

The Aether Lives

This short piece can be no more than a sketch of a subject which, by its very nature, is fluid, indefinable and endless. The *aether* is of a pre-physical era in the evolution of the cosmos. So thinking about it and trying to attune to it requires a different kind of consciousness from the point-centred out-look of incarnated individuals in the physical-material world. This is easy to say, but not so easy in practise. For example, instead of singular, exclusive *points* of view, aether awareness involves an all-round, all-inclusive *plane* of view.

However, treating such major adjustments as simply intellectual exercises can result in a superficial, mystical, fantasy-like state of mind – which may be pleasant for a while, but will lack a sense of grounded connection with the Earth and probably soon dissipate. A certain amount of acclimatising is required – as when surfacing from deep water.

To just longingly peep out from the materialistic box-world will not satisfy the truly curious mind. But going beyond involves growing out of our present limitations – like adolescents, no longer dependent and relishing our independence, yet beginning to realise there's a whole lot more to being an adult than merely indulging in individualistic pursuits.

The aether's 'beyond-ness' is experienced in its presence as the invisible, dynamic reality behind and permeating the physical realm of matter and discrete objects. By inferring this vital presence, some coherence can be brought to the scientists' fragmented world of building blocks, particles and abstract units of quantity. In this respect, the aether is a transitional state between that realm and the unity or no-thing-ness of pure consciousness.

The following includes several spontaneously spoken, as opposed to written, quotes, mostly drawn from live recordings of discussions later transcribed.

aka

Awareness of the aether under different names, and ideas about it, go back into the farthest reaches of human history. Aether comes from an ancient Greek word, and one of its many meanings is: 'the substance that permeates the cosmos from which the stars and planets were made'. It also signifies a blazing, the heavens, shining light and the upper atmosphere.

Sambhoga-kaya, an ancient Tibetan term, refers to the intermediate stage in the emerging of the cosmos. From the nothingness or unity state emanated radiant light, which then evolved into this physical universe. Indian and Chinese culture have various names for different aspects of the Aether. In the Hebrew Old Testament it's referred to as the 'cosmic waters'.

Aether is alluded to in hymns which speak of inspirational light, fire and radiance... and in the literary works of Milton, Keats, Wordsworth and Shelley. The influential Renaissance philosopher Marsilio Ficino wrote, "...the force of the World-soul is spread....through all things through the quintessence, which is active everywhere, as the spirit inside the World's Body...."

Quintessence, which literally means the fifth essence or element, is another ancient term,

recently re-introduced in modern physics. It refers to the subtle, indefinable, universal something that pervades the whole cosmos.

Sir Isaac Newton knew and wrote about the aether and about a universal expansive force which used to be known as *levity*, and is the complementary opposite of gravity. Gravity and levity are the two polar forces of the aether, and thus of the universe.

In more recent times, *Einstein*, in 1920, explicitly affirmed the existence of the aether. He said, 'There is nothing in Relativity that discards an aether.' One eminent physicist, *David Bohm*, seemed very close to the idea of the aether when he proposed a non-physical realm of potential manifestation. This he called the *implicate order*, which exists as the middle level of a three-level system. And another well known contemporary scientist and writer, *Paul Davies*, has suggested the concept of a *quantum ether*. So with numerous signs of the aether being acknowledged again under various other names, and despite various authoritative dismissals over the years, the aether has never gone away.

Levity and gravity

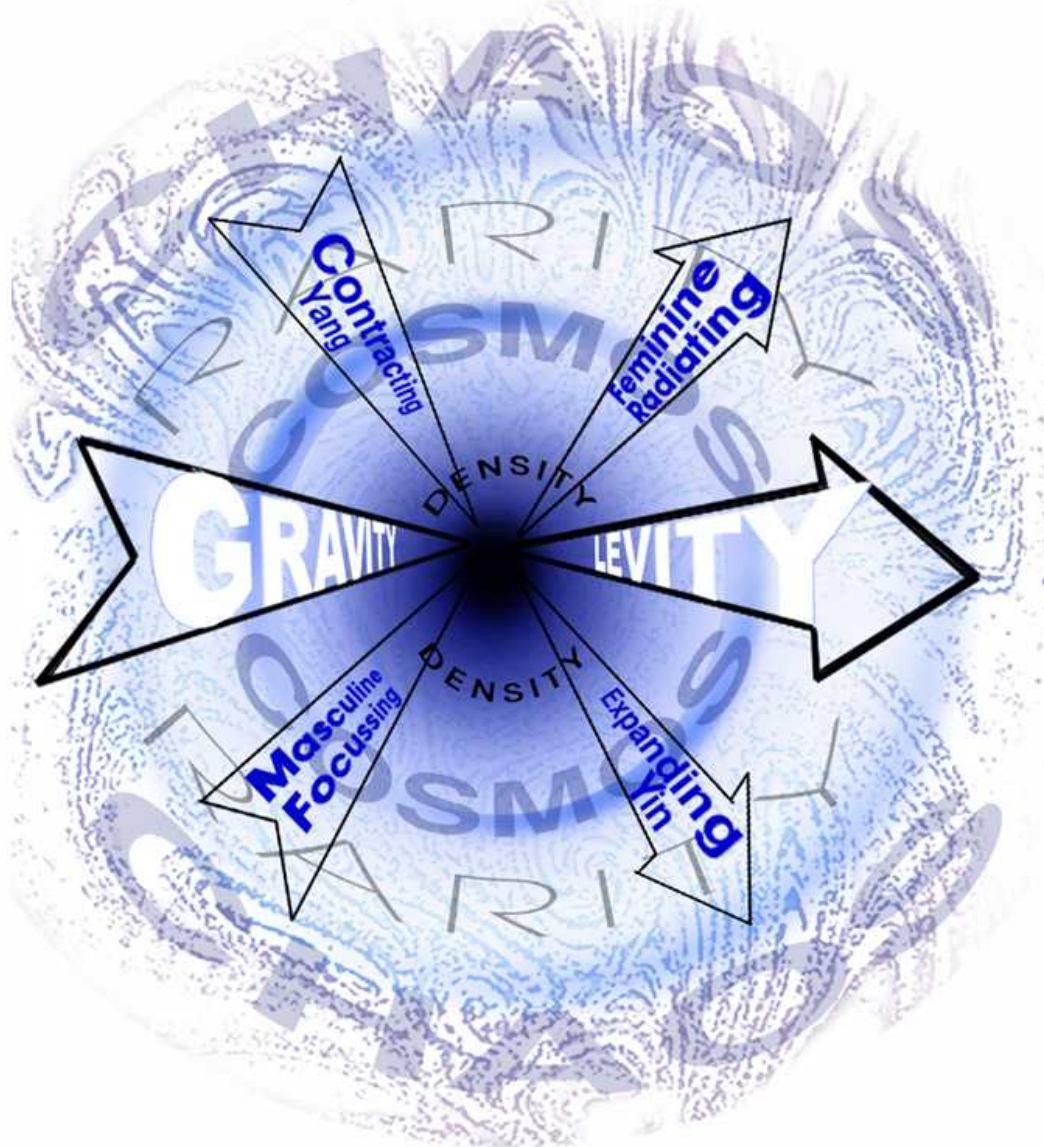
Sir Isaac Newton was the first Western scientist to identify *gravity* and put it on a scientific and mathematical basis. As a man deeply interested and involved in spiritual and occult knowledge such as alchemy, he also covered a lot more ground than the Western science establishment has been prepared to acknowledge. And this included his writings on the polar opposite of gravity, the universal expansive force, known in earlier times as *levity*.

Nick Thomas, independent scientist and mathematician, has said: "You can have this notion of a force in the cosmos that's drawing away from the centre rather than towards it. And there's a lot of evidence that such a force exists in the cosmos now." Thus we can appreciate levity directly when we see heat rising as in a flame, trees reaching 'upwards', or when we experience a sense of elevation in our upright posture.

It was around Newton's time that the *Accademia del Cimento* in Florence, then a world authority on scientific matters, issued a paper entitled *Contra Levitatem* which decreed that science should no longer recognise levity as meriting equal rank with its opposite, gravity. The historical context was that of a newly emerging discipline of scientific enquiry which was trying to be ultra-objective, unlike religion, and focused solely on the physical, as opposed to anything which was reminiscent of mysticism or the Church. It seems the idea of levity, as the opposite of gravity, was felt to draw people away from a physical earthbound mentality towards a more transcendental, aethereal state.

At a stroke this denial of the principle of polarity prevented any balanced scientific enquiry into the nature of gravity. And it helped distort Western science into making a false distinction between the physical, as what is 'real', and the non-physical, thereafter to be considered 'unreal' and so not worthy of scientific investigation. So although, in its historical context, it can be seen to have had some justification, its consequences have echoed on way beyond their useful time.

Polarity: the Primal Cosmic Dynamic

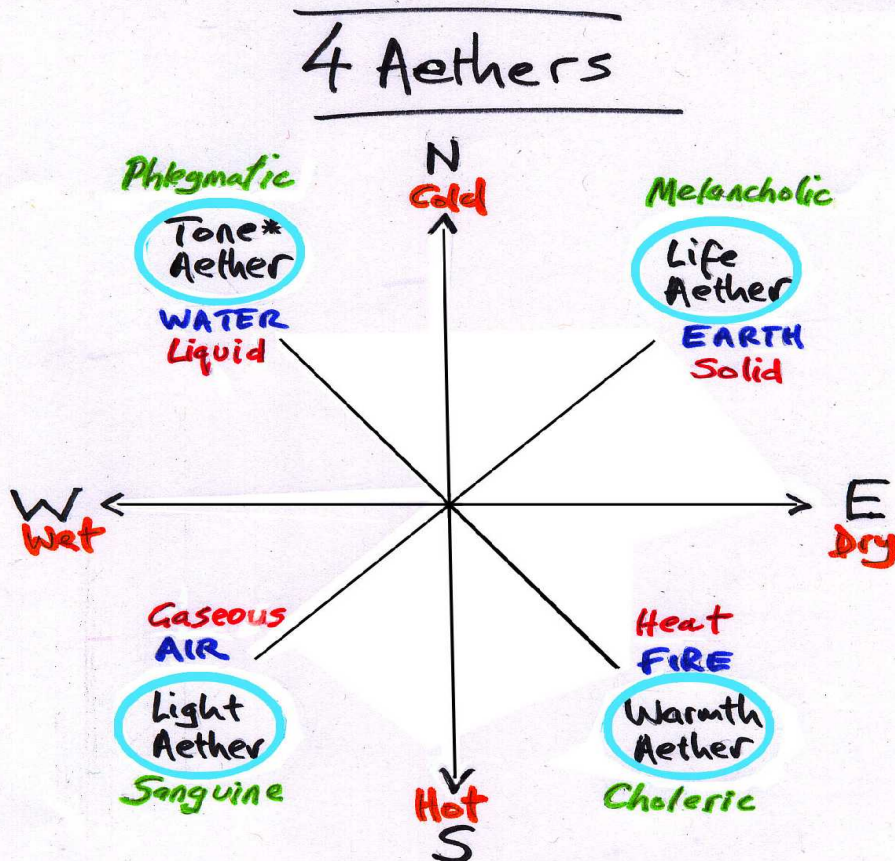


The Three Primal Principles

1. Consciousness: the original universal animating principle of the Cosmos
 2. Polarity: the dynamic between the primal inward and outward cosmic forces, Gravity and Levity..
 3. Resonance: the vibratory rhythmic interaction between different parts of the Cosmos which may be consonant, ie harmonious, or dissonant ie conflicting.
- NB. The universal principles of masculine and feminine are not the same as male/female gender.

Four Aethers

Within its wholeness, the aether can be seen to consist of four distinct grades or qualities. These are known as the *Warmth Aether*, the *Light Aether*, the *Tone* or *Chemical Aether* and the *Life Aether*. They correspond to the four traditional elements, *Fire, Air, Water and Earth*, and fit in with several other four-way views of the world, such the traditional *humours*, *temperaments*, the compass directions and the four states of matter, including heat or plasma.



* Tone Aether: aka Chemical/Sound/Number/Colour Aether
NB It's only a diagram.

Consciousness and Materialism

The ancient Eastern concepts of *Akasha*, and the *Akashic Record* which refers to a kind of cosmic memory bank, are part of the *consciousness* aspect of the aether. Included in this would seem to be what some call the Platonic world, a realm of ideal, archetypal forms such

as the perfect circle and square - forms which don't exist in physical Nature. It's named after the Greek philosopher, Plato, who lived in a much less materialistic era than ours.

The problems of Western science seem to have arisen primarily from it having been corrupted by the belief system known as **materialism**. This proclaims that matter is the ultimate reality – despite physics simultaneously stating that matter is actually condensed energy, while energy itself remains a deep mystery. It was Nobel Laureate physicist Richard Feynman who said: “Science fails to admit that it has not the slightest clue what energy is.”

Consciousness, meanwhile, remains the ultimate mystery for materialistic science, its Holy Grail, some would say. Materialists claim that consciousness somehow arises from matter, a line of thinking leads to a picture of a haphazard, meaningless, fragmented universe. And aether awareness is not some kind of ultimate store of knowledge, but does extend and clarify our experiences, setting them in a greater context, enhancing every area of our lives.

The false 'luminiferous' ether

The United Kingdom in the 19th century was the leading industrial country, and its version of science represented the classic age of mechanistic, ie machine-minded, thinking. Scientists then, sought to identify a subtle but material aether as the medium through which electromagnetic light waves travel. Consequently, the quest to establish and measure this kind of aether failed and the whole notion of an aether was abandoned within orthodox science. For aether is not a finer kind of physical substance, like a more subtle version of air, but is of a wholly different order of existence, functioning according to different principles – significantly, just as the so-called quantum world does.

Quantum and the non-quantifiable

At the start of the 20th century, the *quantum* idea, in simple terms, put an artificial lower limit on 'smallness'. It said that below a certain microscopic scale there can be no further measurement. Whatever exists below that scale must be continuous, ie not consisting of separate bits. So it effectively served as a kind of limit beyond which there could be no more quanti-fying.

Max Planck, professor of physics and founding father of Quantum Physics, said: “If we wish to arrive at a concept of what we call Aether nowadays, the first requirement is to follow the only path open to us in view of the knowledge of modern physics, and consider the Aether **non-material**.”

Richard Feynman later famously said: “ I think it is safe to say that no-one understands quantum physics.”

However, we can now see the apparently bizarre and irrational findings of quantum physics making some sense, when viewed as a kind of visionary revelation – unintentional, of course. For it does link our present day micro-detailed awareness with the ancient wisdom-knowing of humanity, mostly ignored in the Western world for the last few hundred years. This is the view we gain from the threshold of the physical-material and the pre-physical or aethereal.

Presently, Western science offers only an inelegant patchwork of stop-gap theories and models in its attempt to fill the great gaps resulting from the denial of the aether, and each only hints at a part of the true aether. Among these are the *quantum vacuum*, *morphogenetic fields*, *quintessence* and the *Zero Point Field*.

Professor of physics, *Ian J Thompson* said, on the CD ROM **Aether - Knowledge is Power** and in the book **Aether: the Transcript**, "There's another kind of process in physics which has often also been identified with aether. And this is the idea of 'zero point motion' – the fact that in a vacuum there are many things which appear to be happening or potentially happening, but not actually happening. And so there's this idea of 'zero point motion' or 'zero point energy', which is the energy in the vacuum. And this has often been thought of as the aether."

Nick Thomas, in the same publication, said "There's supposed to be this seething mass of zero point energy. And then people imagine that there's some sort of 'field' that explains all... I take this seriously. I suspect that there is... a true boundary between the physical and what we're calling the aetheric. And they actually are not dualistic. They are part and parcel of each other. They work with one another hand in glove. And if you restrict your perceptions to purely physical things then you hit a boundary which is called the zero point energy. That's the boundary where what's really going on is what we're calling the aether – rightly calling the aether."

Confession of a materialistic scientist

Harvard Professor of Genetics, *Richard Lewontin*, eloquently highlights one of the main self-inflicted problems of Western science. 'We take the side of science in spite of the patent absurdity of some of its constructs, in spite of its failure to fulfill many of its extravagant promises of health and life, in spite of the tolerance of the scientific community for unsubstantiated 'Just So' stories, because we have a prior commitment, a commitment to materialism...'

Light and Aether

Professor Arthur Zajonc, author of 'Catching The Light', has asked a question which has a bearing on Light and Aether: 'The figure of sound is borne by the air. What bears the fleeting figure we call light? One thing has become certain, whatever it is, it is not material.'

That non-material 'something' has been the subject of much speculation. And the current idea in physics of a universally present, so-called *dark energy* – which implies that it's invisible – indicates a rather desperate groping for something very much like *levity*. This is the universal polar opposite cosmic force to gravity, and is the predominant force in the dimension of the non-material aether.

So we can now clearly distinguish two kinds of light: First, there's the primary, invisible, pure, ethereal, cosmic light. And then there's the secondary kind of light, physical light – visible only because it's *Light Aether* interacting with matter – whether gas, liquid or solid. And it's this interaction that gives us the familiar colour range of the electro-magnetic spectrum.

Light, as the colour spectrum, visible to our physical eyes, was the subject of much disagreement back in Newton's time. And his theory is still the one favoured by the science orthodoxy. But a very different theory of light was proposed by the German poet, playwright and scientist *Goethe*. His theory was that you have darkness and light and when the two interact with one another in a real way you get *polarity*. ...and what a prism does according to Goethe is to make *dark and light interact with one another*, and then you get the colours

that you see in a prism.

*Michael Watson, an independent scientist and electrical engineer who worked on the design of the Concorde jet plane in the 1960s, says of the *life aether* in contrast to electricity:*

“The aether is not just an abstract force like electricity is. It’s got this mobility inside it which electricity doesn’t have. Electricity’s got one set of rules which are written down by Maxwell and it always behaves along those lines. Aether doesn’t have that. It’s got myriads of different rules. The aether is a reactive thing. Just like living organisms are, which are an embodiment of these aether forces.

You look at life and you see how it works. It reacts to the environment. (It’s not a passive force like electricity which reacts only in one single way.) It can react in a variety of different ways, and this is the aetheric force. And because it’s self-organising, because it’s reactive, it is the essence of what we call life...

...If you’re looking for the Chinese meridians, the acupuncture points, you get a physical instrument, a voltmeter, and you go along there and you prod an acupuncture point and you think, Ah, there’s a point. You find a meridian... because the meter indicates it. Now, you’re left with a division of the ways here: If you’re a physicist you say, the meridian exists but it’s none other than electro-chemical potential...

But, you see what happens. In the process of detecting the chi energy, you’ve destroyed it – converted it into electricity. So, if you ask a physicist to detect one of these vital processes, he’ll get his instruments out and the instruments will kill the goose that’s laid the golden egg. All physical instruments, no matter how sensitive they are, extract energy from something. Kill it. So, you’re dealing completely in the world of corpses. And you can forget the aetheric. Einstein was a Master of the World of Corpses.”

The Tao (from *Tao* by Rawson and Legeza, 1973) – **an oriental version of the aether**

‘The Tao... is a seamless web of unbroken movement and change, filled with undulations, waves, patterns of ripples and temporary ‘standing waves’ like a river. Every observer is himself an integral function of this web. It never stops, never turns back on itself, and none of its patterns.... are real in the sense of being permanent, even for the briefest moment of time we can imagine.... In a strong wind clouds change their shape fast. In the slowest winds of the Tao the mountains and rocks of the earth change their shapes very slowly – but continuously and certainly.

Men simply find it hard to observe the fact.Each human being himself is woven out of a complex system of totally mobile interactions with his environment..... It is only useful convention which justifies even our seeing a man, a tree, a rock, as a ‘thing’ instead of a set of surfaces, each of which represents changes and transformations as they go on..... this immense web consisting of rolling change does not itself change. It is the ‘uncarved block’ devoid of any definable shape, the ‘mother’, matrix of time, including both ‘being’ and ‘not being’, the present, future and vanished past – the Great Whole of continuous duration, infinite space and infinite change.’

Not without risk

The power of the aether is of a scale way beyond our normal human capacity to comprehend. However, that has never stopped certain people trying to grasp it – for all manner of motives, good and evil. There is, then, considerable risk in raising public awareness of the aether. But perhaps now, the dangers of irresponsible misuse are outweighed by the perils of leaving this powerful knowledge in the hands of a few – to

exploit for their own purposes.

Nick Thomas: "You have a technology at your fingertips which can be used for good or evil. Because it depends upon you as a personality. Therefore there's more involved than the aether. One of the aspects of that is that your feelings are also involved, which are not aetheric – they're above the aether. If you know how to bring forces to bear to make somebody better, you also know how to bring forces to bear to make them worse. It's always two-edged. And the aether is no exception to that."

The cleverest con

Suppose your life and thinking are already being subtly manipulated on the aethereal level, and higher, in ways not beneficial to you. And suppose this includes your being successfully persuaded that there is no aether or aethereal level ... or anything beyond. Then you'd have little or no chance of countering any such manipulation, either as an individual or collectively. If this were the case, wouldn't it be just about the cleverest confidence trick we could fall for?

However, don't expect to find this view being presented in a balanced way by any mass media corporations or by any orthodox science journals. The reasons for this merit some thinking about....

Nick Thomas: "We know there are forces that lie behind our life for the good, and there are also forces that lie behind our life for evil. And if one becomes conscious of where and how those kinds of forces are active, then one can rise to whatever level one's capable of in trying to meet it. And since there's no discernible level at which all this ceases to be relevant, the questions remain open-ended..... I do think that aether awareness is actually against certain special interests which are, at a very high level, manipulating to some degree, human beings."

Aethereal money

Money is essentially aethereal, an idea, a concept. It flows, circulates, enables and transforms. And it takes form as a wide range of tokens, which we gain or lose for all kinds of reasons. So, money can remain an abstract, aethereal idea – as numbers stored in computer memories – or it can be converted into action, cash or other material things. This materialising of an aethereal idea, and vice versa, can be seen as demonstrating the interchangeability of energy and matter, as established by Albert Einstein.

Awareness of the missing something 'in the air'

In our language, various terms have been substituted for the missing Aether. For example, we speak of an 'air of celebration', a 'highly charged atmosphere', someone having an 'air of grace' about them, or a radio station being 'on air'. We speak of the 'chemistry' between people which is really the alchemy of qualities, which is itself actually about aethereal processes.

Then there's the 'thrill' of anticipation or excitement as we await the indefinable, magical 'X factor' in a performance. All these physical-material terms are used poetically to describe our experiencing of the aethereal realm. The search for the 'missing something' has been given form in stories of quests – some portrayed in highly popularised epic movies and novels. These have dealt, for example, with superhuman forces and powers, the blurring of the

boundaries between real and imaginary worlds, ideological conflicts, and love lost and found. The stories of Western medicine and science – from alchemy to our present dilemmas - can similarly be seen as quests.

Awareness of the Aether is what's crucially missing from our present Western science and culture. And this 'absence' is at the heart and root of many of our problems, great and small. Meanwhile, there are any number of industries and professions providing an endless supply of substitutes – for the insatiable demand, the worldwide addictive hunger, for that missing fulfilment, meaning and magic.

Knowledge is power

If ideas and thoughts are real, the aether is real. Through raised aether awareness, we can transcend such artificial divisions as *sacred* or *secular*, *consciousness* or *matter*, *subjective* or *objective*. We then find that these pairs of opposed ideas are actually complementary – within the wholeness that is the aether.

If knowledge and information bring empowerment, ignorance and disinformation bring disempowerment – which inevitably leads to discontent, fear, insecurity, greed and so on. And the power of propagating information and ideas through the aether is now being appreciated and exploited as never before – for all manner of motives.

With the Internet now a kind of materialisation of the aether, virtually all existing information is becoming accessible to all humanity – in varying degrees of good or evil intent, and of accurate or distorted presentation. Given this whole scenario, appreciating the dynamics and qualities of the aether enhances our powers of discrimination. For once we've seen through lies and deceptions – whether other peoples' or our own – there's no going back to a state of unknowing innocence. So humanity now has the potential, at least, to decide whether or not to continue being kept in ignorance, and consequently, whether or not to continue being exploited as a disposable resource, unaware of much bigger power games being played out.

Beyond the aether

And beyond the aether, infinitely more awaits. Available, it seems, is power and subtlety of a scale presently unimaginable. So with our aether-based overview, we find we now have a choice. We can allow ourselves to be imprisoned in an immature 'us-versus-them', divided and ruled world... OR we can transcend this and evolve into a more mature level of consciousness, enriched by our awareness of the aether.

The 'bigger picture' context outlined here shows a major shift in consciousness going on worldwide. This is evidenced in, for example, the increasing emphasis on the software of life rather than the hardware, on cyberspace, the internet and global telecoms, on wars about 'hearts and minds' rather than blood and guts, on electronic money and so on.

Venturing beyond and out of the *materialism* box is to begin a journey of discovery through the aether – towards a 'place' where higher levels of consciousness can be accessed, yet with feet still firmly in contact with Earth. On this journey there are no easy short-cuts for the impatient. But much that has been lost during the long descent of consciousness into matter can be recovered, such as an intuitive sense of the wholeness, continuity and fluidity of this ever-evolving cosmos. All of which goes way beyond the current range of machine-mentality models, concrete or abstract, of current science.

A few books, among the many concerning the Aether

Adams G: *Physical and Ethereal Spaces* ISBN 0854403280

Lehrs E: *Man or Matter* ISBN 0854404309

Marti E: *The Four Ethers* ISBN 0935690026

Wachsmuth G: *The Etheric Formative Forces in Cosmos, Earth and Man* (1932)

Bailey A A: *Telepathy and the Etheric Vehicle* ISBN 085330116 6

Sir Oliver Lodge: *The Ether of Space* (1909)

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