

# Theosophy and Ecology

The introductory reading is “The Measure of Joy” from the [Brihad Aryanyaka Upanishad](#), pages 18-20

In the first presentation we heard a little about the metaphysics and ethics that underpin the Theosophy’s unified view of *Ecology*, or the biological science of the interactions between all beings and their “environment.” Deep Ecology, which we heard about in the Seminar, is the development of a more penetrating investigation of these interactions, some of which – Theosophy proposes – occur on unseen the elemental and higher occult planes.

Here we will read about how these interactions manifest via the elemental kingdoms.

We will take “[The Skin of the Earth](#)” article by William Q Judge, starting half way through “I followed while he led me up to the building...” to the end. This important article is also in his “Letters...” p 235 and “The Tell-Tale Picture Gallery” page 209.

After reading it some questions come up:

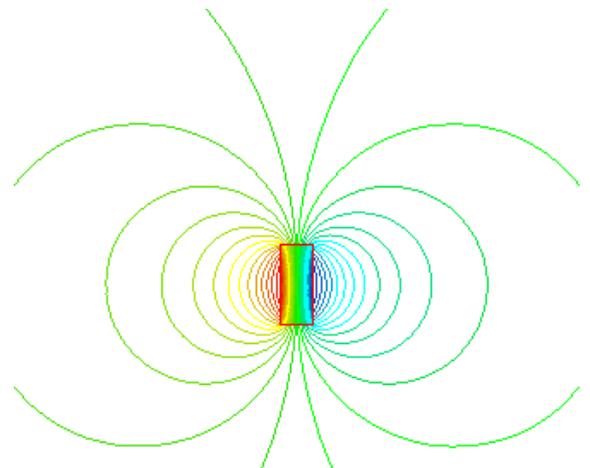
1. On what plane of matter-consciousness do the elementals operate?
2. How do man’s thoughts affect them? Judge refers to this three times.
3. How do the elementals affect man, animals, microbes and even mineral matter?

To help to answer these let us start with a simple question: “**What is a Field?**”

In the early 20<sup>th</sup> century Robert Millikan, a leading physicist, commented that Einstein’s theory of relativity and the atomic phenomena on which the Heisenberg principle of uncertainty is founded led him to conclude that materialism should have no place physics, that it was “dead” in his view.

Einstein followed this in 1938 by when he stated:

“Slowly and by a struggle **the field concept** established for itself a leading place in physics and has remained as one of the basic



The field surrounding a magnet

## A note on Quantum Physics

One of science’s successes has been how **quantum field theory** applies the knowledge of an **underlying field** in nature. It is the resolution of this field into **quanta** which produces the ‘states’ known as electrons, photons and other atomic particles.

This sheds light on the question about *whether an entity is a wave or a particle*, one of the questions posed in the Secret Doctrine, then called the ‘undulatory’ and ‘corpuscular’ atomic theories. (SD 1:579)

However many scientists have been unable to appreciate the spiritual implications of quantum theory. One of the few that did is the largely unrecognised David Bohm, who wished to draw it away from its materialistic bias.

physical concepts. The electro-magnetic field is, for the modern physicist, as real as the chair on which he sits."

Theosophy affirms the ancient idea of waves of *life force* of an electric nature, also expressed by mystics in the past as "the water of life," and refers to it scientifically as a transformation or correlation of electricity. This *electro-magnetic energy* is transmuted from one form to another, for example on the physical plane from light *down* to heat,<sup>1</sup> or on the psychic-astral plane between degrees of consciousness, a *form* of radiant energy generated by the mind, such as the power of emotional feelings or of intellectual concepts, mental structures or proofs.

Fields are created by **electricity** and in the Secret Doctrine true electricity is shown to be related to the mystic fire, light, and flame of the astral and spiritual planes, and to have two polarities. It is the "Sacred *generator* of a no less sacred progeny (offspring)" and source of the mysterious forces of...

**fire** — the creator, the preserver and the destroyer; **light** — the essence of our divine ancestors;  
**flame**—the Soul of things....

Electricity, the **ONE Life** at the upper rung of Being, and *Astral Fluid*, the Athanor of the Alchemists, at its lowest; GOD and DEVIL, GOOD and EVIL. *The Secret Doctrine* 1:81

The ancient wisdom well knew of this life-force (chi, prana) which operates on the astral plane; now in modern times we refer to underlying quantum fields, which are also electric-magnetic and are the producer of matter and physical effects, cf the Higgs Boson.

### **How do Fields affect living beings and mineral matter?**

We think of a human body as made up of flesh, bones, muscles, nerves, blood, brain matter, etc., whereas in actuality it is made up of innumerable "lives" or *intelligences* that fill these duties for a period of time and pass on to other aspects of their cycle of evolution. The elemental 'lives' (centers of rudimentary consciousness) that make up much of the body have been through ages upon ages of training and experience in various forms of nature and are now ready to operate in the human form. They are a part of a living record of our past history, an intelligence which accumulates to ever higher degrees. In the body it is because of this inherent and learned intelligence that these cellular 'lives' are able to respond to the extremely complex demands they receive from the various nerve centre plexi and brains.

On the earth we saw that these elemental lives are given direction and guidance from the intelligent consciousness of the Earth which guides its evolution. In the Ocean p. 35, William Judge has this to say about these elemental lives:

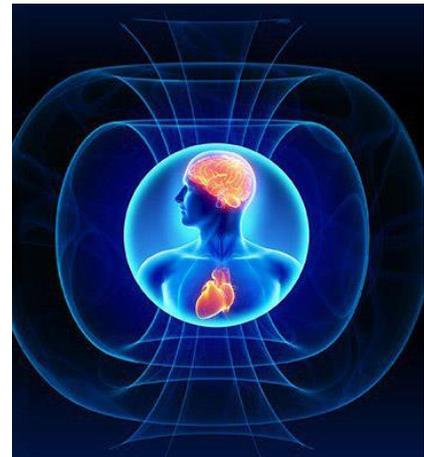
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<sup>1</sup> This follows the *physical plane theory* of Entropy, which predicts more highly ordered systems will degrade into less ordered or *more diffuse states*. However this is only part of the law of the correlation or transmutation of force. On the creative, intellectual plane the reverse can be the case, when order is created out of chaos.

One of the mysteries of physical life is hidden among these "lives." Their action forced forward by the Life energy - called Prana or Jiva - will explain active existence and physical death. They are divided into two classes, one the destroyers, the other the preservers, and these two war upon each other from birth until the destroyers win.<sup>2</sup>



"Life," William Judge says (Ocean p 37) "is a universally pervasive principle. It is the ocean in which the earth floats; it permeates the globe and every being and object on it."



When we incarnate into a body, we need a special instrument or vehicle to transform this universal pulsating life force into the particularized energy that sustains our body. In Sanscrit the universal life is called *Jiva*. Particularized, life in man becomes *Prana*. At death, the life energy does not disappear; it returns to its universal form to be used by some other specializing vehicle.

Thus it is said for the lower four planes of life, material if not physical, that this electric life principle communicates, via the elementals, the direction or plan of action that the physical cells and atoms should take.

It is an aspect of Fohat, the universal intelligence and energy that emanates directly from of the otherwise unmanifested Kosmic Mind. The mystery of what we call quantum fields may be one a part of how these wonderful processes actually take place.

We will finish with the quotation from *The Theosophist* on how vital are, through these influences, the forests to a nation's health.

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<sup>2</sup> It has [been discovered](#) that in the human frame there are typically x1.3 more bacteria cells than human ones, which act in concert, in a coordinated manner. (The previous estimate of x10 more was revised down in 2014). With the discoveries made in the role of DNA, science provides much apparently accurate information on *how* biological functions are controlled by DNA, but much less on *why* certain genes are brought into activity and *when*.

For instance, in the healthy cell of an organism a whole spectrum of gene functions are turned on and off in an intricate symphony of coordinated actions that sustains a wide range of interdependent life processes. All this is managed so as to serve the needs of this cell and its neighbouring ones, so benefiting the organism as a whole. This is one example of what throughout nature are harmonious actions that symbiotically serve peer groups and their environment.

It is part of the great scheme that evolution thrives on, and who can say it does not show intelligence!

## Climate Change and an old Prediction about Trees

We give here extracts from an *Aquarian Theosophist* article and invite its reading since it provides well-researched original Theosophical writings on environmental degradation and its effect on climate change.



In 1879 H. P. Blavatsky wrote in an untitled article in *The Theosophist*:

“While every patriot Hindu bewails the decadence of his country, few realize the real cause. **It is neither in foreign rule, excessive taxation, nor crude and exhaustive husbandry, so much as in the destruction of its forests.** The stripping of the hills and drainage-slopes of their vegetation is a positive crime against the nation, and will decimate the population more effectually than could the sword of any foreign conqueror.... In spite of the opposition of ignorant and selfish obstructionists, **nation after nation has taken the first steps towards restoring the woods and jungles which had been ruthlessly extirpated, before meteorology and chemistry became developed,** and political economy was raised to the dignity of a science.”

from *The Theosophist*, Nov 1879, p. 42

HPB further gave a direct connection between the trees and the climate:

“We need only glance at the pages of History to see that **the ruin and ultimate extinction of national power follow the extirpation (eradication) of forests as surely as night follows day.** Nature has provided the means for human development; and her laws can never be violated without disaster.”

from *The Aquarian Theosophist*, Aug 2016, p. 3

Here it is shown our climates greatly depend on the *woods and forests*, which in turn rely on *ordinary people* being mindful of the chain of causes and effects arising from their actions. In this sense the world’s forests are the property of all humanity, since our growth rests on *their growth and wellbeing*.

Our approach is to actively seek philosophical (noumenal) union but leave ‘causes’ – good or bad – (which are simply the ‘phenomena’ of right or wrong thinking) to work themselves out. With regard to climate change, but not man-made CO<sub>2</sub> levels, the *Secret Doctrine* 2:446 states “Climates will, and have already begun, to change (with) each tropical year...” The issue is thus to promote *the right perceptions* which will protect the Earth and its creatures, and leave the climate to itself, without trying to fix it with technology. Theosophy teaches that if we work with Nature then we can accept as just and fair all that comes under cyclic law.

*Finis*