

THE ASTRAL LIGHT

Space is inundated with light, but it is a light that is invisible to material eyes. The majority of mankind has no realization or knowledge of the Light that is not seen by physical eyes, yet it exists. It belongs to the realm called occult, but it is absolutely indispensable to life.

It is with this Light that the student is brought face to face in his first steps toward initiation. It is called the Astral Light and is as substantial as is the light of the sun which our eyes are evolved to see and recognize. The Astral Light is only seen by the inner sight when the inner sight awakens.

When man floats away in the world of dreams he is in the realm of ungraspable dimensions and strange, uncertain forms, but it is the substantial world of the metaphysician and it is the storehouse of substance and energy used by man, consciously or unconsciously, in every act, thought and effort of their wills and minds. Adepts use it consciously and ordinary man unconsciously.

The Astral or soul world is the next finer world sentients into which we may pass at death of the physical form. It has seven divisions or planes and that which we call the Astral Light is what is called the substance of the night-side of life. This force of the night-side was the substance or energy used by the ancient Atlanteans for their power of magic, black or white, for the substance is the same, but the motive or purpose turns the effect into black or white. The Secret Doctrine says the line between black and white magic is a hair line.

We have said that the world of mind and matter are inextricably interblended, that they are in reality inseparable and as soon as our minds grasp this fact as a truth we find ourselves launched into new experience and realization that is wholly different than that which we have heretofore experienced.

There is nothing that is not conscious.

The mind thinks, the soul wills, the personal consciousness is illumined with a new experience. There are different kinds of illumination - those of a momentary flash, etc., but the illumination that comes from active thought and will is the adept power, the real power.

Initiation in the subtle worlds presupposes an understanding of this penetrating ambient atmosphere called Astral Light, for its mysterious functions in the life of every creature is correlated with thought, creation, emotion and understanding. This ambient light has been called the "Elixir of Life," "Azoth," "Vril," "Luminiferous Ether," "Anima Mundi," "Od" etc.

He who obtains understanding of and mastery over the Astral is All-Intelligence and All-powerful, and he is that greatest of all mysteries -- an Adept or a Mage.

The Astral Light contains all elements within itself and without it there would be no manifestation. The Astral Light is to the soul of man what the air is to the personal man. It has been called the Aura of God and the Breath of the Devil; thus, it is both Light and Shadow - the Light when it is undefiled purity is untainted by the thoughts and emanations of man - is the shadow after that Light has been drawn by man through his being in sensuous pleasures and in selfishnesses, unnumbered.

The Astral Light is that electro magnetic force of which we read. Outbreathed by the Holy Ghost it becomes in its final descent the soul of man and it is through the awakening of that same soul, the unfolding of its spiritual senses and powers, that we become aware of this Electro-magnetic Light. Its action is often started into a fiery enveloping flame by high aspiration or very great need when super human power or action is needed.

The Astral Light from its center downward merges into the Ether and thence into the air, but from its upward pole it becomes the Akasha, a transcendent substance required by Higher Beings for their existence. Every plane has its atmosphere and the neophyte who has taken his initiation in the subtle world knows the meaning of the Inner Breath. His body form is not his only form and his outward breath is balanced by his inner breath. He who has taken the first initiation of the Monastic world knows the divine world and the meaning of the Divine Breath for he breathes on three planes. Beyond this is the great field of cosmic life and initiation. There are as many initiations to be obtained as there are planes of life and each subplane of each major plane has its initiation. Every Ego reflects this Astral Light in his Aura and by will-force he may increase or decrease its vibratory rhythm and by concentration he may form it and project it at will.

The Astral Body. The Linga Sharira or astral body is coiled up in the spleen and it is a perfect picture of the man, good or bad, according to his nature - just as the perfect replica of the Lotus flower is in its seed. The astral body can slip out and wander about but this should never be done or allowed. If the astral body should wander away it can be destroyed. The astral body is not projected from the physical body atom by atom. It is the Kama Rupa which is in every atom of the body, it is intermolecular. At death every cell and molecule give out their essence and from them is formed the astral of the Kama-rupa. The Kamarupa never can come out and wander about in life. When the Astral body uncoils itself and goes out, in order to become visible, it has to draw to itself atoms from the atmosphere about it.

The Astral body supports life; it is the reservoir of life gathering up from the natural kingdoms around it. It is the intermediary between the kingdoms of prana and physical life. Life cannot pass immediately from subjective to objective, for nature goes gradually through each sphere. The astral is the intermediary between prana and our physical body and it pumps in the life force. Life Force is in reality Divinity, but in order to manifest on the physical plane it must first be assimilated and since physical nature is too gross it must have a medium, namely, the astral body.

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