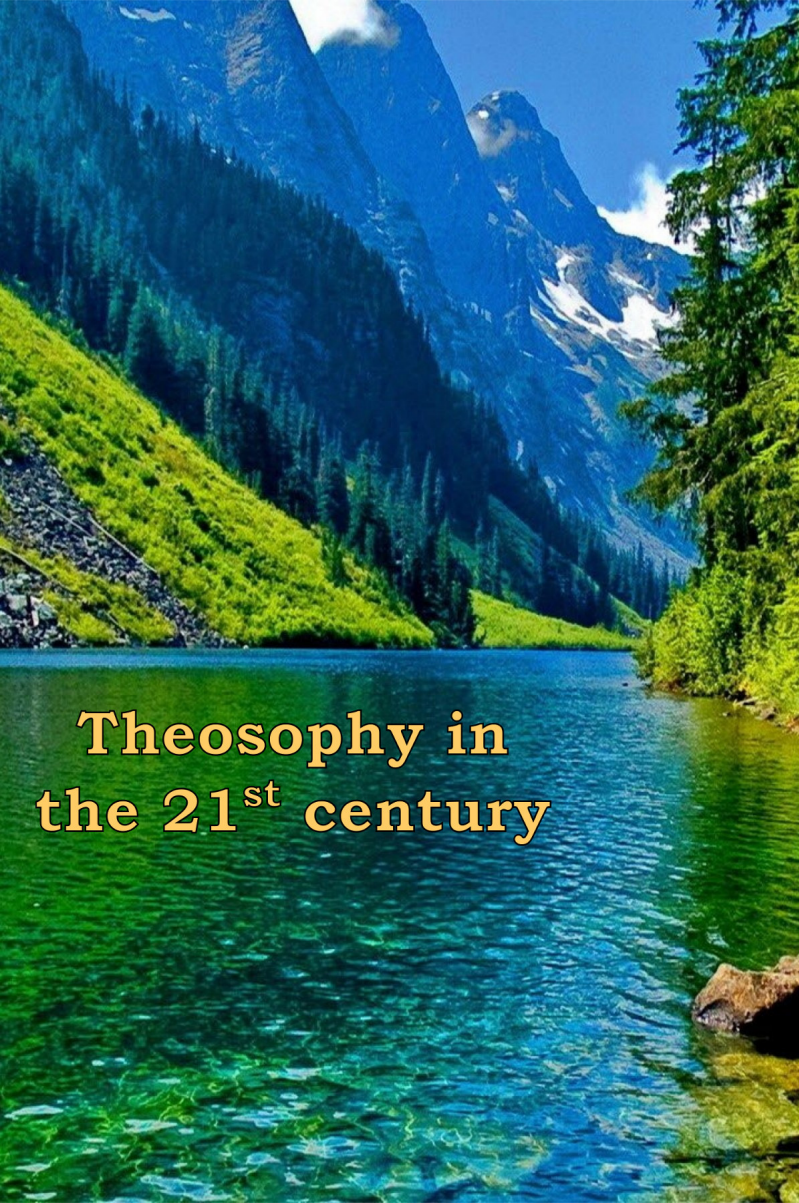




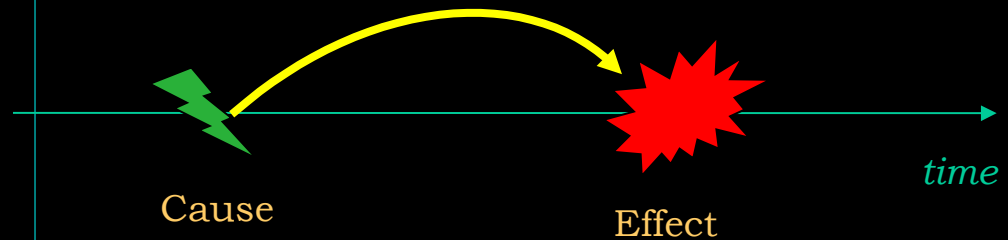
Theosophy in
the 21st century

7 Karma: the universal law of cause and effect

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Cause and effect.

- It is a universal Law
- Relates two linked events but differ in time
- The cause and effect may be more or less separated in time
- They are two aspects of the same reality (the cause determines the effect)



Principle of causality

- It is the support of science
- Principle of uniformity:
The same causes produce the same effects.
- The combination of two hydrogen atoms and one oxygen atom always produces one molecule of water



We trust in causality in
daily life

Causes and effects chained

The reaction to an effect becomes the cause of another event



Automatic reactions make our behavior very predictable



Karma: action and reaction

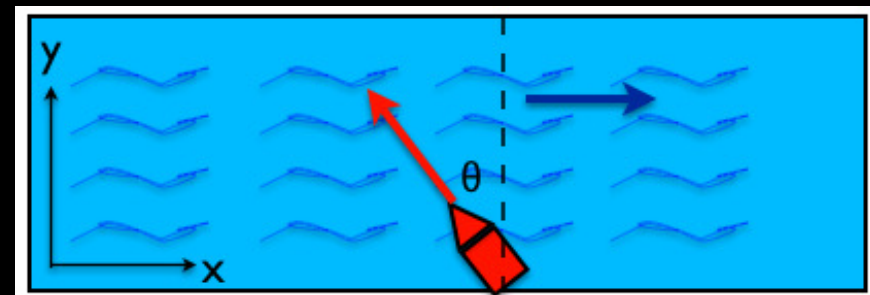
- **Karma:** Sanskrit word = **action**
- It refers to both the process of the action and its outcome
- The actions influence the environment, but also react on ourselves (Action and Reaction)
- The result of what we do sooner or later comes back to us



"You reap what you sow"
[S. Paul]

The fabric of Karma

- The actions are combined with each other
- The effects of a negative action could be neutralized with another positive
- Similar to how the speeds of a boat crossing a river are combined with the speed of the water to give a resulting path
- The ancient tradition says that every physical, emotional or mental action impregnates the **Akasha** (or ākāśa), the Space, the universal matter, the hologram of the Universe.



Karma and reincarnation

- The results can be harvested in future incarnations
- Many times we see the effects but we do not see the causes
- Why is all this happening to me? What have I done to deserve this pain?



How do we receive the reaction?

- If we harm another being, we damage ourselves in part.
- The good that we do to another we also do to all others and to ourselves.
- We do not know how far the effects of our actions can have. What is the effect of a smile?



- **Theory of chaos:** complex interconnected systems. A small alteration can produce large changes in the result.

- **Butterfly effect:**
A butterfly beats its wings somewhere in the world and it rains on the antipodes.

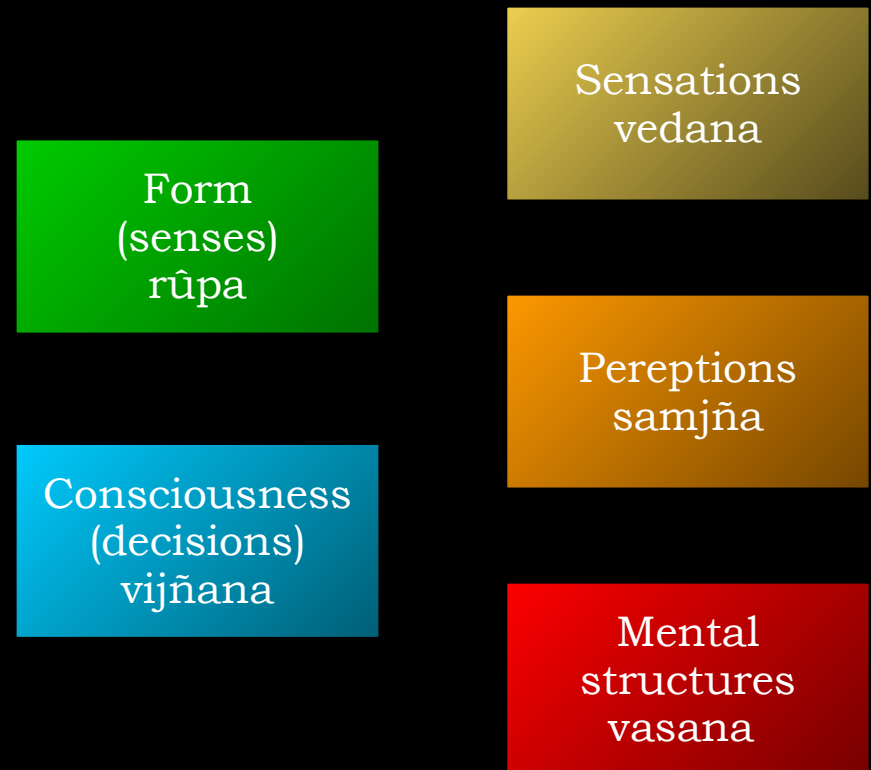


The Skandhas

- **Skandha** (Sanskrit) = aggregate, stack, trunk
- These are tendencies acquired in previous incarnations that characterize and condition us.
- They are transferred to the new embodied personality.
- They make us receive the effects of the causes generated in previous lives and in the present

Karma, with its army of Skandhas, waits at the threshold of Devachan, whence the Ego re-emerges to assume a new incarnation.
HPB, [*The Key to Theosophy*]

The 5 Skandhas according to Buddhism



Karmic ties

- The ties that we have created with other beings endure.
- In the new incarnation the Being is reunited with old loved ones (and enemies) of the past.
- He can be born in the family where he has strong ties.
- This explains the irresistible attraction of two people who meet again, "lifelong" friendships, "twin souls", falling in love, etc.



How do we sow?

- Each level of action will produce effects in its scope:
 - Physical execution → Provides the physical environment
 - Emotion-desire → Attract opportunities
 - Thought → Construye el carácter
- Act, intention and motivation are like dimensions of the action that determine the effect.

Aspirations and desires become aptitudes

Repeated thoughts become trends

The will to act becomes actions

Experiences become knowledge

Sufferings become consciousness

Annie Besant, *Karma*

How do we harvest?

KARMA

As pending effects

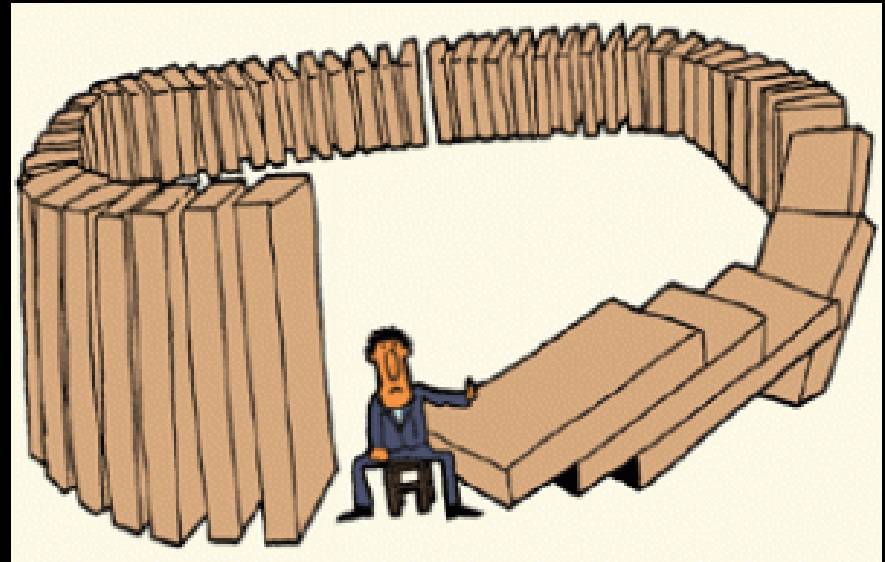
- **Accumulated:** generated in the past
- **Mature:** ready to pick up
- **Future:** the one that is being planted now

According to the scope of the causative

- **Individual:** individual acts and decisions
- **Collective:** participation in group actions

Karma and responsibility

- Responsibility means the ability to decide and face the consequences.
- Karma is a law of growth and responsibility, not of reward and punishment.
- Obeying only generates the karma of the action but does not exercise responsibility.
- Ignoring the effects of our actions on others is a cause of misery.
- Our destiny is to be responsible: decide wisely.



Myths about Karma

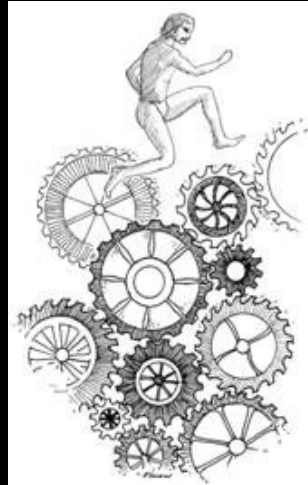
- There is *good* karma and *bad* karma.
- Karma is a law of punishment and reward
- Karma is dispensed (*they send it to us*)
- We have to be careful not to interfere in another's karma
- *Everything* that happens to us is a consequence of our past actions



Free will and predetermination

The Universe can be:

- **Probabilistic**
The causes only generate a probability that the effects will happen (there is no cause-effect relationship).
- **Predetermined**
The chain of causation is determined from the beginning of the Universe (fatalism).
- **Deterministic**
The events are determined by the causes, but we have free will to decide and create new causes.



Fatality and precognition

- There were notable cases of precognition or premonition that anticipated great disasters. How are they possible?
- Is there fatality? Is our destiny written?
- No, but there are effects that are so strong that they determine the circumstances to produce a significant event.
- It is like the current of a river that drags us although we swim.
- The premonitions are perceptions of the Akasha, the holographic Universe, of effects to come.



The sinking of the Titanic in 1912 was predicted by the writer Morgan Robertson in his 1898 novel called *Futility or the wreck of the Titan*.

Building our destiny

- The most important teaching of the law of Karma is that each one is the architect of his own destiny.
- The limitations exist, but the reaction depends on us, and with it we build our future.
- Accept the inevitable.
- Correct the mistakes made.
- Live in the present because it is here and now where we are sowing.



To think



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