

The Connective Tissue of the Universe

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The etheric vehicle is the life energy which surrounds and interpenetrates everything, human, planet and cosmos. It is related to the life principle. It is the field where the world of spirit and matter meet. It is the connective tissue of the universe and the basis for the Oneness of the universe and the unity of all life. All forms have an etheric body or vehicle which is part of the universal field or etheric vehicle. “ It should be remembered that the etheric body of the human being is an integral part of the etheric body of the planetary Logos and is , therefore, related to all forms found within that body in any and all the kingdoms of nature. It is part of the substance of the universe, coordinated with the planetary substance, and hence provides the scientific basis for unity” (EH 82+ EH 645). It is what holds us altogether and allows for the circulation of the energy of life.

The Ageless Wisdom teaches that all life is interconnected, joined together by one great universal life, one energy moving at different rates of vibration. Spirit is matter at its highest point; matter is spirit at its lowest point. There is a stepping down process of the involution into matter (essence becoming form) and a stepping up process of the evolution into spirit (form becoming essence). The Cosmic and Systemic planes are the place where this process occurs. **Planes** are well defined frequencies or vibrations where life unfolds. They are the steps of the hierarchial ladder of life. They provide the conditions for life experiences and expression in the macrocosm and the microcosm. They are the fields of force or dimensions of reality. These planes interpenetrate one another and are not visible to humans. They may be compared to the electromagnetic spectrum which consists of bands of different wave lengths from gamma rays, X rays, ultraviolet rays, visible light, infrared rays, short radio waves and long radio waves. We see only a small portion of this

spectrum (World Book Encyclopedia, E Volume 6, p., 157).

The universe has seven Cosmic Planes. Each of the seven Cosmic Planes is divided into seven sub planes of differing grades of matter or energy. The planes are from the highest to the lowest: 1. Cosmic Logoic, 2. Cosmic Monadic, 3. Cosmic Atmic, 4. Cosmic Buddhi (intuitional), 5. Cosmic Mental, 6. Cosmic Astral and, 7. Cosmic Physical. The Cosmic Physical Plane is our Solar System. It is the physical body of our solar system and has seven sub planes. The Seven Planes of our solar system are from highest to lowest: I Divine, Adi, (1st Cosmic Etheric) . II Monadic, (2nd Cosmic Etheric), III Spiritual, Atmic, (3rd Cosmic Etheric), IV Intuitional, Buhhhic, (4th Cosmic Etheric) , V Mental, Manasic, (Cosmic gaseous), VI Emotional, Astral, (Cosmic Liquid), and VII Physical, (Cosmic Dense).

Man's etheric body forms an integral part of the etheric body of the Logos. The etheric body of the logos consists of the IV Buddhic, III Atmic, II Monadic and I Adi or Divine planes. The Physical body of the Logos consists of : the V Mental, VI Astral , VII Etheric/Physical planes. The seven sub planes of the physical plane are from top to bottom: First Etheric sub plane, Second Etheric sub plane, Third Etheric sub plane, Fourth Etheric sub plane, Gaseous sub plane, Liquid sub plane and Solid sub plane. Man's etheric body consists of the four etheric sub planes and his physical body consists of the solid, liquid and gaseous sub planes. Although these four etheric sub planes are imperceptible to most people they do consist of matter from the physical world. The dense physical body of man is composed of solids, liquids and gases including such parts as the bones, blood system, nervous system, brain and endocrine glands. The etheric body, consists of the substance of the four etheric sub planes and is often called the vital body. "The etheric body of the individual is, as you know, a part of the etheric body of humanity and this, in its turn, is an aspect of the etheric body of the planet, which is likewise an

intrinsic part of the etheric body of the solar system. Incidentally, in this far-reaching factual relationship, you have the basis of all astrological influences. Man moves, therefore, in a whirlpool of forces of all types and qualities” (GWP, p., 246).

A **principle** is the characteristic, quality, germ or seed of potential of divine consciousness on or underlying a particular plane. It is spiritual essence, element or substance and it initiates activity. It is a basic differentiation, an essence of being. A **vehicle or body** is the means of expression for a principle. The principle of **prana, vital energy** is expressed through the **etheric body** on the **physical plane**.

The etheric plane, body, field is the interface between the spiritual and physical realms, it is part of the stepping down process where the two worlds meet. The etheric planes are composed of physical substance of a finer quality than the physical plane, the four etheric substances. The four ethers are to be a channel or expression of the four cosmic ethers. “This is not the case at present and will not be so until the antahkarana is built and acts as a direct channel for the cosmic ethers, which are called universal life, monadic intensity, divine purpose and pure reason. At present, the etheric body is responsive to energies from: 1. The physical world ...feeders and controllers of the animal appetites, 2. The astral world...determining the desires, emotions, and aspirations, 3. The lower mental plane or mind, developing self-will, selfishness, separateness and the direction of life on the physical plane, 4. The soul, the spiritual counterpart of the solar plexus center at the midway point between that which lies above and below the diaphragm. When the antahkarana is constructed and the higher three are directly related to the lower three, then the soul is no longer needed [at the 4th initiation]. Then, reflecting this event, the four etheric levels become simply the transmitters of the energy emanating from the four cosmic etheric levels” (TEV 156).

The etheric body/ field is constructed of many lines of energy/light that cross at right angles and form a grid structure, template, scaffolding or fabric for the physical form. These lines or threads of force are tubes or channels through which life energy/ prana flows. These thread like subtle pathways are called **nadis**. There are millions of nadis in the human etheric body. "They underlie the entire nervous system of man. They are the counterpart of the animating factor, making sensitivity possible and producing that action and reaction which converts the mechanism of man into an intricate "receiver" of energy and "director" of force. Each [Page 592] of these tiny lines of energy are fivefold in nature and resemble five strands or fibers of force, closely knit together within a covering sheath of a different force (EPII 59). The nadis are basically the etheric nervous system. When these lines of force cross 21 times, a major force center, called a **chakra**, is created. The chakras are energy centers in the etheric field that help in the process of stepping down energy, vitalize the physical body, bring about the development of self consciousness and transmit spiritual energy to help man become a spiritual being. There are seven main chakras that are located along the spinal column in the etheric field. When these lines cross 14 times, a minor chakra is created and a lesser chakra is created when they cross 7 times. There are seven major chakras, 21 minor chakras and thousands of lesser chakras in the human body. Many of these crossings constitute the acupuncture meridians points. The human etheric body is also called the biofield, the vital energy field, and the etheric double. The etheric field takes the form of the object that it is associated with. In the human energy field, the etheric body interpenetrates and extends 1-2 inches (or more depending on the health and developmental level) beyond the physical body. It provides the structure for the form of the physical body and the vitality or the animating substance. The physical body is and automaton, shaped, animated

and energized by the etheric/subtle lines of light /energy.

The function of the etheric body is to provide the structure for the physical form and to receive, assimilate and transmit prana. The lines of force carry prana, the energy of the personality, the soul the spiritual triad and the monad. They vitalize and energize the physical body and are the medium of expression of the subtler planes of consciousness. It is the interlinking system. This is the flow of energy or step down process: prana from the universal energy field comes into the human energy field through the chakras, to the nadis, to the nerves, to the endocrine glands into the bloodstream and into the physical and psychological aspects of man. It is a transmitter for many types of energy: astral, mental, egoic, buddhic, manasic, monadic, astrological, and extra planetary and beyond (Recinti, N.,p. 13). It is the circulatory system for the flow of life energy and vitality.

Prana in Sanskrit means 'Absolute Energy'. It is the universal principle of energy or force. It is vitality and is found in all things having life. It is the vibratory power that underlies all manifestation. It is the sum total of cosmic energy in the body (and this applies equally to the planetary and solar body). It therefore concerns the inflow of energy into the etheric body and its outflow through the medium of the physical body. In the physical body this is symbolized for us in the necessary inspiration and exhalation of the breath...one of the main purposes of the etheric body is that it acts as a stimulator and the energizer of the dense physical body (LOS, p. 217). Prana might be defined as the life essence of every plane in the sevenfold area which we call the cosmic physical plane. It is the LIFE of the planetary Logos, reduced within limits, animating, vivifying and correlating all the seven planes (in reality the seven sub planes of the cosmic physical plane) and all that is to be found within and upon them (TEV 154). It is the life essence of the 7th physical Cosmic Plane. Prana is not breath although it is often closely associated with

breath. It is taken in by the human through the spleen chakra and through breathing. Prana can be divided into three types of electrical phenomena, called in the *Secret Doctrine* and *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*, fire by friction, solar fire and electrical fire (EH p.328). Prana in the solar system works out as the five great states of energy which we call planes, the medium of consciousness; these are: the atmic or spiritual plane, the buddhic or intuitional plane, the mental plane, the emotional or astral or karmic plane, the physical plane. (LOS 329). Prana in the atmic plane is spiritual will, electric fire; on the buddhic plane it is solar fire- spiritual love; and on the mental/astras/ physical plane it is fire by friction—the physical body of the Logos. Solar prana is the vital fluid emanating from the sun via the devas of golden hue to the shadow devas of the 7th physical plane. Planetary prana is the life giving energy of the planet. The planet absorbs solar prana, assimilates what is required and radiates off what is not essential. Planetary prana is solar prana which has passed throughout the planet, circulated through the planetary etheric body, has been transmitted to the dense physical planet, plus the individual and distinctive quality of the particular planet concerned. Planetary prana is absorbed by man through the spleen and distributed to all the chakras. (TEV 154). There are five differentiations of prana in the human body: Prana, Samana, Apana, Upana, and Vyana. These types of prana are related to areas of the body, organs, chakras, and etheric sub planes (LOS 329).

The planetary etheric body is unbroken, whole and continuous. There is no separation between the etheric bodies of people and the planetary etheric body. It is the transmitter of many types of energy. It is the basis for unity. This etheric web constitutes an intrinsic part of every form on our planet, and is carried forward throughout our solar system and eventually beyond to include every other star, constellation and galaxy within the macrocosm. It is this etheric network which serves as the channel for the flow

of all energies and life essence, and it is through this system that each and every other form is eventually linked up with every other form, not only within our Earth life, but throughout the solar system and the cosmos. It is because of this interlinking system that every action or thought of whatever nature must have some influence on all the rest of the system. The etheric network is that element which synthesizes all of creation into one inseparable and interdependent whole. It is of great importance that we realize that whatever happens to any one part of the system, must inevitably be reflected by a reaction of a corresponding nature somewhere in the remaining part of the whole system. This interconnectedness explains how our thoughts can impact others, how healing energy can be exchanged, how one can give and receive distant healings and how prayer can be effective. This interlinking system provides the medium through which telepathy, healing and prayer can manifest. Because of this, we have a great responsibility for the quality and character of our thoughts, feelings and actions. We have a responsibility to be more conscious of our role in the universe; we are one body and everything we do, think or feel is important. I think the visionary art of Alex Grey best expresses the etheric field and the physical and subtle body interface. I especially like his piece entitled; Theologue: the Union of Human and Divine Consciousness Weaving the Fabric of Space and Time in Which The Self and Its Surroundings are Embedded. For me, this piece of art symbolizes the connective tissue of the universe.

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