ignorant of their past ... of thousands of incarnations they have already covered

¹People live in appearances and take appearances for reality. And therein lies their difficulty. Being ignorant of their past, of the tens of thousands of incarnations they have already covered, they are also unaware of their qualities and abilities already acquired, now latent, of their good or bad sowing in past lives, of the effects in this life of those past causes. They live in ignorance of all this; therefore they lead a life of life-ignorance, a life in "appearances".

²Add to this the fact that they were born into a certain family, class, nation, religion, and have been inoculated since childhood with those illusions and fictions of life ignorance which dominate the people surrounding them. This is from the very beginning a tremendous handicap, so big that one is amazed if somebody succeeds in reaching a higher level of development. Then most people remain on the same level during some hundred incarnations. The utmost of what most people manage to do is to reattain the level corresponding to their latent capacity.

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