

# 21<sup>st</sup> Century Science and the Ancient Wisdom

An online Seminar, Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2020

The United Lodge of Theosophists, London, UK



Earth's Aurora, an interaction of the plasma in its magnetosphere with the solar wind

3 pm Welcome & Introduction

3.05 pm **1st talk The Role of Science in the View of The Secret Doctrine**

**2nd talk Electricity, the Sun and the Electric Universe theory**

Talks are 10 mins each then a 60 minute study of the handout with Q&A

4.25 pm Break for 35 minutes

**5 pm 3rd talk Consciousness in Scientific & Spiritual Practices**

The talk is 10 minutes then a 60 minute study of the handout with Q&A

6.10 pm Wrap up and farewell, finish 6.15 pm

Slides for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> talks are here in [ODP format](#) and [PDF format](#).

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# First Study

## The Role of Science in the View of The Secret Doctrine

It is barely possible that the minds of the present generations are not quite ripe for the reception of Occult truths. Such *will be* the retrospect furnished to the advanced thinkers of the Sixth Root Race of the history of *the acceptance of Esoteric Philosophy—fully and unconditionally.*

*The Secret Doctrine, 1:298*

### The Domains of Science & Occultism

There can be no possible conflict between the teachings of occult and so-called exact Science, where the conclusions of the latter are grounded on a substratum of unassailable fact.

It is only when its more ardent exponents, over-stepping the limits of observed phenomena in order to penetrate into the arcana of Being, attempt to wrench the formation of Kosmos and its *living* Forces from Spirit, and attribute all to blind matter, *that the Occultists claim the right to dispute and call in question their theories.*

[The occultist]... must transcend the narrow limitations of sense, and transfer his consciousness into the region of noumena and the sphere of primal causes. *To effect this, he must develop faculties which are absolutely dormant—save in a few rare and exceptional cases...*<sup>1</sup> He can in no other conceivable manner collect the facts on which to base his speculations.

*The Secret Doctrine, 1:477-8, emphasis added*

### The Occult Laws of Nature

(...the inductive Sciences) have, then, to be examined; and it must be shown how far their achievements and discoveries in the realm of natural laws are opposed, not so much to our claims, as to the facts in nature...

- The so-called *Forces*, with **Light and Electricity** heading them, and the **constitution of the Solar orb** must be carefully examined; as also
- **Gravitation and the Nebular** theories;
- The Natures of **Ether and of other Elements** must be discussed: thus *contrasting scientific with other Occult teachings.*

These old, old truths are certain give... LIFE and REGENERATION to those who are fit to profit even by the little that is now revealed to them.

*The Secret Doctrine, 1:299, emphasis added*

### Contrasting the Views of Science & Occultism

Therefore, as materialistic Scientists can be fought solely with their own weapons—those of controversy and argument—an *Addendum* is added to every Book (Volumes 1 & 2) contrasting our respective views and showing how even great authorities may often err. We believe that this can be done effectually by showing the weak points of our opponents, and by proving their too frequent sophisms—made to pass for scientific *dicta*—to be incorrect.

*The Secret Doctrine, 1:279*

*[This is being done by IONS, Dr. R. Sheldrake, Electric Universe Project, Prof. Jim B. Tucker, Dr. Emoto etc.]*

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<sup>1</sup> For a description of such a course of development, see last section on page 5, “Spiritual Practices.”

## Second Study

# Electricity, the Sun & The Electric Universe Theory

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.

*Transactions of the Blavatsky Lodge, 38*

[Commentary: Fohat is the 'Spirit' of Electricity, which is the life of the Universe. It binds all cosmic energies on unseen and manifested planes, and thereby impresses upon matter the ideas of the Universal Mind. Fohat is the Intelligence in Cosmic Electricity. All that exists in the Universe contains and is *electricity*; the hosts of Fohat are at work in everything. But the electricity which is seen, for instance, in an electric lamp, is quite another thing from Fohat (*Transactions of BL, 120*). Animal magnetism and conscious hypnotism are based upon Fohatic (intra-cosmic) electricity; whilst Fohat is the “synthetic motor power of all the imprisoned life-forces, and the medium between the Absolute and the **Conditioned** Force.” (ibid, 134). Thus Fohat is the agent of the Law, a link, like Manas, between the Divine Monad and the physical body.]

The Sun we see gives nothing of itself, because it is a reflection; a bundle of electro-magnetic forces, one of the countless millions 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 all 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.

Speaking of the Sun, we may call it an Entity but we would hardly call a sunbeam that dazzles our eyes, also an Entity. The "Sons of Fohat" are the various Forces having fohatic, or cosmic electric life in their essence or being, and in their various effects.... Electricity is the work of Fohat... but Fohat is *not* electricity. From an occult standpoint... electricity is life and it is death: the first being produced by harmony, the second by disharmony. Vital electricity is under the same laws as Cosmic electricity. The combination of molecules into new forms, and the bringing about of new correlations and disturbance of molecular equilibrium is, in general, the work of, and generates Fohat. The synthesized principle, or the emanation of the seven cosmic Logoi is beneficent only there where harmony prevails."

*Transactions of the Blavatsky Lodge, 116, 120-1*

The most occult properties of electricity and magnetism were known to the theurgists of the earliest Mysteries recorded in history.

*Isis Unveiled, 1:234 by H. P. Blavatsky*

The Electric Universe: The Essential Role of Plasma <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6YVJ6hq6Hg> 3 mins

[Commentary on the video: When modern scientists say “There is no empty space in Space” they are simply restating the old idea in *The Secret Doctrine* (1:289) given in an esoteric Private Commentary that says there is “Not a finger’s breadth of void Space in the whole Boundless (Universe).” There is nothing new under the sun.]

## Third Study

# Consciousness in Scientific & Spiritual Practices

**Ego** (Latin) "Self"; the consciousness in man "I am I" - or the feeling of "I-am-ship". Esoteric philosophy teaches the existence of two Egos in man, the mortal or personal, and the Higher, the Divine or Impersonal, calling the former "personality", and the latter "Individuality".

*Theosophical Glossary*, 111

Esoteric philosophy teaches that everything lives and is conscious, but not that all life and consciousness are similar to those of human or even animal beings.

*The Secret Doctrine*, 1:49

In the normal or natural state, the sensations are transmitted from the lowest physical to the highest spiritual body, i.e., from the first to the 6th principle (the 7th being no organized or conditioned body, but an infinite, hence unconditioned principle or state), the faculties of each body having to awaken the faculties of the next higher one, to transmit the message in succession, until they reach the last, when, having received the impression, the latter (the spiritual soul) sends it back in an inverse order to the body.

Hence, the faculties of some of the "bodies" (we use this word for want of a better term) being less developed, they fail to transmit the message correctly to the highest principle, and thus also fail to produce the right impression upon the physical senses, as a telegram may have started for the place of its destination faultless, and have been bungled up and misinterpreted by the telegraph operator at some intermediate station.

This is why some people, otherwise endowed with great intellectual powers and perceptive faculties, are often utterly unable to appreciate—say, the beauties of nature, or some particular moral quality; as, however perfect their physical intellect—unless the original, material or rough physical impression conveyed has passed in a circuit through the sieve of every "principle"—(from 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, up to 7, and down again from 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2, to No. 1)—and that every "sieve" is in good order—the spiritual perception will always be imperfect.

The Yogi, who, by a constant training and incessant watchfulness, keeps his septenary instrument in good tune and whose spirit has obtained a perfect control over all, can, at will, and by paralysing the functions of the four intermediate principles, communicate from body to spirit and vice versa—direct.

*"Footnotes to 'Mediums And Yogis'"* article by H. P. Blavatsky

[A view from modern science: "Despite great progress in our scientific understanding of the brain, we still don't have even the beginnings of an explanation of how complex electrochemical signalling is somehow able to give rise to the inner subjective world of colours, sounds, smells and tastes that each of us knows in our own case. There is a deep mystery in understanding how what we know about ourselves from the inside fits together with what science tells us about matter from the outside."

[An interview](#) with Philip Goff, philosopher and consciousness researcher at Durham University, UK

Dr. Raymond Moody on science & philosophy <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GmJthSaL7-0>  
Play from 23:04 "People want to hear the word 'scientific'..." up to 24.06 "...empirical test."]

# Spiritual Practices

## Mindfulness from the original Theosophical texts on Meditation

*A toolkit of practices such as forbearance, resignation, and meditation with which to raise one's consciousness*

Forbearance is the first of the eight limbs in the *Yoga Sutras*: Forbearance consists in not killing, veracity (truthfulness), not stealing, continence (self-restraint, not wasting energy), and not coveting (envy). These, without respect to rank, place, time, or compact, are the universal great duties. (*Patanjali*, Book 2, Aph. 30-31)

Meditation, abstinence in all, the observation of moral duties, gentle thoughts, good deeds and kind words, as good will to all and entire oblivion of Self, are the most efficacious means of obtaining knowledge and preparing for the reception of higher wisdom. (quoting from a Trans-Himalayan esoteric source in the "Practical Occultism" article by H. P. Blavatsky)

I advise you to discontinue concentration on the vital centres [i.e. the chakras], which again may prove dangerous unless under the guidance of a teacher. You have learnt, to a certain degree, the power of concentration, and the greatest help will now come to you from concentration upon the Higher Self, and aspiration toward the Higher Self. Also, if you will take some subject or sentence from the Bhagavad Gita, and concentrate your mind upon that and meditate upon it, you will find much good result from it, and there is no danger in such concentration. ("Letters That Have Helped Me" p. 115, W. Q. Judge)

I would therefore advise you to study and meditate over the Bhagavad Gita... This will do more good than anything – if the great teachings are silently assimilated and put into action, for it goes to the very root of things and gives the true philosophy of life. If you try to put into practice what in your inner life you hold to be right, you will be more ready to receive helpful thoughts and the inner life will grow more real. ("Letters That Have Helped Me" p. 106, W. Q. Judge)

The true source for concentration is selflessness, for as long as we feel the shackles of the personal self, so long is concentration hindered in various ways. I think in the above is what you need if you will study it out for it needs much thought. (W. Q. Judge's letter to Baber Pathorne, January 1891)

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*For further guidance on Meditation see the three handouts from the series of meetings in January & February 2020 at the ULT*

<https://www.theosophy-ult.org.uk/event/theosophical-meditation-part-1>



*Rose Sleeves, 1911, by Kahlil Gibran, poet and painter*