

SPIRIT-MIND-MATTER: THE RELATIONSHIP

By Brian Arrowsmith

Relationship is the fuel of all human existence

The Ageless Wisdom tells us that matter is spirit at its lowest point of manifestation and spirit is matter at its highest and the apparent duality is but an essential unity. By this it is meant that spiritual energies can be transmuted into matter and matter into energy; that spiritual energies through a directive of intention, can penetrate from the highest point of spiritual purpose to the lowest aspect of matter, the atom. We come to understand that the unity of the apparent duality of spirit-matter is relationship, that relationship underlies everything, that the theme of all existence is relationship. In our considerations we may come to think of relationship as the basic pattern or design of the evolutionary process, an interrelated, purposeful and creative activity.

The Teachings go on to state that dense matter is not a principle but is only that which responds to the creative principle, that it is a medium of expression. H.P. Blavatsky emphasized the fact that matter and ether are synonymous terms, that ether is but a gradation of cosmic matter. We can appreciate that there is no such thing as substance but only Force in varying degrees, only the energy of matter. Forms are simply force centres produced by the action of positive force and its interaction with negative energy. There is an endless interweaving and interlinking, a perpetual interrelationship, a ceaseless ebb and flow in the interplay of the forces that stand for the dual synthesis of spirit and matter. It is the relation of spirit matter in dual activity that produces the objective universe.

In this essay we will attempt to come to an understanding of the universal, planetary duality of spirit-matter or life-form and the blending of these major pairs of opposites, the fusion of dualities, thereby creating a third quality.

The theme of my book, *The Science of Consciousness*, is that the synthesis, the vibratory, interaction of light or life with universal substance, the energy of matter, produces a field of consciousness. This may be submitted in a somewhat different manner: A theory that the interrelationship, the vibratory reaction of spirit with the intangible energy of matter generates an energy field that we call consciousness. The contention is that this energy-producing process, the fusion of spirit or life with living substance, produces consciousness. This synthesis of the interaction and relationship of life and substance, that which underlies matter, producing an energy field may be expressed in the format of our subject: spirit-mind-matter: the relationship.

The relation between spirit and matter produces mind -- the instrument of consciousness. So mind is the mediator, the relating factor between spirit and matter.

The Ageless Wisdom Teachings tell us that "mind" is a name given to the sum of the states of Consciousness grouped under Thought, Will and Feeling. The human mind may be thought of as the concrete, relative, manifestation of "Universal Mind".

We are told that mind is the mediator between soul and body. Perhaps we can say that mind is also the mediator between spirit and matter, that it is the middle way, the

connecting link of the trilogy of spirit-mind-matter. This relationship, this electrical power between spirit or life and matter is all that Is, it is everything, it is Existence.

The soul is the consciousness principle, the seat of consciousness and is the centre of spiritual force. The soul illumines the mind, which transmits understanding and wisdom to the brain. When the personality has been infused by the soul and when consciousness has been raised and correctly expanded then eventually mind, as the instrument or agent of consciousness, can triumph over matter.

In many aspects the soul, mind and electricity are synonymous terms. We are taught that manas is electricity, that electricity is the manifested energy of the fire of mind or in other words the fire of mind polarizes into heat and light. Manas, the mind principle, can be described as that discriminative faculty which animates all substance, and which is also the electrical fire of the system showing forth as attraction and repulsion. We are also told that manas is the intelligent will or ordered purpose of existence and as electricity it is that which produces cohesion. So perhaps we may say that electricity is the *emanation* from the Mind of Existence, and that all physical phenomena have an electrical dynamic origin, all are basically a differentiation or effect of impulse emanating from the cosmic mental plane and taking form with intelligent purpose in view.

The Ageless Wisdom defines mind as manas, the mind principle and that it is the basic vibration of the cosmic mental plane. We have already said that this fire of mind is fundamentally electricity. This electrical impulse of the mind activates the chemical process of manifestation and the very shape of an amoeba, and the discriminative faculty of the lowest atom or cell is actuated by mind of some kind or another.

Active intelligence, or electro-magnetic force, is behind all form and is the aspect underlying all the atomic structure of the Universe. Electricity reduces matter to form and utilizes that form for the fulfillment of the

will and purpose of the indwelling entity--the soul.

The fire of mind is the basis of all expression, providing the relation between the life and the form, between spirit and matter. This attraction and repulsion, the relation and interplay, are manifestations of what might be called the Law of Being.

The power of the mind is an electrical force, by switching it on matter can be activated. In other words the *chemical process* of manifestation is activated by the *electrical impulse* of the mind.

Perhaps electricity may be thought of as the relationship, the "brotherhood" of the two polarities of existence. It may be considered as the interrelationship, the unity, the fusion of the positive and negative aspect; a blending of the positive and negative polarities. On the physical plane this interplay or mechanical friction, the forces of attraction and repulsion between the electron unit and the proton unit, creates the power of electricity.

As we move into the mental age and develop our minds we become increasingly aware of electricity on the mental plane. At times, when in deep concentration, we may become aware of the pulsating vibration, the electric current from the transformer of our mind, radiating out from the pineal gland. This is the directive force, the creative impulse, which causes things to happen; it is the will-to-be. This is electricity being put to the use of thoughtform building; and in the New Age could well be the most important use of electricity.

The Ageless Wisdom teaches that there is a universal "substance", the source of all, but so sublimated, so subtle that it is truly beyond the real grasp of human intelligence. This "substance" can perhaps be described by the words: "Having pervaded this whole universe with a fragment of myself, I remain."

There is usually a key word to a discourse and the key to our subject: spirit-mind-matter: the relationship, is "relationship." We should therefore endeavor to come to a deeper understanding of the term "relationship." It is

thought that the word "relation" may be related to 'relegere'--to gather together, to ponder over, to give heed to, observe and care for, and these are all aspects of relationship.

Relationship is a particular kind of connection or interaction and interdependence existing between people, groups or nations, and is the association between two or more things. Right relationship is a balancing of forces--a harmonious cooperation--which in humanity manifests as a sense of oneness. It is the fundamental realization that 'God hath made of one blood all the peoples upon the earth' This sense of relativity of that which exists can lead to cosmic affinity, which is the essence of evolution. Evolution proceeds by communion and responsiveness. Relationship is the scientific method or the art of correctly relating to all of existence. This theme of relationship is the basic pattern in the evolutionary process of unfoldment.

We have previously submitted that the interrelationship of spirit and matter produces consciousness. Consciousness is not only the sense of identity or self-awareness, but it concerns the sense of *relation* of the self to all other selves. Consciousness assumes control at a certain point of evolution and affects the interrelation between the major quaternary of the human being, that of spirit, soul, mind and brain. We see that relationship is an aspect of consciousness, therefore by raising and expanding our consciousness along lines of aue values, we heighten and enlarge our awareness of relationship.

The Ageless Wisdom teaches that energy of some kind or electrical phenomena is the foundation of all manifestations, and lies back of all evolution. It is this "mystery of electricity" that brings about coherence and group activity, induces interaction between the human units and lies behind all human *relationship*. It is said to be magnetism, radiation, attraction and repulsion, life, death, and all things; it is conscious purpose and essential will in objective manifestation. Perhaps the "mystery of electricity" lies hidden

within the fundamental relation of spirit and matter. We are told that much information can be obtained through the study of the relation established between positive and negative vibration.

Relationship is summed up in the last two pages of *The Rays and The Initiations: The theme of living consciousness of the planetary Logos is forever and unchangeably the great Hierarchy of Being, that chain of life in which the smallest link is of importance, and the greatest link is related to the smallest through the electrical interplay of spiritual energy. There is naught--from one important angle of life--but Hierarchy, linking sun with sun, star with star, solar system with solar system, planet with planet and all planetary lives with each other. The major keynote of every single planetary initiation, even to the very highest, is Relationship.*

The goal of all endeavour upon our planet is right relations between man and man and between man and God, between all expressions of divine life, from the tiniest atom up and on into infinity.'

Quantum theory and Einstein's General Theory of Relativity that space, time and matter are interrelated and interdependent, may be thought of as examples of the working out of the science of relationship. These theories indicate that all existence is a network of relations, a relationship with Reality. It is this relationship, the interdependence and integration of spirit with the energy of matter that creates the manifested world.

In relation to the quantum theory, science acknowledges that subatomic particles are not separate units but are interconnections between units and these in turn are interconnections between other units and so on. Esotericists may like to consider these units as myriads of tiny entities or "lesser builders": So we see that these entities can only be defined through their interrelation. In the words of Niels Bohr: *Isolated material particles are abstractions, their properties being definable and observable only through their interaction with other systems.'*

Albert Einstein said that we are all on this earth with the same mission in life--the general welfare of mankind. For the human being the challenge for consciousness is *relationship*, the awareness and the expressing of right human *relations* between the people of all nations, resulting in universal brotherhood and goodwill. This "brotherhood" of existence, the interplay and relation of polarities results in the cohesion of the pairs of opposites, producing electrical power.

In this essay different words are used to describe synonymous and interchangeable terms, such as light and matter, space and substance. Spirit, life, light, are three aspects or qualities of the one reality.

Spirit has been defined as the vital factor which we call the "life" of a human being and has been described as the breath of Life. It is our inner essence and is the cause of all manifestation. Spirit unfolds in response to the soul and both spirit and soul underlie consciousness, but it is the soul via the mind, which impresses the physical brain and is the governing force of evolution. "Spiritual" relates to relationships, it concerns some form of activity that leads to further development.

The *soul* is neither spirit nor matter, but is the relation between them. The soul, the mediator between the duality, is the middle principle, the link between God and His form. The soul is our qualified director and knower.

The close relationship of the words "life" and "light" is emphasized by the truism that life gives light and light gives life; the more life, the more light and the more light the more life. We quote the Eastern viewpoint of life:

Life and substance or matter are one and the same, one and forever inseparable, but different aspects however of the one reality. Life is as positive electricity, substance negative. Life is dynamic, substance static. Life is activity or spirit, and substance, form or matter. Life is the father and begets, substance is the mother and conceives.'

In addition to these two aspects of life and substance there is still a third. Life is theoretical or potential activity and needs a

field of operation. Substance furnishes this and in the union of life and substance, there flames forth active energy.'

"Thus we have a single reality, universal substance; but at the same time a coexistent duality--life and substance, and at the same time, a co-existent unity, life and substance, and the resultant interaction which we call consciousness or soul' (The Soul and Its Mechanism, P.57)

Life is an energy, an activity, a "livingness" that manifests in matter as form; all existence and manifestation is simply the effect of this life-energy. Life pervades all that is. The theme of "livingness" is relationship. Life is a cyclic process of acquiring knowledge, and during our life cycle we express what is in us at our particular stage--it is an adjusting of the matter aspect to the spirit aspect. Eventually the fusion of the two poles of spirit and matter takes place. Then the form is either consciously utilized for specific purposes or is vacated, and we are liberated.

We now consider the synonym of "life" -- "light". "Light" is a good example of the limitation of words and the difficulty of expressing in simple and direct language abstract and obtuse subjects. Because light has many different aspects and demonstrates in varied ways, it means many things to many different people, however, these different aspects overlap and blend. We should also be aware that light itself has passed and is passing through different stages--light also evolves. The esotericist may like to define light as active intelligence--as the consciousness or the intellect of the vibrating energy of life.

Light may also be thought of as a sublimation or higher form of material matter--the life manifesting through matter. Light is a symptom and an expression of life and we can appreciate streams of energy being referred to as the "light of life" and the fiery essence of life as the "self-shining light." 'We may see light as the reflection from the fire of life. Light is an awareness and a measure of radiant energy and life a measure of activity.

The relationship and blending of the two

opposite aspects of spirit and matter expresses as light--'through the friction of the pairs of opposites light flashes forth'. The Ageless Wisdom goes on to say that 'light is substance and substance is energy.' Basically light is a relationship--the relation between energies. The relationship of light and life is expressed in the first verse of The Great Invocation when we invoke light from the one Life.

There is a close relationship between light and mind. The fire of mind polarizes into heat and light, therefore light is a mental energy. We use this energy of light by working with our mental faculties. We are told that humanity's destiny is to be the opponent of the mind of God through the expressing of active intelligence-'Let Light stream forth into the minds of men.' Through intelligent purpose and the fiery impulse of our minds we can become creators of light, we can create light by thought; our light is the reflection of our thoughts.

Mind is the coherent agent of the intelligent will or ordered purpose of existence. It is the expression of this coherence that we call the *light* of the *mind*. The mind is the intermediary and the attendant between the soul and the brain, just as the soul is said to be the intermediary between spirit and matter. mind is a light bearer, it is illumined by higher contacts and is an illuminator where lower planes are contacted. It is the vehicle of soul light and the transmitting agent of soul life.

As active intelligence (light) is the basic energy which underlies consciousness we can appreciate that consciousness or "mind-current" is the fundamental principle of the creative process, that everything works out via the mind. Maybe we can now conclude that *matter* is manifested mind-consciousness, or the end result of mental awareness and activity. The difference between these two forces of consciousness and matter can be perceived to be that of subtleties, or in other words the state of energy density.

The following is a brief summarization of our subject. We have said that the mind is the agent of the soul, the intermediary and the

attendant between the soul and the brain. Although the mind may be thought of as an instrument of knowledge it is not itself the source of knowledge. The mind transmits knowledge received from the soul to the brain or acts as a vehicle for physical plane contacts, the impressions coming from the sense organs. So we see that although the mind is the principle of intelligence or consciousness which pervades reality and is the instrument of thought and consciousness, the mind does not actually think, it only reflects and gives shape, format and objectivity to the impulses, impressions and inspirations coming from the Thinker--the soul.

Spirit can be briefly defined as the synthesis of life. The soul can be described as the quality that every form manifests. It is neither spirit or matter, but is the relation between them. The soul is the mediator between this duality, the middle principle. It is that which emerges out of the contact between spirit and matter which produces sentient response and which we may call soul-consciousness. The soul can be known through the medium of its light--the light of the soul, localized in the region of the pineal gland. No matter what term is used in regard to this abstract quality, it should be borne in mind that it is purely an energy or electrical force and we are told that this force is steadily growing in potency. The contention is that there is one single reality, universal substance; but at the same time a co-existent duality, light or life and substance; and at the same time a co-existent trinity, light substance and the resultant interaction called consciousness or soul- aspect. The singularity of light reacts with substance, that which "stands under", to become a duality and these two co-factors express as a triplicity-consciousness. Light and substance are synonymous terms. Soul and light are equally so, and in this equality of idea-light, substance, soul--we have the key to fusion and at-one-ment. Life or light is activity or spirit and is the positive pole and substance or matter the negative pole. The reaction, integration and fusion of the pairs of opposites

produces an electrical force which we call consciousness. So we see that in relation to the term fusion or "at-one-ment" we mean the merging or integration of light and substance--the union of spirit and matter.

In this last decade of the second millennium it could well be that we are experiencing humanity's greatest revolution and corresponding evolution--the revolution of the mind and the resultant evolution of consciousness. Few would deny that this decade opened with a momentous shift in mass public opinion--a transformation of thought from totalitarianism and materialism to liberation, emancipation and synthesis. Great masses of people are increasingly accepting the proposition that through mind control, self-organization and awareness they can produce uniformity in diversity, they can program randomness and they can bring order out of chaos. Perhaps in the final years of this millennium we are being privileged to witness the ultimate triumph of mind over matter. Increasing numbers of scientists are talking about the "overthrow" of matter and materialist philosophy by the quantum revolution.

The teaching of the Ageless Wisdom tells us that the concrete mind, the receptive common sense, is now more highly responsive to abstract truth and therefore to the next evolutionary presentation, than ever before. Perhaps humanity is ready for something new--another major step along the evolutionary path. Could this be the reported progress of the generation of power from controlled nuclear fusion by a group of scientists of the European Community joint project "Torus" in Britain? As the temperature inside the experimental fusion reactor rose almost ten times hotter than in the centre of the sun, the tritium and deuterium particles fused together, releasing large quantities of energy; thus demonstrating that light atoms can be made to fuse together under controlled conditions, producing thermonuclear energy. Successful sustained nuclear fusion would indeed herald the triumph of mind over matter. *A Treatise on*

Cosmic Fire which was printed in 1925, tells us on page 455/6:

'A group of scientists' will come into incarnation on the physical plane during the next seventy-five years who will be the medium for the revelation of the next three truths concerning electrical phenomena. A formula of truth concerning this aspect of manifestation was prepared by initiates on the fifth Ray at the close of the last century, being part of the usual attempt of the Hierarchy to promote evolutionary development at the close of every cycle of one hundred years. Certain parts (two fifths) of that formula have worked out through the achievements of such men as Edison and those who participated in his type of endeavor and through the work of those who have dealt with the subject of radium and radio-activity. Three more parts of the same formula have still to come, and will embody all that it is possible or safe for man to know anent the physical plane manifestations of electricity during the fifth sub race.'

The contention of this essay is that right relationship practiced at a high level, establishes unity, fusion and "oneness", releasing energy fuel. Relationship is the fuel of all human existence.

The theme has been the true dualism of the divine nature Spirit-matter or Life-form, and the triplicity of the resulting unfolding consciousness. At a certain stage of evolution the aspirant enters the path of return. Through an expanding consciousness, triplicity returns to duality and only the two factors of spirit and matter are of major concern. The aspirant endeavors to come to know the significance of life and the use of form to blend these dualities in him self into a conscious synthesis, resulting in a true Self-consciousness. The complete conscious identification of spirit and matter in reference to the whole creative process and the obtainment of complete unity is now the goal.

In conclusion we may like to ponder on the contention that the high frequency vibratory reaction, the relationship between life and substance, the intangible force and energy of

matter, causes fusion; releasing large quantities of energy. On a high mental plane this energy may be called the fire of inspiration, a higher aspect of consciousness, and on a lower level it could be called manas, the fire of mind, which essentially is electricity.

Is the fundamental relation between spirit and matter the answer to the basic question: What is electricity?

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