

CONCEIVING THE WORLD BASIC ELEMENTS

What happens? Where are we? In which world are we living? There are some questions hanging in front of us. We shall here give some bases for locating ourselves in this world, for exploring it from symbols and brief comments.

This is all the more necessary as the subjective world is eluding, approximate and contestable; thus we need neat marks for knowing where we are.

The great questions are put in front of everyone; they can be listed as thus:

- Who am I? This concerns the spark of the Whole, the microcosm replicating the Macrocosm; it has the same structure as the universe.
- Where am I coming from? Our body is made with dust of stars; we come from the Cosmos and from previous stages of pulsation.
- Why? It is the purpose or the goal. The most obvious goal is to unite with the Cosmos.
- What is there? In what are we? It is the structure of the universe, the Macrocosm.
- How to live? It is the ethics, the rules of life; they result from the structure of the universe reflecting itself in the human being.

This booklet aims to set a basis for **understanding the world** where we live. One may conceive it as far as the same structure is found in the human being; it is the principle of correspondence. Of course, the universe gets beyond the human being, and some principles escape to it, yet we can approach them starting from our equipment.

The understanding of the world is based on physics, chemistry, life and Earth sciences; these are the basis of the science of matter. This text aims to give a basis for the **science of spirit**.

We'll proceed in 3 different ways which will intertwine: the geometrical symbolism, a digital approach and a literary formulation. These approaches will be followed by comments that will make a secondary part. The basic text will be the briefer possible.

That which has guided us and which seems the most simple, hence the more profound, are the symbols described in the proem (preamble) of the Secret Doctrine, which is reminded in the beginning of a Treatise on cosmic fire. Starting from the first symbols, others will be studied and the postulates of the Secret Doctrine will be studied.

Thus we hope to offer a basis for understanding the world where we live and our place within.

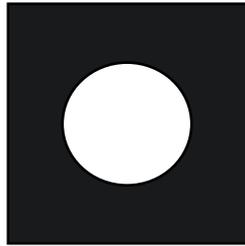
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THE BASIC SYMBOLS

The first symbol: a white disk on a dull background

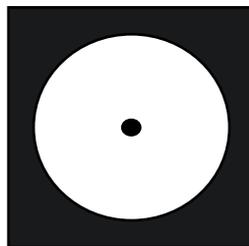
The simplest



Thus there is duality: black and white, light and darkness.

The white disk symbolizes consciousness, the black the unknown. Duality might be called Self and the world, subject and object.

2nd symbol: the black dot in the centre of the white disk



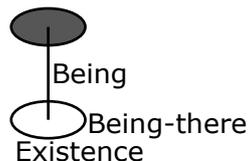
Something, the dark background, is overcoming us.

The background underlies everything. All is a facet of the Absolute. If we were not infused with this absolute – its etymology means abstracted from the only, drawn from the one – we would not be a part of this universe.

Light may be perceived as communion (doubling) of the background. One may see this symbol as the big Bang creating space.

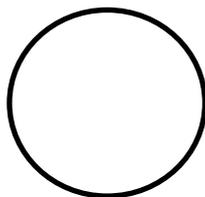
Differentiation (pyramidal pattern) begins: the summit the absolute, both points beneath: duality spirit-matter. It can then be named self-world or subject-object, yet the real underlies both polarities.

Being – Being there



Being emerges from the background; being-there is the world or circle of manifestation. This diagram takes again the white disk and the dark background, evidencing the emergency of being.

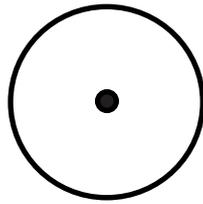
3rd symbol: the circle on a white background



The unit appears in the field of consciousness. The form does exist in the whole. The subject is within the world, present to the world. Inside and outside are responding to each other.

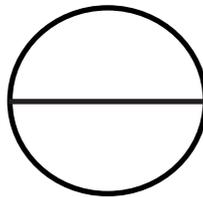
Trinity appears: outside, inside and the lining, what does it mean?

4th symbol: centred circle



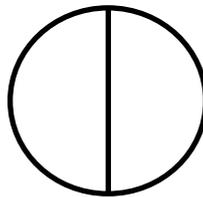
The unit has a centre. The form is underpinned by the background, by an idea or purpose. It is the symbol of the sun, source of light of radiation. One may also distinguish 3 parts in this symbol: the centre or source, the periphery or form and the intermediate disk. One may also see it as the jet between the subject (etymology under the jet) and the object (in front of the jet). It corresponds to 3 dots in the pyramid or tetractys: Substance, Ideation and Energy linking one to the other.

5th symbol: horizontal diameter in the circle



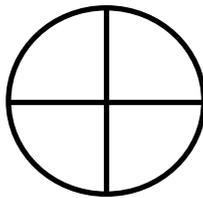
Vibration extends, according to some frequency, at some level. Space.

6th symbol: vertical diameter in the circle



Intent emerges: the idea takes a body, the meaning is discerned. Ideation, ray.

7th symbol: the cross in the circle

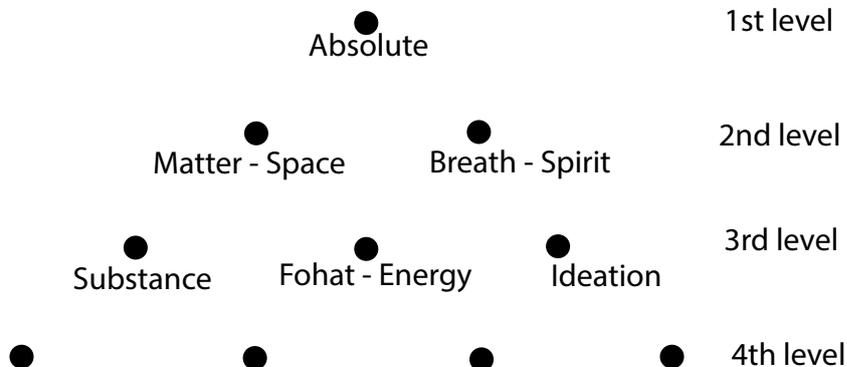


Creative wisdom: fusion of the centre and both diameters; the 3 aspects work together.

THE TETRACTYS

The word *tetractys* designates a pyramid with a dot at the top and one more dot at each level. Tetra meaning four, one stops when there are 4 dots at the basis; that makes 10 as a whole.

Each of these dots has a meaning, logically, and the Secret Doctrine mentions it.



The absolute passes in duality as Spirit and Matter or as Subject and Object.

Matter or Substance is related to Space or Life.

Spirit is related to the great Breath or Ideation, Intent. As in the sacred languages, one reads from right to left; it is in that way that one perceives the aspects of the One.

The black dot in the centre of the white disk has shown it to us: the absolute is the beginning of the pyramid. With the top, the two points beneath: the duality Spirit – Matter. It can be named self - world or subject – object, however the real underpins both polarities.

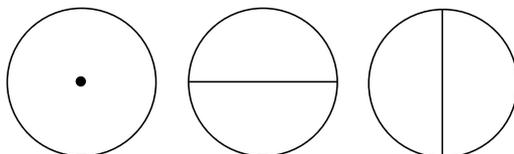
Then it is said that Fohat or energy makes the link between divine Thought and Substance, this makes the 3rd point at the 3rd level.

The summary table, reproduced at the beginning of the Treatise on Cosmic Fire, resumes the levels of the pyramid – and not this level of the 3 points – in calling each level a cosmic Logos. This table leads to 3 levels and not to 3 principles at the same level.

Thus the dot in the centre of the disk is related to the 1st Logos, the Precursor; one could say that the Absolute soars to manifestation. Spirit-Matter is related to the 2nd Logos, and is called Life, “The Spirit of the universe”. Ideation or Breath is related to the 3rd Logos, then is called the universal world Soul.

The 2nd Logos Spirit-Matter is called Spirit for it infuses all (all substance), it is the noumenon of Matter.

The 3rd Logos, Ideation, is called the universal world Soul, whereas it is Fohat, the force of Thinking, which expresses in substance.



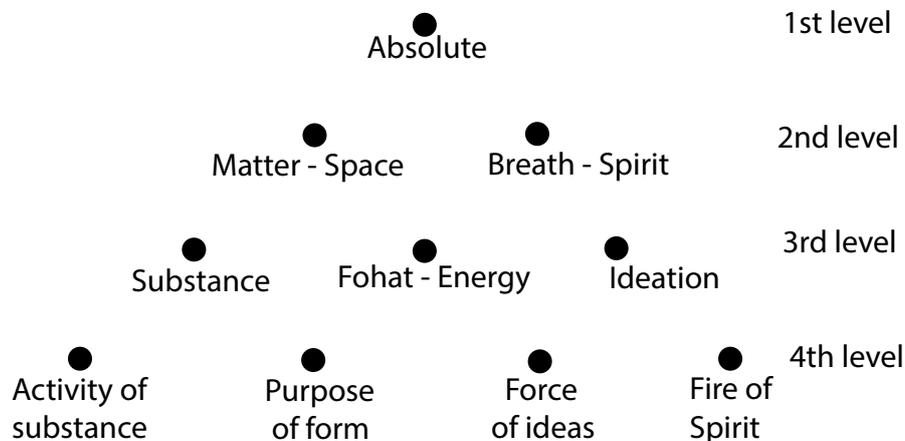
In a more abstract way, the dot represents the assertion of existence, the circle the unit in extension, archetype of the form, and the line the path of energy. Hence, dot, circle, line symbolize the 3 Logoï, that is

Uprising; Form, unit; Movement, current.

These three are One, and the triplicity is found in any unit.

These three aspects are reflected in Consciousness as Will, Love-Wisdom, Active Intelligence.

Fire is the intermediary between Spirit and Matter.
In life, the Sound is the intermediary between the author and the substance.
The tetractys is completed at the 4th level, producing this pattern.



THE POSTULATES

The secret Doctrine formulates several postulates. We remind them here and reword some of them.

1st Postulate: An absolute reality which overcomes us

There is one Boundless Immutable Principle; one Absolute Reality which antecedes all manifested conditioned Being. It is beyond the range and reach of any human thought or expression.

This was shown by the first symbol of the white disk on a dull background.

The manifested universe is contained within this Absolute Reality and is a conditioned symbol of it.

In the totality of this manifested Universe, three aspects are to be conceived.

1. The First Cosmic Logos, impersonal and unmanifested, the precursor of the Manifested.
2. The Second Cosmic Logos, Spirit-Matter, Life, the Spirit of the Universe.
3. The Third Cosmic Logos, Cosmic Ideation, the Universal World-Soul.

We are completing:

1/ The world is one. In the whole universe, vibrates the Substance-Principle unfolding in a scale between two poles, Spirit – Matter. Spirit is matter at its highest finest point, and matter is Spirit at its densest lowest point, as enunciated Blavatsky.

2/ The One presents itself in three aspects [IHS:13, CF:3]

- 1) That which founds being. The precursor, that which initiates, but remains in the background of manifestation. It is symbolized by a dot in the centre of a circle.
- 2) The vibrating substance at any level. It is Life, Spirit-Matter. It is symbolized by a horizontal diameter in a circle.
- 3) The movement, ideation, that which acquires meaning from the concrete and, inversely, the intent grounding itself. This aspect is symbolized by a vertical diameter that comes superimposed of the horizontal diameter.

3/ Conditioned means submitted, spotted on a vertical line.

2nd Postulate: there is a fundamental law: the law of periodicity

The law is the impact of a will or Thought on substance, it is thus referring to Fohat or dynamic force of ideas. Periodicity means that time – related to form – is cyclical and that these cycles have the same pattern: inertia, mobility, rhythm.

Thus this law concerns the change of forms or the evolution.

The Secret Doctrine begins this statement by “The Eternity of the Universe in toto as a boundless plane; periodically the playground of numberless Universes incessantly manifesting and disappearing ... This second assertion of the secret Doctrine is the absolute universality of that law of periodicity”.

This assertion is close to the Buddhist doctrine of impermanence; besides t theosophy has been called the esoteric Buddhism.

Proposed formulation

Law of forms: Any form is transitory, hence cyclical.

Life describes the impact of a stimulus on a denser substance, The limit of the impact is called a form.

The form includes three degrees: spatial, temporal and reflexive.

The spatial degree describes the extension, hence the variance of possibilities,

The temporal degree describes the integration of the trace within the form,

The reflexive degree comes from a return to the centre producing thus the subjective life.

Spatial form, cycle or temporal form and subjectivity result from the creation of forms, a peculiarity of this second solar system, we are said.

The Treatise on Cosmic Fire (CF) mentions 3 cosmic laws: laws of economy, attraction, synthesis. For a long time, physicists are not any more speaking of laws but of principles, specially of the principle of least action. The matter is thus to formulate the principle which subtends a law. Here is an approach.

Law of economy - principle of least action

[CF:214]

3rd Logos, Creator, Ideation, Movement

Principle of least action

Question: Which path from a state to another?

Ternary: initial state – transition – final state world of 3

 Departure – path – arrival

 arrows and loops

 Subject – verb of action – complement of object

An interpretation of quantum mechanics (Feynman) is the integral of paths: the wave-particle explores all paths between the departure and arrival states.

Law of attraction – principle of affinity

[CF:215]

2nd Logos, Penetrating, link Spirit-Matter, Love

Principle of affinity or concordance of rhythm

Question: Where heading to? Where to go?

Binary: Presence, link, source

world of 2

To relate through existence, amidst = present

whorl

Law of synthesis – principle of essential homogeneity

[CF:216]

1st Logos, Transcendent, will to be

Principle of essential oneness or homogeneity, uprising

Question: What does it want? Does it want to be? What is its purpose? What for?

Unitary: One, Aries: I come forth

world of 1, pole

Institutes a dimension, a space, makes coming to be

Move forward, uprising or irruption into existence

3rd postulate: All units have the same structure

In the 19th century, Blavatsky formulated this principle in this way: "All souls are identical to the universal over-soul". Let us remind that , in the Secret Doctrine, the soul was mentioned with the 3rd Logos of Ideation.

Plotinus describes three hypostases or first principles: the One (equivalent to the Absolute), the Intelligible (the pure ideas) and the Soul, (close to multiplicity). The soul explains (animates) the movement and the evolution of all forms.

The secret Doctrine specifies that the over-soul is an aspect of the unknown Root; it calls the over-soul the 6th universal Principle.

Proposed formulation

Each being replicates the universe.
All souls are fractions (fractal replicas) of the over-soul.
They have the same structure at their level than their elder Sister.
The Logos is the converging point of all states of consciousness inside the system.

Secondary hypothesis

All objective beings have an intension which appears alien to us. This intension is a purpose coming from manas or the mind, expression of ideation or 3rd Logos. Thus an electron or a galaxy is assumed animated by an intension.

This hypothesis may be taken as an anthropomorphic projection: man projecting in the universe its own conception. However the universe overcomes the human; some modes of conceiving may escape to the human consciousness.

4th postulate: All being is a focusing of Space into an electric point

Some people have added a 4th postulate:

4/ All being is a focusing of Space into an electric point
In Be-ness, un-manifested Root, is found the plane of Being, which is Light, Life, Electricity.
According to the law of periodicity this point pulsates from space to point to space...
Conversely, all space has a focal point.
Participating in its pulsation is called identification.
The lesser relationship coming out of it is conscious sensitivity.

THE MEANING OF NUMBERS

Consciousness observes its object from the outside, in front of it; then it adds always a unit to what it is observing.

Thus, if we say One, this assumes that the one is dynamic, a flow, a movement and that consciousness merges into that one. For, as soon as the one is laid down, consciousness is seen facing it, making two: it can observe, criticize, evolve regarding that One. It is why Plotinus describes the One as an un-reachable principle, for it infuses all being. Yes, the ideas we are handling have been used quite a long time ago.

The One lays down, is described, defined, enunciates or asserts the two, itself and the consciousness of the thinker. As soon as the thinker sees the relation laying down this relation become three: the object, the thinker and the link between them. As soon as the link becomes ternary, is seized as three, it becomes four, as the active consciousness is neither the object, neither the link, neither the subject defined as such. Etc.

Thus the first level means dynamic irruption; hence the two is the level where the One resounds, opens and lays down; the three implements the two, the link, the space of two; the link becomes movement. The three laying down becomes triangle, first polygon, first angular surface.

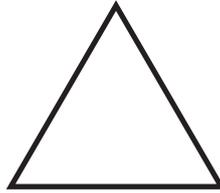
The four observes the trio of movement or constituted link, it constitutes a balanced expression. It is illustrated in the square.

The five observes the field laid down by the four, the structure is reflected in the facing consciousness, it becomes thinking. Hence the association of the number 5 to thinking, to the Thinker, to mind, to understanding.

THE GEOMETRICAL FORMS

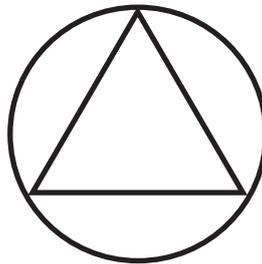
"For knowing something, let us be that thing" Krishnamurti

Triangle

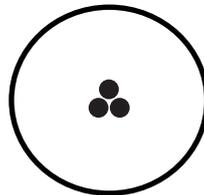


The unit at the top becomes an extended basis, it opens in duality.
The triangle introduces the vertical dimension and duality remains in germ, for it is converging toward the top.

Triangle and circle



The triangle inscribed in the circle shows the complete enfolding of 3 aspects in the unit: maximal extension.
On the contrary, the three points in the centre show a threefold seed or that the centre is threefold: the three are one.



Thee potential of the unit emerges in a three fold manner.

Square



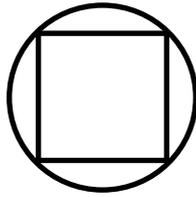
The rising up current points out the refining form, the rarefying matter. It is the Nature or Support current [See Martin Muller's work].

The descending current points out the grounding spirit, embodying in a form. It is the informing, stimulating current, atman: the jet of I.

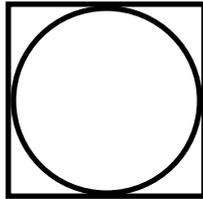
In the horizontal dimension: to the left side, the origin, the condition, the past,

To the right side, the destination, the gift, the future.

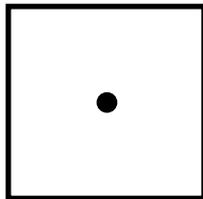
Circle and square



The imprinting unit is sustained by a structure. Life provides itself with rules or laws. The author formulates its laws or rules for manifesting itself. When the square surrounds the circle, this means that life is located in a field of experiment; consciousness broadens in this field.

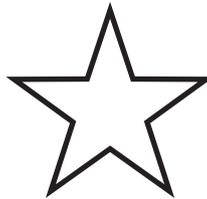


Point in the square

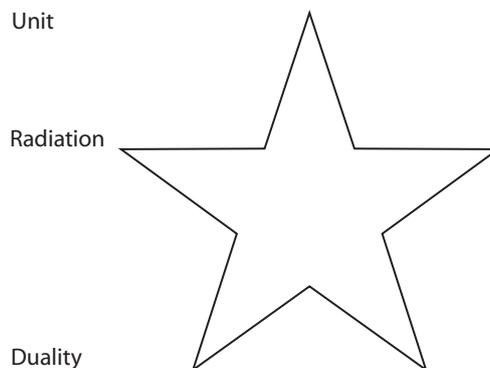


What founds the square rises in the centre. Or the point provides itself with a structure, on arrives to the 5.

The 5, human, manas, mind

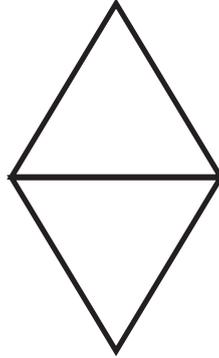


This star is found in many flags and a great number of traditions. The 5 admit three levels expressing in space: unit, un-separated extent and distinct duality. One sometimes calls them spatial mind, radiating or solar mind and concrete mind.

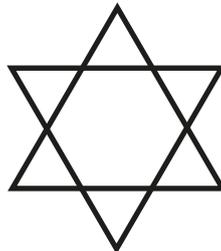


Diamond

When the Three is laid down, the fourth point becomes a grounding point beneath.
From the bottom, the fourth point becomes a point of abstraction of both polarities.



6-pointed star or the Salomon's seal

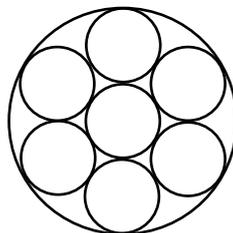
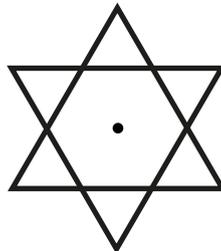


One observes here a great symmetry marked by angles of 60° : a triangle upward rising from duality and a triangle downward grounding, each balancing the other.

Compared to the diamond, the 2 median points are distinguished.

Point in the 6-pointed star

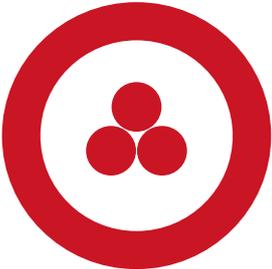
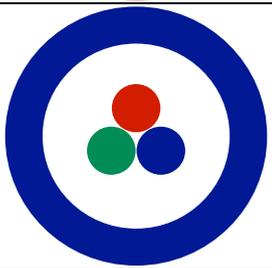
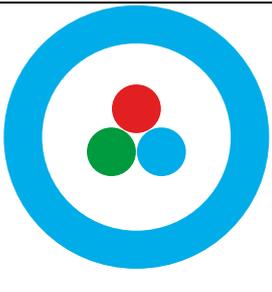
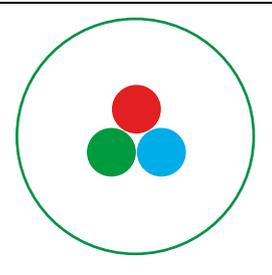
Both triangles offer surface enabling to let pass the inflow which may be focused.



The seven circles represent also completeness, the six express outside and the seventh in the centre.

THE HUMAN BEING

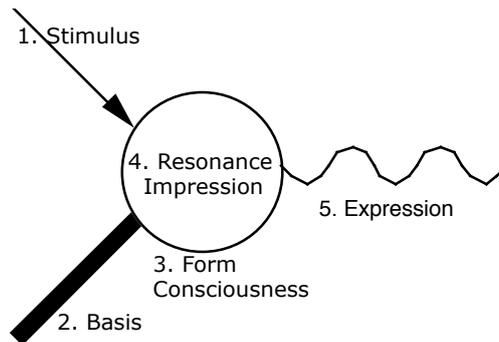
Spirit is threefold; the human being is threefold too. [LMO:2].

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>1. The monad or pure Spirit. Spirit is the Three in One or the One in Three. Thus it reflects the 3 aspects.</p> <p>The red colour describes the assertion of being, the irruption in existence.</p> |  |
| <p>2. The Self. This aspect is virtually the threefold expression triple of the monad, called the spiritual Triad.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) spiritual will 2) pure reason, intuition 3) abstract mind, thought currents <p>The indigo colour describes the immensity of possible.</p> |  |
| <p>The Self radiates in the mental substance, before it is transferred in the triadic current. The radiation is threefold, being</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) will 2) love-wisdom 3) knowledge <p>The luminous blue describes the radiance of the Self, it is the source of consciousness, since the current streams through it and enables the contact with the world.</p> |  |
| <p>3. The personality or active unit. It is also threefold, including:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The mental body or ability to understand 2) The affective body, or feeling and desire. 3) The physical body, vital and dense. <p>The green circle of activity is merely sketched in order not to densify selfishness and make evolution harder.</p> |  |

Consciousness reflects the double polarity Spirit-Matter; it is formed at the meeting of two "scients" as has expressed it Martin Muller, that is of two currents. It is located at the junction of the informing current, emitting, Spirit, and the basis, Nature, support current. As a transistor, the informing current modulates the basis current, and this produces the resulting current. In other words, the support is informed by a current of a more abstract layer.

One may also describe this structure in 5 components:

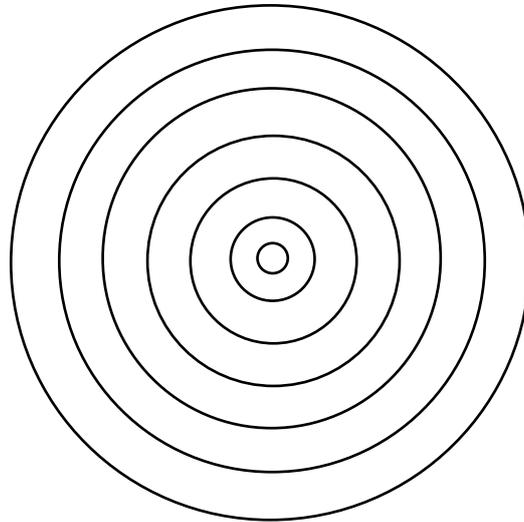
1. Spirit, informing;
2. Nature, support;
3. Equipment or receptive instrument
4. Resonance, impression.
5. Resulting formulation



The impression resounds in the instrument which expresses in currents of consciousness.

The 7 levels of substance

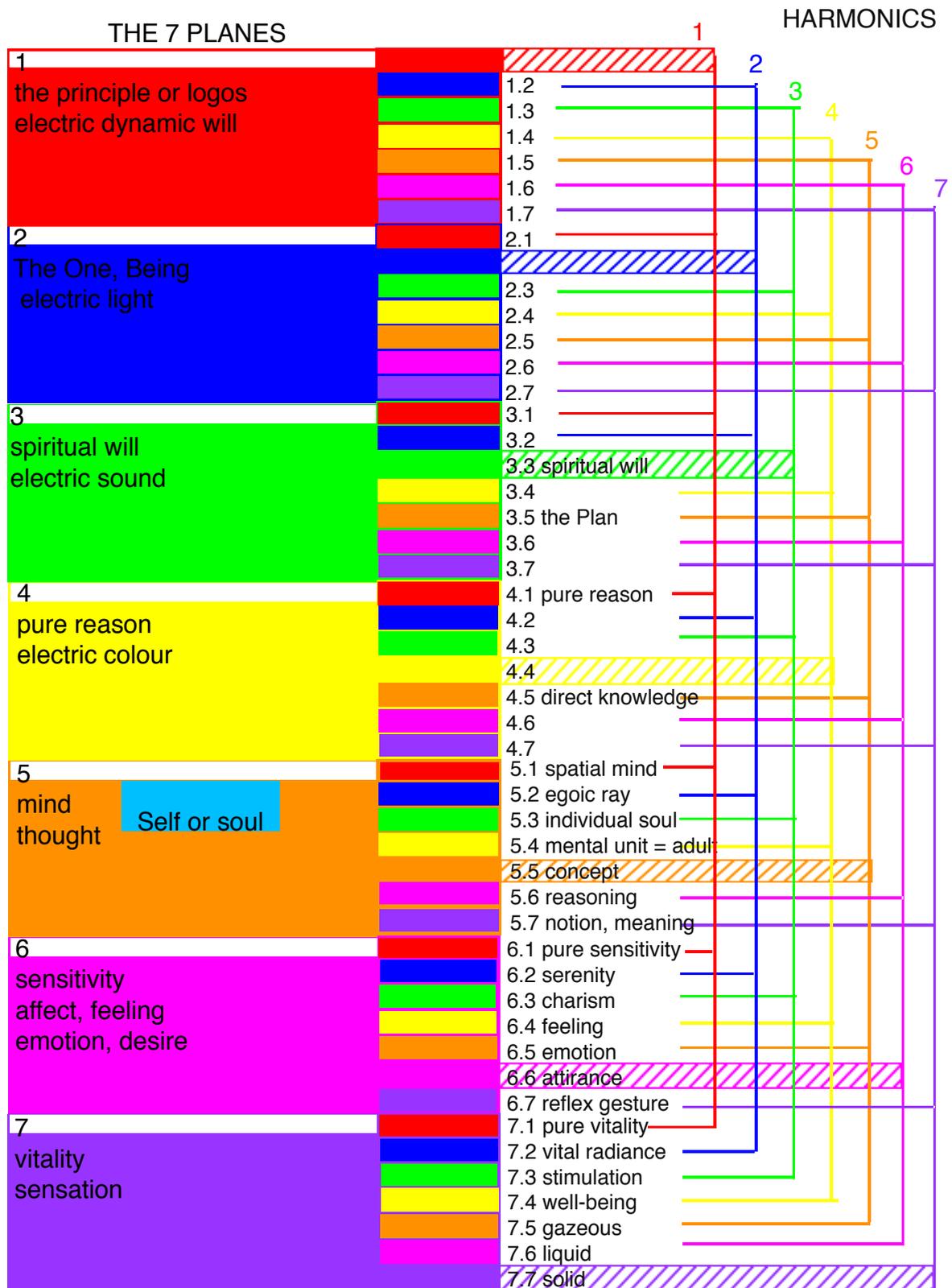
The 3 give the 4 by composition. Each of the 3 gives a complementary and the three together give the fourth. In other words, the triangle produces a structure. Here are 7 spheres.



The more an inflow is powerful, the more its impacted sphere is great, and the more it is focused, the more it is intense. Thus one may see the 7 levels of substance with their impacts broadening gradually in space, it is its extent. Or in centring toward a finer and finer point, it is the mode of contact. One often represents this level in a vertical ladder, that is has the advantage to reduce the place taken one the page.

| |
|---------------------|
| 1 Uprising |
| 2 One |
| 3 Spiritual will |
| 4 Pure reason |
| 5 Mind |
| 6 Affect |
| 7 Sensation |

THE SCALE OF THE SUBSTANCE-PRINCIPLE



CONCLUSION

Here is a basis of study, experiment and sharing for conceiving the world.
Some and others will be able to complete this basis, for enriching it, deepen it.
The world is great; reality overcomes fiction.
Joy to all seekers.

The goals of theosophy

Let us remind the goals of theosophy founded in 1875:

- 1° To found a kernel of universal brotherhood without distinction of race, creed, gender or colour;
- 2° To encourage the compared study of religions, philosophies and sciences;
- 3° To study the unexplained laws of nature and the latent powers of man.

These goals are in a good way of realization. It is thus possible to take part in planetary projects extending on several centuries. Still one has to be inspired and to persevere in selfless action.

Meditating on the Tetractys

Perceive the pulsation of the Presence
Search for the Absolute (within us).
Contact both polarities: Spirit and Matter.
Attune to the living substance (Space) then to the Breath (Logos)
Linking one to another: Fire.
Discern two currents which are crossing:
The grounding Ideas (or divine Thought)
Beings discovering (assuming) their purpose.
We have thus 4 elements:
The electric fire of Spirit, the force of Ideas, the search of purpose, the activity of substance.
The absolute infuses each element.
We offer this flame to the world.
And end by an AUM.