

**CLASSES at Wisdom's Goldenrod, Hector, NY  
with Anthony Damiani (AD)**

**September 30 & October 7, 1983**

**PLOTINUS: NATURE**

**with Appendix: Classnotes AB 1983 0930 and 1007.**

TOPIC: Plotinus

SUBJECT: Nature

SUBSUBJECTS: Twelfth House Levels, Demiurge, Matter, Five Great Elements, World-Idea, Providence vs. Necessity (Fate)

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**Intellectual-Principle is source of World-Idea**  
**Universal Soul grasps entire World-Idea, imposes it on five Mahabhutas**  
**Five Mahabhutas as directionalized forces**  
**Two ethers, higher and lower**  
**Tentative illumination**  
**Star souls included within World-Idea, elaborate a portion of it**  
**Individual souls can only work with formed matter**  
**World-Idea must eventually fulfill itself; course of events partially indeterminate due to necessity**  
**Providence as totality of reason-principles constituting World-Idea**  
**Necessity as energetic tendencies left behind in Life of Jupiter**  
**Three fates, three gunas**  
**World-Idea is a living whole, a multiplicity of reason forms interacting with each other; Arjuna's vision**  
**Each level of manifestation a combination of form and matter**  
**Appendix: AB class notes**

BOOKS READ FROM OR REFERENCED:

- Plotinus, *The Enneads* (MacKenna translation, 4<sup>th</sup> ed.)

PLOTINUS QUOTES READ OR REFERENCED: III.2.2+. Plotinus astrology quotes listed at the beginning of AB class notes: II.1.5, II.1.7, II.2.1, 2, II.3.5, 9, II.3.13, II.3.15, II.3.18, II.9.8, 18, III.1.5, III.1.8-10, III.2.3, III.2.14, III.3.6, III.4.6, III.7.11, IV.3.7, IV.3.8, IV.3.12-13, IV.4.7, 8, IV.4.16, IV.4.22, IV.4.24, IV.4.27, IV.4.30, IV.4.31-6, IV.4.39, IV.8.2, V.1.9, V.8.3, VI.7.7. Other Plotinus quotes listed in AB class notes: III.2.1, III.2.2, III.5, III.2.16

DIAGRAM embedded in this transcript:

- FIGURE 1983 0930 & 1007-1. Five Great Elements/Twelfth House Levels.

RETYPE AND REFORMAT by IT 2021

NOTES:

- **RETYPE PARTIAL TRANSCRIPT (hence V10).** From AD Supplementary Material, pp. 1221-1223. THERE ARE NO AUDIO CASSETTE TAPES EXTANT.
- The original partial specified only the days, no year. Correct year determined by matching contents in transcript with AB Class Notes, AD Events Master, and AD Blue Book.
- Diagram in the partial transcript is by AS, along with some editing. Original transcript typed by JF.
- AB Classnotes have been appended because they contain information that the partial transcript does not have and thus help round out the class. Retyped from Classnotes AB 1983 0831 to 1983 1028.PDF. All spelling, capitalization, and punctuation corrected, abbreviations spelled out in AB Classnotes.
- All spelling and capitalization errors corrected, most numbers and all astrological glyphs spelled out in partial transcript.

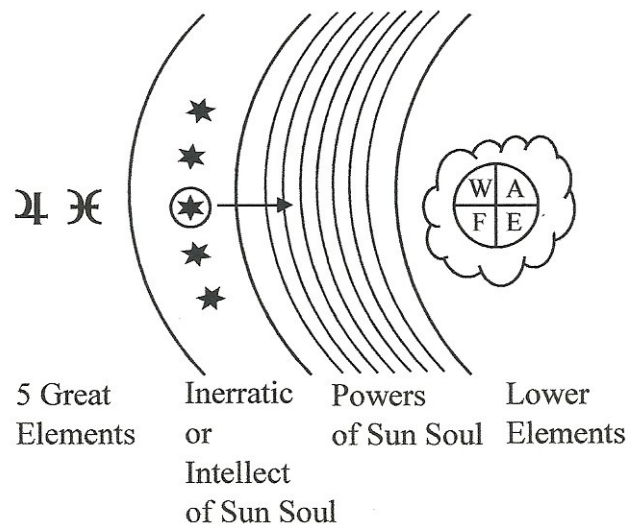
## 1983 09/30 & 10/07 at Wisdom's Goldenrod Plotinus: Nature

[AD Supp, pp. 1221-1223 Begins]

Fri. Sept 30 + Oct 7

III.2.2 +

The Intellectual-Principle or Divine Mind is the Void, source of the World Idea or Reason Form flowing from it. This Universal Reason is the Logos Principle, which the Universal Soul contains and harmonizes with Matter, and is the ordered plan which is going to be elaborated by Cosmic Souls. Matter for Plotinus is not any kind of material stuff, but in its primal formlessness is the 5 (7) Great Elements which are the Life of Father Jupiter -- the Demiurge. These are pure forces or energy -- and Pater Ether is the ground or unity of the other four or five which are differentiations out of it. (Samkhya speaks of the primal Prakriti and the subtle Tanmatras.) The forces which are centered in the atom are perhaps a manifestation of these five great force fields: electromagnetic energy of Fire; gravitation of Earth; cohesion in the (atom's) nucleus of Water; and tendency to radiate or split of Air. This is an approximation of what we are trying to envisage as the 5 Great Elements -- directionalized forces such as expansion, repulsion and so on, which have no beginning and no end. We have a description here of the 5 Elements which in their totality are the True Ether, which is the Jupiter in Pisces, as opposed to the lower ether which constitutes the Dragon. In the Dragon, the five senses are themselves the differentiations of the imagination or manas analogously to the differentiations of the 5 Great Elements from Pater Ether.



[FIGURE 1983 0930 & 1007-1. Five Great Elements/Twelfth House Levels. F E A W = Fire Earth Air Water. Computer generated by NT from hand-drawn diagram by AS in AD Supp, p. 1221.]

The totality of the Great Elements, with the traces of Reason activity left behind in them, is the ground for the “tentative illumination” by the Demiurge. Plato describes the three principles -- the Ideas,

Universal Soul or Demiurge, and receptacle or Matter as the priors to manifestation: the Soul ordering the Matter according to the Ideas. The illumination is tentative because the incessant indeterminate energy of the receptacle can only accommodate the imposition of Reason instant-by-instant.

This combination of the World Idea and Matter is harmonized by Soul. Each Cosmic Soul will have its locus within this tentative illumination and will grasp and interpret the World Idea for itself. Each individual soul will in turn grasp the World Idea for itself also, and receive a certain basis of Matter. But the individual souls can work only with the formed matter, and not the primary or purely indeterminate receptacle.

The meeting of the two factors -- Reason Intelligence and substrate energy -- constitute the ground plan which the Cosmic and individual Souls will elaborate, and the peculiar continuity which each factor provides is the basis for the distinct agency of Providence and Necessity.

From the imperceptible realm of the inter-galactic dust, to the basic atomic particles, to helium atoms in the Sun, to the 105 atomic elements fused by the Solar energy, to the compound molecules and living organisms produced on Earth, all is under the pervading order of the ruling Reason-Principles. Providence is the totality of the Reason-Principles that constitute the World Idea or Logos. The World Idea must order the disordered motion or forces of the receptacle Elements which in themselves are recalcitrant to the Imposition, and have their own energetic tendencies. Necessity refers to these energetic tendencies of the receptacle, the brute existence of the memories or traces of life left behind in the Great Elements. The sheer facticity of existence is Necessity or Fate. The Three Fates which govern the unification, action, and stubbornness of existence are equivalent to the three gunas or sattva, activity, and heaviness which constitute Prakriti. (The seven possible combinations of these three primal forces give us the characteristics of the (7) Great Elements...)

The World Idea considered by itself is a living whole -- outflow of both Divine Mind and Universal Soul. It is a multiplicity of Reason Forms which are interactive with each other, and not a homogenous unity. In its manifestation it is always operating with complementary principles. Just as there is no day without day/night, the World Idea manifests itself and its various parts through activity and stillness, unity and multiplicity and so on. Each level of manifestation from the unmanifest Ether downward is a combination of the Reason Forms and receptacle; each level of formed-matter being a substrate for the further imposition of Form.

[AD Supp, pp. 1221-1223 Ends]

## APPENDIX: AB CLASS NOTES FOR 1983 0930 & 1007

[Retyped from Classnotes AB 1983 0831 to 1983 1028.PDF.]

[Classnotes AB 1983 0930 Begin]

9/30/83

2.1.5, 2.1.7, 2.2.1, 2, 2.3.5, 9, 2.3.13, 2.3.15, 2.3.18, 2.9.8, 18, 3.1.5, 3.1.8-10, 3.2.3, 3.2.14, 3.3.6, 3.4.6, 3.7.11, 4.3.7, 4.3.8, 4.3.12-13, 4.4.7, 8, 4.4.16, 4.4.22, 4.4.24, 4.4.27, 4.4.30, 4.4.31-6, 4.4.39, 4.8.2, 5.1.9, 5.8.3, 6.7.7

Plotinus Astrology quotes [Note: Page numbers vary with edition.]

Need to distinguish twofold soul as Universal, cosmic soul and individual soul.

3.2.1, 3.2.2 (161-2)

Unfailing flow of reason-principles from Intellectual-Principle to cosmic or individual soul.  
(Instantaneous transmission of World-Idea to soul.)

Intellectual-Principle here is Intellectual-Principle as Universal Soul (Intellect of Zeus).

The Intellectual-Principle (or Void) is the source of the World-Idea.

The World-Idea is distributed by the Universal Soul and is its Logos principle.

The World-Idea is received into 5 great force fields (Mahabhutas).

Providence -- reason-principles constituting the Logos.

Necessity -- existence of the memory traces remaining from manifestation, which are left behind in the life of Jupiter = the celestial dragon. (The World-Idea is radiated onto this, and the ground force field continually transforms) = tentative illumination of matter.

From within experience it is hard to distinguish the illuminated reason-principles from the underlying memory/matter.

The 5 tanmatras (mahabhutas) are directionalized forces = the life of the father Jupiter = matter. (All this is prior to the dragon.) This matter is incorporeal.

Although the World-Idea must eventually fulfill itself, the course of events is partially indeterminate due to the vagaries of matter.

Each individual soul has its own matter by which it receives the World-Idea and manifests its own universe.

[Classnotes AB 1983 0930 End]

[Classnotes AB 1983 1007 Begin]

10/7/83

### 3.2.1-2 Outflow of World-Idea from Divine Mind or Void.

Universal Soul grasps entire World-Idea.

World-Idea is Universal Soul's Logos principle, Universal Soul distributes World-Idea.

Each star soul (cosmic soul) receives a portion of this World-Idea which it elaborates. The star souls are included within the World-Idea.

World-Idea imposed on 5 Mahabhutas = tentative illumination of matter which cosmic souls receive.

Providence = totality of reason-principles constituting World-Idea.

Necessity = energetic elemental substratum or memory traces left within the life of Jupiter.

Both [providence and necessity] constitute the universe, and are involved in the World-Idea which the soul is to elaborate.

### 3.3.6 (183-4)

### 3.3.5 (182)

fate = the sheer facticity of existence = the formative forces that organize the thinking of the sensible universe (elements)

3 fates = 3 gunas -- spinner (sattva), apportioner (rajas), inflexible (tamas)

Fate is to matter as Providence is to Ideas.

### 3.2.16 (176) (174-5)

Logos or Reason-Principle of Universe = World-Idea.

p. 175 top -- conflict and divergence of reason-principles within the World-Idea as a whole = Arjuna's vision of cosmic manifestation -- multi-layered reality evolving within itself.

### 4.4.32 (315), 4.4.31 (314)

[Classnotes AB 1983 1007 End]