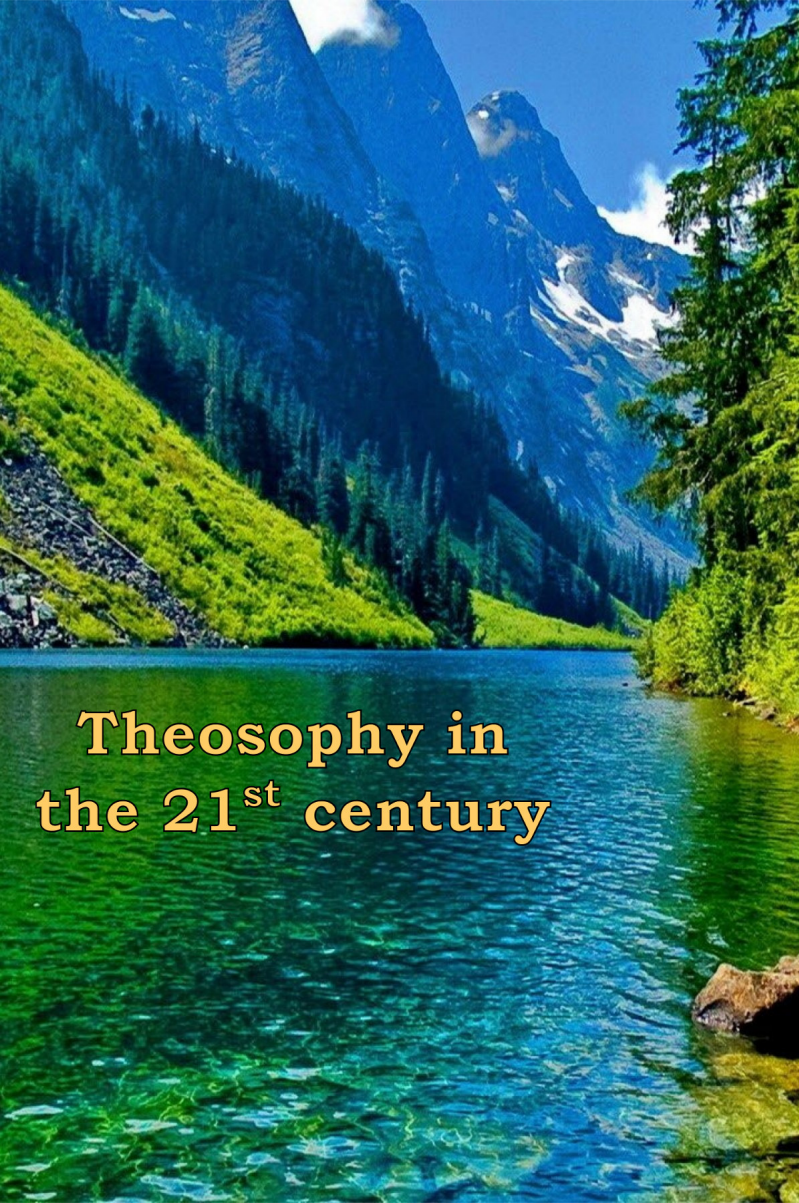




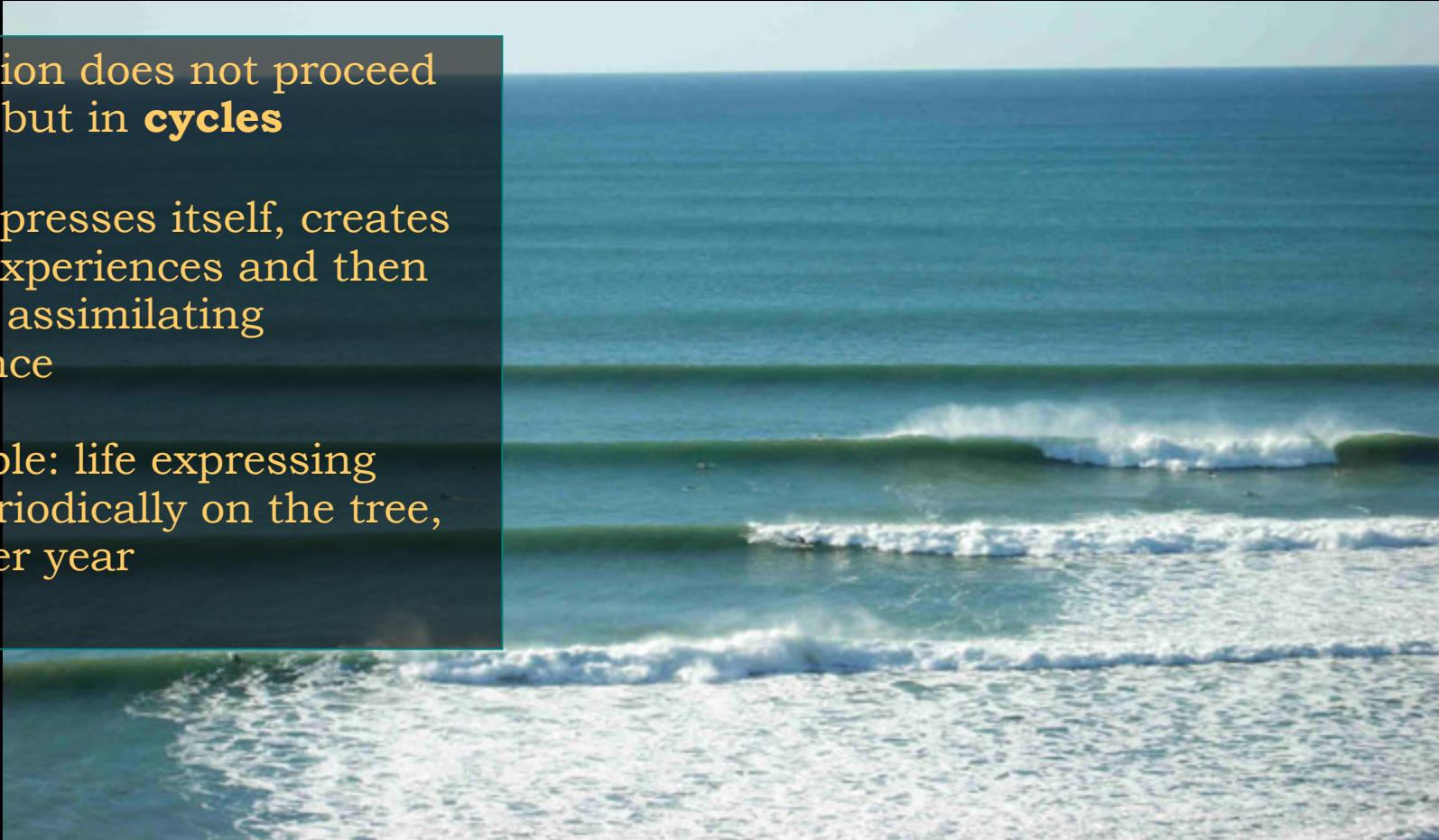
Theosophy in
the 21st century

6 The cyclical evolution

Course created by
Carlos Pérez Menéndez
SOCIEDAD TEOSÓFICA ESPAÑOLA

The law of cycles

- Evolution does not proceed linearly but in **cycles**
- Life expresses itself, creates forms, experiences and then retracts assimilating experience
- Example: life expressing itself periodically on the tree, year after year

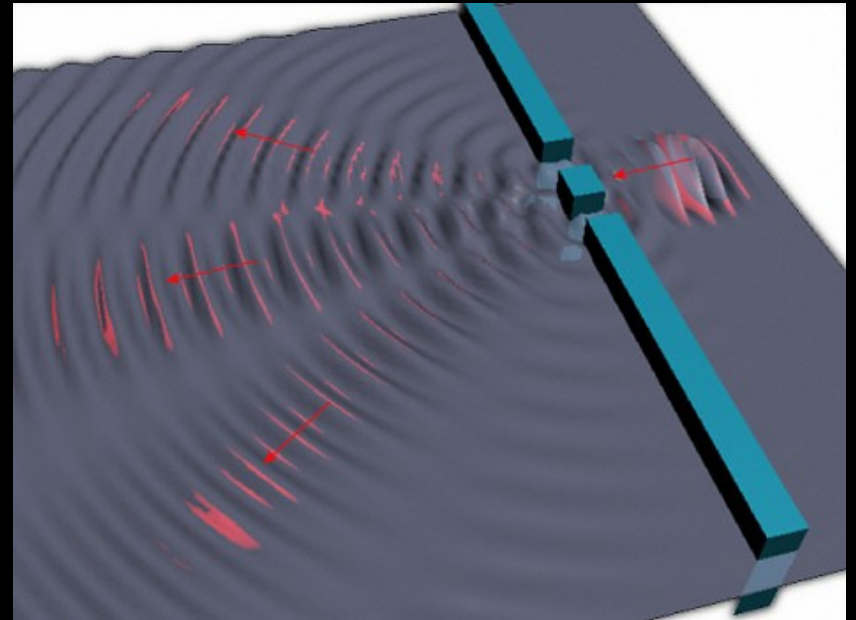
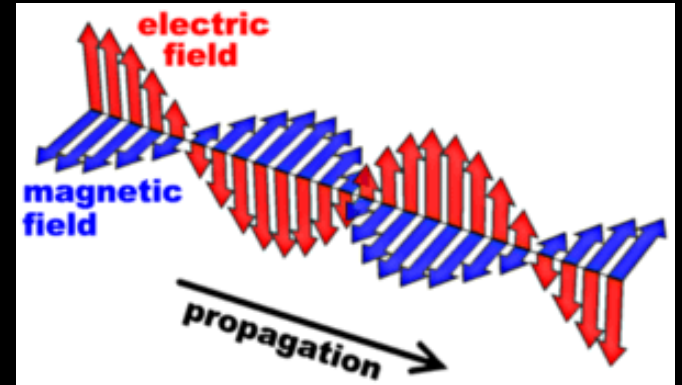


Behind the cyclical manifestation there
is always something that evolves

Cycles in matter and energy

- Wave movements are common in nature
- Orbits of planets, stars,
- Sound, light and electromagnetic radiation in general are waves
- The particles of matter are particles and waves at the same time
- The whole universe of matter and energy is cyclical

Electromagnetic waves

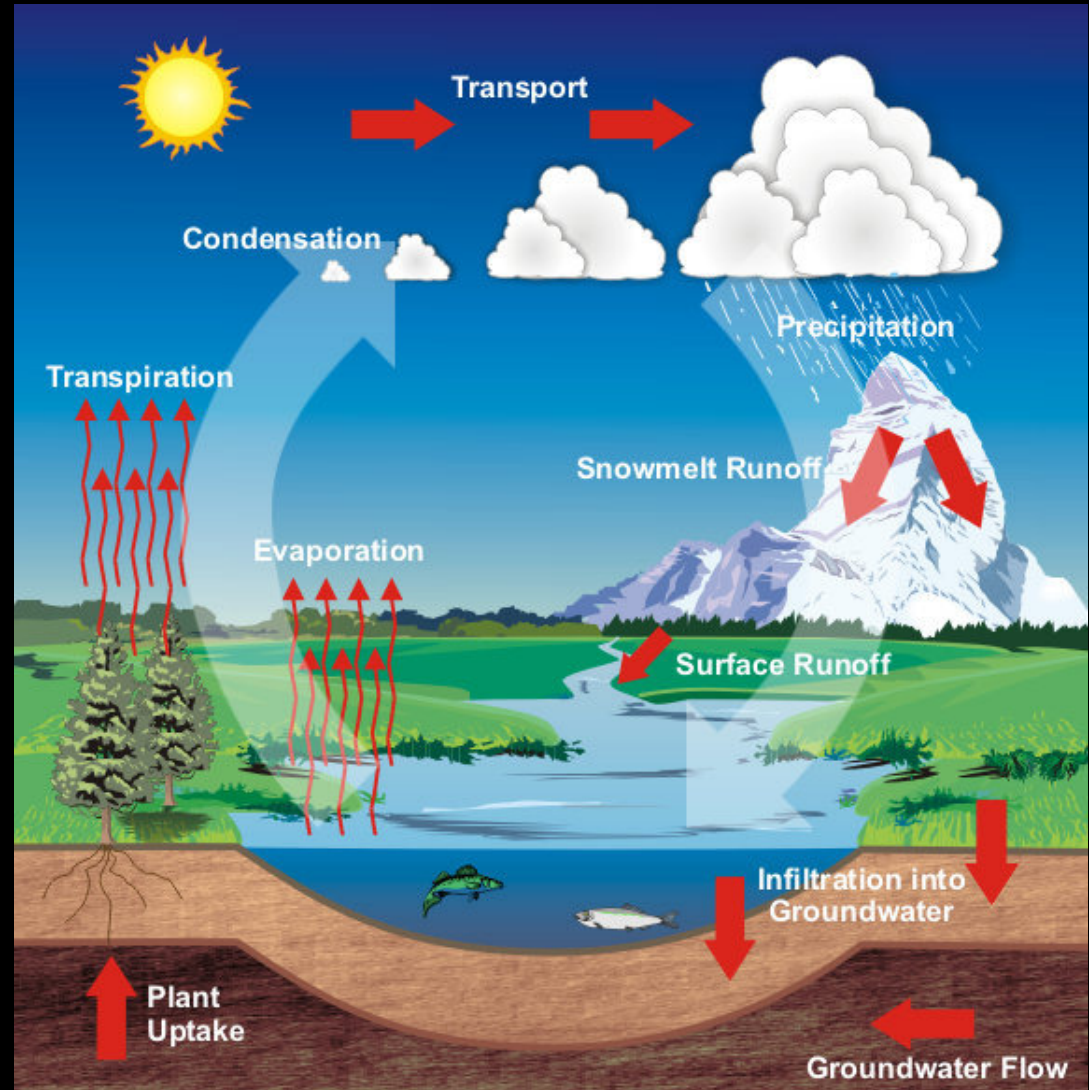


Particle-wave duality

Cycles in Nature

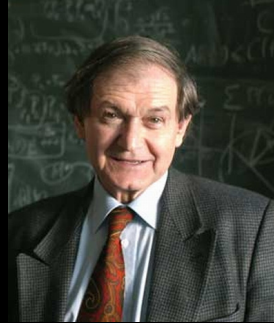
- The law of cycles is a universal law
- Cycles in the biosphere
 - Cycles of water, carbon, O_2 , ...
- Psychological cycles
 - Ages of man
 - Seasonal
- Social cycles
- Ascent and fall of civilizations

Water cycle

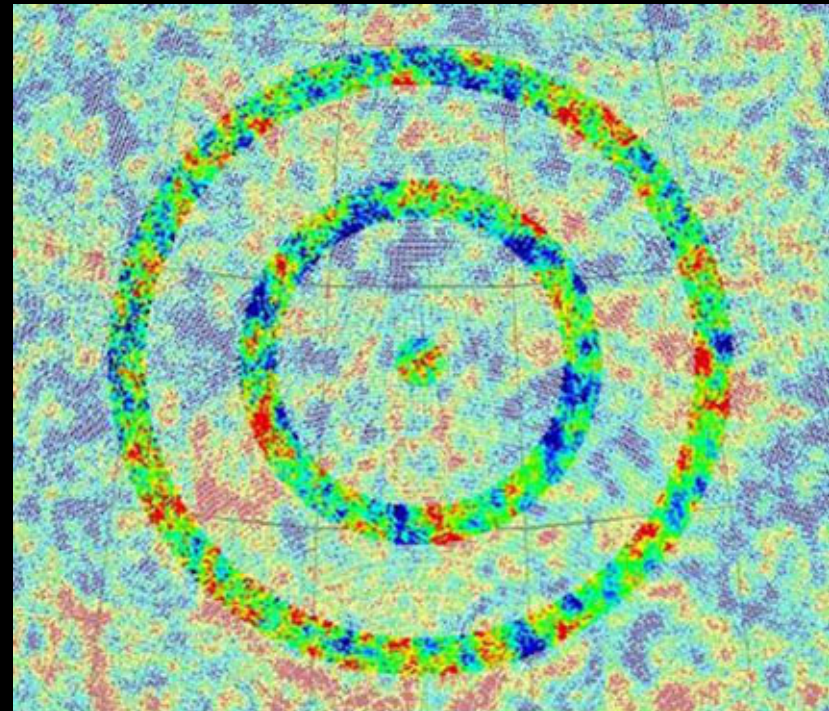


Cyclic Cosmology

- The physicist and mathematician Roger Penrose proposes a cyclical succession of Universes
- Each cycle is called an *eon* and it is estimated 10^{100} years
- Penrose says that on the map of the CMBR is the trail of 2 big-bangs of universes before the present
- Idea still in discussion



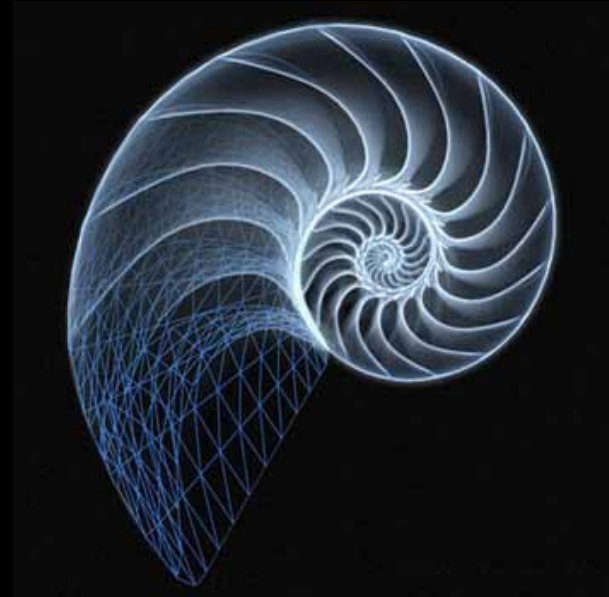
Roger Penrose
(1931-)



Signs of 2 previous big-bangs

Manvantara and Pralaya

- The Vedas say that the Universe manifests and retires periodically
- There are consecutive periods of manifestation (**manvantaras**) and unmanifestation (**pralayas**)
- The essence (**noumenon**) that is behind the **phenomenon** evolves with each cycle of manifestation



(The Great Breath)



Manvantara

Pralaya

Manvantara

time

Cycles within cycles

- There are minor cycles within larger cycles
- Eg: the fetus reproduces on a small scale the evolution of the form
- Eg: nights and days, years, precession of the equinoxes, solar revolution in the galaxy, ...
- Similarity: as it is above it is below
 - In space: fractals
 - In time: cycles within cycles



The reincarnation

- The human soul embodies in a succession of personalities
- In an incarnation:
 - Experiences, learns, grows
 - Gradual development
- Between incarnations:
 - Assimilates what it learned
 - Experience → qualities

The cycle of an incarnation is not unique but is one more in a succession

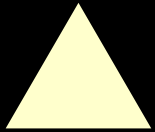
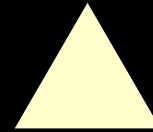
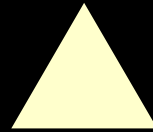
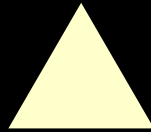
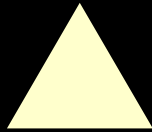
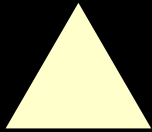


The process of an incarnation

Evolution

Soul

Atma
Buddhi
U. Manas



Personality

L. Manas
Kama
Prana
Physical



Devachan

Incarnation

Devachan

time

The school of Life



Classroom
Student
Supplies &
books
Lessons
Study and
understanding
↓
KNOWLEDGE

Earth
Soul
Personality
Experiences
Comprehension
& assimilation
↓
MATURITY



Reincarnation explains the differences in
maturity and development among different people
There are young souls and mature souls

Reincarnation, universal idea

RELIGIONS

Hinduism
Buddhism
Taoism
Gnosticism
Paganism
Early Christian
times

OTROS

Goethe
Benjamin Franklin
Henry Ford
Winston Churchill
Glen Ford

POPULAR BELIEF

- 20% of adults in USA
(*Gallup Organization, 2005*).
- 22% of adults in Western Europe.



SCIENCE

Ian Stevenson
Erlendur Haraldsson
Jim Tucker
Satwant Pasricha

PHILOSOPHERS

Pythagoras
Socrates
Plato
Plotinus
Giordano Bruno
Voltaire
Emerson
Thomas Huxley

Is there any evidence?

- There is no conclusive scientific evidence but there are very significant indications:
- Affections without apparent explanation
- Hypnotic regression
- Spontaneous or sought perceptions
- Testimony of children



Unexplained affections

- Unexplained interest in a country or culture
- Recurring dreams or nightmares
- Apparently irrational fears or phobias
- Physical conditions not explained (somatization), perhaps chronic
- *Déjà vu*

They are very subjective impressions
They can be influenced by many factors



Hypnotic regression

- Memory of past lives in a state of hypnotic trance
- They can extend to several incarnations
- Hypnotherapy
- Very susceptible to fantasies and transposition
- Very unreliable
- ... *but there are remarkable cases (i.e.: Jane Evans)*



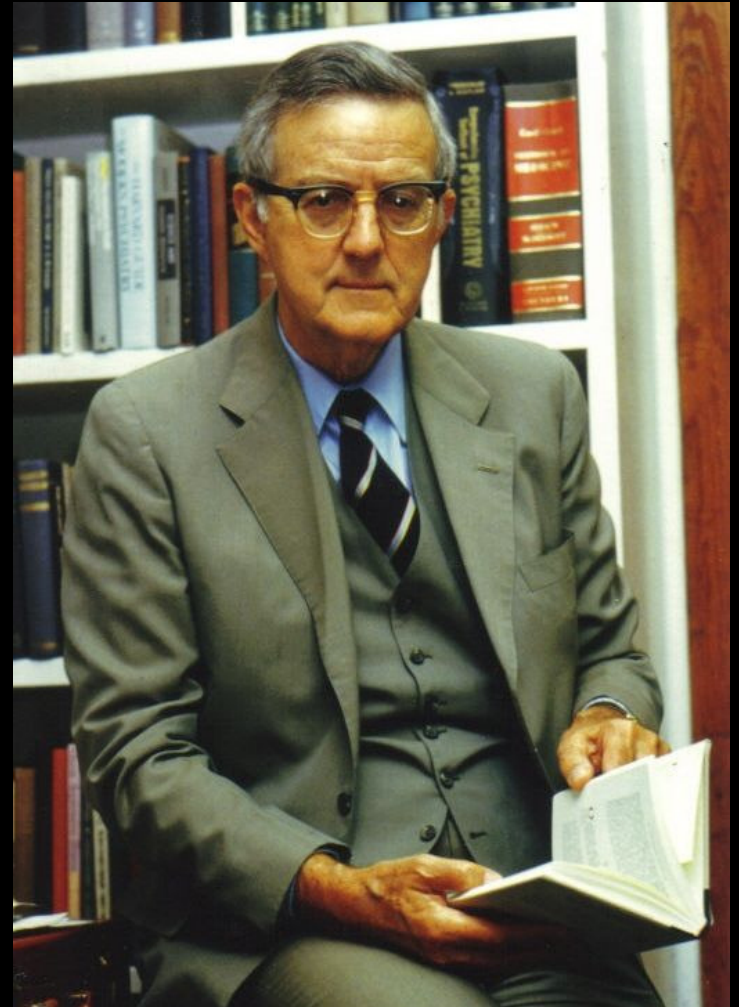
Other perceptions

- Spontaneous fleeting memories (**flashbacks**)
- They can be activated by an event
- They can appear with meditation
- They are very subjective and unreliable



The past lives of children

- Scientific research on the testimony of children who claim to remember a past life.
- **Dr. Ian Stevenson**, was Professor and Director of the Division of Perceptual Studies at the University of Virginia.
- He researched 3,000 cases of children who said they remembered a previous life.
- A lot of scientific publications.
- Very methodical and rigorous research, in several countries and cultures.
- Study of birthmarks.
- Science does not yet have an explanation.



Dr. Ian Stevenson
(1918 – 2007)

Reincarnation explains life

- Reincarnation explains many facts and certain contradictions of life
- The evolving soul may be infantile or mature
- The purpose of the incarnation for the inner being is to learn
- It is not an escape from pain or death
- Life makes its way like a lotus flower blooms even though its roots are in the mud



To think



Watch, think, investigate, inquire ...
Make the following questions or thoughts suggestions
But don't stay here, ask yourself and find out.