# THE GENESIS OF WATER

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649295616

The Genesis of Water by P. W. Dooner

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd. Cover @ 2017

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### INTRODUCTORY.

IN bringing this paper before the public, the writer is not unmindful of the fact that the greeting which usually goes forth to the obtrusive theorist is seldom either friendly or reassuring. Practical achievement is the requirement of this age and its application has wonderfully amplified the field of correspondence between humanity and its environment. But notwithstanding its many conquests, the practical side of man, equally with the theoretical side, has failed to account ' for or to explain certain physical phenomena that have been continually on parade before the eyes of science ever since man became a thinking animal. an example of the things that are known but unexplained: the Comet; the Aerolite; the Glaciation of the North Temperate Zone; Gravitation; Life; Matter,-mysteries, all. Now, I did not begin to write with any thought, whatever, of invading the domain of any of these problems, but with only the one thought of accounting for the fact of the presence of water upon the earth-a constituent of our planet not accounted for by the nebular hypothesis. I proceeded with my examination of the one subject I had under consideration, my analysis gradually suggested and unfolded certain necessary relations and conditions that could not fail to draw attention to certain observed phenomena intimately connected with

one or another of the subjects mentioned above. These analogies between such phenomena upon the one hand, and upon the other the consequences that become indispensable to the truth of the theory here advanced, present at least a very remarkable train of coincidences, if they present nothing more. The conclusion that I have reached, and the inevitable tendency of the discussion to explain some of these phenomena are accordingly now submitted.



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#### CHAPTER I.

That the matter of the Universe has been aggregated into suns and systems is a wonderful truth that stands revealed in the face of visible nature. For all the purposes of this discussion, which is intended to throw light upon the mystery of the origin of water and the agency by which it came upon the earth, it might suffice to simply observe all that is thus forcibly presented to the mind and so to let the matter rest, if it were not that some of the surviving phenomena of cosmic activity that are still visible to the observer of the solar disturbance will be introduced as evidential facts in the course of this inquiry.

Whether the nebular hypothesis of Laplace is, or is not, the true explanation of the process of worldbuilding, it has at least the conceded merit of being the most consistent theory ever advanced to explain the formation of the suns and systems that shine upon us from infinite space.

This hypothesis while essentially consistent with that which I now advance is not co-extensive with the latter, nor indispensable to its support, and hence it does not follow from the observation of principles that may not have a common application that both, or that either, should not be true.

It will be remembered, without the aid of particular reference, that the nebular hypothesis holds substantially that the matter which now composes all the bodies of our solar system was originally in a highly heated, gaseous state and in such condition formed a globe, the circumference of which extended beyond the orbit of Neptune. That the radiation of heat into space caused the cooling globe to contract upon its center and that the motion thereby developed took the inevitable spiral or whirling direction, as observed in whirlpools, cyclones and other phenomena. rotary motion thus primarily instituted became established as a law thereafter ordained to govern and direct the movements of the radiating mass. That as the rotary motion gradually increased the centrifugal force overcame the attraction of gravitation operating upon the outlying strata of the whirling body and as a consequence a ring of condensed vapor was thrown off from its surface. That other and similar rings were in like manner detached in succeeding ages. That those rings, retaining the motion they had at the time of their separation from the interior mass, continued to revolve in the same direction as that of the nebulous substance within and in a common plane. That the matter composing the rings gradually condensed and in each case formed a single globe which thereafter pursued its course around the central body and remained subject to the same law of contraction and rotation that had caused its separation from the parent body. That those planetary globes threw off rings in a similar manner which likewise consolidated and formed satellites. Saturn's rings, as suggested by Dr. Mitchell, have been left unbroken to show how

worlds are made and may yet consolidate into additional moons. Such, in brief, is the nebular hypothesis—between which and the theory I now advance there will be found to run a chain of consistent mutual support.

A few remarks upon the observed phenomena of solar activity as well as upon some of the ascertained truths concerning the constitution of the solar mass are pertinent at this stage of these investigations. Data gathered, as the result of careful observations made upon the sun during the times of total eclipse, show that it is enveloped in an atmosphere of incandescent hydrogen and mineral vapors, which has been designated the chromosphere, outside of which is a vast region composed in part of reflected light to which the name corona, is given, and beneath the chromosphere is the incandescent photosphere.

In the work of observing and examining these several regions of the solar world with the view of ascertaining the elements that are present there, the spectroscope is the chief—it might be said almost the only—reliance of the astronomer.

The analysis it makes of the light that comes from the sun proves that the chromosphere is composed chiefly of incandescent hydrogen intermixed, to some extent, with the vapors of nearly all the minerals of which we have any knowledge as constituting proportions of the crust of the earth, and of those of other substances that are unknown upon our globe.

The eminent astronomer and scientist, M. Faye, who has made the study of the chromosphere a specialty, says that the activity of this region is the grandest illustration of the principle of the terrestrial cyclone, on a gigantic scale, that the mind can conceive. He has discovered a constantly descending