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LECTURE I P. 3

Belief in the Immortality of the Soul almost universal among mankind. Scepticism on the subject rare, but becomes more frequent with the advance of civilization and the progress of thought. Examples of scepticism among primitive (that is, savage or barbarous) peoples. The attitude of primitive peoples to the spirits of the dead very different from that of civilized peoples, being dominated by fear rather than affection. But some primitive peoples seem not to fear the spirits of their own dead, since they bury their bodies in the houses and bring back their souls to the houses when they have died or been buried elsewhere. The motive for house-burial probably connected with the idea of reincarnation, the spirits of the dead being thus supposed to be reborn in the family.

LECTURE II P. 33

General attitude of primitive peoples to the spirits of the dead is one of fear rather than of affection. Examples from Melanesia, Polynesia, New Guinea, the Indian Archipelago, Asia, Africa and Southern, Eastern and Central Africa.

LECTURE III P. 65

Fear of the dead in Western and Northern Africa and among the aborigines of America. The spirits of the dead sometimes supposed to help the living in various ways, particularly in hunting, fishing and agriculture. Examples from New Guinea, New Caledonia, the Indian Archipelago, Formosa, India, Africa and America.

LECTURE IV P. 97

Among the benefits which in the opinion of primitive man the spirits of the dead can bestow on their worshippers is that of fertilizing the earth and promoting the growth of the crops. Hence these spirits are conceived to possess proprietary rights over the fruits of the earth, and offerings of first-fruits are made to them at harvest by savages in many parts of the world, as in Melanesia, India and Africa.

Further, the spirits of the dead are thought able to give or withhold rain at their pleasure, hence they are often propitiated in time of drought. Examples from Celebes and Africa.

Further, the spirits of the dead are thought to bestow offspring on women or to render them barren, hence they are propitiated by childless women. Examples from India, Madagascar and Africa.

Further, the spirits of the dead are thought to aid their worshippers

in war by giving them victory over their enemies. Examples from Africa, New Caledonia, Borneo, New Guinea, Sumatra, etc.

Further, the spirits of the dead are supposed to be able to give their worshippers valuable information, hence they are often consulted as oracles, either directly, as in dreams, or indirectly by means of their images or by living mediums, men or women. Examples from Melanesia, Micronesia, New Guinea, etc.

LECTURE V P. 125

In Africa also the spirits of the dead are often consulted as oracles, especially the spirits of dead chiefs and kings. Examples from Rhodesia and Uganda.

But the spirits of the dead can also bring many evils on living people. Thus it is sometimes thought that they cause earthquakes, thunder and lightning, drought and famine. Examples from New Guinea, Timor, the Andaman Islands, India, Africa, South America and China. But the greatest evils which the spirits of the dead are believed to bring upon mankind are sickness and death. This belief is very common among primitive peoples. Examples from Melanesia, New Guinea, Nias, Formosa, Cambodia, India and Africa.

LECTURE VI P. 155

In Africa also it is commonly believed that sickness and death are caused by the spirits of the dead who have entered into the bodies of the sick. The mode of cure is sometimes to propitiate the ghost who has taken possession of the sufferer, sometimes it is to expel him by force or even to destroy him.

The general aim of primitive man in dealing with the spirits of the dead is to send them away and to keep them at a distance. The means he adopts for this purpose are either persuasion, force or fraud; if persuasion fails to keep the ghosts at bay, he resorts to force or fraud. But in the first place he requests the ghosts to go away and not to come back to molest the living. Examples from Australia, New Caledonia, New Guinea, Celebes, Formosa, the Nicobar Islands, Burma, Siam, China, India, Africa and America.

Sometimes primitive man attempts to facilitate the passage of the souls of the dead to the other world by providing them with their requirements for the journey. Thus he furnishes them with directions as to the route, or opens the way for them, as by making a hole in the roof, or opening the door to let out the soul, etc., or he makes bridges for them over the streams they may have to cross on their way to the grave or to the other world.

The dead furnished with boats to cross water and with money to pay for their passage to the other world.

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