

# The Threefold Aura of Man

T010 The Inner Teachings 20th May 1936 Pembroke Hall, London

## Invocation:

We raise our mind and aspiration to the great Father God, desiring to learn of the wonders of creation and of the purpose of life and the path of evolution. We pray with all humility that we may be purified by the incoming of the Light of the world, and may peace dwell within us during this hour of communion and contemplation.

Amen.

The threefold aura of man: you have been accustomed to the idea that man is a threefold being, this being a simple statement of truth. But like all wise teachings, it has become so hackneyed that man does not analyse its fuller meaning, much as the injunction 'love one another' has become merely a matter of words, a text and no more. So also the teaching on the threefold being of man is put aside as unworthy of deeper consideration.

We have spoken often of the threefold being of the Creator, the three aspects of wisdom, love and power. All religions retaining the ancient wisdom teach the triune nature of the Creator. We lay clearly before you the three aspects of life—and man, being created in the image of God, he too consists of three aspects.

We speak of body, soul and spirit—the three parts of man. That with which you are most familiar is the physical aspect, but those becoming more conscious of the invisible forces or vibrations recognise there must be a point of contact other than the physical body, else they could not register the vibrations. Today it is being demonstrated to man that a part of him lives after the passing away of the physical body. That part is the mind, the thought-centre of man's being, from which he grows in consciousness of the Creator, God.

The physical aspect of man has two other counterparts. In man's physical construction we have not only the physical body, but also an 'etheric' according to some schools, or a 'vital' body according to others. We take both aspects or terms as one and the same. Do not be confused about the etheric aura; this can be seen by the clairvoyant projecting a few inches from the physical form of man. Examine this etheric double, or vital body, and you will see its wonderful construction; part of it bears close relationship to the structure of the physical body—this concerns the denser atoms of the etheric body, a part akin to the physical body, a part which disintegrates after the latter's death. But the etheric body also contains a finer construction which we will call the vital or *light* essence, or the life essence, which does not disintegrate with the physical body, but lives on. After death this is withdrawn from the lower aspects, the lower etheric portion, and eventually leaves the lower planes of being altogether, and waits until a period of absorption and rest in the heaven worlds has passed, when it again is put forth into the physical body to gain further experience.

This etheric body is an important part of your being. Through this etheric counterpart of the physical travel the waves of light vibration from the higher worlds of life; through the etheric body comes communication from the spirit spheres.

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There exists a close relationship between this etheric body and the physical nervous system, and a continual exchange between the two. Now this exchange forms the link with the mind. So you will see that through the mind, through right thinking, harmonious thinking, you can send through your physical body an inexhaustible life force, because the mind-centre is in direct contact with the life spirit and the divine spirit.

Thus the etheric body of a well-developed and evolved soul can be seen as being vibrant with light, as veritably sparkling, not merely with the magnetism of the physical body, but with life force, the light which is contained in the etheric aura.

Next we come to the desire body. Some call it the astral body, but this is the body of desire, the body which lives after death and is destined to undergo experiences on the astral planes which feed eventually the true soul consciousness. The body of desire, when man has finished with it, is also laid aside. Through the desire body or the astral body, man contacts all kinds of forces from the astral plane; it is the overriding [nature] of the desire body which causes people to lose self-control and self-respect when desire and passion become so strong that all else is subordinated. Nevertheless, through the desire body man is learning to understand the higher aspect of his nature.

The desire body also manifests in the aura, and it is possible for the desire body to thus absorb intoxication. Do you understand me? For instance, if your desire body is undisciplined and another man passes by whose aura may be permeated with alcohol, this influence can reach your desire body and make you feel peculiar and uncomfortable—the more so if you are not aware of what is taking place.

The desire body, if kept subdued,\* healthy and pure, brings great help, and feeds the soul of man, the temple which he is building in the heavens. If the desire body is allowed to have its way, however, and run riot, then man has an uncomfortable time after death, because the desire body craves all kinds of sensation and has no physical organs or senses to gain gratification.

*[\*By 'subdued' we think White Eagle means 'under the control of the greater being' rather than 'suppressed']*

And thus in time man sheds also his desire body. Do not be misled; the desire body has a great purpose, and if used wisely it conveys to the spirit (as the spirit can convey to the desire body, so also the desire body can convey to the spirit) an increased consciousness of God-life.

These comprise the first bodies—the physical, the etheric, and the desire or astral body.

Now to the next aura, which we will call the soul. Man may talk about the soul, but let us try to analyse it according to our understanding. By what we have heard, observed and experienced, the soul of man is also threefold. Again we may clash with the different schools of teaching but we speak of the first aspect as the soul-consciousness, the personality, the

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second aspect as intellect, or thought, the mental plane if you like, and the third aspect as the emotional or the intuitional.

Some religions tend, through ritual, to stir the emotional aspect of the soul and through the emotions to reach the spirit. Actually, through emotion, or better still through intuition, one does reach the spirit. Bear in mind that each one of these planes, aspects or rays of the soul interpenetrate the three lower aspects of man already referred to, just as they also reach to and penetrate the three higher aspects with which we shall deal. Through the physical aspect of man the soul is fed; so also through the spiritual or spirit plane the body aspect is inspired and urged forward to create material for the building of the soul.

Now to the third ray or aspect of man—spirit. You are probably accustomed to thinking of spirit as an indivisible unity. Has it never occurred to you that spirit has three aspects, each also interpenetrating the lower vehicles of man, each related to its corresponding aura or vehicle of both lower planes of being?

Thus we have first the human spirit, the individuality, then also the life spirit (also the ‘vital spirit’), the light, the life (some call it the Christ-consciousness), and like the sun its rays descend through the mind or the intellectual aspect of the soul-consciousness and ultimately through the vital body to the physical.

Do you remember the words of our beloved Master ‘*I am the Way* (the bodily way); *I am the Truth* (relating to the soul, intellect, mind); *I am the Life* (the vital body; or the Life)’? Now do you recognise the relationship between the healing from the Christ sphere of the light, or the Sun, the descent of the light working through the mind and the vital body of man, its restoration to perfect health?

The other day I told some friends that when they are tired they have failed to plug into the right power station. They were rather sceptical! Nevertheless, it is true—plug into the power station of the Christ Light, the vital life force, and you know neither weariness nor tiredness, for the vital life force pours through into you.

The third aspect of the spirit is the plane which we will call divine spirit, universal spirit, or God-consciousness.

I hope that we have given you a simple yet clear picture of the threefold aura of man. If you are told ‘I can see your aura’—ask what it is like, get a description of what is seen, and you will be able to discover whether they see the etheric or the astral body. Many can see the astral or desire body and also the etheric body. They think the two comprise the aura. But wait! The aura is far greater; beyond the etheric and astral bodies are the three planes of the soul-consciousness, and beyond again the three planes of pure spirit life.

Each one of these auras or vehicles of man is related to either the astral or etheric world, the mental world or the celestial worlds. It is possible whilst still functioning in the physical body

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to so develop the threefold aura that you can become aware of higher planes of life to which you are attached and in which you live, move and have your being, even whilst still on earth.

I have not attempted to touch upon colour—if you know the primary colours you will soon be able to relate colour to those planes of being.

Q. In which body do we function during sleep?

A. We function in the astral body. But it is difficult to separate—perhaps we should say one functions on the plane of soul-consciousness during sleep?

Q. You say that one may be affected by the aura of a drunkard \*. I suppose the same applies to one with a beautiful aura—they also could affect the people near them?

*[\*Nowadays one would say alcoholic; with White Eagle there would be no sense of judgement.]*

A. Without any doubt at all. Have you not experienced this? It is not always what a person says, but the feeling which he conveys—in other words, your aura is impinged upon by his. If you came into contact with the aura of the Master you would receive enlightenment and purification by that very contact. Do you see your responsibility? Strive to create a beautiful aura, because you can thus help your brother man so greatly.

Q. Did you say that the etheric is laid aside in the ascent of the soul and re-collected during the soul's descent for the next incarnation?

A. Not the whole etheric body. That which is connected with the physical atom disintegrates with the physical body. But the vital body, the bridge over which the life force travels to the physical body, the bridge which we ourselves use in speaking to you—is like the seed, is stored up until it is ready to be planted again in the earth.

Q. Would that seed retain the earthly karma?

A. Exactly.

Q. When you control a medium, which bodies do you use—the two higher ethers?

A. We use the two higher ethers. To control a medium is a very sensitive and subtle operation. We work through the life spirit of the medium and the auras of the higher soul into the vital etheric vehicle and thus control the physical brain, the automatic mind and speech.

Benediction:

We ask for the blessing of our Father.

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Dear Father of all, it has been good to be here, to feel the joy of this soul and spiritual contact; we desire only to know Thee and Thy love, Thy beauty, Thy peace. Sustain us, O Father God, with all the beauty of Thy life. So may we be worthy children and servants of Thine.

Amen.

*The search matches with either words and phrases, which appear in the text, or the following 'key' words and phrases, which are similar in meaning to those in the document:*

*Law, chakra, psychic, awareness*

