

WHAT'S THE MATTER?

When we ask “What’s the matter,” it’s generally because we sense that something is not quite right. There is something amiss, a lack, a missing principle. We want to fix it, to take up this slack, but the solution eludes us. We can never quite get to the truth of the matter. What, at first, may have seemed simple and solid and obvious now appears complex and problematic, replete with uncertainties. The deeper we look into the matter the more puzzling things become. One might refer to it as “The Material Question.”¹



In ancient Egypt, matter was ruled over by the goddess Ma’at, the goddess of truth. From Ma’at, we learn the truth about what’s the matter with matter.

The fact of the matter is that it barely exists at all. It is mostly empty, light as a feather. That is probably the reason why the ancients depicted Ma’at as wearing the ostrich feather, which is the ideogram for her name.

Be aware that the name Ma’at must necessarily include the apostrophe, the missing principle, the empty place where it’s at. Whatever “it” is, it’s hidden deeply within. The objective of material science is to find it.

It was said that the whole of human life was made “by Ma’at, in Ma’at, and for Ma’at.” That’s a pretty important statement that bears repeating: *The whole of human life was made by Ma’at, in Ma’at, and for Ma’at.* Pay attention to the inherent Threeness in the words; notice how their iterations may bring up subconscious associations with the three-dimensional world of length, breadth, and depth.

Ma’at, *Ma* for short, was the universal birth mother, the Mother of Matter. It is no mere coincidence that the word “mother,” in the Greek language, is “meter.” The *meter* calls to mind measures: *diameter* and *perimeter*, for example, and mensuration. Our measurement systems around the world, past and present, bear witness to the feminine aspect of materiality and its measures.

In the metric system (\sphericalangle Gk. *metron*, measure), the *meter* is the basic *lineal* measurement, and is delineated by 0s and 1s.

What we apparently have uncovered here is the ancient “Scale of Ma’at.”

THE THREE-DIMENSIONAL METRIC SCALE OF MA’AT

¹ “The Material Question” is the title of the unnumbered eleventh chapter in *Meetings with Remarkable Men*.

LINE: ONE DIMENSIONAL (Line)

millimeter	.001 m		
centimeter	.01 m		
decimeter	.1 m		
METER			1 m
decameter	10 m		
hectometer	100 m		
kilometer	1000 m		

The linear meter scale is one-dimensional. However, squaring the meter, we gain another dimension: that of "area."

AREA: TWO DIMENSIONAL (Area)

sq. millimeter	(mm ²)	.000001		
sq. centimeter	(cm ²)	.0001		
sq. decimeter	(dm ²)	.01		
CENTARE	(m ²)			1 m ²
sq. decameter	(a)	100		
sq. hectometer	(ha)	10,000		
sq. kilometer	(km ²)	1,000,000		

Carrying the same system of measures another step further brings the greater "voluminous" perspective.

SOLID: THREE DIMENSIONAL (Volume)

cu. millimeter	(mm ³)	.001		
cu. centimeter	(cm ³)	.001		
cu. decimeter	(dm ³)	.001		
STERE	(m ³)			1m ³
cu. decameter	(dkm ³)	1000		
cu. hectometer	(hm ³)	1,000,000		
cu. kilometer	(km ³)	1,000,000,000		

With each added dimension, the scale increases in power: m¹, m², m³. The *co-mensurations* encompass the three dimensions.

THE TWO FUNDAMENTAL LAWS

The metrics of Ma'at operate according to the two fundamental common-cosmic laws: the "law of three" and the "law of seven."

The "law of three" delineates the three dimensions: line, area, and volume. As stated, with each added dimension, from meter to centare to stere, there is increase in power: m^1 , m^2 , m^3 .

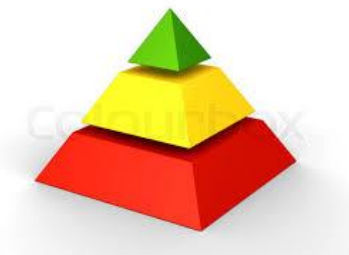
The "law of seven" enumerates the parts: millimeter, centimeter, decimeter, decameter, hectometer, kilometer, plus the specific gravity center of each part.

The three distinct strata, each composed of seven parts, operate both separately and together like three interconnected biological computers.

The stratified organization can help to explain the evolution of the triune brain, from reptile to animal to man. Using the terminology current in academia, the first region defined by the un-empowered meter would correspond to the reptilian brain, or R-complex, which develops *in utero* during the first trimester of pregnancy; the second region, the meter-squared, would relate to the brain of mammals (cortex), which develops in the second trimester; and the third part, or meter cubed, would pertain to the neocortex, the brain which develops in the third trimester. It is here, in the third brain, that we find the cognitive faculty of "Intellect," of higher reasoning and the powers of abstract thought, which distinguishes man from lower animals.

Those who study the brain say that each system develops at its own rate. Each new stage exhibits a growth of intelligence disproportionately greater than the increase of the prior stage (the proportions are likened to the Richter scale for measuring earthquakes). Whereas the *meter* relates to the kilometer as one-thousand to one, the squaring of the meter (*centare*) makes the relationship one-million to one, and cubing the meter (*stere*) brings it to a whopping one-billion to one.

In terms of proportional growth, however, not all human beings reach to the third or even second stage of brain development. In fact, every succeeding higher level shows a significantly smaller percentage of humanity attaining that stage. The current model for human development reveals a pyramidal structure, the majority of human beings remaining at the base level, or sensory-motor stage of a preschool aged child (to age 7). Proportionately few reach the second stage of emotional-cognitive maturation that should come during normal middle-school education (to age 14). Fewer still attain to the third level, the mature conceptual reasoning learned in a higher school or university (to age 21).



To be clear, the three brains develop *inside the womb* of Mother Ma'at.

Brain researchers say there is another, fourth, brain, called the prefrontal cortex (prefrontal lobes). It debuts at birth, or shortly thereafter, and its development takes place in the world *beyond* the confinement of the womb. Some researchers believe that the task of the prefrontals is unification of the three brains: rather than functioning separately, the lower three systems are brought under the one jurisdiction of this “master controller.” Thus the fourth brain acts as a *harmonic synthesizer* or *harmonia*.

The problem is that this prefrontal brain, the “master,” cannot function until the other three brains are fully operational. The three brains may be likened to the analogy of the cart, horse, and driver. The fourth brain, the prefrontal cortex, is the passenger, or “master of carriage,” for whom the whole thing exists in the first place.

Or one might liken the whole thing to an orchestra, the sections of strings, winds, and brass working separately, sounding cacophonously, until all are brought together under the baton of the one conductor, the Maestro.

The Maestro is Thoth.

THOTH



Thoth was the consort of Ma’at. In ancient Egypt, Thoth was the scribe, or deity, who invented the alphabet and spoken language. In fact, the god Thoth was called “the Master of Words.”

One might call him a *grammarian*, but he was highly adept at rhetoric and logic, as well. He was also an author. His composite writings, the *Books of Thoth*, (according to Clement of Alexandria, Stromata VI) were known as the *Corpus Hermeticum*. Some said the body of hermetic knowledge (thought) was so powerful that knowing the secret data one could equilibrate the scales and triumph over matter.²

As for any spirit who knows it, he will live among the living . . . he will never perish, he will never die.

It made sense. After all, the physical body is subject to the laws of Ma’at (matter) and is short-lived, existing for barely a century or less; whereas great books and literature and art, which are under the jurisdiction of Thoth (thought), are more substantial and can live on much longer, sometimes for many millennia.

² Gurdjieff had said: “I Gurdjieff, I not die!”

Thoth, like Ma'at, operates with his own system. It would not be far-fetched to call it “an independent and self-supporting machine.” The basic unit is the “gram.” In terms of measurements, it might be termed the “fourth weigh.”

THE FOURTH WEIGH			
milligram	.001 g		
centigram	.01 g		
decigram		.1 g	
GRAM			1 g
dekagram		10 g	
hectogram	100 g		
kilogram	1000 g		

The *gram* of Thoth is the measure of weight. I feel myself as a mass. There is the sense of a current flow. The gram is the center where I experience “presence,” where I *am present*, conscious of the current sensation in the body. This “electrical” sensation is not dependent upon anything “outer,” but rather it comes from an “inner” sense of presence, of something that passes through the matter of the solid body.

There is yet another center, the fifth center, connected with sex. The sex center would link to the “liter,” the fifth aspect of the metric system. The “liter” is the measure of capacity, specifically memory capacity. In terms of computers, the more memory the greater the intelligence of the machine.

STARLIGHT			
milliliter	.001 g		
centiliter	.01 g		
deciliter		.1 g	
LITER			1 l
dekaliter		10 g	
hectoliter	100 g		
kiloliter	1000 g		

There are other intriguing things to notice about this three-dimensional metric scenario.

For one thing, a Gurdjieffian will probably link this exposition of the three-powered regions to the facets of the Work known as “functions” and “centers.”

FUNCTIONS AND CENTERS

According to Ouspensky, Gurdjieff began with three centers—the intellectual, the emotional, and the moving.

On the first occasion he spoke of three centers, the intellectual, the emotional, and the moving, and tried to make us distinguish these *functions*, find examples, and so on.

But Gurdjieff didn't stop here. Two more centers were then added.

Afterwards the instinctive center was added, as an independent and self-supporting machine. Afterwards the sex center.³

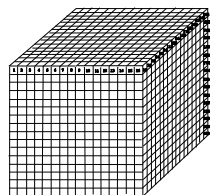
Ouspensky himself speaks about the suppressions which Gurdjieff fostered by his method of presentation, which were the cause of later confusion and misunderstandings in later groups.

Gurdjieff gave the ideas little by little, as though defending or protecting them from us. When touching on new themes for the first time he gave only general principles, often holding back the most essential. Sometimes he himself pointed out apparent discrepancies in the theories given, which were, in fact, precisely due to these reservations and suppressions.⁴

Someone once asked Gurdjieff “Can sex be an independent center?” “It can,” said Gurdjieff. “At the same time, if *all the lower story is taken as one whole*, then sex can be regarded as the neutralizing part of the moving center.”⁵ It is little wonder that, as Ouspensky reported, a great deal of confusion, wrong reasoning, and many wrong conclusions were drawn from the idea of the centers! However, this formerly confusing picture regarding the way Gurdjieff explained the “three centers” and the “five centers” begins to make some sense. There are the three centers powered by the meter, centare, and stere, which correspond to the thinking, emotional, and moving centers. There are the two additional centers, the instinctive and sex centers, which are measured by the “gram” and the “liter,” respectively. Taken as a whole, these three systems of measures—meter, gram, liter—locked together, form one whole atomic structure.

This powerful “atom” is the ancient “sacred cubit.”

THE SACRED CUBIT



³ In Search of the Miraculous, p. 55

⁴ In Search of the Miraculous, p. 54

⁵ In Search of the Miraculous, p. 257

ATUM-RA

The full name of the atom was “Atum-Ra.”



The name “Atum” is believed to derive from the word “tem,” meaning “to complete.” As the ancient Egyptian texts suggest, it is the creative act of the sun god, Atum Ra, who brings light upon the dark formless, empty earth. The same idea is restated in Genesis.

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, Let there be light.

Atum-Ra was the finisher of the creation, the completer. As such, he was prominent in the Pyramid Texts, and was portrayed as finishing the whole material substance of the creation.

As Genesis implies, the atomic structure took six days to complete. Man is created on the sixth day, “male and female,” in the image of God, and is given dominion.

Six is the first “perfect number.” The definition of a “perfect number” is one which is equal to the sum of its aliquot divisors including unity, but excludes the number itself. In ancient traditions the number 6 was considered as the most perfect of all numbers since it was both the *sum* and *product* of its parts: $1 + 2 + 3$, and $1 \times 2 \times 3$. That is, the number 6, as the result of both + and x, symbolizes a crossing.

Looking back at the figures of Ma’at, Thoth, and Atum-Ra, we notice that all three hold in their hands the symbol of the cross (Lat. *crux*).

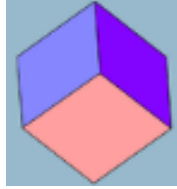


The cross is a very ancient hermetic symbol with multiple meanings. One of the most basic meanings is the aspect of two complementary principles which are added together (+), or multiply mixed (x). Today we *unconsciously* use these mathematical operators which tell us to “add” or “multiply,” not recognizing their true origin or significance. How to have a more conscious association with this ancient symbol?

For one thing, the cross is often depicted as the “cube unfolded.” There are six small cubes, four situated vertically and three horizontally, the one cube in between shared by both.

CUBES AND QUBITS

The geometrical cube actually has 6 faces and 8 vertices. However, as we generally observe it, it has only three visible faces, the others are hidden from view by the opaque covering.



The ancients already knew that the atom was the underlying material substance of all things. That is the reason why the ancient scientists measured in cubits. In fact, the cubit was the basis for the sacred canon of proportion associated with the temples dedicated to worshipping the creator gods.

In the jargon of modern secular science, “cubits” has been re-spelled as “qubits.” Today, scientists are in *question*, even in total disagreement, as to how to explain *qubits*. They know that quantum qubits help to explain many strange phenomena: for example, how particles behave when superpositioned, how a discrete object can also be described as a wave function, how there can be action at a distance between particles. They understand that the math behind quantum theory is powerful. The trouble is that the “reality” it describes is far from clear. How thought-provoking that the change from the “c” (the symbol for the speed of light, as well as for *consciousness*) to the “q” is indicative of the fact that what was once known consciously millennia ago is now lost, a flotsam set adrift and floating somewhere in man’s collective unconscious.

Going a step further, we may hypothesize that here we have uncovered the digital three-brain-system which operates the “electrical circuitry” for that particular *form* of life we term the human being. The electrical circuit consists of three interconnected components, called *resistor*, *inductor*, and *capacitor*, which are confined between two extremities (bipolar). These three components are the three passive building blocks upon which the whole of electronics is predicated.

The whole of our physical science depends upon knowing these three components of meter (or foot), gram (or pound), and second. Joining the three together, the result is the standard unit, the coulomb. The equation is shown below

$$C = m^{3/2} \times kg^{1/2} \times s^{-1}$$

where C = coulomb, or unit of electric charge; m = meter; kg = kilograms; and s = seconds

The word “coulomb” strangely homophonizes itself into “cool” and “om,” perhaps causing one’s brain to reflect upon Gurdjieff’s explanation of how we sense the *flow of time*.

Although Time—its exact presence, even its very existence—cannot be established, nevertheless Objective Science finds it necessary to use for its examination of it a standard unit, called the *Egokoolnatsnarnian-sensation*.

He goes on to say that this standard unit, the *Egokoolnatsnarnian-sensation*, used for measuring *time flow*, “has been established in Objective Science for the possibility of *exactly defining and comparing the differences* between the gradations of the processes of the subjective *sensations* of separate conscious individuals and also of what are called ‘diverse-tempos’ among various objective cosmic phenomena which are manifested in various spheres of our Great Universe and which actualize all cosmic arisings both large and small.”⁶

Let us be bold and suppose that the following paragraph, which comes near the completion of *Beelzebub’s Tales*, refers to the three separately formed parts of the metric system, and whose gravity centers are the measures of meter, gram, and liter.

In the common presence of a man, and for the spiritualization and manifestation of *each* of the enumerated *three separately formed parts* of his entire whole, there is an independent as it is called, “gravity-center-localization;” and *each* of these gravity-center localizations, *each* with its own entire system, has for its general actualization, its own peculiarities and predispositions inherent in it alone.

Let us further suppose that the three parts refer to the triune human brain system composed of the differently-dimensioned stratified layers; and that the standard unit controlling and synchronizing the mechanism is the coulomb, identified as the symbol C. This C controls (induces) the electronic data flowing through the brain. The inductor, just as the letter C suggests, is an open tube set in place to steady the electrical flow in the material world. No resistance. This tubular C is connected at certain places (plexes) by nerves to form one whole, complete, complex nervous system, the flowing current of neuronal sensation that generates the machine—the Time Machine.

The sensory connections, which operate as powers of 2, resonate octaves of C’s, as follows:

2 neurons have 2 possible connections	(2)	C2
3 neurons have 8 possible connections	(4)	C4
4 neurons have 64 possible connections	(8)	C8
5 neurons have 1024 possible connections	(16)	C16
6 neurons have 32,768 possible connections	(32)	C32

Thus the inductor works on a vibrating signal. It is truly “harmonic,” the mechanism of specifically harmonic transfer between the planes. Without harmonic content, the inductor does not induce.

Another name for “inductor” is “choke.” The choke behaves as a frequency dependent harmonic valve: frequencies above a certain value are attenuated (“choked”), but lower frequencies get through unchanged. The low frequencies in the “local circuit” in series with an inductor behave effectively like a *steady-state* direct current, while high frequencies are blocked.

Madame de Salzman was surely hinting of this harmonic induction when she wrote

⁶ Gurdjieff, *Beelzebub’s Tales*, p. 125

As I ordinarily am, I have access to myself only through sensation, the five senses. The sensation awakens an energy that is merely superficial; there is a depth that is not attained. In fact, this sensation is like a *wall* that separates me from myself; my attention does not reach the Presence in me that lives another life, another dimension. Instead of seeking sensation, I need to receive the impression of the higher finer vibration. For this, a new *feeling* is needed that allows the vibrations to spread.⁷

In my mind's eye I could picture this vertical "wall" of harmonics, the reflections of the original "tone row." Yes, there in the right-hand column were the five reflective Cs (C16, C32, C64, C128, C256), presumably the awakened but superficial five senses, the c^2 part of the energy equation, shining their photonic "light images" upon the photographic plate, that flat, dark, empty, ghostly mass, the m part of the equation which, for us, appears *invisible*.

The Wall

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
C	C	G	C	E	G	B ^B	C	D	E	F [#]	G	A	B ^B	B	C
															32
															C
															48
															G
															64
															C
															80
															E
															96
															G
															112
															B ^B
															128
															C
															144
															D
															160
															E
															176
															F [#]
															192
															G
															208
															A
															224
															B ^B
															240
															B
															256
															C

One may be reminded of the Buddhist's tenet: "Form is emptiness; emptiness is form."

Irrespective of that, perhaps our Material Question, rather than generating merely a philosophical out-pouring from the empty into the void, will have produced a database of sufficient strength to allow us to engage further in a real and objective contemplation of the question "What is Form."

⁷ The Reality of Being, p. 64

In the lambdoma chart below, we not only are able to fill in the missing mass of numbers which create the whole Form; we also see how the Mass divides into two distinct and opposing parts, this division occurring at the diagonal. This “hybrid” lineage of 1’s, composed of both fractions and wholes, is highlighted in yellow. (Have we discovered the mathematical basis for the “lineage of David,” from whence cometh Christ the Lord, both “son of man” and “son of God”)?

THE MASS

1/1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1/2	2/2	3/2	4/2	5/2	6/2	7/2	8/2	9/2	10/2	11/2	12/2	13/2	14/2	15/2	16/2
1/3	2/3	3/3	4/3	5/3	6/3	7/3	8/3	9/3	10/3	11/3	12/3	13/3	14/3	15/3	16/3
1/4	2/4	3/4	4/4	5/4	6/4	7/4	8/4	9/4	10/4	11/4	12/4	13/4	14/4	15/4	16/4
1/5	2/5	3/5	4/5	5/5	6/5	7/5	8/5	9/5	10/5	11/5	12/5	13/5	14/5	15/5	16/5
1/6	2/6	3/6	4/6	5/6	6/6	7/6	8/6	9/6	10/6	11/6	12/6	13/6	14/6	15/6	16/6
1/7	2/7	3/7	4/7	5/7	6/7	7/7	8/7	9/7	10/7	11/7	12/7	13/7	14/7	15/7	16/7
1/8	2/8	3/8	4/8	5/8	6/8	7/8	8/8	9/8	10/8	11/8	12/8	13/8	14/8	15/8	16/8
1/9	2/9	3/9	4/9	5/9	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	10/9	11/9	12/9	13/9	14/9	15/9	16/9
1/10	2/10	3/10	4/10	5/10	6/10	7/10	8/10	9/10	10/10	11/10	12/10	13/10	14/10	15/10	16/10
1/11	2/11	3/11	4/11	5/11	6/11	7/11	8/11	9/11	10/11	11/11	12/11	13/11	14/11	15/11	16/11
1/12	2/12	3/12	4/12	5/12	6/12	7/12	8/12	9/12	10/12	11/12	12/12	13/12	14/12	15/12	16/12
1/13	2/13	3/13	4/13	5/13	6/13	7/13	8/13	9/13	10/13	11/13	12/13	13/13	14/13	15/13	16/13
1/14	2/14	3/14	4/14	5/14	6/14	7/14	8/14	9/14	10/14	11/14	12/14	13/14	14/14	15/14	16/14
1/15	2/15	3/15	4/15	5/15	6/15	7/15	8/15	9/15	10/15	11/15	12/15	13/15	14/15	15/15	16/15
1/16	2/16	3/16	4/16	5/16	6/16	7/16	8/16	9/16	10/16	11/16	12/16	13/16	14/16	15/16	16/16

As a musicologist well knows, the Mass is composed of two parts: Proper and Ordinary. The music for the Proper part of the Mass, which is variable within the liturgical year, includes the Introit, Gradual, Alleluia, Sequence, Offertory, and Communion. The music for the Ordinary (or “improper”) forms the part that is constant: the Kyrie eleison, Gloria in excelsis, Creed, Sanctus and Benedictus, and Agnus Dei.

By allying the diagonal fractional 1s (1/1, 2/2, 3/3, and so on) on the side of the improper (ordinary) fractions, the “right” side outnumbered the proper fractions: 136 to 120. On the other hand, by allying the diagonal fractional 1s with the “leftists,” the left side then outnumbered the right side by that same amount. The “swing vote” is the diagonal itself, composed of sixteen neutral 1s. This difference of 16 is the number which represents the pes, or “foot.” This metric foot, literally, is the difference that makes the difference.

In Gurdjieff’s words

In this constant struggle of theirs, the equilibrating harmonizing principle is their second being-being body . . . it always tends according to the second-grade law ‘Urdekhplifata’ to unite with those desires of which there are more, whether in one or the other of the two mentioned opposite being-parts.⁸

And as Madame de Salzman wrote

My entire life is shaped by this struggle, and *I must understand* it if I wish this life to be conscious.⁹

As previously stated, one of the most basic meanings of the symbol of the cross is the aspect of two complementary principles: that is, the principle of addition (+), and the principle of multiplication (x).

Christianity connects not only the cross, but also the number 6, in its negative aspect, with the *crucifixion* of Christ, said to have happened on the 6th day at the 6th hour. Why so? The unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics underlying the number 6 may provide the answer.¹⁰

Do you see how all three numbers, 1 2 3, are essential for *the addition* to the perfect number 6? The three together form a holy trinity of forces: neutral-negative-positive. These three numbers, 1 2 3, were held to be the prime creative forces in ancient cultures. In ancient China, for example, the *sage Lao-tzu* said: “One produces two, two produces three, and from three comes all created worlds.” Plato, in *The Republic* Book VII, mentions these same three numbers. Putting the words in the mouth of Socrates, Plato speaks of a “universal application” which concerns “the little matter of distinguishing one, two, and three—in a word, number and calculation.” The numbers, as he says, can “lead the mind to *truth* and *being* in a very remarkable manner.”

Remarkable indeed! Look! See how, when *multiplication* is applied, the number 1 becomes, so to say, superfluous. “God” (the “neutral” party, the neutron) no longer must be factored into the equation. The creation can go on and on by itself, “like a pianola,” without the Presence of the 1. No longer a

⁸ Beelzebub’s Tales, p. 802

⁹ The Reality of Being, p. 66

¹⁰ The now-famous phrase, “the unreasonable effectiveness of mathematics,” is from physicist Eugene Wigner.

trinity, the tripartite atom has split, so to say, and the result of this “splitting of the atom” is that the whole operation has now become dual: that is: $2 \times 3 = 6$.¹¹ Or as it is said, “God is dead.”

The three numbers, 1 2 3, and their splitting apart bring to mind the word “Djartklom,” which, as Gurdjieff says, “proceeds in the Okidanokh during the *sacred process* ‘Aieioiuoa.’¹² In other words, the splitting into three parts—positive, negative, and neutralizing—proceeds in the atomic structure of living entities during the conscious process of *breathing*. As long as man breaths only *automatically and unconsciously* he uses only *two parts* of the Okidanokh, which creates an imbalance and reduces the total amount of Okidanokh in the entire universe. He also unbalances himself and is constrained to live always as a convicted prisoner trapped in the world of duality, or what the ancients termed the illusory world of “maya.”

Breathing produces the cosmic substance called “*Elekilpomagtistzen*” by alternating *electromagnetic currents*. In the world of *duality* (where there are only two separate parts of the omnipresent Okidanokh), every living breathing entity wears away with each breath. Its time is measured by the number of its inhalations and exhalations. Every breath brings it closer to death.

In the ancient science of yoga, the length of time of man’s life was said to depend upon the *neutralizing* of the incoming and outgoing breaths. When the *neutron*, the *neutralizing* force which does not carry an electric charge and is not electromagnetic, is included in the process of breathing, there is no longer the *destruction of two parts of the Okidanokh*. In order to live longer, one needs the 1.

In the ancient yogic science of breath, the 1 appears at the still point in between the incoming and outgoing breaths. Here, at “ground zero,” for a moment, the breath stops. In yogic science, “stopping of the breath” meant “deathlessness”: the correct application of *prana*—the life force, or breath—could unknot man’s slavery to matter and decay and death. By specific techniques related directly to neutralizing the breath, man could get out of the circle of time. As is nearly always the case, the yogic meaning has been misconstrued.

Notice how Gurdjieff’s explanation brings immediate clarification to the mass of contradictions and misunderstandings. The use of electricity, he tells us, has produced very unfortunate consequences in the life of man as well as for the entire solar system. The purposeful destruction of two parts of the Okidanokh, which enters into all aspects and functions in the universe, is being removed from the *atmosphere* by man for his egoistic purposes. This wrong use of the energy is creating an imbalance and reduces the total amount of Okidanokh in the entire universe. The higher-being-bodies of all three-brain-beings, as a result, cannot be coated *properly*.

Proper coating of the mass requires the 1.

¹¹ We might want to keep in mind, for future reference, that Gurdjieff mentions the *pianola* in the *First Series* at the end of the first page of his first chapter, the one titled “The Arousing of Thought”.

¹² *Aieioiuoa* is a word made up solely of vowels which require breath for their utterance.