

Earth's Vesture

THIS ARTICLE BUILDS on my last contribution in the 1999 calendar, *Stella Natura*, "The Star We Live By."[†] It describes the solar plasma as it streams from the Sun and interacts with the upper atmosphere of the earth. This is especially timely since the Sun is now in a cycle it repeats every eleven years—a period of accelerated solar activity which increases the intensity of the solar plasma and also, as we will see, the intensity of the earth's response to it. My intent is to present a picture which is true to the objective findings of natural science, and yet relies on the concepts of Spiritual Science to explain these natural cosmic events. This approach offers a picture of a living planet, a living universe, filled with divine forces that are invested in the evolution of mankind. It is important to form such a picture because, as humans, our view of the cosmos directly influences the way we think of ourselves. I acknowledge the value of scientific observation and thought because of its precision, logic, and practicality. Indeed, through these science derives its authority. However, when the theories of science have been presented with the same implied authority, speculating upon the structure of the universe and the origins of mankind, the human being's importance in the universe has suffered greatly. To resolve this issue and still appeal to the modern mind's need for logic and practicality, I'd

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like to offer some alternative explanations of natural events, described in the light of Spiritual Science.

As you may recall from my last article, described was the image of the solar plasma streaming out in spirals from the sun, as the physical manifestation of the ongoing sacrifice of spiritual beings. The solar wind, as the solar plasma is called, travels through interplanetary space and interacts with the earth's magnetic field far above its surface. Where the two meet, the magnetic field of the earth abruptly stops, creating a sharp boundary line called the magnetopause. The inherently circular magnetopause is transformed into an oval shape by the solar wind. This wind also shapes the otherwise symmetric inner magnetic field of the earth into the strangely familiar outline of the human form. The head points toward the sun, the body surrounds the earth, and the limbs extend in a very long tail reaching all the way to the moon. (See diagram above and on page ?)

Most of the solar wind streams around the earth in much the same way as water flowing against a stone is parted and passes around it. However, some of the solar wind breaks through the barrier or outer envelope created by the magnetopause and enters what is called the magnetosphere. This happens mainly over the north and south polar regions. Here the magnetic fields are shaped like funnels. They are much like the canals of the ear, which allow sound waves to enter the body. If one follows individual particles of the solar wind as they enter this funnel and stream toward the inner atmosphere of the earth, the following would be observed. The particles spiral down the magnetic funnel until they are carried into another stream which draws and traps them into what is called the earth's plasma sheet. This plasma sheet is still a mystery to science. It is roughly oval-shaped, and occurs on the side of the earth opposite the sun. Compared to the size of the magnetic tail, it is smaller and remains in close proximity to the earth. It appears to be composed of much the same material as solar plasma; that is, ionized particles in an energetic state partway between energy and matter, yet it has unique properties making its origin distinct from that of the solar plasma. It is as though a part of the sun has been captured and transformed into an earthly sun-substance. The solar plasma particles are passed back and forth many times in this sheet until ultimately, for some still unknown reason, they energize the earth's plasma sheet. This energized plasma springs like a rubber band toward the earth where it interacts with gases in the ionosphere leading to the generation of the Aurora Borealis, the streaming ribbons of color known as the northern lights.

These are the large macrocosmic events as discovered by natural science. Now let us look at the same events from the point of view of Spiritual Science....[and consider] the small microcosmic correlates within the human being. The concept that what happens in the world outside the human being, the "macrocosm," can also be found to occur within the human being, the "microcosm," is an ancient and fundamental spiritual law, which Spiritual Science has rediscovered. This principle, or law, will be applied throughout this article in the

following way. The conditions in the upper atmosphere will be correlated with mirrored conditions occurring in the human being. For example, science tells us that the magnetic field allows life to exist, for without its shielding protection the high-energy particles from the sun would destroy all life on earth....[Spiritual Science] as well refers to this region as a source of life for both humanity and for the earth as a whole. However...[its] view of the life-giving nature of this region describes active creative life, a layer of etheric forces that envelop the earth. (Please note: It is not suggested that the magnetic field of the earth is equivalent to etheric forces, but that the earth's etheric body, as one of its vital functions, draws out the magnetic field to shield the earth from harmful effects of the sun so life can exist. At the same time, the measurable magnetic field allows an indirect view of the structure and dynamics of this otherwise supersensible body.) The shape of the magnetopause and the earth's magnetic field, as shown in the diagram, is strikingly reminiscent of the human form surrounded by an envelope or encased in an egg. Pictorially, the head points to the sun, and the polar funnels occupy the position of the ears, while the magnetic tail and plasma sheet form the body....[When Spiritual Science describes] the human etheric or life-body [it] depicts a form closely resembling that of the earth's etheric structure....The human etheric body, looked at from the outside, consists of four parts. The upper part is in the form of the human head, only larger than the physical head; the middle part is oval; while the lower part rays down from the middle and extends much farther than the limbs, gradually losing its close correlation to the shape of the physical body. The fourth member assumes an oval shape that surrounds the other three and compresses the upper and middle parts to conform more to the shape of the body, while the lower part streams far away. The similarities of these macrocosmic and microcosmic etheric bodies are no random coincidence.

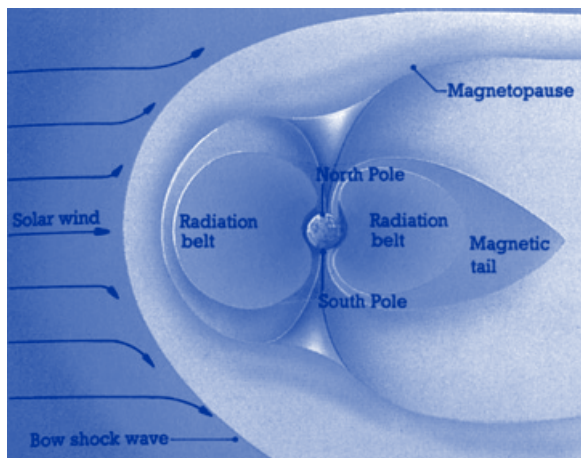
The merging of the solar wind with the very attenuated outer atmosphere of the earth is responsible for another remarkable event. It, in essence, recreates the corona of the sun around the earth.

This earthcorona or geocorona, as it is called, is dynamic; it vibrates, grows, and changes shape in response to the pulsating energy it receives from the ever-fluctuating solar wind. The more intense the stream of the solar wind, the more energetic is the response from the geocorona. Though it begins only 90km above us, the conditions within the geocorona are most unusual and unlike any we are used to in the lower atmosphere, where life as we know it exists. The geocorona presents a scientific enigma. Its temperature (defined by physics as the measure of motion of particles) is extreme; it is calculated to reach as much as 3000 degrees Fahrenheit. Within it are particles of extremely high energy, demanding the presence of warmth to explain their motion, and yet that warmth is completely unable to be felt or even measured. In fact, if your hand were exposed to this environment there would be no feeling of warmth, because it is a virtual temperature. It

is a condition of warmth which...[Spiritual Science also describes as] relating [to] facts concerning Old Saturn (the name given to an early condition of earth evolution). At that time warmth existed as an entity unto itself, and it existed without being able to be outwardly perceived. It is inconceivable for modern physics to acknowledge such a condition. Yet the description of the geocorona as related by satellites, is essentially the same as that described by Spiritual Science during the time of Old Saturn. Matter as we know it does not exist in the geocorona. The state of matter there is energized and unstable. Only individual particles exist, seeking to combine with other particles to form a stable "incarnated" earthly molecule. However, they are so diffuse that they remain in a partially incarnated ionic form. Yet despite the paucity of matter, an enormous amount of energy is absorbed. Virtually all the energy reaching the earth from the Sun's corona is absorbed in this Old Saturn-like

layer of our earth. Some of this absorbed energy is consumed in the production of the Aurora Borealis. Furthermore, the aurora itself exhibits Old Saturn traits. For it is a cold light with a temperature far less than natural science would expect; it too hides its warmth.

The idea that the outer envelope of the earth is a rebirth of old Saturn-like conditions allows us, with the help of further insights from...[Spiritual Science], to form a very different picture of the ultimate fate of humanity and of this earth. The



The earth's magnetic field (magnetosphere) deflects ionized particles ejected by the sun (solar wind). Untrapped particles account for the aurora borealis.

Old Saturn phase of earth evolution not only holds an understanding of the past, but also the seeds of the future. Spiritual Science describes the potential future of the earth as one of a Sun-like star. And for humanity, through self-transformation, the capacities of freedom and love which would enable us eventually to join the ranks of those spiritual beings who participated in our creation. The presence of

Sunlike structures surrounding the earth, like the geocorona and the aurora, already point to this future star-like condition. This certainly is very different from the image of a burned out, lifeless cinder drifting along in an uncaring universe that modern science predicts....

The intricate and fabulously complex and beautiful events in the natural world, when studied in the objective detail available today, can educate our thinking and our ability to grasp complexity and understand dynamic interactions of the kind described by Spiritual Science. I hope to have shown that Spiritual Science is a view that can pass the test of logic and can be trusted when it exalts the image of our earth and ourselves. The contrast is clear: the one way of explaining the world leads us to a spiritless mechanical creation, while the other ennobles life and lends strength and purpose to our lives as human beings. □

—Robert McCracken, M.D.

Hayward and Martin