed by wisdom, and wisdom must lead in the end to that absolute obedience by which we survive by becoming one with the world and its purposes and never at cross-purposes with the world.

That is the story as it seems to come down to us with the great moral lesson, and in these serious, thought-provoking times we might consider it to great advantage.

Notes by Virginia B. Pomeroy,  
241 Orizaba Avenue,  
Long Beach 3, California.