

TOLD OF THEIR ASTRAL BODIES

James Pryse, Who Was a Co-Worker with Mme. Blavatsky, Lectures to an East Side Audience.

It was a typical east side gathering which filled Centennial Hall, 328 East Houston Street, last evening to hear James Pryse lecture on "The Masters." The meeting took place under the auspices of the White Lotus Centre Theosophical Society. Jews, Poles, Hungarians, and representatives of other nationalities assembled in the little room to hear the principles of the mystic cult, or religion, expounded by a pioneer co-worker of Mme. Blavatsky.

Many learned for the first time that they possessed astral bodies, had lived before, and received instructions how they might with increased knowledge communicate while still in the flesh across land and sea with absent ones, without the medium of telegrams, letters, or telephones.

Mahatmas, said the lecturer, meant masters. They were the wise men of the East, who had taught Mme. Blavatsky. Although human, they were perfect. Such types existed in all ages, and in many countries. To reach this stage, one must be perfect, physically, mentally, and morally. Man was placed on the earth for a purpose. Perfection was his goal. This, however, could only be attained by degrees. The process was slow, and involved reincarnation during a period embracing, perhaps, millions of years.

Masters, however, said the speaker, could not make adepts; each individual, so to speak, must be his own maker. It involved an orderly process of growth. After death "astral bodies," according to their morality, enjoyed a lesser or greater "rest" in Heaven before coming back to the flesh in the period of probation.

The lecturer had every hope for the ultimate regeneration of humanity. No man becomes utterly perfect, or utterly sinful, at once; there were periods of recession and advancement.

"We are the ancient Egyptians, who lived 200,000 years ago," exclaimed Mr. Pryse, with a searching look.

The younger members of the audience seemed greatly amused at this announcement, and refused to take it seriously.

The lecturer elaborated his dictum with a wealth of expression. He urged his hearers to lose no time in walking in the narrow path. Time—the saving mark—would make all greater or lesser divinities.

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