

Confusing Words Series

Aether and Ether

In what relation does Ether stands to Spirit and Matter?

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ÆTHER AND ETHER, the former being divine, the latter physical and *infernal*. Ether is the lowest of the septenate division of Ākāśa-Pradhāna, primordial Fire-Substance. Æther-Ākāśa is the fifth and sixth principles of the body of Kosmos — thus corresponding to Buddhi-Manas, in Man; *Ether* is its Kosmic sediment mingling with the highest layer of the Astral Light. Beginning with the fifth root-race, it will develop fully only at the beginning of the fifth round. Æther is Ākāśa in its higher aspect, and *Ether* Ākāśa, in its lowest. In one sense it is equivalent to the Father-Creator, Zeus, Pater Æther; on the other to the infernal Serpent-Tempter, the Astral Light of the Kabbalists. In the latter case it is fully differentiated matter, in the former only rudimentally differentiated. In other words, Spirit becomes objective matter; and objective matter rebecomes subjective Spirit, when it eludes our metaphysical senses. Æther has the same relation to the Cosmos and our little Earth, as Manas to the Monad and body. Therefore, Ether has nought to do with Spirit, but a good deal, with subjective matter and our Earth.¹

The difference made between the seven states of Ether (itself one of the Seven Cosmic principles), while the Æther of the Ancients is *universal Fire*, may be seen in the injunctions by Zoroaster and Psellus, respectively. The former said: “Consult it only when it is without form or figure,” *absque forma et figura*, which means without flames or burning coals. “When it has a form — *heed it not*,” teaches Psellus; “but when it is formless, obey it, for it is then *sacred fire*, and all it will reveal thee, shall be true.”² This proves that Ether, itself an aspect of Ākāśa, has in its turn several aspects or “principles.”³

¹ *Blavatsky Collected Writings*, (TRANSACTIONS OF THE BLAVATSKY LODGE) X p. 384

² *Effatum*, XVI, “Oracles of Zoroaster”

³ *Secret Doctrine*, I p. 331; [on whether “The Seven Rays are the primordial seven rays, the Luminous Sons, from which will emanate in their turn all the other luminous and non-luminous lives.”]