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The Shape of Things to Come
(ElectroShaping – The Science of Deva Activity)

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Welcome friends, to the festival of Aquarius – the keynote for the disciple in this sign is: *Water of Life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.*

The Water of Life refers to the spiritual potencies that are circulating through the planetary ethers at any given time, and which the server radiates to all through the medium of his own body of ether – the etheric vehicle – which surrounds and interpenetrates the physical body. The phrase is not merely symbolic either, for the ethers contain the same elements as water – hydrogen and oxygen – but in their more rarefied states. In fact, all of the elements have their higher spiritual vestures just as man does. And like man, they express different but related aspects of themselves on each level.

This is because the elements are alive – every object we see around us is pulsating with the life of the deva kingdom – a parallel evolution to the human. The elemental lives that make up any form belong to this kingdom, directed by the building forces of higher devas. Together, they give rise to the wonderful and varied landscape of the earth, as well as all the man-made objects that are rapidly changing the shape of that landscape through science, technology and industry. Future cooperation between the human and deva kingdoms will accelerate this process marking a new transformative period of planetary evolution. But before we explore this let's pause for recollection and then say together the mantram of the disciple:

*"I am a point of light within a greater Light.
I am a strand of loving energy within the stream of love divine.
I am a point of sacrificial Fire, focussed within the fiery Will of God.
And thus I stand.*

*I am a way by which men may achieve.
I am a source of strength, enabling them to stand.
I am a beam of light, shining upon their way.
And thus I stand.*

*And standing thus revolve
And tread this way the ways of men,
And know the ways of God.
And thus I stand."*

The deva kingdom is electrical in nature – the greater building devas are the positive electrical aspect while the lesser building devas are the negative aspect – they are “flaming fire, radiant electric matter...the builders of form and form itself.” And presiding over the life of the physical world as a whole is the great Deva Lord, Kshiti. He

reigns over everything outside the human kingdom upon the physical plane, including the four etheric levels which, under his auspices, are managed by four subordinate deva lords. According to the Alice Bailey teachings, the deva Ruler of the fourth, or lowest ether, delegated a member of His council to meet with certain of the Masters around the time the books were written, to decide whether the approximation of the two lines of evolution, human and deva, might be tentatively permitted.¹

The Aquarian age that we are entering is an appropriate time for the devas of the lower etheric levels to come closer to the human kingdom – for Aquarius energises the human etheric body of the human being through its eventual connection with the physical permanent atom on the highest etheric level. *“It is this individual [etheric] web which is the medium of relationship to the whole. The universal consciousness of Aquarius becomes expressive just in so far as the individual etheric body is in conscious relation with the etheric body of humanity, the solar system and...the planet.”* ²

To express the Aquarian ideal, the etheric body must become a receiver and distributor of energy, primarily from buddhic levels. Being the lowest of the cosmic etheric levels, the buddhic plane has a direct relationship with the etheric body of the human being. It is through this relationship that the goal for the humanity in this planetary round will be achieved – the complete mastery and control of the lowest etheric level of the physical plane: *“Every unit of the human family has to attain this mastery before the end of this round.”*³ In line with this goal, the human eye is currently evolving to extend its range of vision to see in the violet light of the lower etheric levels – or what science terms the ultraviolet wavelength of the spectrum.

It has recently been discovered that the majority of animals can already see in some of the frequencies of this bandwidth. The electric power lines that stretch across many landscapes randomly give off glowing and flashing bands of ultraviolet light across the sky as electricity ionises the air around cables. For many animals, this is a startling phenomenon and it is having a worldwide impact on wildlife. Dr Nicolas Tyler, an ecologist at The Arctic University of Norway and another member of the research team, said: “The loss and fragmentation of habitat by infrastructure is the principle global threat to biodiversity – it is absolutely major. Roads have always got particular attention but this will push power lines right up the list of offenders. The avoidance of power lines can interfere with migration routes, breeding grounds and grazing for both animals and birds.”⁴

As sections of humanity start to develop etheric vision, a whole new realm of phenomena will open up for investigation. The four levels of this realm are characterised by varying shades of violet, and while humanity will only be capable of seeing the lower levels, all of them have to be recognised and manipulated in the practice of white magic. This also implies a working sensitivity to the buddhic realm, the lowest cosmic etheric level – which is known as the “plane of violet.” The Spiritual Hierarchy shifted its location from the higher mental levels to the buddhic plane around 1925 in order to make direct reception of the cosmic ethers possible. Here, they

manipulate and assemble energies from Shamballa prior to them being “let loose upon the world of outer forms.”

Even in the middle of the 20th century, the influence of the buddhic plane, and the electrical force that is its peculiar characteristic were beginning to be felt. According to the Tibetan, its energy was “...also beginning to have a definite effect on the egoic bodies of men; the fourth ether of the physical systemic plane is likewise assuming its rightful place in the minds of men, and the electrical force of that subplane is already being adapted and utilised by man in the assistance of the mechanical arts, for methods of transportation, for widespread illumination, and in healing. These four adaptations of electricity...are but the working out on the physical plane of paralleling utilisation of buddhic electrical force.” 5

Since those comments were made, many electrical developments have taken place which is an indication that much progress is being made in line with the Plan for humanity, despite the many bad things that are currently happening in the world. Another major advancement is also imminent in the field of developmental biology. This is the study of the process by which animals and plants grow and develop as well as regenerate and metamorphose. This concerns one of the greatest enigmas in science – morphogenesis – the creation of shape in organisms. What is it that decides the shape of all the millions of different organisms on earth? As developmental biologist, Michael Levin says, “If you were to show someone the completed genome of a creature, and you didn't allow them to compare it with the genome of something they were familiar with, they would have absolutely no idea what that creature would look like. DNA is less like a blueprint and more like a list of materials, only without a set of instructions for how to use them.”6

Michael Levin’s research team at Tuft University, Massachusetts, have recently received a grant from Microsoft co-founder Paul G Allen to fund further research at this frontier of the life sciences. Delving into the electrical control of cell and tissue growth, the Levin Lab is finding confirmation that DNA does not determine the shape of an organism: it is shaped in accordance with a bioelectric code. The discovery came through experiments with regeneration in organisms. Small freshwater animals called hydra and the planarian flatworm have long served as model organisms for their highly regenerative capabilities. Once wounded, their cells become activated and start to remodel tissues and organs back to the pre-existing state. Salamanders and newts are capable of regenerating limbs, tails, jaws, eyes and a variety of internal structures. Some animals are able to reproduce asexually through fragmentation, budding or fission. The team worked with planarian flatworms as they can regenerate their heads as well as their tails. In fact, a planarian can be cut into 200 pieces and each will grow into a new, perfectly healthy whole animal over the course of a few weeks.

Through the electrical interference, the team were able to manipulate the growth of heads and tails on planarian, causing some of them to grow two heads. And when his team interfered with the bioelectrical signalling in tadpoles that had been engineered to develop cancer, the team were able to reduce the incidence of tumour formation. This has major implications for the rehabilitation of cancer cells in humans which would be

an impressive feat; but more than this, other research suggests the possibility of one day being able to regenerate limbs or organs. In 2013, Levin's team experimented with froglets, using a chemical cocktail to induce the flow of sodium ions, and thereby increase the bioelectrical communication between cells. While the animals were past the age at which they could normally regenerate full limbs, this is exactly what they did after the treatment. It has become clear to Levin that bioelectricity controls pattern information in the growth of organisms. And the race is now on to crack the bioelectric code to understand evolutionary change, and to revolutionise tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Levin says, "Once we know how anatomy is encoded, we will know precisely how we have to rewrite the default electric patterns, so as to make the anatomy we want...we will be able to make shapes on demand."⁷

Recalling the fact that the deva kingdom is electrical in nature, and that plans are underway for co-operation between the human and deva kingdom, we can expect some very interesting developments in this research. The electrical substance of the fourth etheric level of the physical plane will come more and more under the influence of scientists in cooperation with the devas. The fourth ether is "where the majority of the etheric bodies of human beings are made and from where the dense physical bodies are created... It is largely the principal sphere of influence of ...those of the violet devas which are closely concerned with the physical evolution of man. And it is the etheric sphere within which, at a little later date, the human and the deva evolutions will touch."⁸

In anthroposophical teachings, the fourth ether is called the warmth ether, and it is the warming, electrical fluid of the devas of this plane that cause things to expand and grow, shaping organisms in conformity with their blueprint on archetypal levels. As biologists discover how to use electrical energy to cooperate in this process, they will be entering the realm wherein the occultist works. This is an interesting echo of one of the rules for initiation which runs: "*The Army of the Voice, the devas in their serried ranks, work ceaselessly. Let the disciple apply himself to the consideration of their methods; let him learn the rules whereby that Army works within the veils of Maya.*" On this the Tibetan comments: "This rule refers to the work of occult investigation, which must be pursued at some time or another by all who seek initiation. Though it is not safe for the uninitiated to tamper with the parallel evolution of the devas, yet it is necessary and safe to investigate the procedure pursued by the builders, the methods followed by them, in reproducing from the archetype, via the etheric that which we call physical manifestation... This includes the organised study, by all applicants, of 'the laws of vibration' and of electricity, and many other subsidiary studies which concern themselves with the manifestation of divinity and consciousness through the medium of deva substance and the activity of the controlling devas. The laws of the macrocosm will be investigated, and the correspondence between the activities of the microcosm, and the active manifestation of the macrocosm will be recognised."⁹

As far as the macrocosm is concerned, this takes us back to the Buddhist realm – the plane of violet, and how the initiate has to learn to manipulate buddhic electricity. It is characterised by a higher correspondence of the warmth of the fourth physical ether, being the lowest cosmic ether. It is on this buddhic plane that a seed idea is

appropriated in the contemplation stage of meditation. And just as the electrical warmth of deva activity causes the seed of nature to grow upwards to become a plant or tree, so does the buddhic warmth of the white magician cause an idea to grow downwards to flower forth on the physical plane in service. It is the buddhic level that is the true goal for the advanced disciple and the coordination of the buddhic vehicle, *“which has to be in an embryonic condition when the First initiation is taken.”*¹⁰ The buddhic vehicle of the average human being is rudimentary only, but as the disciple builds the antahkarana towards the spiritual Triad, this vesture slowly starts to take shape.

In general, the human race is moving from an astral polarisation to a mental polarization, and is applying the mind in order to control the emotions. The higher the moral and intellectual development of a person, the more the astral body will have been transformed by the ‘I’ into what is called Manas. The challenge before the disciple is to control the etheric body through the application of buddhic energy. Before the stage of discipleship, the individual’s temperament and form bear little resemblance to that soul’s previous incarnation. With the Chela however, the same habits and temperament remain because he has worked consciously on the etheric body, the bearer of the forces of growth and reproduction. Steiner wrote, “The highest achievement open to man on this Earth is to work right down into his physical body... learning to control the breath and the circulation, to follow consciously the activity of the nerves, and to regulate the processes of thought”¹¹ This is the achievement of the Adept who has developed Atma, and through it can create a mayavirupa. And the Tibetan described this as “a vehicle of expression which is built of atomic physical and astral substance and of concrete mental substance. This they can create at will, use at will and cause to vanish at will.”¹²

But it is buddhi that concerns the disciple – the Christ principle. As Steiner put it: “When buddhi is developed in man, all desire is transformed into selflessness, into spiritual warmth or love... Those animals which develop no warmth are also without passion. At higher levels man must again achieve this passionless condition, because he has his life on the buddhic plane... Man’s activity is to be sought in what streams out from him as inner warmth... The corresponding organ which we must have, in order to be able to produce warmth consciously, is the pituitary gland in the head, which at the present time is only at the beginning of its development. Just as one perceives with the ear and produces with the larynx, so one takes up the warmth of the world in the heart and lets it stream forth again through the pituitary gland in the brain. Once this capacity has been achieved, the heart will have become the organ it was intended to be... Then our heart’s blood streams out as today our words stream out into the world. In the future, warmth of soul will flood over mankind.”¹³

This is corroborated by the Tibetan’s statement that there is a close connection between the heart centre and the pituitary body and that “as the heart centre becomes fully alive, the pituitary body enters into activity.”¹⁴ By means of the pituitary body, the form-building energy becomes available, and under the law of attraction the server can mould, and build in deva substance.¹⁵ This creative work might be termed electro-shaping – the science of deva activity. It involves using the inherent electrical energy of the human being to shape deva substance in line with the Plan. Ideas evoked from the buddhic plane are expanded into thoughtforms of lighted service to be transmitted into

the world on the spiritual warmth of the heart. And while this may be the advanced work of the white magician, it is something that all who are undergoing training in meditation are working towards. It is also a process that takes place automatically to a lesser degree when anyone meditates selflessly in service of the Plan. And when many minds and hearts come together as one to perform such service, the results are profound.

So drawing upon the creative imagination, let us work now as one in service to the Plan of love and light in line with the Aquarian ideal: *Water of Life am I, poured forth for thirsty men.*

1. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* p. 911
2. *Esoteric Astrology* p. 303
3. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* p. 327
4. Animals see power lines as glowing, flashing bands, research reveals <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/mar/12/animals-powerlines-sky-wildlife>
5. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* p. 320
6. Bioelectricity – Nature’s Book of Instructions <https://explore.scimednet.org/index.php/2017/01/13/bioelectricity-natures-book-of-instructions/>
7. Grow with the flow: How electricity kicks life into shape. <https://www.newscientist.com/article/mg23331050-200-grow-with-the-flow-how-electricity-kicks-life-into-shape/>
8. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire*. p. 326
9. *Initiation, Human and Solar* p. 203
10. *Letters on Occult Meditation* p. 319
11. *At the Gates of Spiritual Science*. p. 13. R Steiner
12. *The Externalisation of the Hierarchy*. p. 697
13. Foundations of Esotericism, Lecture V, R Steiner
<http://wn.rsarchive.org/Lectures/GA093a/English/RSP1982/19050930p01.html>
14. *A Treatise on Cosmic Fire* p. 964
15. *Ibid* p. 966

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