original in Andover- Harvard Theological Library
Cambridge, Massachusetts

Ostend, Belgium
Dec. 25 1886
17 Rue d'Quest

Dear Mr. Skinner

It was a pleasure to me indeed to receive your letter as it answered so well my desire to communicate with you. First of all, I am surprised at Arthur Gebhard's behaviour. Not only have I not seen the Mss you sent me, but I had no idea he had asked you for any for me to read. He never said one single word about such Mss., nor even suggested that you wanted me to read them, allowing me to understand on the contrary that you had rather a contempt for all that we believe in, and cared for nothing but mathematics. Well since I am a very poor mathemetician indeed I thought it would be useless for me to trouble you with my letters though I had many a question to ask and as many things to suggest by way of information. Please kindly get the Mss. back from him and do not rely upon him to send them to me; but rather let brother Buck have them and he will forward them. There's nothing I would like seeing more than such works - though I say again I am a perfect ignoramus in mathematics having studied it hard at New York with Felt for a year but being too stupid to get anything into my head. Yet [strangely?] enough I understand nearly all in your "Source of Measures." I have read and re-read your Hebrew Egyptian Mystery 20 times over and recommend it to page 1 all our kabalists such as Rev. Mr. A. W. Aybon of Charcombe page 2 Vicarage and Mathers, a very good kabalist, only one who loses

Page1

page 2

too much his head with ceremonial magic which I detest.

Now your book I have quoted enormously and showed many passages as a corroboration, a mathematical and geometrical corroboration, of the same in Hindu symbols and analogical allegories. I am incapable of producing on the same lines as yourself in my new work The Secret Doctrine for as I say I am no mathemetician and rather sees or senses the spirit of analogy through the symbolisms than by checking the figures on both sides. But the Hindus had such basis as the one you discovered in the Pyramid and Bible most decidedly, but it is all concealed in their astronomical personifications and myths. The mode of working them out was different, still they tell us (in Sanskrit or Devanagiri, I mean) does not run parallel with or correspond to numerals as in the Hebrew. It is in the Puranas that one has to take the dead letter myths (taking great care and from the numbers of sons and daughters and kinsmen of the Rishis and Progenitors) and then comparing them with the astronomical treatises in which Brihaspati (Jupiter) or Dhruva (the pole star) - he who is above the three worlds, above the sun, moon, etc. above the Rishis (Great Bear), etc. down to the asterisms (___ ery [corner of letter torn] body in the starry depths, had a human name and appears in ____nection [torn] with his own legend in the Puranas - it is only by this ____ [torn] that you can come to understand the true meaning. But then you have to know Sanskrit for it. Bentley has made a mess of Hindu astronomy and Wilford of their old symbols - the latter actually placing and identifying Atlantis "the White Island" or Atala of the Hindus in the 7th climate with the British Isles!!

Page 2 page 3

page 2 page 3

This objective philosophy then "attempted to be cosmic in its embracement and couched in a language of symbolism" you inquire after, does exist undeniably but it is only the initiated mathematicians such as Subba Row - who have the key to it. And he is more chary of his seer knowledge than anyone else I know. He has almost quarreled with me for ever, for giving out some "of the most sacred mysteries of old Aryavarta," for "committing the sacrilege of throw[ing] up to the unholy world to prostitute to them, the holiest secrets of wisdom" (sic) ["sic" is H.P.B.'s] and he persists in saying that it is my Karma that threw me down and caused all those conspiracies of dirty slander and defamation by padres, missionaries and Coulomb with Co. Well perhaps he is right in his way. But yet I have never revealed but that which I was told to reveal. As you do not believe in the wisdom of our Masters, nor know of their existence, perhaps now I will not talk upon this subject. One thing I know and it is this. You would have never been the great mathematician and symbologist you are, your intuition would never have been opened as fully as it is now had you not had external help. Your own intellectual faculties may have been as great as any. You may be a born mathematician and anything you like, yet had you not been protected unconsciously to yourself you would have never been allowed to give the figures for instance given on p. 146 of your "Source of Measures" explaining the measurement of the King's Chamber. You may laugh at me no matter. You reject everything mystical from the Kabala - it is you who know best. That which we do not

believe in does not exist in nature. Remember this occult axiom. We of the esoteric Vedanta philosophy of Hinduism live in a world of Maya - illusion. But so do you and everyone else. Objective forms in general and geometrical diagrams and figures especially have a power in them reacting on and awakening to activity the half blind and brainless creatures of the elements, which power and creatures you may deny, but which you will feel if you have not already felt them. We who consider space in quite a different way than physical science does or even psychologists of the Spencer and Lewes (?) stamp, and who knows besides of the seven circles within space of an infinite number of worlds within it on other planes of consciousness of beings in it - we know the power certain circles and diagrams have on the Elements. This is why I believe in but hate and dread ceremonial magic. Beware of certain figures and combinations thereof, Mr. Skinner and believe me I speak as one having a sincere and profound as well as a reasoned respect and admiration for you and your wonderful gifts.

The Greek canons of proportion shows undeniably that the Egyptians, Chaldeans, and the Hebrews all had it from the same and one source - old India. There are those who deny to Pythagoras the knowledge of geometry (!) and to Hindus likewise and would prove these borrow[ed] it from the Greeks. Everything even their knowledge of the Zodiac is referred by orientalists (Weber for one) to the days of the alleged Greek invasion of India by Alexander though it is known that he never was in India at all further than Atwek [?] which was not

India even. But as Maurice justly asks, how would the Hindus raise to the altitude of 122 feet (as in the temple of Chilambrum for instance) such stones as crown its summit, stones 40 feet long by 5 feet wide, if they knew nothing of geometry and mechanics. And in Rajputana there are such temples 1,000 years B. C. built before the days of Rome and when no Greek had come to India. I say this to show what their system was that you are anxious to know of though this system of replacing arthmetical figures or numerals by geometrical symbols, is only a portion of their hidden knowledge, as Aryabatha concedes the true esoteric value of π so do all the others. You have almost discovered it, and corrected Bentley but this is not all. Their value of π even in the exoteric system is not ours, I believe, and yet strange to say see the chakra of Vishnu (in circle) he holds in his hands. Now Vishnu is Kala, infinite time, therefore Kalahamsa his symbol is a black swan. The kala (time) and hamsa (swan) are also kali (black or unknown darkness) and Hamsa is equal to a-ham-sa or I am he (swan) are to So-ham which is equal to Soh "he" and aham "I am". A _____ (torn) as kalahamsa is the representation of both Brahma (neuter or ensapt) and of Brahmâ (male or Jehovah) - this hamsa or swan is the vahan, the vehicle or Brahmâ male on which Brahma (neuter) descends into the manifested world as En-Soph descends on Adam Kadmon, the "Heavenly man" into the same. This is one thing. The second is this.

"The one, the three, the five and the twice seven" is the numerical hierarchy of the Dhyani Chohans or Dhyani Buddhas (the builders of the universe and the first men who peopled the earth) as found in the secret books of Dzyan. This hierarchy is composed of the one, purely passive which like En Soph being almost absolute cannot create; of the three or the triple (treta) host is like "Kether, Chohmah and Binah" - the crown Sephira, only the cause of the creating powers of the seven other Sephiroth and the issue of the treta - the host of the Pancha, 5 Dhyani Buddhas who representing the universal mind and its microcosm man ☆ only plan "creation" in their thought and of the twice sevens (who are the masons, the active agents and build on the plan given to them.) These one, three, 5 X 7 X 7 are your 13514, the numerical value of the letters which form the name Alkim or Elohim in evolution. This is the World of Primaries as it is called, the first or upper circle, while the second circle is the phenomenal world has on its circumference the geometrical figures giving an equivalent value of 31415, and the whole is called Eka "the one" whence in the Hebrew it is Ecḧed - one. The Brahmins saying that their Pitris ancestors - the Ekasringis are one, though there are seven classes of Pitris.

When I read what you say I was astounded. I had not remarked, nor found, for it is not there in The Source of Measures - this rendering of yours about the Alhim. They are qualified men - as are the Rishis or seven Dhyani Buddhas are called first manus (from man "to think") and then become manushya - "men". I showed my mss. in which I wrote about this remarkable coincidence of the European π, 31415 to Rev. Alex Aytons who was visiting

me about a month ago (a Kabalist by the way as I tell you) and spoke to him about your work telling him I wanted to write to you. And now I receive your letter! I knew the second circle of the Hindus' secret cosmogony and theogony corresponded in its geometrical figures with the European π but did not know about the Elohim corresponding to 31415. And I will now alter my manuscript and insert (in quotations of course giving you credit for it) what you say, if you permit me to quote from what is not yet published. To make the meaning clearer, let me copy concerning them from my Mss , so that if you find anything to alter or a remark of yours to insert I will be greatly obliged, for, as I say, I am no mathemetician.

(Comment 4 to Stanza IV of Book of Dzyan)

"The <u>one</u> from the egg, the <u>six</u> and the <u>five</u> give the number 1065, the value of the "first born" Brahmâ Prajapati - the creator or progenitor of beings who answers to the numbers 7, 14 and 21 respectively. The Prajapati are the Sephiroth, only seven if they include their triple crown (Kether) symetrically, the Sephira from which they spring and ten for other purposes. Thus five Hiranya Garbha or Prajapati the triune (the primeval Vedic trimurti - Agni, Vayu, and Surya), the six others emanate, or ten if we separate the first three which exist in the one, and one in three, all mentioned being comprehended within that one Supreme Parama called <u>Guhya</u> or "secret" and Sarvatma or Supersoul. The seven lords of being he concealed in Sarvatma like thoughts in one's brain. So are the Sephiroth. They are either ten esoterically or seven when counting from Kether. . . . In the Mahabharata the Prajapati are 21 in number or 10, 6 and 5

(1065) thrice seven and they are called then the Ekasringi or the one "Skas" from the one.

The one, the three, the five and the twice seven represent 13514 the numerical hierarchy of the Dhyan Chohans of various orders, the five and the seven hosts of primordial creators and of the inner or uncircumscribed world. When placed on the boundary of the great circle "Pass Not" (see Stanza V) called also Dhyani Pasa (the rope of the Dhyani or angels) the imaginary "rope" that hedges off the manifested or the phenomenal from the non manifested kosmos (not visible to mortal eye) the number enlarges as it decends and expands in the phenomenal [world] to 31415 being both the number of the circle and the mystic Swastika the twice seven, for whatever way the two sets of figures are read when added to ? separately, one figure after another, whether crossways from right or from left, they will always yield 14. Mathematically they may represent the value of π, as the ratio is now called in astronomy (the ratio of a diameter to the circumference being as 1 to 3 - 1415). Whether the value of π as now used, was known to, or the same with ancient Indians is much to be doubted, for in the esoteric calculations another symbol and figure are used. But they are found as they are given above around the chakra painted in the oldest temples above the door of the sign of Vishnu inside the six pointed star thus



and these producing  -- reading the geometrical figures left to right --

the △ (3), the | ( ), the □ (the cube or 4), the | ( ) and the ☆ (5 pointed star or 5).

This method is very much used in the Trans-Himalayan temples where the six pointed star, the sign of Vishnu (that of Solomon in Europe) contains a circle with various geometrical figures and signs of which there are many unknown to us. Thus while in the higher world, the circle with the one central point in it has no numbers or figures except the pentagon and is called the anupadaka (the parentless or self born) in the primary manifested world the mundane egg or circle is circumscribed within the groups called the elder line, the triangle, the pentacle, the second line, and the cube or 13514 (the one in the secondary world is already described!!) and when the point having generated a line both ways ⊙ ⊖ , now becomes a diameter which stands for the androgynous logos, then only the figures become 31415 or a triangle, a line, etc. etc. "When the son separates from the mother he becomes the father, the diameter now standing for nature, the feminine principle. Therefore it is Law! "In the world of being the One Point fructifies the line, the virgin matrix of kosmos (the egg shaped zero, the cipher) and the immaculate mother gives birth to the Form that contains all forms (Brahmâ or Logos)." etc. etc.

note no end quotation given H.P.B.

page 9 page 10

page 9 page 10

Now I am perfectly sure that all this emanates from one and the same origin--the first Aryan sub races of the 5th Root Race, who lived on the sacred island, when there was [a] sea and now stretches the desert of Gobi. That the 5 books of Moses were not written in their present form is sure. They are fabled to have been lost and found by Hilkiah miraculously, then again lost them rewritten from memory by Ezra from the memory I suppose of what he had

learned in Chaldea and Babylon. It is not the Jews who have invented such an elaborate profoundly scientific system. It is from the Egyptians that it was taken probably by Moses who was initiated in their temples and then remodelled to suit their national Scriptures called the Pentateuch. Why there are two distinct Genesis, the 1st of second chapter, the Eliv [?] and the Jehovites, and probably two rival sects. But this does not explain to me how it is that both Hindus and Hebrews have their Ekasringis and the Elohim fitting in so well with the π of the astronomers.

Page 10

Page 11

If you would find the same system underlying Hinduism search for it in their genesis. Now Brahmâ is both god and man, Adam Kadman and Adam, Jehovah and Cain. It is said in Manu and other books that when he desired to create he divided himself into two parts - male and female and in her (the female Vâch) he created himself as Viraj. Viraj says "Know ye I am Brahma, I am shem [?], etc. by rebirth and transformation. Brahma is red like Adam. Vach is the mother of gods and of all beings, or of all beings as the Satre rupas or "hundred formed" - Nature in short as Eve was. Only while the Hebrew genesis is bent in its symbolism only upon astronomy and physiology, the Hindu allegories are far more complete and scientific. Genesis begins with the "Seventh Creation" of Brahmâ - when man appears and in the Puranas. The Arva Usrota creation is preceded by six precedent evolutions in which you can trace distinctly

the periods of gradual evolutions of the differentiated atom from the undifferentiated. Chaos, the appearance of the Nebulae of the worlds, stars, solar systems, our planets and so on. The word Brahmâ is from the root brih to "expand" or swell in growing and Vishnu from Vis just the same. The Sanskrit language has 20 names for one and the same thing in its minute differentiations. The Hebrew is so poor that puns can be made on each word.

page 11 page 12

I confess I feel tied up in writing to you. You seem to believe in Jehovah or something behind Jehovah. I do not. For me Brahmâ, Jehovah, Osiris and Ormazd and all those "Father creators" of all nations are simply personifications of primordial evolution of the races of men from the divine and the first sexless to the androgyne and down to our own through the giants of Atlantis. I am not an atheist - brainless fool is he who is - but I believe in god in nature, the ever unknowable life and the unconscious (because Absolute Consciousness) cause of all Space - not the space of the physicists or even the metaphysicians, a simple conception of the brain - but in space of the infinite all. For all of you our terms, space, and form and matter are what they are to the physicist - what signs of algebra are to the mathemeticians - simply conventional symbols. And for us the occultists at whom you laugh, space is the veil of Isis which can never be lifted for mortal eye, but that can allow an immortal (initiated) mind to penetrate behind it at certain hours when the body is first out of the way by trance. It is my conviction that it is a great deal more

philosophical to be a polytheist than a monotheist though I am neither being an out and out pantheist.

Now please tell me for I will not say an unust thing if I can help it. I quote from you so often that I was obliged to remark in one place that I believed you belonged to those masons who like General Pike reject with anger the Principe Creation of the Ancient and Accepted Rite of the Grand Orient of France and will have a Father in Heaven, an anthropomorphic god. I cannot make you out. You make of Jehovah a number, a phallum, a simple symbol and then you speak as though you believe in the revelations and the holiness of the Bible. Please pardon me for my sincerity. Oh ye gods - if you have not given a description of the last initiation in India in your crucifixion myth (pp. 255-262) Meschire [?] type, etc. then I do not now know where I am writing, in Ostende, or London. Why it is the secret drama of Visvakârma the "omnificent" personification of the creative power, the great architect of the Veda, etc. etc., the son of Bhuvana [?] the all pervading spirit who offered all the worlds in a general sacrifice, and ended by sacrificing himself to save them from annihilation. It is he who is now the Initiator and the Sun as Vikarthene "shorn of his rays" who is the candidate for initiation the Chrestos in the _____[?] Patala. The fable or allegory shows Sanjaya (spiritual consciousness) the daughter of Visvakârma, the carpenter of the gods married to the Sun Surya who because he was too ardent with his wife while she was asleep and burnt (sleeping spiritual consciousness) with his rays, was punished by his father-in-law. Visvakârma taking hold of the Sun stretch him on

his cruciform lathe and cut off his seven rays. Now the meaning of this can only be known by knowing the ceremony of the final initiation at the end of this probationary period. The candidate (an Hiram Abiff) is stretched on a lathe having a Swastika form thus  then his long hair is cut, he himself plunged into a dead like trance and left for three nights and three days in the temple subterranean crypt when his astral body is supposed to visit Patala (infernal regions) and save souls by preaching. After which he is carried back to the temple, made to pass through the interior of a cow (nature) made of metal and he [is] dwija, twice born and born to a new spiritual life. You will read this in detail in my Secret Doctrine. But dear me don't you see in this the origin of the crucifixion and of Tau, also as the instrument of torture. It is not for me to tell you who are a scholar; how from the Swatstika developed the mystic Tau - for, from the primitive dual and triple hook 卐 卍 first evolved the Pelasgian tau T who brought it from Rajisthan far before the days of Orpheus, even the Etruscans had + × the Coptics + the P_____[?])(while the Egyptians had it ages before as the Ank ☥ the symbol of immortality through death. Whereas the tau of the Jews became only far later the ⊓ it is now and was like that of the Egyptians before.

But pardon this too long letter. My rosary unfortunately I gave it to Damodar (a Chela) when he went to Tibet as a protection and a charm. I have many more talismans in India at Adyar and can send you as soon as I am home - if I live to go back to there. I had but one thing a little

tabernacle in brass from Tibet which I lent to a friend as art and if he has not lost it (he is in Algiers now) when I write to him I can ask him to send it back to me. Perhaps I can get a rosary or a talisman at Adyar and will be most happy to send you one. But I left Adyar at 24 hours notice and have nothing with me positively.

Now whatever information I can give you I am at your service. Only I would like to know from you what are your reasonable views. You seem to be as devoted a mason as I am a Theosophist. Only India is the lost place for masonry as you know.

page 15 page 15

Wishing you health and success - believe me page 16 page 16

Truly and sincerely

H. P. Blavatsky

P.S. Would you kindly, if you see Dr. Buck ask him on what grounds he believes his devoted friend and sister capable of lighting her cigarettes with his letters or throwing them into her waste basket!