

I M R E V A L L Y O N

# Heavens & Hells of the Mind

Chapter I  
PLANES OF BEING



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# Heavens and Hells of the Mind

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CHAPTER I

Planes of Being

## The Divine Milieu

This whole Universe is an Incarnation of God, the Absolute Beingness, of which nought can be said. Within this Incarnation, or Divine Immanence, there are various planes, realms, states or conditions of Being. Jesus referred to the multi-dimensionality of the Universe by these words to His immediate disciples, shortly before His death:

In my Father's House there are many mansions [realms]... I go to prepare a place for you.

*John 14:2*

The "Father's House" spoken of by Jesus was called the PLERŌMA by the Greek Mystics and the Gnostics (the Knowers). The modern French Mystic, Teilhard de Chardin, called it the *Divine Milieu* (*le Milieu Divin*). According to de Chardin, the Universe is a Divine Milieu permeated through and through by the Omnipresence of God. This Divine Milieu is the mysterious PLERŌMA "in which the substantial *One* [God] and the created *many* fuse into the All".

This modern Roman Catholic Mystic used the word PLERŌMA as it was used in the Greek Mystery Schools and by the Gnostics. The PLERŌMA is the Alpha and Omega, the "all in all" of Saint Paul:

It is the same God which worketh, all in all.

*1 Corinthians 12:6*

According to de Chardin, the Heart of God is a "boundless milieu" which has "multae mansiones". Nowadays we call these "many mansions" planes, dimensions, worlds, realms, or conditions of Being.

The Divine Milieu exists all about us in every place, on every plane, in every realm of the Cosmos. The Absolute Being Itself exists in all Its Plenitude (fullness, completeness, abundance) everywhere and at all times, but we perceive only as much of It as our minds, consciousness and senses allow. In all that Immensity, there is only one possible place for each of us at any given moment, in accordance with our *consciousness*.

*The Divine Milieu  
exists all about us, in every  
realm of the Cosmos*

### Milieu

French: "Environment, setting"; from the Latin *medius-locus*, "the middle place, the central point, the all-pervasive centre or heart of all".

### PLERŌMA

Greek: The Divine Fullness. The All-Containing Reality. The Fullness of the All-Mind, the Universal or Divine Mind, in which all things exist. That which contains within It the seven great Planes of Being and all that is within them. The Fullness of Space. The All in All. The Totality of all things. The Totality of Interspace. The Fullness of Light. The Limitless Dimension. The Manifest and the Unmanifest. Omnirevelation. Omniverse. Equivalent to the Upaniṣadic PŪRṂA (Perfection, Completeness).

*Perceptions of the One Mind 490*

## The Seven Great Planes

Within our Solar System there are seven great Planes of Being. These you may conceive of as worlds, vibrational states, conditions of matter or energy, or life-realms where dwell certain forms of beings. In the East, these planes or realms are called **LOKA**.

The Greek philosophers taught similar ideas. Pythagoras taught that Existence (the Cosmos) consists of a series of interpenetrating worlds of different degrees of density, with the higher worlds embracing and penetrating all the lower ones.

The Planes of Being are realms, worlds or conditions of existence. Each plane is associated with:

- Certain densities of matter.
- A state of consciousness.
- Particular senses of perception associated with that consciousness.
- Actions of particular forces.
- Certain beings or entities which inhabit that realm.
- Forms or “bodies” through which entities can interact with the matter and energies of that realm.

Each of the seven great Planes of Being, the seven dimensions of our Universe, occupies the one Space. The Space is the same, but the *dimensions* are different, the *densities of matter* are different, and the *consciousness* is different in each of the strata of Creation. The matter or substance of each plane *interpenetrates* the one below it, which is of lower vibration and greater density.

### Perceiving the One Space

Science fiction writers often theorize about “parallel universes”, “anti-universes”, “hyperspace”, and so forth, but these ideas are distortions of Truth. There is only *one Space*, but what is seen of it by the physical eyes is but an infinitesimal part of it. This is no exaggeration. The vibratory frequencies perceived by the five bodily senses are only an infinitesimally small fragment of the total vibratory range of the Universe, Space, or Omni-Revelation.

*Dimensions of the Solar Logos in Cosmic Space* 1591

*The Planes of Being  
are realms, worlds or  
conditions of existence*

### KOSMOS

Greek: The whole Universe as an ordered, structured Reality, as opposed to **KAOS** (unordered). The Divine Mind which gives Order and System to all things. From the Greek we derive the words *cosmos*, *cosmic*, *chaos*, *chaotic*, etc.

### CHILIOKOSMOS

Greek: Chiliocosm. The All. The Cosmic Order. The multi-layered, multi-dimensional, Universal Reality. *Mikrokosmos*, *Makrokosmos*, *Chiliocosmos* 121

### ĀKĀŚĀ

Sanskrit: Space in its totality as the physical body of God. This does not mean some kind of emptiness in which particles of matter float. **ĀKĀŚĀ** does not mean there is “nothing there”. On the contrary, **ĀKĀŚĀ** means that *all* is there—total Fullness. Equivalent to the Greek word **PLERŌMA** and another Sanskrit word, **PŪRṆA**.

*The Form of God is Space* 109

## Planes and Subplanes

Each of the seven great Planes of Being has seven subdivisions or *subplanes*—seven realms, spheres or vibrational states of increasingly finer matter or energy. Thus, there are a total of forty-nine subplanes, or states of matter, within this level of our Solar System. In the Secret Doctrine, the Primeval Wisdom, these forty-nine states of matter are called the *forty-nine Fires*.

*These forty-nine states  
of matter are called the  
forty-nine Fires*

The forty-nine subplanes of the seven Planes of Being together constitute the Cosmic Physical Body of God, what is called the Cosmic Physical Plane or Cosmic PRĀKṚTĪ. Above this there are six other great Cosmic Planes—the Cosmic Astral Plane, Cosmic Mental Plane, and so on—each of which consists of seven great planes and forty-nine subplanes. Since the totality of Man exists upon the Cosmic Physical Plane, the higher Cosmic Planes are beyond human comprehension and are not of immediate concern to us until we pass out of human evolution altogether into higher evolutionary states of Being.

The lower four mental subplanes of the Cosmic Physical Plane have forms and shapes (RŪPA), while the upper three, the Causal Worlds, are without form (ARŪPA). Above the Causal Worlds, the seven subplanes of BUDDHI and the seven subplanes of NIRVĀṆA are formless, bodiless conditions, as are the planes beyond.

The visible universe consists of the lowest three subplanes of the lowest of the great planes—the solid, liquid and gaseous conditions of the Physical Plane. Thus, of the forty-nine subplanes of our Universe, our physical senses can perceive only the lowest three! The vast forty-six subplanes above the gross physical world remain completely invisible and inaudible to us. What a sobering fact!

Likewise, we perceive only our *gross* physical bodies. We don't even see our etheric-physical bodies or PRĀṆA (the life-breath), both of which are still on the Physical Plane. Thus, we think of ourselves as gross bodies only, when in fact we cannot even fully experience the Physical Plane, let alone the Astral Plane or beyond.

At death we depart from the gross physical body and it is possible to live for a while in the etheric-physical body on the etheric realms of the Physical Plane. Then we depart from the etheric-physical body and live in various conditions on the seven levels of the great Astral Plane.

### PARABRAHMAN

Sanskrit: The Transcendental Reality, the Unutterable Truth, the Godhead beyond and above the Creator (BRAHMĀ). The Unknowable Absolute, which is limitless and which spreads Itself throughout endless Space.

*The Transcendental Godhead 112*

### PRĀKṚTĪ

Sanskrit: Matter, Nature, Substance. The original primary Substance of the Universe. The Substance of the All. The Goddess, the Feminine Nature, the First or Original Creation, the Archetype of all existing things. The Cosmic Womb or Mother from which All proceeds. PRĀKṚTĪ refers also to the Physical Plane, and to all seven Planes of Being (Cosmic PRĀKṚTĪ).

*The Constitution of God-Immanent 122*

*The Divine Bipolarity 471*



↑ COSMIC ASTRAL PLANE	42nd Cosmic Subplane				AṅḀ	1		
						2		
COSMIC PRĀKRṬĪ: THE COSMIC PHYSICAL PLANE	7	Cosmic 'Solid' Subplane of the Cosmic Astral Plane	↑ □ □ □ □	PARABRAHMAN The Transcendental Godhead		3		
						4		
						5		
						6		
						7		
COSMIC PRĀKRṬĪ: THE COSMIC PHYSICAL PLANE	1	43 Mahāparanirvāṇic Plane		BRAHMAN The Logos The Godhead		AṅḀ	1	
						2		
						3		
						4		
						5		
						6		
						7		
	2	44 Paranirvāṇic Plane			PARAMĀTMAN The Monad The Universal Soul		AṅḀ	1
							2	
							3	
							4	
							5	
							6	
							7	
3	45 Nirvāṇic Plane			ĀTMAN The Spirit		AṅḀ	1	
						2		
						3		
						4		
						5		
						6		
						7		
4	46 Buddhic Plane			BUDDHI The Spiritual Soul		AṅḀ	1	
						2		
						3		
						4		
						5		
						6		
						7		
5	47 Mental Plane	ARŪPA Formless ↕ RŪPA With Forms	Causal Body ----- Mental Body	JĪVA The Living Soul ----- RŪPA-MANAS Lower Mind	Causal Worlds ----- The Seven Heavens	AṅḀ	1	
						2		
						3		
						4		
						5		
						6		
						7		
6	48 Astral Plane		Astral Body	KĀMA Emotion, Desire		AṅḀ	1	
						2		
						3		
						4		
						5		
						6		
						7		
7	49 Physical Plane		Ethereic Body ----- Physical Body	PRĀṆA Life-force ----- STHŪLA Gross Matter		AṅḀ	1	
						2		
						3		
						4		
						5		
						6		
						7		

The Seven Great Planes of Being

## The Planes in Brief

*The Astral Plane is  
the world of the dead*





### Physical Plane

The lower three subplanes of the Physical Plane are called the *dense* or *gross* physical subplanes, corresponding with the three states of matter that we observe with our physical senses: solids, liquids and gases. The higher four subplanes are called the *etheric* or *etheric-physical* dimensions. Science is beginning to explore the etheric dimensions, without understanding them as such.

### Astral Plane

The Astral Plane is the world of the dead, where people go after they die. In the East it is known as KĀMA-LOKA, “the realm of desires”. It is the realm of emotion and feelings, of psychic energies and forces, of the *subconscious mind*. The seven astral subplanes, or seven states of astral matter, correspond with the various heavens, hells and purgatories of the world religions.

Kāmaloka: the Astral Plane 57

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: 2em;">7</p> <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">PRĀKṚTĪ The Realm of Matter</p>	<p><b>Etheric-Physical World</b></p> <p>Limbo States The World of Earthbound Spirits</p> <p><b>PRETA-LOKA</b> The Realm of Ghosts</p> <p><b>LIṄGA-ŚARĪRA</b> Etheric-Physical Body</p>	}		<p>First Ether: the <b>Air Element</b> 'Electro-Magnetic Vibrations'</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><i>Atomic</i></p>	<p>COSMIC 'SOLID' SUBPLANE OF THE COSMIC PHYSICAL PLANE</p>	
			}		<p>Second Ether: the <b>Fire Element</b> 'Light Vibrations'</p>		<p><b>2</b></p> <p><i>Sub-atomic</i></p>
			}		<p>Third Ether: the <b>Water Element</b> 'Sound and Number Vibrations'</p>		<p><b>3</b></p> <p><i>Super-Etheric</i></p>
			}		<p>Fourth Ether: the <b>Earth Element</b> 'Colour Vibrations'</p>		<p><b>4</b></p> <p><i>Etheric</i></p>
		<p><b>Dense Physical World</b></p> <p><b>JAGATA</b> The World</p> <p><b>STHŪLA-ŚARĪRA</b> Physical Body</p>	}		<p>Gaseous Matter</p>		<p><b>5</b></p>
			}		<p>Liquid Matter</p>		<p><b>6</b></p>
			}		<p>Solid Matter</p>		<p><b>7</b></p>

The Seven Subplanes of the Physical Plane

### Mental Plane

As the name implies, the Mental Plane is a world of *mind*. The lower four subplanes are the realm of the *concrete* mind or *rational* mind, which shapes mental matter into *thoughtforms*. The higher three subplanes (the Causal Worlds) are *formless* and correspond with the *Higher Mind* or *Abstract Mind*. The Human Soul (Jīva) dwells on the formless levels of the Mental Plane.

Devāchan: the Mental Plane 73

### Buddhic Plane

The Buddhic Plane has been called the *Realm of Unities*, the *Christ Realm* or the *Intuition World*. It is a formless Light World characterized by Divine Unity, Love and Wisdom. The state of BUDDHI is *Unitive* Consciousness, *Transcendental* Consciousness or *Pure* Consciousness, wherein the Mystic experiences Oneness with the Universe and with God.

Buddhi: the Realm of Unities 83

### Nirvāṇic Plane

The Nirvāṇic Plane is a World of Exuberant Light. The Sanskrit word NIRVĀṆA means “blown out, snuffed out”. It is the condition where the personal ego-sense (the personal “I”) does not exist. One becomes one with the Universal “I AM”, the Bright Self of the Universe.

Nirvāṇa: the World of Glories 93

### Paranirvāṇic Plane

Literally, “the Plane beyond Nirvāṇa”, also called AṆUPĀDAKA (the Monadic World). The Paranirvāṇic Plane is the realm of the MONAD, PARAMĀTMAN, the “Father in Heaven”, the Universal Divine Spirit in Man.

### Mahāparanirvāṇic Plane

Literally, “the Great Plane beyond Nirvāṇa”, also called ĀDI (the First Plane) or SATYA (the Realm of Truth). This is the realm of BRAHMAN, the Logos, the Godhead. Any being who experiences this realm has already passed beyond human evolution.



#### Our true Home or Origin

is PARANIRVĀṆA, the Monadic World. Spiritual Evolution consists of transcending the Physical, Astral and Mental Planes and re-identifying with one's Soul on the higher levels of the Mental Plane (the Causal Worlds), and hence ascending to the Buddhic and Nirvāṇic Worlds, and finally the Monadic. It is from thence that we came, many aeons ago, and to this realm we shall return on *The Great Day of Be With Us*.

*Human Involution and Evolution* 170

## The Universal Cosmology

In the early days of Christianity the church knew about the states of existence, hence the remnants of such ideas as hells, purgatories, heavens and limbo states. But the church has forgotten many things. In the language of the Old and New Testaments there is a shortage of words to describe Spiritual Realities. For instance, the word *heaven* (or *heavens*) is used to signify the sky, the starry space above, the after-death worlds, the Kingdom of God, and so on. Unlike the Sanskrit language of India, the language of the Old and New Testaments has no *precise* words to describe the Spiritual Realities.

*The Wisemen of India described the other Realities in precise, scientific language*

The Wisemen of India described the other Realities in precise, scientific language. Using parts of the Eastern model, along with some modern terminology, we can clarify the Judeo-Christian teachings of the after-death and spiritual states, and clear away a lot of confusion that is found in the Old and New Testaments and in Christianity today.

Eastern	Christian	Modern
NIRVĀṆA The Realm of Ātman	The Kingdom of God The Kingdom of the Light The Kingdom of the Father	Nirvāṇic Plane The Spiritual World The Realm of Spirit
BUDDHI The Realm of Illumination	Paradise The Christ Realm	Buddhic Plane The Intuitional World The Realm of Unities
MANAS The Realm of Mind	Heaven. The Seven Heavens The Realm of the Holy Spirit	Mental Plane Devāchan
KĀMA The Realm of Desire	Lower heavens	Higher Astral Plane
	Purgatories	Reflection Spheres
	Hell Worlds. The Nether World	Lower Astral Plane
STHŪLA The Realm of Matter	Limbo states	Etheric-Physical Plane
	The Kingdom of the World	Gross Physical Plane

**Cosmological Systems Compared**

## The Christian Cosmo-Conception

### **Limbo**

The *limbo* states are states in the etheric-physical body, on the subtle regions of the Physical Plane. This is the realm of the “ghosts”, the earthbound spirits.

### **Hell**

The *hell worlds* are the lower regions of what, in modern terminology, is called the *Astral Plane* of this Earth-planet.

### **Purgatory**

The *purgatory* states are the middle regions of the Astral World, where ordinary people live after death. These people also I would call “earthbound” because their lives are still a reflection of Physical Plane conditions and habits.

### **Heaven**

The *lower heavens* are the higher, subtler regions of the Astral World. These regions of the Astral World are more rarefied, artistic, intellectual, scientific, creative and religious. People in this realm mistakenly call it “Heaven.” The true *Heaven*, however, is the Mental Plane, known in the East as DEVA-STHĀNA, “the abode of the gods” (DEVĀCHAN in Tibetan), and in the Christian religion as the *Seven Heavens*.

### **Paradise**

*Paradise* (the Christ Realm) in the East is called BUDDHI. Today we call this realm the Buddhic Plane.

### **The Kingdom of God**

The *Kingdom of God* (the Light Kingdom) in the East is called NIRVĀNA. In modern terminology we call it the Nirvāṇic Plane.



KĀMA-LOKA (the Astral World) is a world of *Feeling*.

MĀNASA-LOKA (the Mental Plane) is a world of *Thought*.

BUDDHI-LOKA (the Bliss-World) is a world of *Pure Love-Energy*.

NIRVĀNA-LOKA is a world of Bright Light expressing itself as irresistible *Divine Will-Power*.

*The true Heaven is  
the Mental Plane*

*The Earthbound Spirits* 403  
*The Astral Subplanes* 62  
*The Seven Heavens* 76  
*The Many Mansions* 611  
*Worlds of the Sūfi* 886

**The physical body is your greatest prison, your greatest limitation as a Living Soul, where you can least express yourself. In the Astral and Mental Worlds you can be more truly what you are and express your inherent Divinity. But it is only in the Buddhic, Nirvāṇic and Monadic Worlds that you are who You really are, a true Child of God.**

## Ascending the Planes of Consciousness

**God, whose Name  
cannot be uttered, dwells  
in inaccessible Light.**

*Jewish Kabbalah*

The Planes of Being are composed of different densities of Spirit/Matter and different vibrational frequencies. You must remember that all the Planes of Being are *real*. Each world constitutes *its own reality*. Though separate realities, the planes interpenetrate each other, the higher absorbing the lower. Thus, while Nirvāṇa is its own Reality, it contains all the lesser realities, the lower planes. Similarly, the Astral Plane, though unique, absorbs also the physical reality.

Reality is perceived differently in the different worlds because Consciousness depends upon the qualities of the world you are conscious in. The lower (or more material) a realm is, the less *Consciousness* there is in it. In each world there is a greater degree of Freedom and Consciousness than in the world below it.

The greatest limitations we encounter on our Physical Plane. As we climb higher in Evolution, each Plane of Being opens up to us as a field of greater Consciousness. Thus, our experience on the Astral Plane is larger and more conscious than our experience in the Physical World, and so on. The higher we climb in Consciousness (as we become aware of the higher worlds), the closer we come to “God”.

Remember that forms and shapes (RŪPA) are to be found only up to the causal subplanes of the Mental Plane. Above that, the realms are formless (ARŪPA), void, in a condition of *emptiness*. However, this does *not* mean that there is nothing there! On the contrary, the expression of Life is not limited to form, size, measure and weight; on the higher planes, Life is more full, more radiant, more complete! The sense of time is also different on each level.

### ***The Populated Cosmos***

There are hierarchies of sentient beings living on each of the seven great planes of the Cosmic Physical Plane, on all forty-nine subplanes (including the etheric subplanes of the Physical Plane), each with corresponding bodies and states of consciousness. These hierarchies of living entities are pursuing their own evolutionary development. Human evolution on this planet is but one of many simultaneous evolutionary processes. They all occupy the same Space!

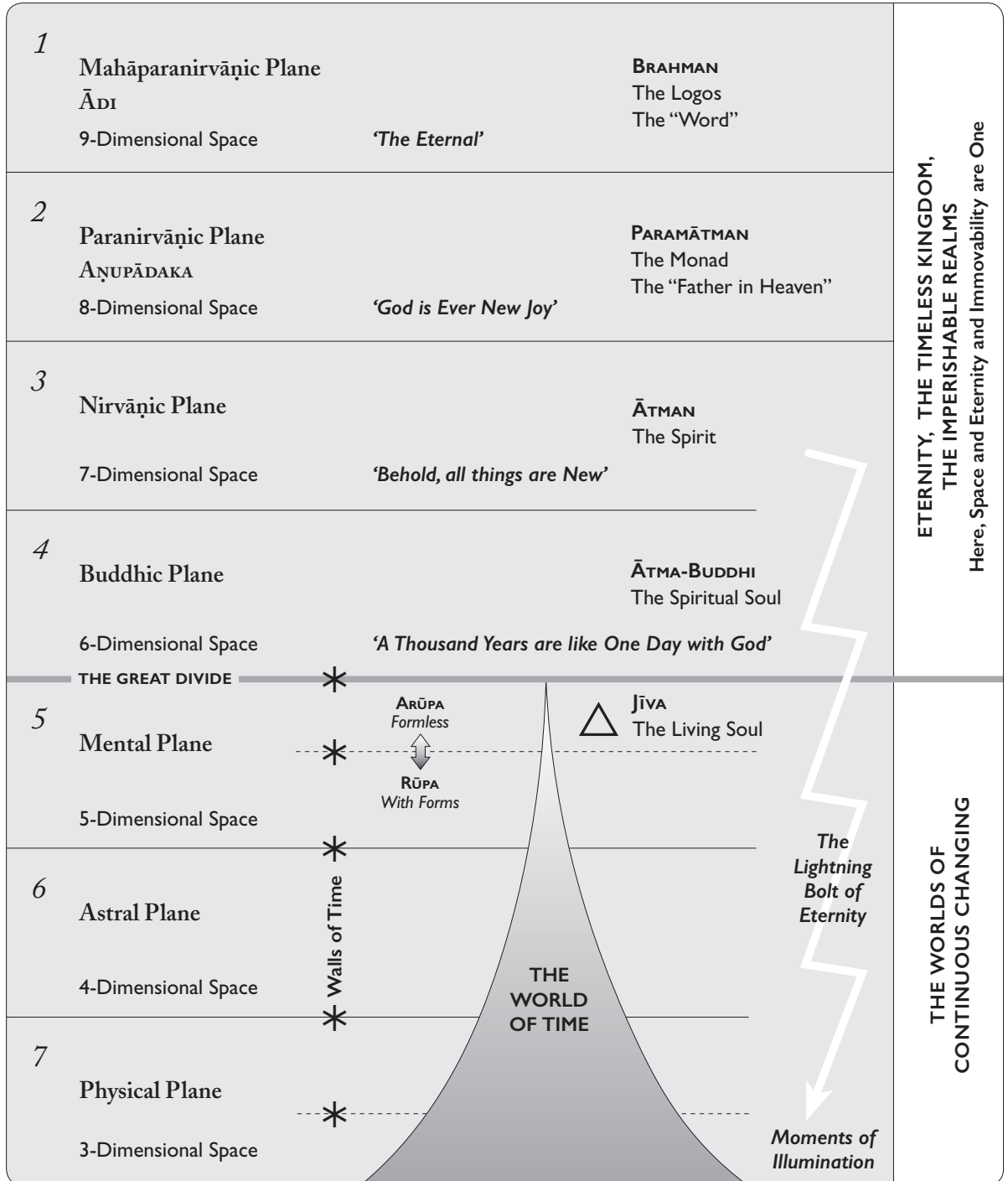
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Walls of Time and Space

## The Sense of Time

Where there is Time (KĀLA) there is Space (ĀKĀŚA). The “sense of time” is greatest on the Physical Plane and diminishes as one climbs the planes and their subplanes. As you ascend the spheres, the walls of Time become thinner.

*The only Reality is  
Eternal Duration*

Science has an incorrect understanding of Time. Time is *not* the fourth dimension. Time does not even exist as a distinct entity. Time simply describes a *process*. The only Reality is Eternal Duration or Timeless Eternity, within which certain things take place. These certain things may be the evolution of a Universe, the motion of a planet, the life of a human being, or whatever.

Your “sense of time” is merely an awareness of a certain sequence of happenings or events. You can measure time with a clock or an atomic process, or whatever, but that is still some process happening in the Universe. And you can have different time scales, but they are all relative to what sort of movement, motion or evolution you are describing. For instance: a dog does not have the same sense of time as a man; an angel does not have the same sense of time as a man; and a KOSMOKRATOR (Greek: Cosmic Creator, Creator-God) has a very different “sense of time” than we could imagine.

You cannot travel back in Time in a machine, or forward into the future. Time is not a thing, nor a dimension, nor even a quality. It simply does not exist! Ask a flower: “What time is it?”

### **Some Esoteric Teachings on Time**

Time is a relation of the succession of one idea after another. It is the product of the mind’s imagination and is relative to the flow of ideas. Space also is a relation of the coexistence of ideas, and so is a relative activity of the mind.

Time is an illusion produced by the succession of our states of consciousness as we travel through Eternal Duration, and it does not exist where no consciousness exists in which the illusion can be produced.

Time is that cycle, greater or lesser, in which some life runs some specific course, in which some particular period begins, continues and ends, in Eternity, and is recognized as Time only when the participating life has reached a certain stage of awareness.



There is Eternal Space, the Cosmic Body of God, in which certain things take place. That is all. You may perceive some activity in the Cosmos, and measure that activity, and say that it took place in Time. You can measure those events by relating them to each other—then you have a “sense of time” in your physical brain. But a higher Being than Man would not perceive the event in such a way at all.

When you are out of your body your sense of time radically changes. On the Astral Plane, before you were born, or during an out-of-body experience or near-death experience, or after you have died, you have a different sense of time. Even in the Astral World it is almost as if you are living in Eternity, and this sense of Eternity increases as you move higher up the ladder of Consciousness and climb the Planes of Being. In deep meditation you lose your sense of Time and Space; you experience a Timeless Dimension and an Infinite Space.

When you rise above your personal consciousness, *Time stands still*. It ceases to exist, because it never was.

*The Form of God is Space 109*  
*'Eternal' Heavens and Hells? 68*  
*Change is the Absolute Law 405*

### **The Fullness of the Void**

The Physical Body of God becomes brighter, lighter and more formless as you ascend, plane by plane. That is why God is described as having no form. What you see, the physical universe, is the most dense, solid and structured part of the Body of God. As you ascend the planes the forms become lighter, more fluid, more translucent, until you reach the formless conditions of forces and energies.

ŚŪNYATĀ refers to all the formless worlds, from the Causal Worlds upwards. These worlds are all ŚŪNYATĀ—without bodies, shapes, forms, limitations. They are not worlds of nothingness; they are full of Life, Love, Intensity, Glory, without the limitations of forms and bodies.

The Sanskrit words ŚŪNYATĀ and NIRVĀṆA have been much misused and misunderstood by the ignorant, including scholars. ŚŪNYATĀ they translate as “void, emptiness”, as if nothing was there; and NIRVĀṆA they translate as “annihilation”. From this, one gets the impression that Buddhism strives for some sort of vacuity, a blank condition where nothing is and where you cease to be. Nothing could be more wrong!

NIRVĀṆA is not nihilism, not “nothingness” in a negative sense, but the very Brightness and Fullness of Life Itself! In NIRVĀṆA you are more true and alive than you could ever before conceive. Only your personal ego, your faculty of selfishness and self-centredness, is annihilated.

### **NIRVĀṆA**

Sanskrit: Commonly translated as “annihilation, destruction, dissolution”. Unconditioned Being. The annihilation of the personality in a Superior Consciousness. The cessation of time, space, form, matter and energy as we know them. NIRVĀṆA is the lowest of the three planes of Absolute Light.

*Nirvāṇa: the World of Glories 93*

### **ŚŪNYATĀ**

Sanskrit: Commonly translated as “emptiness”. A Buddhist term for the Mystical Consciousness (BUDDHI), which is characterized by Formlessness, No-Thingness, Clarity, Light. NIRVĀṆA they call MAHĀŚŪNYATĀ (the Great Emptiness).

*Śūnyatā: the Void 503*

## Primordial Atoms

Each plane or world is different from all others because of the differences in density of the primordial atoms (AṆU). The ancient Sanskrit word AṆU (atom) does not mean the same as the modern scientific understanding of the word *atom*. To the Sages, AṆU meant:

*The first subplane of any plane is the atomic matter of that plane*

- Tiny, invisible *lives* (such as an “atom” of modern science, which, to the ancients, is a living, intelligent creature), or creatures so small they are not perceived by physical eyes or instruments.
- Something very minute, or very subtle or ethereal in composition (which, of course, would be invisible to the physical eyes).
- The Original Primordial Homogeneous Substance as a *single undivided entity*, out of which the manifold Creation evolved.
- God, Divinity, the Original State of all things, the subtlest state of Being.
- Atomic matter. A plane is a state or condition of PRĀKṚTĪ (matter), and the first subplane of any plane is the highest, subtlest matter (AṆU, atomic matter) of that plane.
- Man. The complete individual Man, as One. The personality, the Soul, the Triune Self and the Monad, as *one entity*.

*The Compound Human Being 32*

### AṆU

Sanskrit: Atomic matter. A monad or atom.

### ATOMOS

Greek: The smallest Universe. An atom. To the ancients, an *atom* was a system or self-contained unit. It can be the smallest unit of matter, or the largest, such as a galaxy. An atom is an entity, with a structure.

### DUAD ⊕

Greek: The Two, the Father-Mother, the Line, the first Pair or Duality at the beginning of Creation. Mother, ⊖, and Father, ⊕, unite to form the Mother-Father, ⊕.

*The Divine Bipolarity 471*

### MONAD ⊙

Greek: The Indivisible One. The Whole, the All, the Complete, the One. The Latin ΑΤΟΜ or primordial unit. The ancient classical Sanskrit AṆU. This MONAD, ΑΤΟΜ, AṆU, can be the little world known by science as the “atom”, or a human being, a planet, a solar system or a galaxy; they are all atoms of various sizes. Even a galaxy is just a gigantic Atom or Monad in Omnispace, in the ΠΛΕΡΩΜΑ, in the Universal Fullness or Reality. (Remember that Space stretches not only outwards, horizontally, but *inwards* into the various dimensions, the Planes of Being.)

In relation to Humanity, the MONAD is the Divine I AM in each human being, your “Father in Heaven”, the I AM Presence in the innermost depths of the Soul. It is the God-Self in Humanity, the overshadowing of Humanity by the Divine Presence at the highest point of Spirit. The Monad *cannot* be perceived on the personality level of experience, for “no man has seen the Father at any time” (*John 1:18*).

*Who is 'I AM'? 1418*

## Love is the Law

The Physical Plane is male in relationship to the Astral Plane, which is female. The Mental Plane is male in relationship to the Buddhic Plane, which is female, and so on. There is a further subdivision of polarities on the Mental Plane (the higher and lower) and on the Physical Plane (the etheric and the gross physical).

The following diagram shows which plane or world behaves in an objective (male) manner, and which behaves in a subjective (female) capacity. The Physical, Mental, Nirvāṇic and Mahāparanirvāṇic Planes are objective, radiatory, positive and transmitting in character, whereas the Astral, Buddhic and Paranirvāṇic Planes are subjective, receptive and reflective in character.

This is one way to understand the Father-Mother principle. The Law of Love is the attraction between the opposite poles of being.

**Love is the Law of the Solar System, manifesting on all the planes.**

*An esoteric axiom*

Etheric-Physical Body of God	+	MAHĀPARANIRVĀṆA		BRAHMAN The Logos	
	—	PARANIRVĀṆA		PARAMĀTMAN The Monad	
	+	NIRVĀṆA		ĀTMAN The Universal Self	
	+	—	BUDDHI	BUDDHI The Spiritual Soul	
Gross Physical Body of God	+	Mental Plane	—	Causal Worlds Higher Mental	JĪVA. AHAṂKĀRA The Living Soul
			+	Lower Mental	RŪPA-MANAS Concrete Mind
	—	Astral Plane		KĀMA Desire-Feeling Nature	
	+	Physical Plane	—	Etheric-Physical	PRĀṆA Life-force
+			Gross Physical	STHŪLA Gross Matter	

**Polarities of Forces between the Planes**

*The Law of Polarity 164*

*The Solar Dharma 163*

*The Heart of the Solar Logos 1327*

### + Male

Outgoing, masculine, bright. The *Law of Transmission*, referring to the type of consciousness we call *objective* or *self-conscious*.

### — Female

Receiving, feminine, gentle. The *Law of Reception*, referring to the type of consciousness we call *subjective* or *subconscious*.

*The Cosmic Elements are the essential substances of all the forms and objects of Creation*

## The Cosmic Elements

The five Cosmic Elements—Earth, Water, Fire, Air and Aether—are the essential substances of all the forms and objects of Creation, both visible and invisible. They are both the physical substances and the subtle, invisible substances forming the Astral, Mental and Causal Worlds. Each of the Elements also corresponds to the matter or substance of a plane.

### PR̥THIVĪ

The *Earth* Element. The *gross* elements throughout the Universal Creation, and also the solid substance of all the matter of the physical universe.

### ĀP, ĀPAS

The *Water* Element. The “watery” substance of the radiant-energy of the astral layers of the Universe and throughout Creation.

### TEJAS, TAIJASA, AGNI

The Element of *Fire*. The Cosmic Fiery Substance of the mental realms of Creation, known as *Cosmic Fire*.

### VĀYU

The Element *Air*, which represents degrees of Light.

### ĀKĀŚA

*Aether. Ether.* Space, the All-Light of Reality. (This is an esoteric meaning which reveals how the Sages used the word ĀKĀŚA.)

Above this are levels of Light-radiations beyond the imagination of one who has not experienced those planes. For the esoteric Sages there are in fact *seven* Elements, seven great divisions of Universal Substance, of which the physical universe is only the lowest. Each of the seven great Elements is further subdivided into seven, thus producing the forty-nine subplanes of manifestation of the Cosmic Physical Plane of the Universe.

**The material worlds include** not only this Physical World, but also the subtle Etheric Worlds, the Astral Worlds, and the Mental and Causal Worlds, since they are all formed from different densities or subtleties of matter (PRĀKR̥TĪ).

## Applications of the Elements

### Application 1

Earth is all the solid state matter and substances.

Water is all the liquid state matter and substances.

Fire is all the fiery state matter and substances.

Air is all the gaseous state matter and substances.

All of these constitute the gross or dense aspect of the Physical Plane, the dense physical world.

Ether (Aether) refers to the four grades of etheric substances constituting the *etheric* portion of the Physical Plane, which is invisible.

*Ākāśa is always the  
subtlest part of any system*

### Application 2

Earth is all the matter and substances of the fourth etheric subplane.

Water is all the matter and substances of the third etheric subplane.

Fire is all the matter and substances of the second etheric subplane.

Air is all the matter and substances of the first etheric subplane.

These constitute the etheric or subtle aspect of the Physical Plane, the etheric-physical world.

Ether (Aether) refers to the *Astral Light*, the Primordial Substance of the Astral Plane.

### Application 3

Earth is all the matter and grades of substances of the Physical Plane and physical universe.

Water is all the matter and grades of substances of the Astral Plane and astral universe.

Fire is all the matter and grades of substances of the Mental Plane and mental universe.

Air is all the matter and grades of substances of the Buddhic Plane and Buddhic Universe.

Ether (Aether) is all the matter and grades of substances of the Nirvāṇic Plane and Nirvāṇic Universe, the Ātmic Plane, NĪRVĀṆA.

This reveals another *esoteric* meaning of ĀKĀŚA (Ether). ĀKĀŚA is always the *subtlest* part of any scheme or system. Thus, ĀTMAN and NĪRVĀṆA and ĀKĀŚA are the same in this esoteric understanding of the Wise.

*The Seven Subplanes of the Physical Plane 16  
Symbols of the Cosmic Elements 362  
Ātman, Ātmā 34*

## Attributes of the Elements

*The elements of science are simply part of the Bhūr-Loka or physical universe*

The Sanskrit words for the Elements—TATTVA, BHŪTA, TANMĀTRA—do *not* mean the “elements” of modern science, which focuses on the Physical Plane alone (including the etheric-physical dimensions, although scientists are not presently aware of this). The elements of science are simply part of the BHŪR-LOKA or physical universe. The Cosmic Elements are the substances or matter composing the various worlds or Planes of Being.

Each Element has a threefold manifestation—three functions, attributes or characteristics:

### TATTVA

“That-ness”. Its essential or subtle aspect. The Law of it, the inner drive of it, that which is producing it.

### BHŪTA

“Substance” or “Matter”. Its manifest aspect, its tangible or form aspect.

### TANMĀTRA

“The Measure of That”. Its vibration, motion or force aspect.

Thus, each Element is a Law; it is expressed tangibly in a form; and it is a power, force, energy, vibration, motion.

### TATTVA

Sanskrit: “That-ness” (TAT-TVĀ). Substance, truth, essence, element, reality, basis. The essential nature of a thing, the inherent quality in a thing or entity, whether a human being, an angel, a god, a Logos, a Plane of Being or the Absolute.

1	ĀDI		Primordial Substance. First Cause
2	AṆUPĀDAKA		Homogeneous Substance. Undifferentiated
3	ĀKĀŚA	Aether	All-Pervasiveness. Omnipresence
4	VĀYU	Air	Mobility, motion, activity
5	TEJAS	Fire	Heat, burning, excitement
6	ĀPAS	Water	Fluidity, shape-changing
7	PṚTHIVĪ	Earth	Solidity, steadiness, cohesion, immobility

### The Seven Elementary Qualities

The totality of the Elements compose your body, the Earth's Body, the Solar-Systemic Body of the Solar Logos (the Sun), the Galactic Body of the Galactic Lord, and the Universal Body of the Absolute, All-Space, God. The Elements are the matter or substance of all the worlds, all the Planes of Being, all creatures and entities, all the Kingdoms and Hierarchies—mineral, vegetable, animal, human and angelic—as well as the Kingdom of the Gods and the Divine Kingdoms.

The Elements are the *form* aspect.

The Spirit is the *Life* aspect within. ✧

*The Manifested-God* 1589  
*Dimensions of the Cosmic Fire* 137  
*Sāhyama upon the Elements* 592  
*Use the Powers of the Five Elements* 1172

The Worlds, Planes or Realms of Being	The Essential or Subtle Aspect. The Law Aspect	The Substance or Matter Aspect	The Vibration or Force Aspect
1 SATYA-LOKA The Universe of Ādi	ĀDITATTVA	ĀDI-BHŪTA	ĀDI-TANMĀTRA
2 TAPAH-LOKA Paranirvāṇic Universe	AṆUPĀDAKATATTVA	AṆUPĀDAKA-BHŪTA	AṆUPĀDAKA-TANMĀTRA
3 JANAHA-LOKA Nirvāṇic Universe	ĀKĀŚATATTVA	ĀKĀŚA-BHŪTA	ĀKĀŚA-TANMĀTRA
4 MAHAHA-LOKA Buddhic Universe	VĀYUTATTVA	VĀYU-BHŪTA	VĀYU-TANMĀTRA
5 SUVAHA-LOKA Mental Universe	AGNITATTVA	TAIJASA-BHŪTA	TEJAS-TANMĀTRA
6 BHUVAHA-LOKA Astral Universe	ĀPASTATTVA	ĀPAS-BHŪTA	ĀPAS-TANMĀTRA
7 BHŪR-LOKA Physical Universe	PR̥THIVĪTATTVA	PR̥THIVĪ-BHŪTA	PR̥THIVĪ-TANMĀTRA

The Planes and the Elementary Attributes

## Understand these Sanskrit Words

### LOKA

A place, realm, world, plane, abode.

### NĀMA, NĀMAN

Name, identity, identification.

### RŪPA

Form, body, embodiment.

### ARŪPA

Without form or embodiment. Formlessness.

### ĀKĀŚA

Space in its totality as the Physical Body of God.

### PRĀṆA

Breath, Life-breath, Life-force, vitality, energy, Fire.

### KĀLA

Time.

### CITTA

Consciousness. The Reality in which all experience of Time (KĀLA), Space (ĀKĀŚA) and Form (RŪPA) takes place.

### MANAS

Mind. The ruling, regulating, creative, ordering principle.

### PURUṢA

Spirit, Consciousness.

### PRĀKṚTĪ

Matter, substance.

### YOGA

The act of joining, uniting. The State of Union.

### YAJÑA

The act of Service. Sacrifice.

a. Through DHYĀNA (meditation) towards God.

b. Through KARMA (action) towards Creation.

### ŚAMATHA

Mental quiescence. The mind's natural state of clear perception, crystalline peace and pure awareness.

### VIPAŚYANĀ

Insight into Reality. Knowing things as they really are.

### BODHICITTA

An enlightened motive for living.

Also: An Energy which works towards Enlightenment.

Also: The Energy which comes from Enlightenment.

Also: Living for others.

### BUDDHA

Awake, wakeful. An Enlightened Being.

### DHARMA

A Spiritual Teaching. The Cosmic Law.

### SANĠHA

A group of disciples or seekers after Truth.

Also: the Communion of the Enlightened Ones.

### GURU

Enlightener. "He/She who mirrors your mind".

### ṚṢI, MUNI

A Sage, a Saint, a Seer of Truth, a Gnostic, a Knower, an Enlightened Being.

### AVĪTCI

Hellish conditions of mind.

### PUNARJANMA

Reincarnation, rebirth.

### SAMSKṚTA

The perfected, polished language. Sanskrit.

**Each Sanskrit word** you learn will open up new fields of Knowing inside you. Each word will create a renewal of your mind. I could say, with Saint Paul of the New Testament:

**We speak Wisdom to the wise...**

*1 Corinthians 2:6*

And Jesus also said:

**Let him who has ears to hear with, hear...**

*Matthew 11:15*