

4 July 1966

## READING 8

In discussing something as intricate as the attainment of Immortality by successive crystallisation of three 'bodies', the words of ordinary language are inefficient, and one requires a set of symbols which give both precision and flexibility; just as for many problems in mathematics one needs the symbols of the Calculus in order to describe a world in perpetual movement, by means of successive differentiation and integration.

An entirely appropriate set of symbols is available in our System, but too few people have given enough attention to it to put it to really practical use. The figure shows the part of the table relevant to our present topic. It would greatly help our work if those equipped for this kind of research would divest themselves for the moment of preconceived ideas and definitions, and just learn the technique required by asking themselves basic questions as to its arrangement and meaning. This takes time and we must not rush our fences. Our System says that complete understanding of the Laws of the Universe can be reached by first understanding the interaction between the two fundamental Laws, the Law of Octaves and the Law of Three Forces. This is precisely what the figure shows.

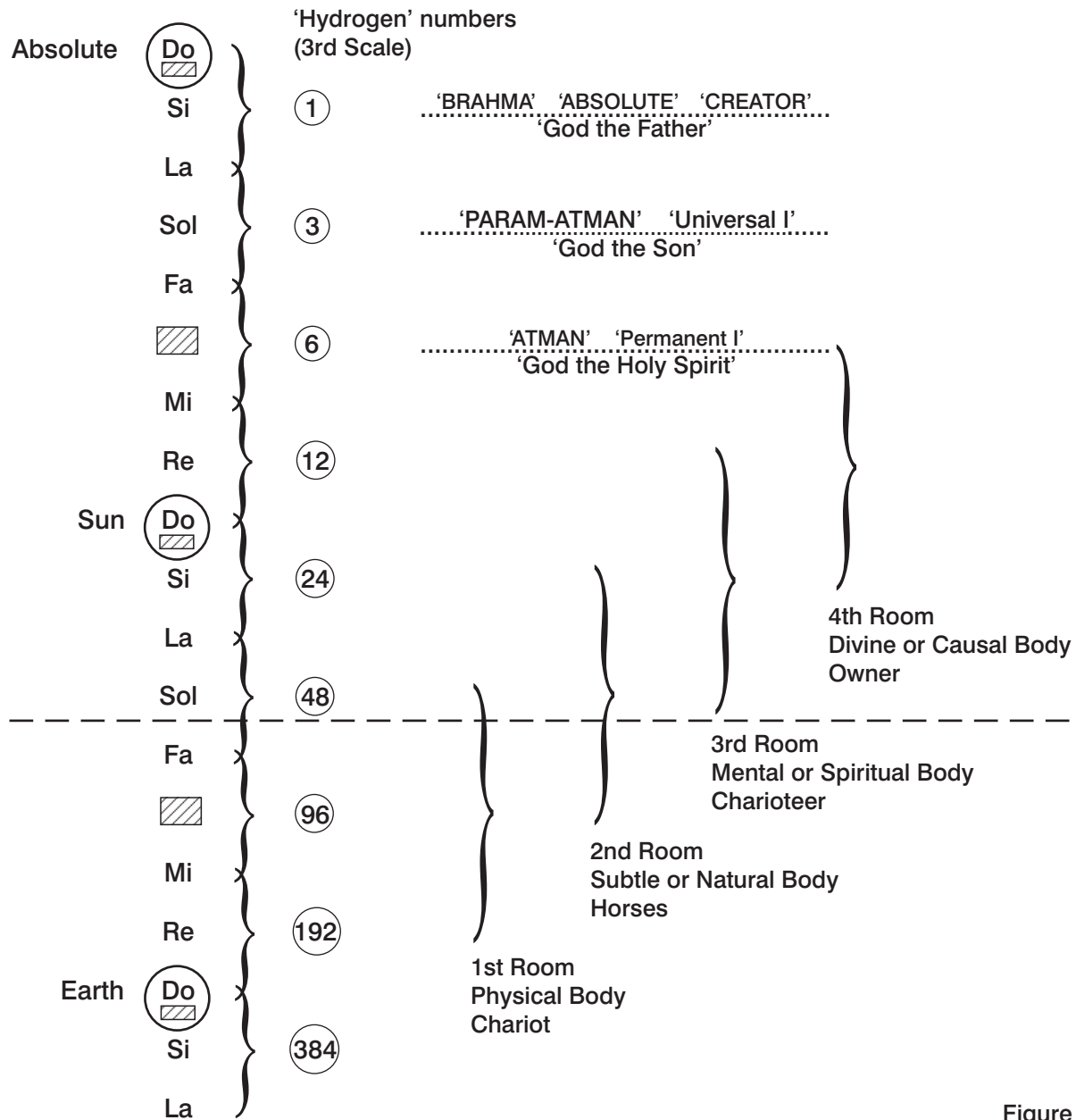
It so happens that each of the levels of matter derived as different 'Hydrogen' numbers represents qualitative differences which the human organism naturally perceives. This, then, is a human picture of the Universe in the strict perspective of our 'worm's eye view' from the surface of this small earth and its single satellite the moon. For instance: Three great octaves – Absolute to All Galaxies, All Galaxies to our Galaxy the Milky Way, and the Starry world of the Milky Way to our particular Star the Sun, are foreshortened into a single octave which we could call the 'Starry World'.

We see also that the Three Forces are present at each level in a continual state of transition from fine to coarse and from coarse to fine. At the top is the greatest frequency of vibrations and the minimum density of matter, 'density' being seen as packing of units of matter in a given space. The 'Hydrogen numbers' symbolise both the increased size of the units and the tightness of the packing.

The 'Three Forces', then, cannot be described by absolute definitions but are relative to each other and to the 'density' of the matter transmitting them. The concept that 'everything in the Universe' is material does away immediately with the duality of ordinary thinking which *opposes* 'Spiritual' to 'physical', 'mind' to 'brain', 'Soul' to 'body', and so on.

(Pause for discussion)

The Law of Three Forces is seen again in larger and larger groupings, the one with which we are now concerned being shown by the larger brackets in the diagram. These group together the highest Hydrogens in each of the three storeys of the house for individuals at different stages on the way to Self-realization. If purified, fully organised, and rendered permanent by a process of crystallisation, these are called by the System, the four 'Bodies' – the four stages on the way to Immortality. The dotted line represents the situation on the level of the 'man in the street'. His physical body is fully organised and becomes partly crystallised with advancing years, but is relatively impermanent – being limited by a life-span of 70 or 80 years. The lower part of the



Figure

Subtle body which motivates the physical body is also organised to some extent in ordinary people; but the contents of the higher part of it as also of the Third and Fourth Bodies, are too impure and changeable to play any consistent part in his life.

As the Shankaracharya points out, the Second and Third bodies can be crystallised by common man through meditation and other disciplines; but the 'Causal body is only achieved by great men once in a way'. The widespread use of the symbol of the chariot is shown in the Jewish Scriptures in this sentence:

And it came to pass as they still went on and talked that, behold, a chariot of fire and horses of fire that parted them both asunder, and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.

(2 Kings 2:11)

The words 'fire' or 'light' are primitive expressions for what we now call 'electromagnetic oscillations'; and this also is depicted in the diagram above the level of the dotted line. To the

junctional region between what we regard as electronic and what we regard as chemical, belong those 'transducers' recently discovered in the human and animal pineal, pituitary and adrenal glands, which transform electrical into chemical energy.

(Pause for discussion)

And there is no need to confine ourselves to an intellectual or technological interpretation of this diagram, for we see that the highest three Hydrogens are what the religions try to describe, and the theologians argue over. Naturally, from our level, we cannot differentiate or resolve them, but there is no conflict here with the Christian Credo about the Trinity, and we can happily with all our hearts repeat the lovely prayer of St. Patrick and try to live according to it:

I bind myself today to a strong Strength, to a calling on the Trinity. I believe in a Threeness with confession of a Oneness in the Creator of the World.

I bind myself today to the strength of Christ's birth and His baptism; to the strength of His crucifixion with his burial; to the strength of His resurrection with His ascension;

In stability of earth, in steadfastness of rock, I bind to myself today God's strength to pilot me;

God's power to uphold me; God's wisdom to guide me; God's eye to look before me; God's ear to hear me;

God's Word to speak for me; God's hand to guard me; God's path to lie before me; God's shield to protect me; God's host to save me...

Christ with me, Christ before me; Christ behind me, Christ in me; Christ under me, Christ over me; Christ to the right of me, Christ to the left of me; Christ in lying down, Christ in sitting, Christ in rising up; Christ in the heart of everyone that thinks of me; Christ in the mouth of everyone that speaks to me; Christ in every eye that sees me; Christ in every ear that hears me.

I bind to myself today a strong Strength, to a calling upon the Trinity; I believe in a Threeness with confession of a Oneness in the Creator of the World.

(St. Patrick made this hymn one time he was going to preach the Faith at Teamhair, and his enemies lay in hiding to make an attack on him as he passed. But as he himself and Benen his servant went by, all they could see passing was a wild deer and a fawn. And the Deer's Cry is the name of the hymn to this day.)

(From *The City without Walls*, pp. 200–201)

[Pause, and a little Meditation or 'Turning' if you like.]

One can now ask oneself the Lawyer's question, 'Master, what shall I do to inherit Eternal Life?' and find all the answers contained in the figure. For example, each degree of Eternal Life is achieved by the conquest of a Higher order of matter and the elimination of a lower one. Learning 'to separate the coarse from the fine' is the education of the Charioteer, but in the Fourth Way we work on all four rooms at once.

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