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A REFLECTION ON *THE SECRET DOCTRINE*, No. 17

The appearance and disappearance of the Universe is cyclical and ongoing. In *The Key to Theosophy*, H. P. Blavatsky states: "It is an eternal and periodical law which causes an active and creative force (the logos) to emanate from the ever-concealed and incomprehensible one principle at the beginning of every . . . new cycle of life." This creative force has three aspects, which are referred to in *The Secret Doctrine* as the First, Second, and Third Logos. These are not to be thought of as three separate Logoi, but as three aspects of one divine Principle.

The [First Logos] is the already present yet still unmanifested potentiality . . . the Second is the abstract collectivity of creators called "Demiurgi" by the Greeks or the Builders of the Universe. The *third logos* is the ultimate differentiation of the Second and the individualization of Cosmic Forces." (*Transactions of the Blavatsky Lodge*)

Further insight is provided by Geoffrey Barborka in his *Secret Doctrine Questions & Answers*:

The First Logos is equivalent to the First Point of the system, or the causative aspect; it represents the fount and origin of the forces and potencies that will be surging forth into manifestation. However, this First Point itself will ever remain unmanifest. Hence it is termed the Unmanifest Logos. In order that the forces and potencies may be made manifest upon a material plane they must be transmitted from the unmanifest aspect to a manifested aspect. This transmittal is accomplished by means of the Second Logos, which . . . provides the link, or bridge, between the non-manifest and the manifested plane. The point of origin on the manifested plane is regarded as the Third Logos . . . which is also regarded as the Creative Logos.

Barborka also offers the simile of an idea gaining expression through speech:

The First Logos represents the idea; the Second Logos, the formulation and the means of expressing the idea through speech and words; the Third Logos, the expression of the idea by means of spoken words. And yet, even when the words have been spoken the First Logos, or idea, is still "unmanifest."

And thus, the invisible becomes visible, latent potentialities become actualized, all of which may be represented symbolically as the point becoming the triangle.

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