

## **The Etheric Web**

The human aura (energy field) is shaped like an egg and it surrounds the physical body. The aura is said to have a well-defined surface, which is elastic and if people are close together, the aura is compressed and does not mingle with the auras of others.

The aura is made up of a number of layers. The densest layer is the etheric body. Beyond this layer lies the astral body and causal body. All three bodies interpenetrate the physical body.

The surface of the aura has a special structure, called the 'etheric web' or 'atomic web'. This is a web of filaments of etheric material. Clairvoyants see this as a fine web formed of thin, light emanating cords.

The etheric web is similar to the Earth's magnetosphere. The Earth's magnetosphere is the first layer of protection against solar flares and it deflects the solar flare's charged particles.

The etheric web shields a person from intrusions and stops thought forms and earth bound spirits from entering a person's energy field. In psychically weakened or unwell people the etheric web may be damaged. The damaged parts of the etheric web appear to clairvoyants as black holes in the aura, the rest of the aura is seen by them as coloured light.

People with damage to their etheric webs are in danger of being affected by the negative emotions of other people and the harmful suggestions of earth bound spirits.

Mediums can access other realms safely via their aura, which can be closed and opened at will. When doing healing or psychic work we must always close our auric field at the end of the session.

The etheric web may in fact be a plasma sheath. Plasma sheaths were first described by American physicist Irving Langmuir in 1928. For more information on plasma sheaths see the references section.

Charles Webster Leadbeater (1854 – 1934) was an influential member of the Theosophical Society and author of many esoteric books. Originally a priest in the Church of England, his interest in spiritualism caused him to join the Theosophical Society. Leadbeater developed extraordinary psychic abilities and went on to write over 70 books and pamphlets that examined in detail the hidden side of life.

Leadbeater says, "I have said that the astral and etheric centres are in very close correspondence; but between them, and interpenetrating them in a manner not readily describable, is a sheath or web of closely woven texture, a sheath composed of a single layer of physical atoms much compressed and permeated by a special form of vital force."

"The divine life which normally descends from the astral body to the physical is so attuned as to pass through this (web) with perfect ease, but it is an absolute barrier to

all other forces... This web is the protection provided by nature to prevent a premature opening up of communication between the planes, a development which could lead to injury.”

“It is this (web) which under normal conditions prevents clear recollection of what has happened during sleep, and it is this (web) which causes the momentary unconsciousness which always occurs at death. But for this merciful provision the ordinary man, who knows nothing about all these things and is entirely unprepared to meet them, could at any moment be brought by any astral entity under the influence of forces, which would be entirely beyond his strength. He would be liable to constant obsession by any being on the astral plane who desired to seize upon his vehicles (energy bodies).”

“It will therefore be readily understood that any injury to this web is a serious disaster. There are several ways in which injury may come, and it behoves us to use our best endeavours to guard against it. It may come either by accident or by continued malpractice.”

“Any great shock to the astral body, such for example as a sudden terrible fright, may rend apart this delicate organism and, as it is commonly expressed, drive the man mad (of course there are other ways in which fear may cause insanity). A tremendous outburst of anger may also produce the same effect. Indeed it may follow upon any exceedingly strong emotion of an evil character which produces a kind of explosion in the astral body.”

### **The Effects of Drugs, Alcohol and Tobacco**

The regular use of alcohol or recreational drugs can create small tears in the etheric web. Leadbeater states that the regular use of recreational drugs and alcohol may actually burn away the etheric web, leaving the person open to all sorts of harmful influences.

The regular use of drugs and alcohol may harden the web stopping the person receiving guidance from their Higher Self / Soul. Leadbeater states that the regular use of tobacco tends to deaden a person’s etheric body preventing them from receiving higher vibrations.

Other Theosophical writers such as Annie Besant have different views on the effect of drugs, alcohol and tobacco.

### **Conclusion**

The etheric web forms a barrier between the physical and astral planes and protects us from harmful astral energies.

## **References**

### **Leadbeater**

<http://www.anandgholap.net/Chakras-CWL.htm>

### **Lucis Trust**

<http://www.lucistrust.org:8081/obooks/?q=node/310>

### **Plasma Sheaths**

<http://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/0963-0252/18/1/014004/meta:jsessionid=3A82ED0090DC2431B3EEE8B45B984E21.c1>

### **The Astral and Causal Bodies**

[http://www.simonheather.co.uk/pages/articles/the\\_astral\\_body.pdf](http://www.simonheather.co.uk/pages/articles/the_astral_body.pdf)