

ELECTROMAGNETISM

IN MAN & NATURE

Handout for study on 23rd February 2020 at The United Lodge of Theosophists, London, UK

Emanation and Fohat as the basis for an electric universe

The aim is to identify the correspondence of science and spirituality through reference to the Theosophical teachings on Emanation, Fohat, Electricity and Magnetism.

Introduction

“Every being and naturally formed object is in its beginning a spiritual or monadic entity. Every being, according to its species, evolves from its monadic centre an essential *aura*, which has a positive and negative magnetic relationship with the aura of every other being, and that, *mesmeric* attention and repulsion exhibiting a strong analogy with *magnetic* attraction and repulsion, this analogous attraction and repulsion obtains not only between individuals of the same, but of different species, not only in animate but in inanimate nature.” (*Clairvoyance, Hygienic and Medical*, by Jacob Dixon, L.S.A.L.)

quoted by HPB in her article *Electric and Magnetic Affinities Between Man and Nature*

“His radiance is undecaying,” says the *Rig-Veda*, “the intensely-shining, all pervading, unceasing, undecaying rays of Agni desist not, neither night nor day.” This evidently related to the spiritual, central sun, whose rays are all-pervading and unceasing, the eternal and boundless life-giver. HE the *Point*; the centre (which is everywhere) of the circle (which is nowhere), the ethereal, spiritual fire, the soul and spirit of the all-pervading, mysterious ether; the despair and puzzle of the materialist, who will some day find that that which causes the numberless cosmic forces to manifest themselves in eternal correlation is but a divine electricity, or rather *galvanism*, and that the sun is but one of the myriad *magnets* disseminated through space – a reflector – as General Pleasonton has it. That the sun has no more heat in it than the moon or the space-crowding host of sparkling stars. That there is no *gravitation* in the Newtonian sense, but only magnetic attraction and repulsion; and that it is by their magnetism that the planets of the solar system have their motions regulated in their respective orbits by the still more powerful magnetism of the sun, not by their weight or gravitation. This and much more they may learn; but, until then we must be content with being merely laughed at, instead of being burned alive for impiety, or shut up in an insane asylum. *Isis Unveiled* 1:270-271

The Norse legend-makers were thoroughly acquainted with electricity... Thor, the euhemerization [representation] of electricity, handles his peculiar element only when protected by gloves of *iron*,

which is its natural conductor. His belt of strength is a closed circuit, around which the isolated current is compelled to run instead of diffusing itself through space. When he rushes with his car through the clouds, he is electricity in its *active* condition, as the sparks scattering from his wheels and the rumbling thunder of the clouds testify. . . . The meaning of the Urdar-fountain, that Thor is afraid to make boil, and the cause of his reluctance, will only be comprehended by our physicists when the reciprocal electro-magnetic relations of the innumerable members of the planetary system, now just suspected, shall be thoroughly determined. *Isis Unveiled* 1:161

The most occult properties of electricity and magnetism were known to the theurgists of the earliest Mysteries recorded in history. *Isis Unveiled* 1:234

There is no reason why the adepts, the alchemists, the savants of the secret art, should not have already found out that which scientists deny to-day, but may discover true tomorrow, *i.e.*, how to project electrically their astral bodies, in an instant, through thousands of miles of space, leaving their material shells with a certain amount of animal vital principle to keep the physical life going, and acting within their spiritual, ethereal bodies as safely and intelligently as when clothed with the covering of flesh? There is a higher form of electricity than the physical one known to experimenters; a thousand correlations of the latter are as yet veiled to the eye of the modern physicist, and none can tell where end its possibilities. *Isis Unveiled* 2:620

Fohat

Some faint idea of the nature of Fohat may be gathered from the appellation “Cosmic Electricity” sometimes applied to it; but to the commonly known properties of electricity must, in this case, be added others, including intelligence. It is of interest to note that modern science has come to the conclusion, that all cerebration and brain-activity are attended by electrical phenomena. *The Secret Doctrine* 1:85

The Sun we see, gives nothing of itself, because it is a reflection; a bundle of electro-magnetic forces, one of the countless milliards of "Knots of Fohat." Fohat is called the "Thread of primeval Light," the "Ball of thread" of Ariadne, indeed, in this labyrinth of chaotic matter. This thread runs through the seven planes tying itself into knots. Every plane being septenary, there are thus forty-nine mystical and physical forces, larger knots forming stars, suns and systems, the smaller planets, and so on. *Transactions of the Blavatsky Lodge* p. 116

Fohat is not only the living Symbol and Container of that Force, but is looked upon by the Occultists as an Entity – the forces he acts upon being cosmic, human and terrestrial, and exercising their influence on all those planes respectively . . . the primordial Electric Entity – for the Eastern Occultists insist that Electricity is an Entity – electrifies into life, and separates primordial stuff or pregenetic matter into atoms, themselves the source of all life and consciousness.” *S.D.* 1:111,76

In the manifested Universe, there is “that” which links spirit to matter, subject to object. This something, at present unknown to Western speculation, is called by the occultists Fohat. . . . It is the “bridge” by which the “Ideas” existing in the “Divine Thought” are impressed on Cosmic substance as the “laws of Nature.” Fohat is thus the dynamic energy of Cosmic Ideation; or, regarded from the other side, it is the intelligent medium, the guiding power of all manifestation, the “Thought Divine” transmitted and made manifest through the Dhyana Chohans, the Architects of the visible World. . . . Fohat, in its various manifestations, is the mysterious link between Mind and Matter, the animating principle electrifying every atom into life. *S.D.* 1:16

Fohat is a generic term and used in many senses. He is the *light* (Daiviprakriti) of all the three *logoi* – the personified symbols of the three *spiritual stages* of Evolution. Fohat is the aggregate of

all the spiritual creative ideations *above*, and of all the electro-dynamic and creative forces *below*, in Heaven and on Earth. There seems to be great confusion and misunderstanding concerning the First and Second Logos. The first is the already present yet still unmanifested potentiality in the bosom of Father-Mother; the Second is the abstract collectivity of creators called by the Greeks "Demiurgi" or the Builders of the Universe. The *third logos* is the ultimate differentiation of the Second and the individualization of Cosmic Forces, of which Fohat is the chief; for Fohat is the synthesis of the Seven Creative Rays or Dhyān Chohans which proceed from the third Logos. *Transactions* p. 38

Electricity & Magnetism in Action

"The Universe [...] or the visible world is a farther expansion of the Divine Substance, and is called in the Kabbalah, "The Garment of God." This is the doctrine of the Hindu Puranas. [...] [The God] Vishnu pervades the Universe and is that Universe."

All the Kabalists and Occultists, Eastern and Western, recognise the identity of "Father-Mother" with primordial *Æther* or *Akāsa*, (Astral Light); and (*b*) its homogeneity before the evolution of the "Son," cosmically *Fohat*, for it is Cosmic Electricity. "Fohat hardens and scatters the seven brothers" (Book III. Dzyan); which means that the primordial Electric Entity — for the Eastern Occultists insist that Electricity is an Entity — electrifies into life, and separates primordial stuff or pregenetic matter into atoms, themselves the source of all life and consciousness. "There exists an universal *agent unique* of all forms and of life, that is called Od, Ob, and Aour, active and passive, positive and negative, like day and night: it is the first light in Creation" (Eliphas Lévi's Kabala): — the first Light of the primordial Elohim — the Adam, "male and female" — or (scientifically) ELECTRICITY AND LIFE. S.D. 1:76

"THEN SVĀBHĀVAT SENDS FOHAT TO HARDEN THE ATOMS. EACH (of these) IS A PART OF THE WEB (Universe). REFLECTING THE "SELF-EXISTENT LORD" (Primeval Light) LIKE A MIRROR, EACH BECOMES IN TURN A WORLD. . . ."

"Fohat hardens the atoms"; *i.e.*, by infusing energy into them: he scatters the atoms or primordial matter. "He scatters himself while scattering matter into atoms" (MSS. Commentaries.)

It is through Fohat that the ideas of the Universal Mind are impressed upon matter. Some faint idea of the nature of Fohat may be gathered from the appellation "Cosmic Electricity" sometimes applied to it; but to the commonly known properties of electricity must, in this case, be added others, including intelligence. It is of interest to note that modern science has come to the conclusion, that all cerebration and brain-activity are attended by electrical phenomena. (*For further details as to "Fohat" See Stanza V. and Comments.*) S.D. 1:85 (Stanza III cont.)

Fohat, then, is the personified electric vital power, the transcendental binding Unity of all Cosmic Energies, on the unseen as on the manifested planes, the action of which resembles — on an immense scale — that of a living Force created by WILL, in those phenomena where the seemingly subjective acts on the seemingly objective and propels it to action. Fohat is not only the living Symbol and Container of that Force, but is looked upon by the Occultists as an Entity — the forces he acts upon being cosmic, human and terrestrial, and exercising their influence on all those planes respectively. On the earthly plane his influence is felt in the magnetic and active force generated by the strong desire of the magnetizer. On the Cosmic, it is present in the constructive power that carries out, in the formation of things — from the planetary system down to the glow-worm and simple daisy — the plan in the mind of nature, or in the Divine Thought, with regard to the development and growth of

that special thing. He is, metaphysically, the objectivised thought of the gods; the "Word made flesh," on a lower scale, and the messenger of Cosmic and human ideations: the active force in Universal Life. In his secondary aspect, Fohat is the Solar Energy, the electric vital fluid, and the preserving fourth principle, the Animal Soul of Nature, so to say, - Electricity. S.D. 1:111

To obtain clear perception of it, one has first of all to admit the postulate of a universally diffused, omnipresent, eternal Deity in Nature; secondly, to have fathomed the mystery of electricity in its true essence; and thirdly, to credit man with being the septenary symbol, on the terrestrial plane, of the One Great UNIT (the Logos), which is Itself the Seven-vowelled sign, the Breath crystallized into the WORD. S.D. 1:79

“LIGHT IS COLD FLAME, AND FLAME IS FIRE, AND THE FIRE PRODUCES HEAT, WHICH YIELDS WATER, THE WATER OF LIFE IN THE GREAT MOTHER (*Chaos*) (a).”

(a) It must be remembered that the words "Light," "Fire," and "Flame" used in the Stanzas have been adopted by the translators thereof from the vocabulary of the old "Fire philosophers," in order to render better the meaning of the archaic terms and symbols employed in the original. Otherwise they would have remained entirely unintelligible to a European reader. But to a student of the Occult the terms used will be sufficiently clear.

All these — "Light," "Flame," "Hot," "Cold," "Fire," "Heat," "Water," and the "water of life" are all, on our plane, the progeny; or as a modern physicist would say, the correlations of ELECTRICITY. Mighty word, and a still mightier symbol! Sacred generator of a no less sacred progeny; of fire — the creator, the preserver and the destroyer; of light — the essence of our divine ancestors; of flame — the Soul of things. Electricity, the ONE Life at the upper rung of Being, and Astral Fluid, the 'Athantor' of the Alchemists, at its lowest; GOD and DEVIL, GOOD and EVIL. . .

S.D. 1:81 (from Stanza III)

Electricity is "immaterial" in the sense that its molecules are not subject to perception and experiment; yet it may be — and Occultism says it is — atomic; therefore it is matter. But even supposing it were unscientific to speak of it in such terms, once Electricity is called in Science a source of Energy, Energy simply, and a Force — where is that Force or that Energy which can be thought of without thinking of matter? Maxwell, a mathematician and one of the greatest authorities upon Electricity and its phenomena, said, years ago, that Electricity was matter, not motion merely. "If we accept the hypothesis that the elementary substances are composed of atoms we cannot avoid concluding that electricity also, positive as well as negative, is divided into definite elementary portions, which behave like atoms of electricity." (Helmholtz, *Faraday Lecture*, 1881). We will go further than that, and assert that Electricity is not only Substance but that it is an emanation from an Entity, which is neither God nor Devil, but one of the numberless Entities that rule and guide our world according to the eternal Law of KARMA. S.D. 1:111 fn

Rudra from Brahmâ "from the brain of the Father and the bosom of the Mother," and then to have metamorphosed himself into a male and a female, *i.e.*, polarity, into positive and negative electricity. He has *seven sons* who are *his brothers*; and Fohat is forced to be born time after time whenever any two of his son- brothers indulge *in too close contact*—whether an embrace or a fight. To avoid this, he binds together and unites those of unlike nature and separates those of similar temperaments. This, of course, relates, as anyone can see, to electricity generated by friction and to the law involving attraction between two objects of unlike, and repulsion between those of like polarity. The Seven "Sons-Brothers," however, represent and personify the seven forms of Cosmic magnetism called in *practical Occultism* the "Seven Radicals," whose co-operative and active

progeny are, among other energies, Electricity, Magnetism, Sound, Light, Heat, Cohesion, etc. Occult Science defines all these as Super-sensuous effects in their hidden behaviour, and as objective phenomena in the world of senses; the former requiring abnormal faculties to perceive them—the latter, our ordinary physical senses. They all pertain to, and are the emanations of, still more supersensuous spiritual qualities, not personated by, but belonging to, real and conscious CAUSES. To attempt a description of such ENTITIES would be worse than useless. The reader must bear in mind that, according to our teaching which regards this phenomenal Universe as a great *Illusion*, the nearer a body is to the UNKNOWN SUBSTANCE, the more it approaches *reality*....

S.D. 1:146

"He maketh the wind His messengers, flaming Fire His servants," says the Jezireh, showing the cosmical character of the later euhemerised Elements, and that the Spirit permeates every atom in Kosmos.

This "primordial Substance" is called by some *Chaos*: Plato and the Pythagoreans named it the *Soul of the World* after it had been impregnated by the Spirit of *that* which broods over the Primeval Waters, or *Chaos*. It is by being reflected in it, say the Kabalists, that the brooding Principle *created* the phantasmagoria of a visible, manifested Universe. *Chaos*, before — Ether, after, the "reflection;" it is still the deity that pervades all Space and things. It is the invisible, imponderable Spirit of things and the invisible, but too tangible fluid that radiates from the fingers of the healthy magnetizer, for it is Vital Electricity — LIFE itself. Called in derision by the Marquis de Mirville "the nebulous Almighty," it is termed by the Theurgists and Occultists to this day "the living Fire"; and there is not a Hindu who practises at dawn a certain kind of meditation but knows its effects. It is the "Spirit of Light", and *Magnes*.

S.D., 1:338

Occult teaching corroborates the popular tradition which asserts the existence of a fountain of life in the bowels of the earth and in the North Pole. It is the blood of the earth, the electromagnetic current, which circulates through all the arteries; and which is said to be found stored in the "navel" of the earth.

S.D. 2:400 fn

KUNDALINI SAKTI. The power or Force which moves in a curved path. It is the Universal life-Principle manifesting everywhere in nature. This force includes the two great forces of attraction and repulsion. Electricity and magnetism are but manifestations of it. This is the power which brings about that "continuous adjustment of *internal relations to external relations*" which is the essence of life according to Herbert Spencer, and that "*continuous adjustment of external relations to internal relations*", which is the basis of transmigration of souls, *punar janman* (re-birth) in the doctrines of the ancient Hindu philosophers. A Yogi must thoroughly subjugate this power before he can attain Moksha.

S.D. 1:293

Kepler gave a pretty fair description of cosmic magnetism. That such magnetism exists in nature, is as certain as that gravitation does not; not at any rate, in the way in which it is taught by Science, which never took into consideration the different modes in which the dual Force—that Occultism calls attraction and repulsion—may act within our solar system, the earth's atmosphere, and *beyond* in the Kosmos. This was proven by Newton himself; for there are many phenomena in our Solar system, which he confessed his inability to explain by the law of gravitation. "Such were the uniformity in the directions of planetary movements, the nearly circular forms of the orbits, and their remarkable conformity to one plane. (*Prof. Winchell*).

S.D. 1:497

[Sexual reproduction] was the last and the grossest physical transformation of nature, in animal, insect, bird, and even plant; for binary, creative magnetism, in the form of the attraction of the contraries, or sexual polarization, acts in the constitution of reptile and bird as it does in that of man. S.D. 1:405

Thus, we put forward the Occult teaching which maintains the reality of a supersubstantial and supersensible essence of that *Akâsa* (not ether, which is only an aspect of the latter), the nature of which cannot be inferred from its remoter manifestations—*its merely phenomenal phalanx of effects*—on this terrene plane.

The 7 Mystical Rays of the Sun are: Sushumna, Harikesa, Viswakarman, Viswatryarchas, Sannaddha, Sarvavasu and Swaraj—are all mystical, and each has its distinct application in a distinct state of consciousness, for occult purposes. The *Sushumna*, which, as said in the *Nirukta* (11, 6), is only to light up the moon, is the ray nevertheless cherished by the initiated Yogis. The totality of the Seven Rays spread through the Solar system constitute, so to say, the physical *Upadhi* (basis) of the *Ether of Science*; in which *Upadhi*, light, heat, electricity, etc., etc.,—the forces of orthodox science—correlate to produce their terrestrial effects. As psychic and spiritual effects, they emanate from, and have their origin in, the supra-solar *Upadhi*, in the ether of the Occultist—or *Akâsa*. S.D. 1:515

“The Astral Body”, the 4th Principle in man is defined as the electromagnetic template, or ethereal model for the physical body. Water is the only element that can hold an electric charge, hence its use in batteries. The percentage of water in the human body is approximately 60%, so it is not surprising that it is a complete, complex and highly sophisticated electrical system in itself. The human aura, the radiant sphere of the astral body, extends beyond the body, on average, by several feet. This is the energy that is used in healing practices such as Mesmerism and Reiki, variously called (by Mesmer) *Lebensmagnetismus*, or “Animal Magnetism”, and in Reiki, Rei/Ki or bodily and universal life force (prana). Likewise this magnetic aura, or sphere, applies not only to all living beings, but to the Earth itself – whose magnetic system/aura is vital for the health of all beings living on it – but to all the planets in the Solar System, to the galaxy, the stars and to all the heavenly bodies. This illustrates the key theosophical principles of universal interdependence, of “diversity in unity”, and the Pythagorean “Harmony of the Spheres.”

Mr. Keeley defines electricity "as a certain form of atomic vibration." In this he is quite right; but this is electricity on the terrestrial plane, and through terrestrial correlations. He estimates—

Molecular vibrations at	100,000,000	per second.
Inter-molecular " "	300,000,000	" "
Atomic " "	900,000,000	" "
Inter-atomic " "	2,700,000,000	" "
Ætheric " "	8,100,000,000	" "
Inter-Ætheric " "	24,300,000,000	" "

This proves our point. There are no vibrations that could be counted or even estimated at an *approximate* rate beyond "the realm of the *fourth son of Fohat*," using an occult phraseology, or that motion which corresponds to the formation of Mr. Crookes' radiant matter, or lightly called some years ago the "fourth state of matter"—*on this our plane*. S.D. 1:562