



THE OCEAN OF THEOSOPHY

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THE
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BY
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CHAPTER 6. KAMA — DESIRE

The author of *Esoteric Buddhism* — which book ought to be consulted by all students of Theosophy, since it was made from suggestions given by some of the Adepts themselves — gave the name *Kama rupa* to the fourth principle of man's constitution. The reason was that the word *Kama* in the Sanskrit language means "desire," and as the idea intended to be conveyed was that the fourth principle was the "body or mass of desires and passions," Mr. Sinnett added the Sanskrit word for body or form which is *Rupa*, thus making the compound word *Kamarupa*. I shall call it by the English equivalent — passions and desires — because those terms exactly express its nature. And I do this also in order to make the sharp issue which actually exists between the psychology and mental philosophy of the west and those of the east. The west divides man into intellect, will, and feeling, but it is not understood whether the passions and desires constitute a principle in themselves or are due entirely to the body. Indeed, most people consider them as being the result of the influence of the flesh, for they are designated often by the terms "desires of the flesh" and "fleshly appetites." The ancients, however, and the Theosophists know them to be a principle in themselves and not merely the impulses from the body. There is no help to be had in this matter from the western psychology, now in its infancy and wholly devoid of knowledge about the inner, which is the psychical, nature of man, and from this point there is the greatest divergence between it and Theosophy.

The passions and desires are not produced by the body, but, on the contrary, the body is caused to be by the former. It is desire and passion which caused us to be born, and will bring us to birth again and again in this body or in some other.¹ It is by passion and desire we are made to evolve through the mansions of death called lives on earth. It was by the arising of desire in the unknown first cause, the one absolute existence, that the whole collection of worlds was manifested, and by means of the

¹ In *The Theosophical Forum*, June, 1894, page 12, Judge corrected this to: "in some body on this earth or another globe."

