

# OPEN AND CLOSED CYCLES

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In this article, we intend to present an overview of the philosophical ideas of the magical current known in the west as the dark tradition and the one usually known as the light tradition, all in relation to the capacity to observe the universe according to the different stages of human history.

## CLOSED CYCLES

Man observes cycles that are apparently closed as seen from his perspective and that work as such in a relative way.

Throughout most of human history, man with his senses has been the measure from which mankind has studied its surrounding universe.

Human beings have followed the cycles of nature: the day, and the night that follows it; the seasons of the year; the cycles of the stars, the planets and the cycles of life: birth, growth, reproduction and death that give way to new generations of animals and plants. These same cycles repeat themselves in humans, including menstrual cycles in women that match the cycles of the moon.

Our life is associated with a series of cycles at planetary scale linked to the environment in which our species has developed, for this reason, humans became unsettled when some phenomena were not repeated in observable cycles, as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, appearance of comets, etc. These were believed to be divine signs (positive or negative) related to concrete actions or offenses to the gods of the tribe or kingdom in question.

This cyclic vision shaped most religious and, later on, philosophical thought (and largely still does). Shamans and even the great organized religions speak of the immutable cycles and eternal wheel of life.

In this matter, there is a minor divergence between the religious currents of the east and west:

-The more holistic oriental religions include the whole universe inside the great wheel of manifestation, that keeps all beings trapped in a cycle of incarnations until they escape from the wheel of duality towards nirvana or the annihilation of duality: non-existence.

-Western currents on the other hand, tend to see the world as a testing ground on which the actions of human beings (regardless of their their circumstances and the luck they had or didn't have while learning) determine their future on the afterlife: judeo-muslim-christian heaven/hell, nordic walhalla, native american great-plain, etc.

This vision apparently different, maintains however the vision of the immutable cycles, since the world is always the same, things don't change. In it life goes on with it's cycles in a way that the rules are similar for the new souls that arrive and who will be judged by the same standard.

(NOTE: At this point, some readers might think that the esoteric tradition of the west does maintain some similitude with the eastern in the idea of reincarnation as sustained in current western esoteric traditions. We want to point out nevertheless that this idea arrived borrowed from the east with the contributions of the Theosophical Society and other contributions from germanic orders mostly on the XIXth century and later “put together” with other elements by the Golden Dawn.)

This mechanistic and fixed view of the closed and immutable cycles was encouraged by the growth

of science after the renaissance. This helped hugely to settle this idea in our mind. As we began to know more about the world our ideas of a predictable and cyclic world were strengthened: the cycles of physical objects, the orbits of the solar system, cyclic waves of sound, the cycles of radio-frequency, the cyclic orbit of atoms, etc.

With all this knowledge it had to be true: as above so below, any cosmic idea should match a cycle, and the ultimate end of mankind should be written somewhere already; all we had to do was to find the right path, go back to the sources of original wisdom since the past and the future are somehow similar.

The vision and the philosophy linked to closed cycles tend to be immutable and work well in a static system, without unforeseen changes. Nonetheless, mankind has shown throughout history that all the advancements and discoveries were carried out by elements that have stepped out of the "official" cyclic line and have always had to struggle against accepted customs and the inertia of the masses. This makes sense, since novelty must be intrinsically different from the traced path.

## OPEN CYCLES

The previously described vision is based on the observation of events that we can understand because they belong on a scale close to our own and it seems logical for us to apply it in an absolute way. However, if we look closely we can notice some weak spots, things are not as well as they should be... something fails in the wonderful and apparently infallible machinery of the divine and revealed universe.

- The world changes, human societies evolve and resources begin to be scarce, however religious tenets are the same... this brings about sometimes irrational behaviors that cause much suffering.

- All through history, some elements have appeared to defend the idea that man can choose his destiny and raise himself to the level of the gods, only to be branded as "evil".

- Scientific discoveries are products of our mind, and as such they are part of our nature, however they modify substantially our perception and our conscience. The world in the last 150 years is nothing like the world has been for the previous 2000 years and possibly our conscience will change a lot more in the next 200. Nevertheless, esoteric and religious tradition becomes isolated from these changes which it doesn't even consider (because logically it could not be foreseen) and its representatives debate between the dichotomy of the conviction of "satanism" or the hypocrisy of ignorance.

Obviously, the closed thinking associated to closed cycles has no value at all.

Curiously, and coinciding with the last 150 years, scientific research has begun to see that apparently close cycles are not quite so, rather they seem that way to us on account of the scale in which we operate.

Not even the orbits of the planets are stable, the sun will end up devouring the solar system, some planets will fall towards it, others will get thrown out into the interstellar void.

Now we know that the cycles of life are in constant change and evolution; nature is constantly performing tests and all forms of life are in the continual process of advance and retreat, the final result depending only on the capricious laws of mathematics and chaos as applied to ecosystems.

In a few years we have realized with irrefutable proofs, that the familiar mechanics of Newton are absolutely reliable... only on certain scales, and in others not even time makes sense. It turns out that on certain scale, atomic particles can travel from one point to another without traversing the space in between! Also, on a statistic level, the average lifespan of radioactive atoms is known, however it is absolutely impossible to predict when even one might disintegrate (it does so when it pleases it).

As our capacity to observe increases, we realize how much of the cycles that seem closed are not so on larger scales, scales that do affect us and shape us on the long run. The possibilities open themselves to the infinite. In this sense, perhaps the most important thing is the fact that we have seen that life hates stability, it's based upon systems on a dynamic balance.

Conscience in turn, is a process, not a state, therefore it's subject to a space-time flux and so it is completely linked to the processing and increasing of information and the total complexity in memory, an open cycle in constant change.

If we had this knowledge many centuries ago, perhaps our philosophy would have been different, although we still have time to apply common sense...

## CONCLUSIONS

The so-called light magico-religious tradition – bright, since light shows what's already created - also known as the “right hand path” in the west:

1. Holds the vision of a static and absolute world, which leads to religious ideas where the paths are already traced and human beings must follow them or be branded as “wrong” at least or “perverse elements to eliminate” in worse cases.
2. Does not encourage individual development, in fact this vision promotes fear of change and attachment to the safety of the herd.
3. Is centered on the identification with the cycles of the wheel of manifestation.
4. Has the useful application of keeping societies going and giving a sense of security to the masses of people not interested in inner exploration.
5. The main trouble it poses is that it's difficult to adapt to rapidly-changing societies and the solutions that some of its factions can generate tend to get blocked by some of the others.
6. Its worst problem is the tendency to assume to possess the one and only truth, and that the rest (even if its other members of the right hand) are wrong.

The so-called dark magico-religious tradition – since darkness represents the void necessary for the creation of light – also known as “the left hand path” in the west:

1. Postulates the vision of a dynamic world, with a wide open future. It leads to religious ideas where paths are not traced absolutely even though some cycles exist on certain scales. Human beings must seek evolution by themselves individually through self-exploration and self-transformation.
2. This initiatic tradition is not for everyone: its curse is to always go against the inertia of the

masses, still, its blessing is double, since it is the bearer of the light of an open evolution both for the individual and for the complete human race.

3. Is the breaking away of the cycle of the wheel of manifestation in order to choose one's own destiny.

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