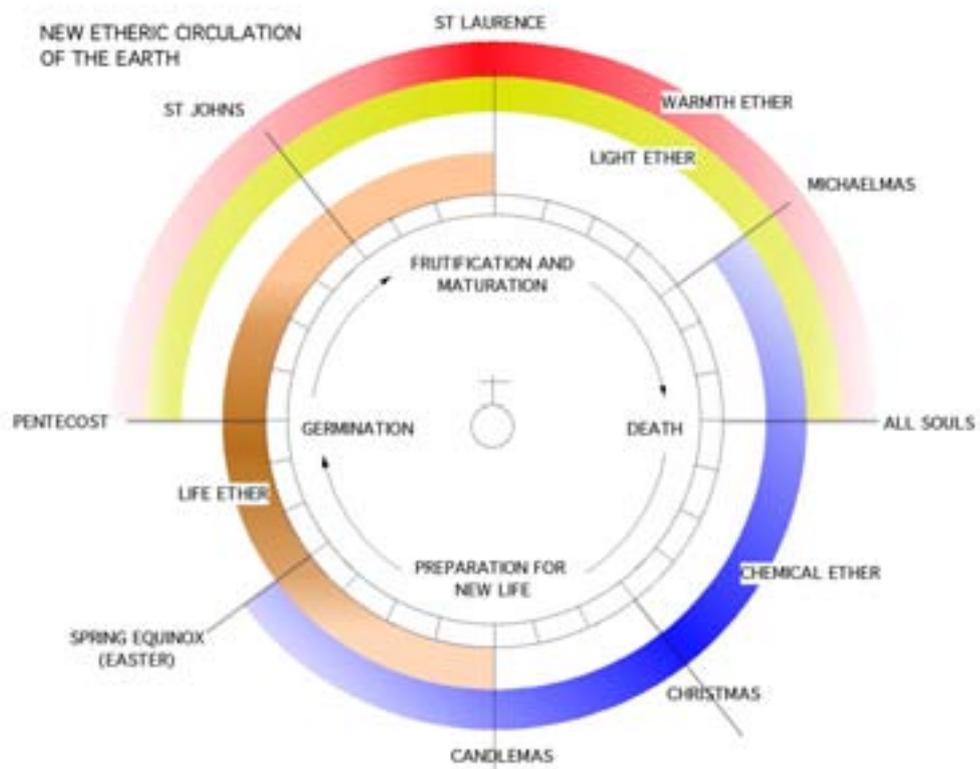


THE ETHERIC CYCLE OF THE EARTH

INDICATIONS FOR AN AGRICULTURE
IN CONSCIOUS HARMONY WITH THE
MACROCOSMIC FORCES OF OUR TIMES



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1) INTRODUCTION TO THE LIFE OF THE EARTH

The spiritual scientific view of Nature, which is the basis of homeodynamic agriculture, is that the Earth is a living organism. Naturally, this assertion must somehow be supported because anyone can produce an eccentric opinion.

*the Earth as
a living
organism*

We know that the Earth is made up of matter and therefore has physicality. We also know that this physicality is due to the Earth Element from which we recognize the characteristics of solidity, three-dimensionality and the inability to be penetrated by other Earth elements. Because of these characteristics – because the Earth has a physical body - any solid object that is placed on the surface of our planet must stop there without being able to penetrate it. Pursuing this thought we could say that rocks can be on Earth only because the Earth itself has a physical body. Otherwise they could move from one side to the other side and get lost in the cosmic spaces.

On the physical plane there is the law that we can summarize with the expression: *one beside the other*.

*the laws of
the physical
plane*

To all it is clear that a cloud cannot be of the Earth element. A meteorite when it encounters a cloud goes right through without any difficulty. Obviously we require a different law to refer to clouds.

*the vital body
of the Earth
and the plants*

As we have stated rocks can stay on Earth because the Earth has a physical body. Similarly we can say that the plants can live on Earth because the Earth has, in addition to the physical body that we have identified, a vital body that the science of the spirit calls the *etheric body*.

*the astral body
of the Earth
and the animals*

We can take a similar approach to animals: they may live on earth due to the fact that the Earth also has a soul body, called the *astral body*, reflecting its connection with the wandering stars (planets).

*the spirit of
the Earth
and man*

Something similar holds true for Man; we can live on Earth and develop our spiritual uniqueness here – a process linked to self-awareness - due to the fact that the Earth also has a spiritual dimension.

*the Moon and
the Angels*

If we now expand our vision a little to embrace our satellite, the Moon, we can say that as Man finds the conditions on Earth suitable for our life and evolution, in relation to the kingdoms below us, so it is on the Moon that the Angels, that is the first spiritual hierarchy above us, find the basis of their evolutionary requirements that unfold in their relationship to man.

The extrapolation of this thought leads us to see in the various planetary spheres the appropriate homes of various spiritual hierarchies.

*diversification
within the Earth's
etheric body*

Returning to Earth we can observe that the various species of plants live well in diverse habitats and from this we can deduce that the etheric body of the earth itself brings about diverse environments suited to different types of plants.

This observation, and its reasoning, leads us to the conclusion that the Earth is a very organized living being and thanks to that it can bring forth LIFE in its various manifestations.

*the West and
the Earth
element*

If we look at the physical aspect of our planet we can see that almost half of our map is covered by the huge Pacific Ocean, while the other half holds practically all the land. In this second half, where we also live, we recognize in its Western regions the area that is the hardest and most linked to the Earth (the largest presence of limestone). We all know certainly about the very long chain,

composing the Rocky Mountains and the Andes, which runs from north to south across the American continent for over fifteen thousand kilometres.

By contrast we see the rich and varied features opposite that include the multitude of islands on the other side of the Earth, to the East. The expanded and open aspect is dominant (typified by the siliceous element of the Himalayan chain).

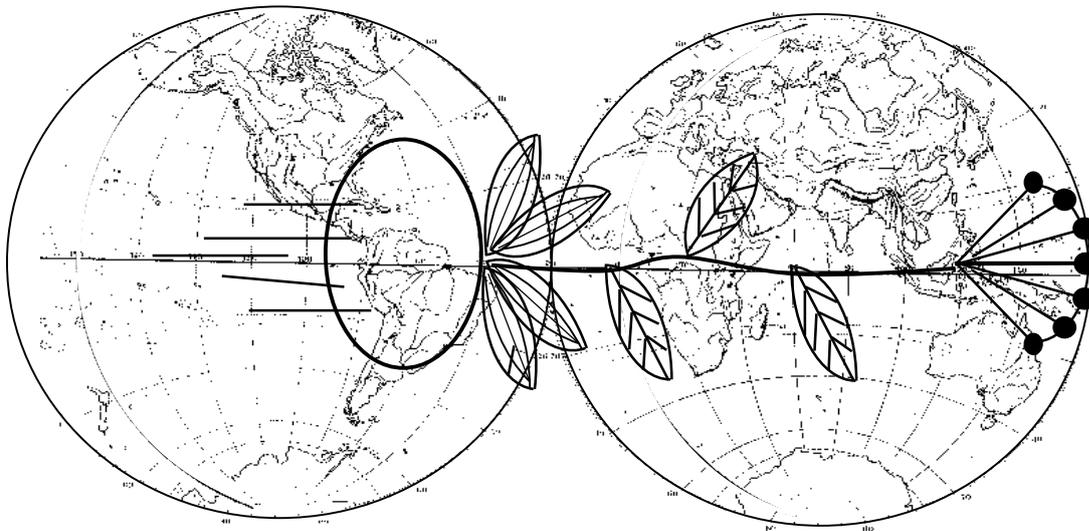
*the East and
Air-Fire*

We have thus identified a polarity between the West, where the Sun sets (*darkness*), and the East where instead it rises (*light*).

For the work we are doing we are interested in a particular part of the Earth so we won't talk about the Pacific Ocean right now.

If now we take a plant following the progression of its manifestation - root, leaf, flower then fruit - and superimpose it on this earthly hemisphere, we will discover the design of the "hidden" plant present in the Earth because it corresponds to the development of the archetype of the plant world.

*the "hidden"
plant in
the Earth*



The "hidden" plant in the Earth from West to East.

We will thus have the root zone of connected to the calcareous American area, that of leaf tied to the Atlantic ocean, the flower (where the most light is present) in central Asia and the fruit-seed in the Far East ending at the Pacific.

The border between the centripetal (root and leaf) and centrifugal (flower and fruit) forces is the Oder River, between the former two Germanies, which we can consider, with reason, to be the heart of the world.

*on the habitat
of the plant*

As plants grow naturally in the environment most congenial to them, thus the plants originating from America prefer a limestone terrain, unlike those from the East which prefer siliceous soil.

*alkaloids
in the plant
and in man*

We must always keep in mind that any plant growing in a given environment is the bearer of the food that is perfectly suited to the needs of the indigenous people and that sometimes, when ingested by people linked to very different environments, more or less severe disturbances may arise. We know that peppers contain solanine, a toxic substance that if ingested in large quantities or for prolonged periods can damage health, and that the same vegetable is without obvious damage to the American people. This is because the pepper produces alkaloids to adapt to an area that is not suited to its cultivation. The poison thus allows the plant to adapt its etheric body that is naturally accustomed to living in other conditions. When grown in Europe it becomes a strong stimulant, as the alkaloid acts on the etheric body and diverts the vital processes away from the typical and appropriate state of the etheric body in that specific area of the Earth.

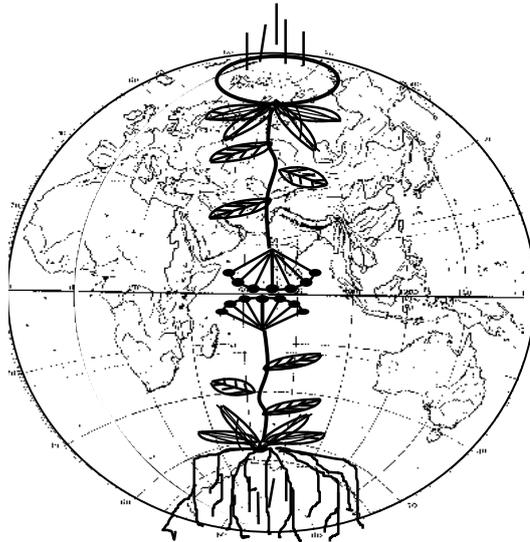
*North-South
differentiation
of the Earth*

A polarization similar to that between East and West of the Earth, can be found between the South and North: even this leads to differences in a plant's etheric body. We see then how we can draw our plant taking into account the latter observation.

We must take into account that the equatorial regions are the hottest on the Earth and so we can compare these to what, in the previous design, corresponded to the area to the East (which is silica-warmth).

Since the cold areas are located at both the North and South extremes, we can now draw two more "hidden" plants.

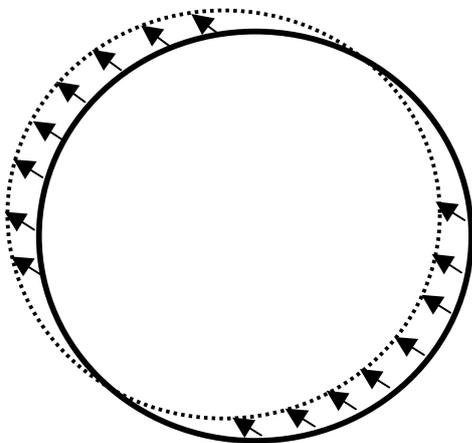
These two plants have a substantial difference, and more precisely this difference concerns the poles and therefore the roots. This is because the South Pole has earth under the ice, while the other has only water. Thus we have the taproot linked to the North Pole and the fine roots to the South Pole.



The "hidden" plants in the Earth from North to South.

These initial thoughts can be developed further because Life can arise only from Life - that is, the life of the plant comes from the life of Mother Earth. We can now see that life manifests itself according to certain rhythms, so that when the Life in the spring/summer manifests in the Northern hemisphere, the plant can follow it and manifest itself, while in the Southern hemisphere it withdraws simultaneously.

The etheric body of the Earth oscillates with respect to the physical Earth and we can imagine this as a process of inhalation and exhalation. In the spring, the Earth exhales life and this is expressed in the growth of the plants.



The Breathing of the etheric body in spring.

When, in the complementary and opposite instance, the Earth inhales life, the etheric body is withdrawn and is held within the physical Earth, under the roots of the trees.

*organic
fertilization*

The same may also shed new light on the practice of organic fertilization. Usually this takes place in autumn, which we have seen to be the period in which life begins to withdraw into the Earth. The inhalation into the Earth obliges the vital forces to pass into the Earth through the layer of compost spread on the fields. During this transition the compost inoculates the forces of life with the qualities it is carrying. In light of this we can better appreciate why the type of manure that is used is always given special emphasis. We can consider manure as a catalyst that not only gives its specific message to the forces of life, but also as the means by which the unbound life - we could say the widespread or unincarnated life - can begin to take an interest in the Earth. This is because humus is also the bearer of solar forces and everything that governs life depends directly on the Sun

*agriculture as a
carrier of life*

To clarify this concept we can assert that humus represents the “internal” Sun of the Earth. Even a farmer can be a carrier of these life forces, and in this sense becomes a “little sun” for the farm. We can activate the forces of our hearts with the warmth and enthusiasm that arises from following a path of truth in collaboration with the evolutionary forces and Entities.

We must always remember that all agriculture is linked to the mysteries of the Sun and that fertilization simply prepares the womb of the Earth for this solar fertility.

2) LIFE BETWEEN THE EARTH AND HEAVEN

*earthly and
cosmic influences
upon the plant*

It should also be noted that, according to our understanding of the plant kingdom, the plant is a complex being in which are interwoven both the influences originating from the physical-material-mineral plane and the influences originating from the higher spheres that are imperceptible to the coarse physical senses. Given that the planets circulate above the Earth, and beyond them is the background of the starry Cosmos, it is appropriate to seek the origin of those higher influences in these higher realms. This is the world to which we reconnect

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