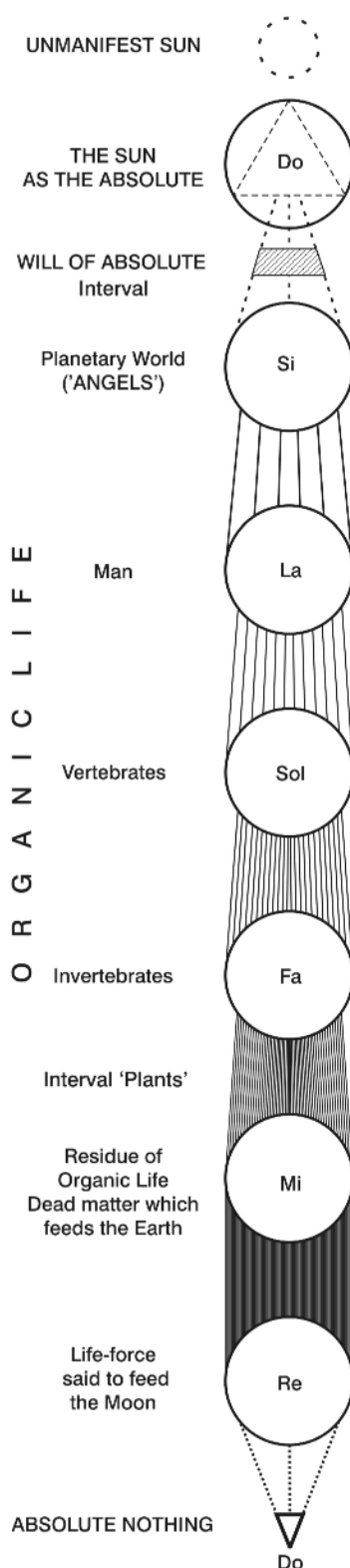


OUR WORLD

Part 4 The esoteric view contd.

As we saw last week, what the Western System calls the ‘lateral octave’ describes the metabolism of the Sun—the Sun being regarded as a living being. The solar system is seen as a whole universe in miniature, with a ray of creation and laws analogous to the laws of the greater universe. As above so below.



On this scale we take the Sun as the Absolute, containing all possibilities for all the beings within its sphere of creation. The System tells us that a being No 7, that is someone ‘self-realised’, becomes immortal *within the limits of the solar system*.

Each level, each note of the octave on the diagram has a physical, a subtle and a causal component with the physical body being regarded as the smallest.

One way to look at this is to see that the orbits of each body are much greater than the physical mass we observe. The Earth revolves in a particular orbit around the Sun, describing a spiral ‘body’ covering a vast area of space, and similarly the Moon, within the Earth’s own orbit, forms a spiral ‘body’ that enfolds the Earth.

The planetary level is seen as the world of causes for human beings and for organic life as a whole. The planets are said to have wide ranging effects on humanity and on individuals too. Poetically expressed as a world of Angels. It is suggested that individual planets transmit influences which affect the human endocrine system, to create the tendencies that form our essential character. It may be worth noting that the endocrine glands (which produce hormones, chemical messengers that have wide ranging effects upon our behaviour and physical constitution), are arranged in a somewhat similar spiral around the heart. If we take the heart as the ‘Sun’ a human being can be seen in this way as a miniature copy of the solar system.

The ‘tensions’ produced by the ever changing relationships between the planets themselves are said to give rise to forces which instigate movements in great masses of people and other beings. Wars, the rise and fall of civilisations and the economic tides that just now are sweeping around the globe are examples of what are said to be the result of planetary influence. This is of course similar to what we know as astrology, but P.D.Ouspensky’s opinion was that modern astrology is pretty poor stuff being only the last remnants of a lost art.

The notes La, Sol, Fa, in the lateral octave represent the three levels of organic life, Vertebrates, Invertebrates and Plants. All living

things.

The note Mi in the lateral octave represents all the remains of the physical bodies of organic life which on death are returned to feed the Earth.

The note Re is said to represent the life force released at death from all the beings of organic life and which goes to feed the Moon. The Moon, in the System, is regarded as a growing being, the Earth's child perhaps, in the sense that its destiny is to become an Earth itself.

The practical point of this scheme is that our psychology, depending on the energy we have available, can occupy any place between the Sun and the Moon. The System is fond of reminding us we can be worms, or sheep, or human beings. But the range is wider than that. An emotional identification or dependence can reduce or lower our psyche very far indeed so that the world becomes a tiny prison with few possibilities at all. And a physical addiction, like alcohol or heroin can literally reduce our energies to the level of the Moon where lurk all the horrors of the imagination; DT's, dangerous and destructive compulsions, and an existence ruled completely by forces beyond our control where conscience is powerless.

On the other hand it is also the case that our birthright gives us the freedom to occupy any place upon this great scale of energy to which we choose to attend.

As His Holiness Shantanand Saraswati has said;

“In happiness the Prana rises upward, and in pain and stress it is pressed down At its lowest level it is activated in the pelvis below the navel and at the highest it moves up from navel, to solar plexus, to larynx, to forehead, and the top of the head.

“Here at the top it swings upon the waves of bliss. Pain and stress are heavier substances and they press it down to the bottom where it feels weak and limited, powerless and sick, becoming very coarse and heavy. In meditation the pranas are stilled, and in stillness and happiness they become light and rise high into the realm of bliss and full consciousness.”

The most important message delivered by the Western System is identical to that of Advaita: that individual human beings are in reality a whole universe in themselves, as one with all the infinite scales of this same miracle. This being so there is nothing to do, nothing to be sought, nothing to be attained, for it is all here now, ready-made for realisation. We are separated from the infinite only by an illusory point of view to which we cling unknowing.

In practice it comes down to being able to attend to this reality for a long enough duration so that the realisation of it will arise quite naturally. It really is as simple as that; we have only to prime the pump for the waters of life to become eternally available. As soon as the feeling of wonder at the miracle that we are reaches a certain intensity, or frequency, then 'self-realisation' occurs quite naturally.

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Practical Work: At least three times a day, return to this idea and ask ourselves what it is that makes us cling so tenaciously to the idea that there is some insurmountable barrier between our ordinary self-limiting consciousness and the miracle of our true reality.