

# Chapter 2 - Schemes of Evolution

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## Globe Planes / Counterparts

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### **Proportional Extent of the Planes**

What we call our astral plane may also be considered as the astral body of the earth. It certainly exists all around us, and interpenetrates the solid earth beneath our feet, but it also extends far away above our heads, so that we may think of it as a huge ball of astral matter with the physical earth in the middle of it, much as the physical body of a man exists within the ovoid form which is filled with astral matter, except that in case of the earth the proportionate size of its astral body outside the physical is enormously greater than in the case of man. But just as in the case of the man densest aggregation of astral matter is that which is within the periphery of the physical body, so in the case of the earth by far the greater part of its astral matter is gathered together within the limit of the physical sphere.

### **The Astral Sphere**

Nevertheless, the portion of the astral sphere which is exterior to the physical, extends nearly to the mean distance of the moon's orbit, so that the astral planes of the two worlds touch one another when the moon is in perigee, but do not touch when the moon is in apogee. Incidentally, it follows that at certain times of the month astral communication with the moon is possible, and at certain other times it is not.

### **The Mental Sphere**

The mental plane of our earth bears about the same proportion to the astral as the latter does to the physical. It also is a huge globe, concentric with the other two, interpenetrating them both, but extending much further from the centre than does the astral globe. It will be seen that the effect of this is that, while matter of all the planes exists together down here, there is a certain amount of truth in the illustration of the shelves, for beyond the limit of the physical atmosphere there is a considerable shell which consists only of astral and mental matter, and outside of that again another similar shell which consists of mental matter only.

### **The Buddhic Sphere**

When we reach the buddhic plane the extension becomes so great that what we might call the buddhic bodies of the different planets of our chain meet one another, and so there is but one buddhic body for the whole chain, which means that in the buddhic vehicle it is possible to pass from one of these planets to another. I presume that when investigations in a similar way are extended to the nirvanic plane it will be found that that matter extends so much further that other chains are included in it as well-- perhaps the entire solar system.

(TIL - Fourth Section *The Spheres*)

# Chains of the Earth Scheme of Evolution

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## **A Master Comments on the First Two Chains of the Earth Scheme**

We have to face what is practically the only great difficulty of our study at the very outset-- the evolutionary cycles on the first and second Chains of our Scheme. A Master said smilingly as to this: "Well, you will be able to see it, but it is doubtful how for you will be able to describe it in intelligible language, so that others may understand." The conditions are so different from all that here we know: the forms are so tenuous, so subtle, so changing; the matter so utterly "the stuff which dreams are made on," that clear voicing of the things seen is well-nigh impossible. Yet however imperfect the description, some description must be essayed, in order to render intelligible the later growth and unfolding; poor as it must be, it may be better than none. (MWHW Ch.2, *The First and Second Chains*)

## **Planetary Chains begin to form after the first differentiation**

...The formation of the planetary chains one after another, after the first Cosmic and Atomic differentiation had commenced in the primitive Acosmism<sup>1</sup>. (SD1, 152)

## **Days and nights of the Planetary Chain**

It is said that the planetary chains having their "Days" and their "Nights" — *i.e.*, periods of activity or life, and of inertia or death — and behave in heaven as do men on Earth: they generate their likes, get old, and become personally extinct, their spiritual principles only living in their progeny as a survival of themselves. (SD1, 154)

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<sup>1</sup> Acosmism (Gr.). The precreative period, when there was no Kosmos but Chaos alone. (TG)

## The First Chain

The first chain is formed of

- 2 globes (1<sup>st</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> A, G) on the Spiritual or Nirvanic level made of âtmic matter
- 2 globes (2<sup>nd</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>) on the intuitional level made of buddhic matter
- 2 globes of higher mental matter
- 1 globe of lower mental matter

### Resembling Light Rather than Globes

Although we call them globes, and give them the usual names, A, B, C, etc., they are more like centers of light in a sea of light, foci of light through which light is rushing, wrought of the very substance of light and only light; yet modified by the flood of light which courses through them. They are as vortex rings, yet the rings are but light, distinguishable only by their whirling, by the difference of their motion, like whirlpools made only of water in the midst of water; save that they are whirlpools of light in the midst of light.

### From Rough Sketch to Finished Picture

The first and seventh centers are both modifications of spiritual matter, the seventh the perfected outworking of the broad outlines visible in the first, the finished picture out wrought from the rough sketch of the divine Artist.

From the above faint description, and from the composition of the globes, it is evident that the conditions are so different from all that we now know in our present (fourth) chain as to make adequate description extremely difficult if not impossible. The forms are tenuous, subtle, changing; the matter "the stuff which dreams are made of."

It is difficult even to mark off the successive rounds; they seem to fade one into the other like dissolving views, and are marked only by slight increases and diminutions of light.

### Progress is very slow in the First Chain

Progress is very slow... where a life lasts for many thousands of years without much change. The entities unfold very slowly, as rays of magnetized light play upon them. It is like a gestation, like growth within an egg, or of a flower-bud within its sheath. For this chain may be thought of as *future* worlds in the matrix of thought, worlds that are later to be born into denser matter. Hence this, the first chain, is sometimes called **the Archetypal Chain**.

The first chain is called by the Hindus the first body of Brahma, **the Body of Darkness** or **Body of Night**. It is known also, as said before, as **the Archetypal Chain**.

(MWHW Ch.2, *The First and Second Chains*)

## The Second Chain

The second chain descends a step, in the order of its matter, so that it has

- 2 globes in the intuitional level made of buddhic matter
- 2 globes of higher mental matter
- 2 globes of lower mental matter
- 1 globe of astral matter on the emotional plane

The second chain is known as the **Body of Light**, or **Body of Day**, and also as the **Creative Chain**.

Its “successes” were the Agnishvāta Pitris, some of whom became the Sixth Creative Hierarchy and had to deal with the intellectual evolution of men in the fourth (Earth) chain.

The student will recollect also that the “successes” of the first chain, Asuras, serve again as Barhishads on this, the second, chain.

### Clouds and Animals or Vegetables?

In the first round, on Globe D (astral) great surging clouds of matter, splendid in color, were a noticeable feature. In the following round they became denser, more brilliantly coloured, and more responsive to vibrations which shaped them into forms, though it is difficult to say whether these forms were vegetable or animal. Thus things with the general appearance of vegetables moved about with the freedom of animals, though apparently with little, if any, sentiency. Not being anchored to physical matter - the lowest matter of the chain being astral - they were very mobile.

### The Vegetable kingdom of the Second Chain is the Humanity of the Fourth Chain

Those of us who are now human were in the vegetable kingdom in the second chain. In that vegetable life there was a dim awareness of forces playing upon it, and a certain compulsion towards growth. In some, there was a feeling of the want to grow – a desire to flower, as one might say. In others, there was a slight resistance to the line of growth impressed, and a vague groping after another, self-chosen direction.

Towards the end of the chain, the more highly developed vegetables were showing a little mind, in fact a fair baby intelligence, recognizing the existence of external animals, liking the neighborhood of some and shrinking from others.

### Communication with Venus Chain

Later, when the intuitional consciousness unfolded, there was communication between this Scheme and the Scheme of which Venus is now the physical globe; that Scheme is a Chain ahead of ours, and some came to our second Chain from there; but whether they belonged to the Venus humanity, or were members of the “Staff,” we could not tell.

(MWHW Ch.2, *The First and Second Chains*)

## References

(TIL)

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