**THE RAYS AND INITIATIONS, 730/1**

**MANY DEATHS IN THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE INITIATE**

“The word "resurrection" has deep significance latent in its derivation and one that is not often emphasized. The usual interpretation has been that the word comes from "re," again, and "surgere," to rise, therefore to rise again. Yet a consultation with the dictionary shows that the prefix means "back to an original state" by rising. This return to an original state is pictured for us in The New Testament under the story of the Prodigal Son, who said "I will arise and go to my Father," and by the story of the resurrection in which the Master Jesus arose out of the tomb; the chains of death could not hold Him. At that time of His "rising," a far more important event took place and the Christ passed through the seventh Initiation of Resurrection and returned back to His original state of Being—to remain there throughout all the eternities. This is the true and final resurrection. The Son of God has found His way back to the Father and to His originating Source, that state of Existence to which we have given the name Shamballa. The consciousness of the Universal Life is His: this is far more than simply the consciousness of immortality, because the idea or concept of mortality is not contained within it at all. There have been many deaths within the aeonial life cycle of the initiate:

1. The familiar and constantly recurring death of the physical body, incarnation after incarnation.

2. The deaths of the astral and the mental vehicles, as the undying soul discards them life after life—only to create new ones until mastery is attained.

3. Then—as a result of the incarnating process and its evolutionary effects—there comes the death of desire and its replacing by a growing spiritual aspiration.

4. Then, through right use of the mind, comes the "death" of the personality or, rather, its repudiation and renouncing of all that is material.

5. This is followed by the death or destruction of the causal or soul body at the great Initiation of Renunciation. **This process of death and resurrection goes on ceaselessly in all the kingdoms of nature; each death prepares the way for a greater loveliness and livingness, and each death (if you analyze it with care) prefaces resurrection in some form or another until we come to this final resurrection and into the position of final attainment.”**