Student webinar series for Great Quest Students Webinar 5 – The Etheric Body



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ESOTERIC SCHOOLS OF MEDITATION, STUDY AND SERVICE



SPIRITUAL ORIGINS AND OUR SPIRITUAL GOAL



As fiery Spiritual God-Sparks or Monads, flowing out

through great Beings who ensoul galaxies and constellations



Via the 7 Rays to our Solar System



Through the 7 levels of our system

OUR GOAL IS "UNION"

TO IDENTIFY CONSCIOUSLY WITH SPIRIT

THE ETHERIC WEB, PRANA, AND THE UNIVERSE

Prana is the Sanskrit word for absolute energy. It is the active principle of life and is all pervading, found everywhere, in everything.

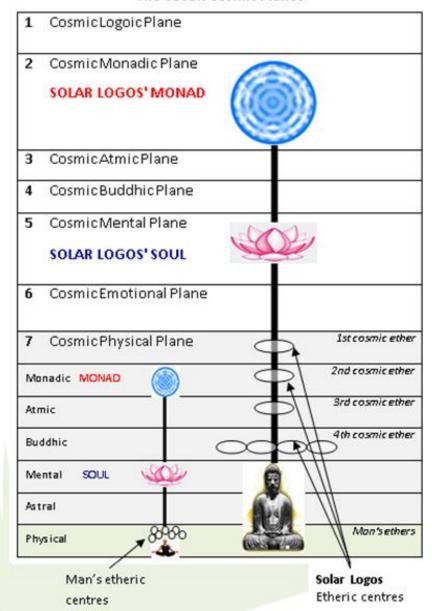


The Etheric Web is the field of space, the composite of all bodies (from a small atom to an expanse we call a universe) and it is a subtle matter that is a constant stream of circulating energies and forces

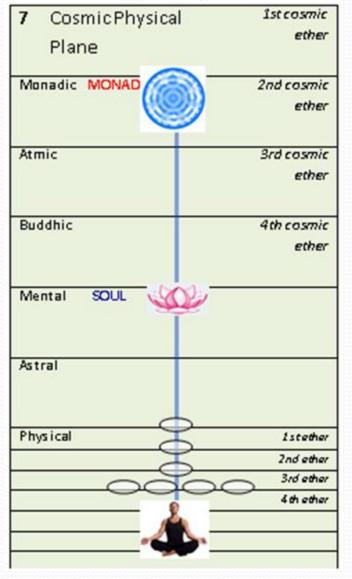
"Just as the forces of the planet and of the inner spiritual man (to mention only one factor among many) pour through the etheric body of the individual man upon the physical plane, and condition his outer expression, activities, and qualities, so do the varying forces of the universe pour through every part of the etheric body of that entity we call space and condition and determine the outer expression, the activities and qualities of every form found within the cosmic periphery."

Esoteric Astrology, p 11

The Seven Cosmic Planes



The Cosmic Physical Plane - our solar system



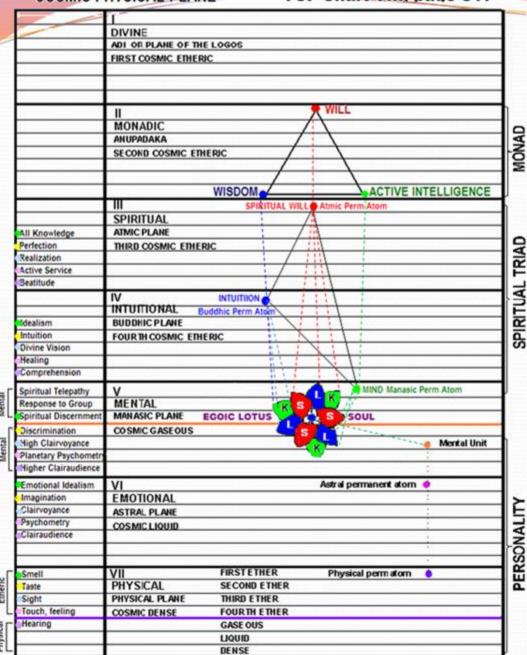
The Seven Cosmic Planes

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1	Cosmic Logoic Plane			
2	Cosmic Monadic Plane			
3	Cosmic Atmic Plane			
4	Cosmic Buddhic Plane			
5	Cosmic Mental Plane			
6	Cosmic Emotional Plane			
7	Cosmic Physical Plane	Logoic Monadic		
	the 7 subplanes of our solar system	Atmic Ruddhic		
	Y	Mental Emotional		
		Physical		

The Vehicles of the Soul according to the Theosophist Diagram of the subtle bodies (from wikipedia)

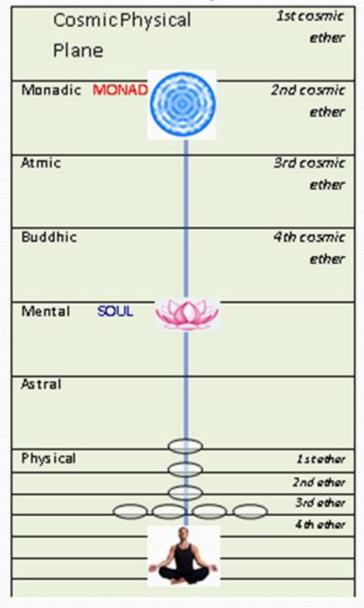
	THE VEHICLES OF THE SOUL							
PLANE	HIGHER MENTAL	CAUSAL	TO EVOLVE WITH	IDEALS ABSTRACT THOUGHTS				
MENTAL	LOWER	MENTAL BODY	TO THINK WITH	IDEAS CONCRETE THOUGHTS				
ASTRAL	PLANE	ASTRAL	TO FEEL WITH	EMOTIONS ————————————————————————————————————				
PHYSICAL	PLANE	PHYSICAL BODY	TO ACT WITH	SENSORIAL REACTIONS ACTIONS				

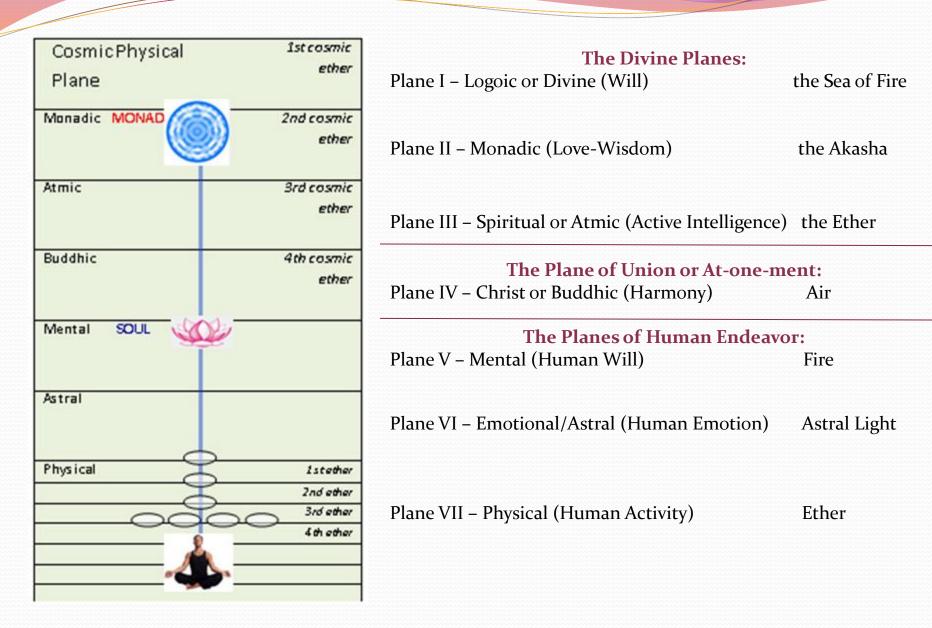
The Constitution of Man & the Egoic Lotus COSMIC PHYSICAL PLANE TCF Chart VIII, page 817



The Physical Cosmic Plane

our solar system





Consciousness manifests on all these planes, and we can see that working out through our senses (contact produced on the different sub-planes encountered)

Plane		Action	Sense	
I.	Fire	The Breath		
II.	Akasha	The Sound	Hearing	
III.	Ether	Vibratory-response	Touch	
IV.	Air	Vision	Sight	
V.	Fire	Discrimination	Taste	
VI.	Astral Light	Desire	Smell	
VII. Physical		Organs (the ear, skin, eyes, tongue, nose)		



The higher sub-planes of the physical-etheric plane are made of 5 grades of physical substance that have certain vibratory qualities, and as a result:

- First hearing was developed on the fifth sub-plane of the physical plane, the lowest rung for the five physical senses. (Man recognizes his own note)
- Working upward on the planes, touch was the next sense developed on the fourth subplane of the physical-etheric plane. (Man recognizes degrees of quantity)
- ❖ Then came sight on the third sub-plane of the physical-etheric plane as the sensory perceptions continued to develop. (Man realizes a sense of proportion)
- ❖ Taste was developed next on the second sub-plane of the physical-etheric plane. (Man establishes a sense of value)
- ❖ And finally smell was developed on the first or highest sub-plane of the physicaletheric plane. (Man develops perception)

"Each of these five senses has a definite connection with one or other plane, and has also a correspondence on all planes."

A Treatise on Cosmic Fire, p 186

[Discrimination	COSMIC GASEOUS				1
Lower	High Clairvoyance				Mental Unit	
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L	Higher Clairaudience				ō.	
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L	Touch, feeling	COSMIC DENSE	FOURTH ETHER			
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One of the most vital things every aspirant has to do is to learn to understand the astral plane, to comprehend its nature and to learn both to stand free from it and then to work on it."

A Treatise on White Magic, p 221

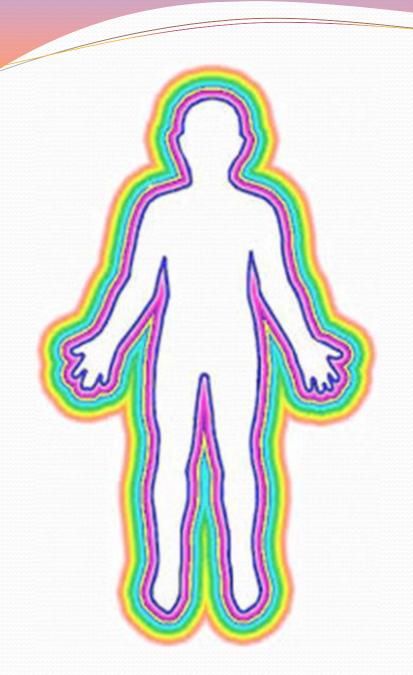
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L	Touch, feeling	COSMIC DENSE	FOURTH ETHER			
	Hearing		GASE OUS			

"The value of the above information consists in the fact that it gives, symbolically, a synthetic picture of man's unfoldment and higher relations. Its danger consists in the capacity of the human intellect to separate and divide, so that the process is regarded as proceeding in successive stages, whereas in reality there is often a paralleling activity going on, and much overlapping, fusing and interrelating of aspects, of rays and of processes, within the time cycle."

Esoteric Psychology II, p23

The story of man, the aspirant, is the story of his response to energies.

- ❖ The interplay between these different types of energy results in the formation of a congregation of energy we call bodies or vehicles that are specifically developed to develop a conscious response to the life of God.
- ❖ Small units of energy, relatively speaking, are swept into contact with great fields of force, which we call planes.
- ❖ They constitute a temporary form that has externalized and is relatively tangible, and which can function as a medium so the soul can contact larger forms of divine life and expression.
- ❖ The more organized and integrated the form is, and the more perfect it's response mechanisms are (sensorial reactions), the better it is to see the age of the soul and gauge the level of attainment along the path.
- ❖ This is what you have been working on in your homework the past few months on the Seven Rays – detecting the interplay of energies within well-known people and trying to ascertain where they stand on the path.



The **dense physical** body responds to impulse from the outer environment as well as the inner soul impulses.

The **etheric body** is separate, slightly behind the physical body, and is a much subtler vehicle. It contains the chakras and nervous system that vitalize the physical body.

"The vital or etheric body is the major energising factor and is an exact replica or counterpart of the outer form, being the true intermediary between the inner worlds and the outer man. The nadis (lines or threads of force) underlie every nerve in the human body and the centres which they form at certain points of intersection are the background or motivating agency of every ganglion or plexus found in the human body."

Esoteric Psychology II, p434

Our inner energies make their contact through the energy streams of our etheric body, and they work through 7 centers of force

The centers relate to our major glands

1. The pineal gland

2. The pituitary body

3. The thyroid/parathyroid glands

4. The thymus gland

5. The pancreas

6. The adrenals

7. The gonads

Head Centre

Ajna Centre

Throat Centre

Heart Centre

Solar Plexus Centre

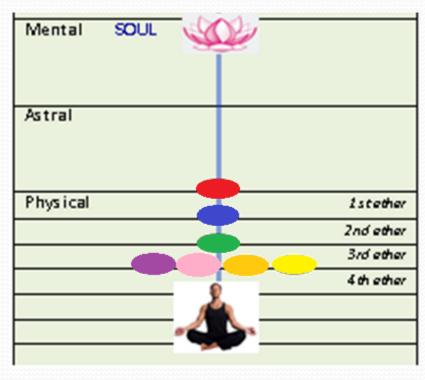
Base of Spine

Sacral Centre

"These centres are closely concerned with the endocrine system, which they determine and condition according to the quality and source of the energy which flows through them. With this I have dealt at length in my other books, and so shall not here enlarge upon it beyond calling your attention to the relation between the centres of force in the etheric body, the processes of integration, which bring one centre after another into activity, and the eventual control of the soul, after the final at-one-ment of the entire personality."

The Etheric Centers or Chakras

1				
5.1	3.7	29	21	Spiritual Telepathy p.a.
5.2	3.6	30	20	Response to Group Vibration
5.3	3.5	31	19	Spiritual Discernment mental
5.4	3.4	32	18	Discrimination Qualit
5.5	3.3	33	17	High Clairvoyance
5.6	3.2	34	16	Planetary Psychometry
5.7	3.1	35	15	Higher Clairaudience astral
6.1	2.7	36	14	Emotional Idealism p.a.
6.2	2.6	37	13	Imagination
6.3	2.5	38	12	Clairvoyance
6.4	2.4	39	11	Psychometry
6.5	2.3	40	10	Clairaudience
6.6	2.2	41	9	_\
6.7	2.1	42	8	physical
7.1	1.7	43	7	Smell p.a.
7.2	1.6	44	6	Taste
7.3	1.5	45	5	Sight
7.4	1.4	46	4	Touch, feeling
7.5	1.3	47	3	Hearing
7.6	1.2	48	2	
7.7	1.1	49	1	



head center
heart center
throat center
spleenic center
solar plexus
sacral center

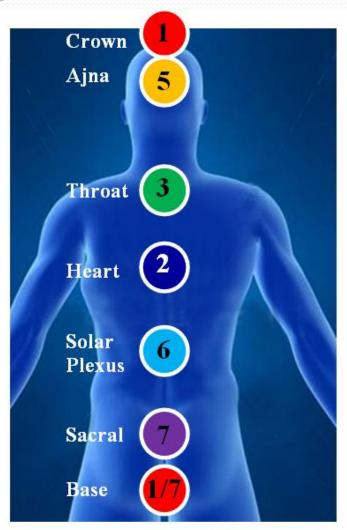
base of the spine

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"Within the human etheric body there are to be found seven major force centres which are in the nature of distributing agencies and electrical batteries, providing dynamic force and qualitative energy to the man; they produce definite effects upon his outer physical manifestation. Through their constant activity his quality appears, his ray tendencies begin to emerge and his point in evolution is clearly indicated."

Esoteric Astrology, p 11



The numbers on the chakras are the numbers of the rays. Ray 4 is related to the Ajna Centre and rules the Human Kingdom as a whole.

Chakras Defined: The word *chakra* literally translates as wheel or disk. They are force centers formed where the lines of energy in the etheric web cross.

Three Basic Functions of Chakras:

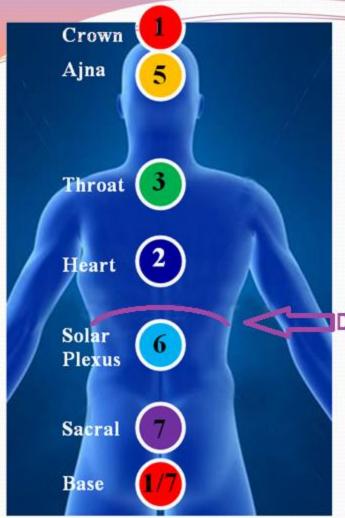
- a. They vitalize the physical body
- b. They develop self-consciousness
- c. They eventually transmit spiritual energy

Energies Flow into the Etheric Body from a Variety of Levels:

- Energies flow from the physical world feeding and controlling the animal appetites.
- b. From the astral world, determining the desires, emotions and aspirations.
- c. From the lower mental plane, the lower mind, developing self-will, selfishness, separateness and the direction and trend of the life upon the physical plane.
- d. And from the soul.

The Seven Major Chakras

Chakras	Rays for most people	Rays for Initiates	Glands	Nbr of Petals
Head	1	1	Pineal	960
Ajna	5	2 (4)	Pituitary	96
Throat	3	3	Thyroid	16
Heart	2	4	Thymus	12
Solar Plexus	6	5	Pancreas	10
Sacral	7	6 (5)	Gonads	6
Base	4	7	Adrenals	4



The numbers on the chakras are the numbers of the rays. Ray 4 is related to the Ajna Centre and rules the Human Kingdom as a whole.

The Soul is focused in the higher centers:

- 1. The crown center (spiritual consciousness)
- 2. The ajna center (mental consciousness)
- 3. The throat center (creative consciousness)
- 4. The heart center (feeling consciousness)

Diaphragm

The Personality is expressed through the lower centers in the etheric body:

- 5. The sacral center (the mental element that transfers eventually to the throat center)
- 6. The solar plexus center (the astral element that eventually transfers to the heart center)
- 7. The base of the spine center (the physical element that eventually transfers to the head center)

The process of unfoldment is brought about by 5 crises of awakening

- 1. The centers below the diaphragm are the controlling and dominant factor (a stage of dense materiality, of lower desire and of physical urge is in full expression)
 - Representative of Lemurian times when the sacral center controlled
- 2. The centers below the diaphragm become fully active, with the major emphasis in the **solar plexus** center (which eventually becomes the great clearing house for all the lower forces and marks the period of the shift into a higher body, the astral body)
 - This was characteristic of Atlantean development
- 3. The awakening of the **throat center** and shift of lower energy into higher activity (the **ajna** also begins to become active, producing integrated and creative personalities)
 - This is characteristic of the present Aryan development, the 5th Root Race
- 4. The awakening of the **heart center** and the shift of the **solar plexus** energy into the heart, thus producing groups and the entrance of a new sense of spiritual energy (the shift of emphasis is then into those states of awareness which reveal the kingdom of God)
 - This will be characteristic of the consciousness of the next great race to come
- 5. The awakening of the **head center**, with the consequent arousing of the kundalini fire at the base of the spine (this leads to the final integration of soul and body, and the appearance of a perfected humanity upon earth)
 - This will express the nature of the final, 7th Root Race.

1st Transference – Sacral to Throat - 1st Initiation

- ❖ Aspirants transfer force from the Sacral to the Throat chakras, increasing activity of some kind (this period lasts several lifetimes)
 - The centers below the diaphragm are fully awakened, active and vivid
 - ❖ This creates a magnetic field moving the whole area, making it potent enough to extend its influence above the diaphragm
 - ❖ The Solar Plexus dominates, receiving and absorbing energy from the Sacral and deflecting it upward as Sacral forces are carried to the Throat and Solar Plexus forces are carried to the Heart
- ❖ The person is now highly intelligent, conscious of the dualism of his nature, and ready to tread the Path of Probation
 - ❖ Discipline becomes his keynote, and he works on purifying his lower appetites (a long and difficult period)
- ❖ The Aspirant becomes a Mystic as the Heart and Throat centers become increasingly more active

Pluto and Vulcan rule the 1st Initiation: "The influence of Vulcan reaches to the very depths of his nature, whilst Pluto drags to the surface and destroys all that hinders in these lower regions."

Esoteric Astrology, p 70

2nd Transference – Solar Plexus to Heart- 2nd Initiation

- ❖ The dominant personality is in control of the lower forces until the Disciple begins to respond to higher energies and transfers the forces that have been raised to the Heart and Throat into the Ajna, marking an integration of the personality
 - ❖ This integrated personality can still be materialistic as personality ambitions dominate at first, a temporary expression of the coordinated personality
 - ❖ This is an intelligent, creative, powerful person learning to use all his facilities
- ❖ Then the Soul begins to stimulate the Ajna
 - ❖ The Ajna is vivid and potent, the Throat is intensely active, and the Heart center is rapidly awakening to it's full potential
- ❖ This 2nd Initiation is learning to control the astral-desire nature
 - ❖ Jupiter, Venus, and Neptune all rule this initiation
 - Jupiter develops the Heart center and more inclusive attitudes
 - Venus governs the Ajna and develops the ability to love intelligently

"When Neptune is active in the advanced [person], then emotion-desire has been transmuted into love-aspiration and is dedicated to and oriented to the soul; the entire emotional or sensitive nature is responsive to energies coming from 'the heart of the Sun' and when this is the case, it indicates that the disciple is now ready for the second initiation."

Esoteric Astrology, p 298

3rd Transference – Base to Crown- 3rd Initiation

- ❖ A period of Soul Control where the crown becomes radiantly active because of the uprising in a fresh and more potent manner of the mystical instinct, combined with an intelligent approach to reality that results in:
 - ❖ The soul pours energy into all the etheric centers via the crown center
 - ❖ The point at the heart of each center becomes so brilliant that it "dims the light of all that lies around"
 - ❖ All the centers are then swept into ordered activity by the forces of love and will
- ❖ Then the final transference occurs, where all the bodily and psychic energies from the base of the spine transfer into the crown.

"The great Polar opposites, as symbolised and expressed by the head centre (the organ of spiritual energy) and the centre at the base of the spine (the organ of the material forces) are fused and blended and from this time on the man is controlled only from above, by the soul."

Esoteric Psychology II, p 526

"Man is therefore (from the angle of force expression) a mass of conflicting energies and an active centre of moving forces with a shift of emphasis constantly going on, and with the aggregation of the numerous streams of energy presenting a confusing kaleidoscope of active inter-relations, interpenetration, internecine warfare, and interdependence until such time as the personality forces (symbolic of divine multiplicity) are subdued or 'brought into line' by the dominant soul.

"That is what we really mean by the use of the word 'alignment."

This alignment results from:

- ❖ The control of the personality by the soul.
- ❖ The downpouring of soul energy, via the mental and the emotional bodies, into the brain, thus producing the subjugation of the lower nature, the awakening of the brain consciousness to soul awareness, and a new alignment of the bodies.
- ❖ The right arrangement, according to ray type, of the energies which are motivating and dynamically arousing the centres into activity.

"This leads eventually to a direct alignment of the centres upon the spine, so that soul energy can pass up and down through the centres from the directing centre in the head. Whilst this process of soul control is being perfected (and the time consumed is, from the angle of the limiting personality consciousness, of vast duration), the ray types of the vehicles steadily emerge, the ray of the personality begins to control the life, and finally the soul ray begins to dominate the personality ray and subdue its activity."

Esoteric Psychology II, p 341

Problems caused through Sacral energy

- ❖ All these transferences produce turmoil and conflict in the life of the mystic, causing difficulties of a definitely psychological nature
- ❖ For example, through the evolutionary process, the sacral energy:
 - ❖ Has a stage of automatic unconscious use of a purely animal-man
 - ❖ Then comes a stage of pleasure and physical satisfaction, where the imagination is used to enhance the experience
 - ❖ Next comes a period of conscious subordination of the sex impulse, but that may be no healthier than over-indulgence
 - ❖ In both of these stages, sex becomes a dominating conscious thought (we see many people today passing through this stage, just as everyone will at some point)
 - ❖ Then will come a stage of transference where the physical pull of sex and the urge to physical creation is not so dominant as the forces begin to be gathered up into the solar plexus, where they will be controlled by the astral life more so than the unconscious or conscious sex impulses.

Problems caused through Solar Plexus energy

- ❖ With the transference of sexual desire to the solar plexus, the two forces blend their energies and they are gradually carried up to the throat center, via the heart center
- ❖ Here we find a major point of difficulty for the mystic who is rapidly coming into being.
 - ❖ He becomes painfully conscious of duality, of the pull of the world and of the mystical vision, of divine possibilities and personality potencies,
 - ❖ Of love in place of desire, of divine relationship instead of human relations
- ❖ But this whole subject is still interpreted in terms of duality.
 - Sex is still imaginatively in his consciousness and is not relegated to a balanced place among the other instincts of the human nature;
 - ❖ The result is an almost pathological interest in the symbolism of sex
 - Or something that might be called a spiritualized sex life
- ❖ These and many more unpleasant examples of a sex psychology are to be found, blended with a true and pronounced mystical aspiration and a genuine longing for union with the divine.
 - ❖ The cause of all this lies in the stage of transference, and can and does cause physical and psychological problems

Health Problems

- ❖ The 7 major centers condition the area of the physical body in which it is found, including the multitude of lesser energy centers found in that general area
- ❖ The incoming energy is transmuted within the center into forces, and the transference rate and quality depends on the extent of the unfoldment of the chakras
- ❖ Awakened centers present a highly electric nervous system, immediately responsive to the energy, resulting in a well-balanced endocrine system.
 - ❖ The vitality and life pouring through the entire body will then be potent and resistant to disease, either innate, hereditary, or of group origin.
 - ❖ Today there is uneven development, with some centers unawakened, others overstimulated, and with the centers below the diaphragm overactive.
 - ❖ This produces problems with the nervous system and glands, leading to overstimulation in some cases, subnormal conditions in others, lack of vitality, over-activity, and other undesirable reactions which inevitably produce disease.
- ❖ In short, disease and physical disability (except those due to accidents or to planetary epidemics) can be directly traced to the condition of the centers as they affect the nervous system, endocrine system and blood stream.

The Seven Major Centres, Consciousness, Glands & Health Problems

Consciousness	Health Problems EP II 535-9.
CROWN CENTRE: Initiate. Master. Dominant after 3rd Initiation. EH 45. It relates man to the Atmic plane and the 1st Will aspect. It provides the soul its point of entry and exit in the body. From the Crown spiritual will is used to synthesise all the other centres in the body, and to transfer all the bodily and psychic forces to the head centre. This is done through the awakening of the base chakra and arousing kundalini which burns all etheric webs between the centres. When this occurs the man is controlled only from above, by the soul. This process is consummated at the 3rd initiation. Although the soul is now working directly through the personality, it is not until the 4th initiation that the Monad takes control and individual experience in the lower worlds is complete. TWM 190	Pineal gland. Inflammation of the brain, tumours. In extreme cases premature awakening can lead to insanity.
AJNA CENTRE: Aspirant. Disciple. Mystic. Dominant after 2nd Initiation. "Comes alive preceding passing to the Probationary Path." EP II 304. The Ajna is the seat of personality power and represents the highest form of creative intelligence in man. It is the organ of imagination. 1st degree initiate: The ajna ruled personality is intelligent and effective on the physical plane, but focus is materialistic and selfish. The ajna energies sweep down into the solar plexus and sacral centres. 2nd degree initiate: Later, when the disciple is able to hold the mind "steady in the light", soul energy can flow into the heart centre. Fully functional by the 3rd Initiation. EH 147.	Pituitary gland. Left eye, sinuses, lower brain, nervous system - neuritis, headache, serious eye trouble, nerve difficulties.
THROAT CENTRE: All advanced humanity, The Intelligentsia. Purification of the physical appetites is marked by the transference of energy from the sacral centre to the throat. Individuals focused in the higher centre are becoming mentally creative. This centre provides the entry point for energy from the mental plane.	Thyroid gland. The mouth, tongue, larynx, trachea, bronchial tree, upper lungs, lymphatic system, shoulders, arms, hands, hyperthyroidism.

The Seven Major Centres, Consciousness, Glands & Health Problems

Consciousness	Health Problems EP II 535-9.
HEART CENTRE: Spiritual people, becomes more dominant after the 1st Initiation but only opens fully at the 4th initiation. The 1st initiation relates man to the buddhic plane and Love-Wisdom. As we evolve and the heart centre begins to awaken under soul impulse, it draws up the energies of the solar plexus, thus controlling the desire nature.	The heart. Arteries, veins, capillaries, lungs, breasts, thymus gland. Heart trouble, vagus nerve, autonomic nervous system, AIDS, cancer, rheumatoid arthritis.
SOLAR PLEXUS CENTRE: Average humanity, and ordinary man. It is related to the astral plane and through it are expressed feelings and desires from the most crude to the subtle. In the average person it works closely with the sacral and base centres, with desires focused on the lower appetites. In more advanced man it gives desire for recognition and for a better quality of life. In the person approaching the 2nd Initiation, it acts as a clearing ground for the energies of the lower centres, which begin to be gathered up by the solar plexus and transferred to the heart centre.	Digestive organs including stomach, pancreas, liver, spleen, gallbladder, bowel, pancreas. Emotional, digestive, nervous, blood stream problems. Most cancers caused by congestion in the solar plexus.
SACRAL CENTRE: "low grade animal type of men". Individuals focused at this very low level are totally intent upon sex and money, and use all creative energy to support these appetites. The sacral centre is related to the four etheric subplanes of the physical plane.	The gonads. Ovaries, testes, hips, knees - unbalanced sexual expression, venereal diseases, AIDS, herpes, genital warts. Over activity of sexual imagination and the sex life.
BASE CENTRE: Individuals focused in the base centre are the primitive, intent upon survival in nature, as this centre is related to the physical plane and gives 'grounding'. It is awakened in its true and final sense at the third initiation. EP II 302.	Adrenals. Kidneys, bladder, genitals - Premature awakening serious nerve/ brain, spine disease, inflamed tissues.

The three suggestions for the Psychologist or the Mental Healer

- ❖ Study the Constitution of Man and the nature of the rays that provide the forces and energies which make him what he is.
- ❖ Determine which of his vehicles of contact is the most powerful, best organized and well developed. It will indicate how his life expression in this particular lifetime is flowing.
- ❖ Investigate his physical condition with care, and focus attention on the centers and corresponding glandular equipment (in many cases, the glands indicate the condition of the centers, thus providing an understanding of the force system of the patient).

It will be essential that the psychologist of the future should arrive at a recognition and an admittance of the inner structure of the human being

- ❖ Of his emotional vehicle, his mental body, and their close inter-relation through the medium of the etheric body (the linking web between the dense physical body and the other bodies)
- ❖ The **soul** and its energies (life itself expressing as will or purpose, love, and intelligence) who work through the seven chakras
 - While the mental and astral bodies work through many other centers found in the etheric body

The integrations that eventually are carried out through the medium of all the centers, through the heightening of vibration, and subsequent development of the human response apparatus awaken new qualities of awareness, new sensitivity to that which has hitherto been unrecognized, and as a result new powers begin to open up.

"The Science of the Centres is yet in its infancy, as is the Science of the Rays and the Science of Astrology. But much is being learned and developed along these three lines and when the present barriers are down and true scientific investigation is instituted along these lines, a new era will begin for the human being. These three sciences will constitute the three major departments of the Science of Psychology in the New Age, plus the contributions of modern psychology and the insight into the nature of man (particularly the physical nature) which it has so wonderfully developed."

Esoteric Psychology II, p. 479