

1 The General Structure

No attention will be paid to the major chakras up the spine and in the head except to give a general outline and indicate certain patterns of energy flow. These have already been dealt with voluminously in other works. If the reader is unfamiliar with them, there are many books on the subject.

These major centres plus all the lesser centres along with the meridians exist in etheric matter with their correspondences in astral, mental and causal matter as well.¹ The etheric level will be emphasized in terms of structure because there is greater definition to structure and the etheric body lies closer to the dense physical frame. As will be shown, though, the subjective always precedes the objective with respect to manifestation. Therefore, the psychic qualities of these various components will receive the greater emphasis in the explanations.

The etheric body and its structure

The etheric body has been described as a sort of grid or matrix-like structure. Seen clairvoyantly, it is composed of countless tiny, fine threads of etheric matter. Many people call these threads of matter streams of energy, which they are since all is energy anyway. This body has the same general shape as the dense body but it forms the lattice or framework for the dense body to form around. An analogy would be the way in which a worker in concrete pours the concrete into a steel reinforcement or wire mesh in order to retain the shape and structural integrity of the finished work wherein the concrete represents the dense body and the wire mesh the etheric body.

The etheric body has also been called the vital body. It is this body that is receptive to impression from higher sources and it is really the causative agent in all processes of health or disease in the dense body. It is not a body of emanation as some scientists have proposed, but it is actually quite the opposite.

It is most necessary to keep certain concepts in mind about the etheric body throughout this work. These are as follows:

- It is the source of all electrical and energetic interplay within the physical system. It is the place of all pranic and vital force.
- It is a holographic² body. Each part of the body holds the design or matrix for the rest of the body in its entirety.
- It is made up of streams or lines of force that are so closely interwoven and interconnected that any stimulus or activity applied to any portion of that body is felt within the entire structure of that body. This fits with the holographic paradigm mentioned above.
- It is also connected with all other etheric bodies atomic to galactic. In essence, each individual etheric body can be viewed as a centre or focus of force in the larger corporate etheric body in which it finds itself.
- It is ruled primarily by the seventh Ray³ which gives form and substantiality to any system. This body is therefore the meeting ground between spirit and matter. Spiritual impulse finds its most definitive objective expression in this body. It is therefore closely associated with the will of the entity ensouling it.

In connection with the last point, one should note that the true colours most associated with Ray seven are violet and cream, both of which are generally associated with the etheric body in most literature. Many clairvoyants report seeing the cream colour in closest proximity and association with the dense body while the outer etheric body tends to be more violet. Colour tends to be a controversial subject among clairvoyants and esotericists. Every colour has been associated with the etheric body, but violet is most generally said to be its primary colour. It is said there are four grades of violet associated with it ranging in colour from a dark violet to a translucent scintillating lavender colour dependent upon the grade of etheric matter present⁴. Naturally the translucent colours are

associated with higher grades of ether. To clairvoyants, it appears to surround the body at approximately two inches width all over. This appearance is primarily what has led some people to believe it to be a body of emanation because it appears to ray forth from the dense body. It should be noted that as the grades of matter become more subtle the aura or "emanation" of the person extends outward and approximates an ovoid some- times reaching many yards in diameter. The aura, like the etheric body, must also be thought of as a causative field and not an emanation.

Not only does the etheric body appear as a fine, grid-like structure but it also has some more pronounced features. As consciousness develops with the entity ensouling the body, these features become more pronounced, brighter, more colourful, and after a certain stage in evolution is reached, scintillating. These various features can be listed as follows, remembering that each one has its counterparts in the subtler (emotional, mental, etc., bodies):

- **nadis:** The finest of the structures. These nadis correspond to the nervous and circulatory systems in the dense body and underlie them. Movement of energy in the various nadis precedes movement in the nervous system.
- **meridians:** These are the well-known energy vessels that can be found referenced in acupuncture texts. They have certain nodes or nodules at various points along their lengths. They each have terminating points in the etheric organs after which they are named except for the Governing and Conception vessels. They are formed of concentrations of nadis, somewhat like an electrical cable is formed of individual wire strands.
- **minute centres or chakras:** There are many hundreds of these and there is speculation that these are the nodes mentioned before on the various acupuncture meridians.
- **lesser centres:** These are found at the juncture of two or more acupuncture meridians. These will be discussed in due course. These centres can range in size and intensity from almost insignificant points of light to centres the size of the ajna or brow centres⁵ between the eyebrows. These are said to be formed where several streams of force' cross.
- **minor centres:** These often appear as approximately the same size as the lesser centres. They are said to be formed where the streams of force cross many times.' They do not appear to be associated so closely with the meridian system although some are situated at triple junctures of meridians. These will be tabulated in due course.
- **major centres:** These are the centres (chakras) that most people interested in centres are familiar with. They appear as saucer-shaped depressions in the front and back of the etheric body in line with the spine, more or less, and are connected with it. There is one over the spleen which is not connected with the spine. These are said to be formed where great streams of force cross.⁶ They appear to be divided into what are called petals. The number of petals have occult significance. In fact, the entire centre resembles somewhat the appearance of a flower with the "bloom" or padma being on the surface of the body, a stem reaching back toward the spine and a root which is anchored in the etheric spine and is wrapped around a central shaft of light (sushurna). There are eight such centres. They will be tabulated shortly.

Finally, in etheric matter of the atomic subplane⁷ (finest grade of ether), there exists a medallion of centres directly above the head extending to several feet beyond the crown centre. There are five such centres. They are not generally recognized by occultists and they remain unseen by all but a very few clairvoyants. This is due to the fact that the clairvoyant must possess a certain degree of this type of ether in his or her vehicles before these centres can be seen. This fact would preclude a high stage of development on the part of the clairvoyant. These centres only become activated as one begins to pass certain initiations.⁸ Therefore, in most people, they are very quiescent and attract little notice. They are transcendental centres and the types of consciousness experienced in them is beyond the power of any words to describe - hence, another reason these centres go

unmentioned.⁹ They are mentioned here because they are a part of the etheric body and thus give completeness to the description of that body, but they will not be dealt within this work any further. There is a definite hierarchy of organization and energy flow in the etheric body which should be born in mind as this work proceeds. From the standpoint of pranic or vital flow, there is a definite circulatory system. Solar prana comes into the etheric body via a centre between the shoulder blades. It goes from there to a centre slightly above the diaphragm, which has become partially dormant due to "civilization." The spleen absorbs planetary and solar prana and is the main assimilator of prana. It completes a triangle with the other two centres. There is a finely woven three-fold channel which links all three centres and through which the prana circulates. It is finally distributed primarily via the spleen into the system of nadis which then passes the prana throughout the etheric body. This is the strictly physical energy system.¹⁰

Consciousness, which is the cause of appearance in form, takes another route. It is largely focussed through the central shaft of light which enters the top of the head and proceeds downward to the base of the spine. Each of the spinal centres then become the distributing agents for a particular type of consciousness, depending upon the centre. Each of these centres influences in turn its corresponding concrete form in the dense body - one of the endocrine glands. The entire endocrine system therefore is the closest approximation or contact to the etheric body and therefore to subtle energy in the dense body.¹¹ The etheric body thus exerts its influence by the nadis and pranic flow through the nervous system and then through the endocrine system via the blood stream. The major centres also influence the etheric vehicle through the medium of the lesser centres.

This brief synopsis of the etheric body is meant only to give some idea of function and placement of its components. For detailed information concerning it, the reader is referred to the reading list at the end of this book. The subject has been more than adequately treated in those books.

Tabulations on the major centres: No more than a general overview shall be given here either since the subject has been so exhaustively discussed in other literature. This tabulation is given as reference for the reader's convenience.

In concluding the tabulation, some mention should be made of the general appearance of the centres on the various levels. It has been said that chakras are spinning vortices of force. While this is generally true, it is only so on levels of the aura other than the etheric. The etheric centres do not spin. (Peter) They do, however, exhibit a pulsation. (Sara) It is the superimposing of the various layers of the aura on the etheric centres which gives the appearance of spinning or rotation. Perhaps an analogy would help in an understanding of this fact as it may prove to be disconcerting to some esotericists. A generator is composed of a stator (which is stationary) and a rotor (which turns). The stator is wound with many turns of copper wire on an iron core. The rotor often is also, but is sometimes simply an iron core. When the rotor is turned, the rotating magnetic field causes an electrical current to be induced in the stator which is then distributed to whatever the generator happens to be supplying. The rotor is analogous to the whirling vortices of subtle matter impinging on and spinning through the etheric centre. This motion literally causes an electrical current of sorts to be set up in the matrix of the etheric chakra. This electrical current is then distributed to the corresponding glands and organs which then influence the dense body.

Seen clairvoyantly, the etheric matrix of every centre is stationary. But there are etheric currents of varying hue and velocity which are swept into the matrix by the swirling vortex from the other layers of the aura. These are seen as whirlpool-like etheric energies in the various centres. It must be remembered that the etheric body is a framework and acts more as a conductor than as a prime mover. The iron in the generator example would be analogous to the dense body while the wiring would represent the etheric matrix of the centre.

This tabulation can now be used as consideration of the meridian system and associated points are examined, because the types of consciousness expressed through each of the major centres act as the prime movers for the entirety of the etheric body. As it will be noted, each meridian is definitely

connected with one or another of these major centres and are thus qualified in their functioning by those centres.

Table 1

Centre	Petal ¹²	Traditional ¹³ Colours	Physical	Colours according to Peter Tadd		Causal	Ray ¹⁴	Type of ¹⁵ Consciousness	Planets ¹⁶
				Astral	Mental				
Crown (Sahasrara)	972 12 central, 960 surrounding	Violet	White	Pink & Green	Cerulean Blue	White & Blue	1	God Higher Psychism Divine Will	Sun Vulcan Neptune
Brow (Ajna)	96 (2 pr of 48 ea)	Indigo	Violet	Orange & Gold	White	Purple & Gold	4 & 5	Mastery of Space/Time	Mercury Venus
Throat (Vishuddha)	16	Silvery blue	Blue	Turquoise	Yellow orange	Silver	3	Higher mind Self Esteem Supreme Knowledge	Mercury Saturn
Heart (Anahata)	12	Green	Gold & Silver	White & Pink	Pink	Gold	2 & 4	Intuition Group relations	Jupiter Venus
Solar Plexus (Manipura)	8 or 10	Yellow	Amber	Yellow & Silver	Green	Magenta	6	Sentiency Organisation Desire	Saturn, Sun Moon, Mars Neptune
Sacral (Swadhisthana)	6	Orange	Orange	Clear	Orange	Deep velvet- een Black	4 & 7	Self Image (Peter) Vitality, sex	Sun Moon, Mars
Base (Muladhara)	4	Orange red	Red	White	Red	Indigo	5 & 7	Will-to-Live Self-will, Form	Moon, Pluto Saturn

Centre	Types of Fire ¹⁷	Sense ¹⁸	Element ¹⁹	Body & Plane ²⁰	Organ(s) ²¹	Virtue; and Freed through ²²	Energy Function ²³
Crown	Pure white light of heaven, white electricity	Intuition Illumination		Monadic	Right eye, Pineal cerebral cortex	Being	Will
Brow	Rose-Violet supernal electricity	Intellect		Atmic	Left eye, pituitary Limbic system	Illumination Eye of the Needle	Command Portal (Peter)
Throat	Violet, vaporious electricity	Hearing	Ether	Causal	Tongue, lungs Thyroid	Honour, Vigilance Steadfastness to Truth	Creation of Space, Integrating of Ethers Length of life
Heart	Misty-blue smoke-like electricity	Touch	Air	Buddhic	Heart Thymus	Fidelity Loyalty, Service	Unification, Demani- festation, Death
Solar Plexus	Amber electricity	Sight	Fire	Mental	Stomach, liver, intestine Pancreas	Detachment Bhakti	Desire, Preservation Organisation
Sacral	Red electric Fire, Passion	Taste	Water	Astral	Gonads (physical eyes)	Discrimination Conscience, Loving heart	Procreation, Ener- gising of substance
Base	Black electric Fire, Kundalini	Smell	Earth	Physical (etheric)	Adrenals, bladder Large intestine, Kidneys	Goodness, Faith Karma Yoga	Breath

Chapter 1 Notes

¹ The various types of matter (etheric, astral, mental, etc.) are associated with planes (see glossary) of awareness or existence. Each sheath around the dense body is formed of progressively finer matter. These sheaths of subtle matter in their totality form what is known as the human aura. There are seven such layers, respectively, as follows: etheric, astral, mental, causal, buddhic, atmic, monadic. The etheric, astral and mental sheaths form the personality vehicles or the form nature of the lower person. The succeeding three form the vehicles of the true Soul or Spiritual Triad, the final sheath is the vehicle of the Spirit or the Father in Heaven (Monad). Various schools attach different names to them. The ones listed here are known to those familiar with Theosophical writings and will be used throughout this work.

² Holographic means simply that each part of a whole or unit contains the complete design for the whole. It is in this manner that complete organisms, including humans, can conceivably be cloned from any cell in the body. A holographic picture can be seen in toto from any point in the picture. All life will eventually be found to be holographic in its essence. This is the same as saying that all souls are identical with the Oversoul.

³ Ray (see glossary). The seventh Ray is the Ray of Ceremonial Magic and Order. It is the Ray which is most closely associated with the physical plane and the primary urge to fulfilment. Its main colour is violet.

⁴ TCF p.912. *Note: Initials refer to titles as shown in the abbreviation key following the Table of Contents and also referred to in the bibliography.

⁵ The lesser centres are listed according to magnitude, among other considerations. This research used the ajna centre as the brightest measure for luminosity of a lesser centre, which was taken to be a magnitude of 10. The ajna centre is approximately 35-50 mm (1 -1½" to 2") in diameter. A magnitude of 1 would indicate a centre approximately 5 mm (3/16") in diameter.

⁶ *Esoteric Healing* (bibliography) 72. What these "streams of force" are is not stated.

⁷ Each plane is differentiated into seven subplanes of matter. Their divisions, respectively, from densest to finest are as follows: solid, liquid, gaseous, fourth ether, third ether, molecular (2nd ether), atomic (1st ether). This division applies to all planes.

⁸ Initiations (see glossary). Each major initiation opens one or other of the major spinal and head centres. The centres above the head are opened only after what is known as the Third Initiation (Transfiguration). This Initiation marks a point of attainment wherein the initiate is totally under the control of the Soul and the life is undeviatingly dedicated to service. It is, in reality, the first Initiation to put one in rapport with cosmic or extra-systemic forces and is hence exceedingly synthetic in its actions. The centres above the head respond only to what is enigmatically termed "the Will of God". They are as close to the consciousness of God as a human being can approach.

⁹ KW 38, 39, 298

¹⁰ TCF 98 - 100 (all abbreviations, see bibliography)

¹¹ The consciousness of a person is reflected directly in the hormonal levels and balance. Endocrinology is still an infant science, but will eventually relate physical and psychological medicine.

EH 37,38,140-144, 219,220,617

¹² TCF 168

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ EPI 145,428, 521, 622

¹⁵ 15 KW 72, 76, 86,100, 369

EA 144, 147, 149, 172, 181, 299

EPII 233, 523

¹⁶ KW 93, 298

EH 176

EA 78,517,577

¹⁷ KW 78, 79, 80 EH 145

¹⁸ KW 37, 38, 206 EPII 233, 304

¹⁹ 19 KW 37,38, 62

²⁰ It should be noted that every centre exists on all planes. This delineation is an analogous one only and is more related to the types of consciousness exhibited by the various centres. Each centre resonates more to one plane than any of the others, depending upon the type of consciousness exhibited by that centre.

²¹ EH 142,173,176, 202

²² KW 58,71, 74,105,165,353

²³ KW 37,38,50,67 EH 172,176,179