

# Human & Other Intelligences

## The Divine in Consciousness, Mind, Perception & Will

### Intelligence

**Theosophy:** *Buddhi*: Potentiality for Intelligence; *Bodhi*: Receptive Intelligence.

**Dictionary:** Intelligence has been defined in many ways, including: the capacity for logic, understanding, self-awareness, learning, emotional knowledge, reasoning, planning, creativity, and problem solving.

### Consciousness

**Theosophy:** *Pragna* (*Sk.*) or *Prajna*. A synonym of *Mahat*, the Universal Mind. The capacity for perception. (*S.D.*, I, 139) Consciousness. (Theosophical Glossary)

**Psychology:** Consciousness is the state or quality of awareness or of being aware of an external object or something within oneself... defined variously sentience, awareness, qualia, subjectivity, the ability to experience or to feel, wakefulness, having a sense of selfhood or soul... the executive control system of the mind. Despite the difficulty in definition, many philosophers believe that there is a broadly shared underlying intuition about what consciousness is." Wikipedia

**For materialism it is "the hard problem":**

"The hard problem of consciousness is the problem of explaining how and why sentient organisms have qualia or phenomenal experiences—how and why it is that some internal states are felt states, such as heat or pain, rather than unfelt states, as in a thermostat or a toaster." [www.scholarpedia.org/article/Hard\\_problem\\_of\\_consciousness](http://www.scholarpedia.org/article/Hard_problem_of_consciousness)

### Mind

**Theosophy:** *Mahat* (*Sk.*). Lit., "The great one". The first principle of Universal Intelligence and Consciousness.... the first product of root-nature or *Pradhâna* / *Mulaprakriti*; the producer of (Higher) *Manas*, the thinking principle; and of *Ahankâra*, egotism or the feeling of "I am I" in the lower *Manas*.

**Dictionary:** a person's ability to think and reason; the intellect. the element that enables one to be aware of the world and experiences, to think, and to feel; the faculty of consciousness and thought. **Some synonyms:** brain, intelligence, intellect, intellectual capabilities, mental capacity, wit, powers of reasoning, powers of comprehension, powers of thought, understanding, judgement, perception.

### Perception

**Theosophy:** "*Pragna*, or the capacity of perception, exists in seven different aspects corresponding to the seven conditions of matter" (*Personal and Impersonal God*). For, "just as a human being is composed of seven principles, differentiated matter in the Solar System exists in seven different conditions." (SD 1:139)

**Dictionary:** the ability to see, hear, or become aware of something through the senses.

### Will

**Theosophy:** In metaphysics and occult philosophy, Will is that which governs the manifested universes in eternity. *Will* is the one and sole principle of abstract eternal MOTION, or its ensouling essence. "The will", says Van Helmont, "is the first of all powers. . . ."

The will is the property of all spiritual beings and displays itself in them the more actively the more they are freed from matter.” And Paracelsus teaches that “determined will is the beginning of all magical operations. It is because men do not perfectly imagine and believe the result, that the (occult) arts are so uncertain, while they might be perfectly certain.”

Like all the rest, the Will is *septenary* in its degrees of manifestation. Emanating from the one, eternal, abstract and purely quiescent Will (Âtmâ in Layam), it becomes Buddhi in its Alaya state, descends lower as Mahat (Manas), and runs down the ladder of degrees until the divine Eros becomes, in its lower, animal manifestation, erotic desire. Will as an eternal principle is neither spirit nor substance but everlasting ideation...

### **The Secret Doctrine on Consciousness (SD 1:138-9)**

Stanza VI Sloka 2:

THE SWIFT AND THE RADIANT ONE PRODUCES THE SEVEN *Layu* † (a) CENTRES, AGAINST WHICH NONE WILL PREVAIL TO THE GREAT DAY "BE WITH US"—AND SEATS THE UNIVERSE ON THESE ETERNAL FOUNDATIONS, SURROUNDING SIEN-TCHAN WITH THE ELEMENTARY GERMS (b).

(a.) The seven *Layu* centres are the seven Zero points, using the term Zero in the same sense that Chemists do, to indicate a point at which, in Esotericism, the scale of reckoning of differentiation begins. From the Centres—beyond which Esoteric philosophy allows us to perceive the dim metaphysical outlines of the "Seven Sons" of Life and Light, the Seven Logoi of the Hermetic and all other philosophers—begins the differentiation of the elements which enter into the constitution of our Solar System. It has often been asked what was the exact definition of Fohat and his powers and functions, as he seems to exercise those of a Personal God as understood in the popular religions....

"The whole Kosmos must necessarily exist in the One Source of energy from which this light (*Fohat*) emanates." Whether we count the principles in Kosmos and man as seven or only as four, the forces of, and in, physical Nature are Seven; and it is stated by the same authority that "*Pragna*, or the capacity of perception, exists in seven different aspects corresponding to the seven conditions of matter" (*Personal and impersonal God*). For, "just as a human being is composed of seven principles, differentiated matter in the Solar System exists in seven different conditions" (*ibid*). So does Fohat.\*\*

He is One and Seven, and on the Cosmic plane is behind all such manifestations as light, heat, sound, adhesion, etc., etc., and is the "spirit" of ELECTRICITY, which is the LIFE of the Universe. As an abstraction, we call it the ONE LIFE; as an objective and evident Reality, we speak of a septenary scale of manifestation, which begins at the upper rung with the One Unknowable CAUSALITY, and ends as Omnipresent Mind and Life immanent in every atom of Matter. Thus, while science speaks of its evolution through brute matter, blind force, and senseless motion, the Occultists point to *intelligent* LAW and *sentient* LIFE, and add that Fohat is the guiding Spirit of all this. Yet he is no personal god at all, but the emanation of those other Powers behind him whom the Christians call the "Messengers" of their God (who is in reality only the Elohim, or rather one of the Seven Creators called Elohim), and we, the "Messenger of the primordial Sons of Life and Light."

**(b.) The "Elementary Germs" with which he fills Sien-Tchan (the "Universe") from Tien-Sin (the "Heaven of Mind," literally, or that which is absolute) are the Atoms of Science and the Monads of Leibnitz.**

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\* *Madhya* is said of something whose commencement and end are unknown, and Para means infinite. These expressions all relate to infinitude and to division of time.

† From the Sanskrit *Laya*, the point of matter where every differentiation has ceased.

\*\* "Fohat" has several meanings. (See Stanza V., Commentary *et infra*). He is called the "Builder of the Builders," the Force that he personifies having formed our Septenary chain.