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Eighth Year

**OUR INVISIBLE
ENVIRONMENT**

By C. C. Zain

Each year new and important discoveries are made in the domain of material science. Some of these discoveries tend to substantiate, and some make easy the explanations of the findings of occult science. The year 1926 has not been barren of such results, and I shall here indicate those that, to my

mind, assist us to a better understanding of our invisible environment.

Environment is one of the two great factors of life. The other factor is the entity that lives within the environment. If the entity's reactions to its environment are adequate, it lives and is successful; but if its reactions to its environment are inadequate, it fails, and perhaps dies.

The reactions of fish to a watery environment are adequate enough that they may live to considerable age. But let the pools and streams in which they live become dry and the reactions of ordinary fish to an environment of mud and air are inadequate, and they die. There are fish, however—the lungfish of Africa, Australia and South America—that have developed the ability to live through long periods of drought. They have developed the ability to make adequate reactions to an environment other than that in which fish customarily dwell.

This growing aridity, from time to time, of vast areas of the earth's surface is the environmental force that compelled fish to leave the crowded sea to escape enemies and to search for food, thus developing the first vertebrate creatures; it compelled fish to take to land, developing the first amphibian; it compelled the amphibian to develop an egg that would hatch and the young live, out of water, developing the first reptile; and it compelled certain plants, instead of bearing spores, to develop seeds that would better insure reproduction under such conditions.

Another environment, that of increasing cold, compelled the development, from reptile scales, of the fur of mammals and the feathers of birds; and forced the more complex methods of protection and nourishment of the young common to birds and mammals. Nor has man escaped the compelling force of recent changing environment. Within twenty years the automobile alone has relegated horsemanship to a place of no importance, has placed mechanical skill at a premium, and made great alertness the price of limb and life.

An entity to live and succeed must react adequately to environmental influences. If it does not, it perishes. Adequate reactions where man is concerned, however, largely depend upon knowledge. Therefore, the more information man has about his environment and its effect upon him the better he is prepared for survival and success.

Man's visible and observable environment, with the perfection of astronomical instruments, has rapidly been widening. During 1926, Dr. Edwin Hubble, of Mount Wilson Observatory, showed that the observable region of space is a sphere of 140 million light-years radius. A light-year, it may be explained, is the distance light travels in one year. It travels,

according to Professor A. A. Michelson, of the University of Chicago, as determined by him in 1926, in an experiment giving greater precision than hitherto attained, 186,173 miles per second. But in addition to this visible environment of 280 million light-years diameter—which includes, according to Dr. Hubble, some 2,000,000 spiral nebulae, all of which are embryo or grown-up stellar systems—there is an invisible environment not less important.

It is the opinion, as given to the press recently, of an electrical expert who is recognized as an authority on radio, that the phenomenon of fading, noticed in radio reception, is due to the signals of the inhabitants of other planets. He predicts that these signals will, within twenty-five years, be interpreted. We can scarcely conceive of the tremendous changes resulting. The scientific advancement of the inhabitants of the whole solar system may thus be placed at the disposal of man. Some of the planets may be scientifically as far ahead of the earth as modern civilized man is ahead of the men of the old stone age. We would not see the inhabitants of other worlds, but by an adequate reaction to an invisible environment—radio signalling—man's progress on earth may be stepped forward thousands of years.

But as this has not yet come to pass, better illustrations of the effect of our invisible environment may be had by citing certain discoveries made during 1926.

It was shown, for instance, that ultra-violet light is necessary for the formation of vitamin B, which prevents beri-beri and similar diseases, and that it is necessary, at least to a certain extent, for the formation of the growth promoting vitamin A. Man's health and life depend upon securing in his food these vitamins, which are formed only in the presence of ultra-violet light. Yet ultra-violet light cannot be seen, and forms a part of our exceedingly potent, but invisible, environment.

As another instance: Vibrations of physical substance ranging in frequency from 16 per second to 30,000 per second are audible as sound. During 1926, frequencies as high as 300,000 per second were used by Professor R. W. Wood and A. L. Loomis in the production of what they term the "death whisper." These beams of sound-waves, too short to be heard, were found to be capable of killing certain small animals and plants, and to have other peculiar biological effects. Inaudible sound-waves, though having the power to take life, are also a portion of our invisible environment.

In fact, our invisible environment is immeasurably more extensive than the visible one; for the visible environment embraces only a few octaves of vibratory frequencies, and only three-dimensional existence, while the invisible environment embraces innumerable

octaves of vibratory frequencies, and existence of more than three dimensions.

We may compare physical life to the life of creatures of the ocean's floor. Such creatures, had they sufficient intelligence, might explore the bottom of the ocean and map its contour. More adventurous ones might even pass from one ocean to another, thus widening, as has man, the visible and observable environment. But of life on the land there would be no knowledge.

Perhaps, in time, some would develop faculties by which they could weather the beating surf and approach near enough to shore to catch glimpses of creatures moving on the land. But should these report their observations to their deep sea brethren they would doubtless be met with disdainful skepticism. And should others devise means temporarily to venture ashore, their reported observations would be met with ridicule.

Should they describe the porcupine, it would seem to their deep-sea brethren but a sea-urchin transported, through the imagination, to land. Should they describe the armadillo, it would seem but a transplanted chiton. Should they tell about the various flowers, it would be deemed a fancy derived from their familiarity with the sea-anemone. For practically everything living on the land has a counterpart of analogous form living in the ocean. What was actually observed on the land, therefore, would be attributed to the memory of what had previously been seen in the sea.

A very similar situation exists at the present day in reference to man's invisible environment. Those who have developed the ability to explore it report not only that all existing on the physical plane has a counterpart in the astral, but that all that lives on the physical, when it dies, continues for a time to live on the astral plane.

Of course, there are plenty of skeptics and scoffers, as might be expected. But increasing numbers of people are having personal experiences that convince them that those who pass from the physical plane still retain their personality, and under favorable conditions communicate with those yet in the flesh.

Sober-minded scientists, who are not putting on a press campaign for the purpose of upholding or refuting any particular doctrine, continue year after year to investigate the various types of psychic phenomena. These investigations are made with all the facilities of the laboratory, and checked by specially devised apparatus. Thought-transference, clairvoyance, monition, prevision, clairaudience, etherialization, and materialization, as well as many other types, have been the subject of painstaking research. For further details the reader is referred to "Thirty Years of Psychical Research," by Professor Charles

Richet, and "Death and Its Mystery," by Camille Flammarion. The list of names of those who have investigated such phenomena contains the most illustrious scientific men in the world, and I do not know of a single scientist who has attained an international reputation for achievement, who has investigated such phenomena and remains unconvinced of its genuineness.

Among the most baffling of such phenomena is that of materialization. A homogeneous plastic substance forms outside the subject's body. This ectoplasm, as it is called, seems to be able to assume the form and quality of any material substance, giving all the reactions, when it materializes as a human form, of actual flesh and blood.

But perhaps we know as little now of the possibilities of human energies being projected beyond the human form, as a year ago we knew about the possibilities of projecting the cathode ray beyond the cathode ray tube. Yet one of the outstanding events of 1926 was the demonstration, by Dr. W. D. Coolidge, of a new cathode ray tube. With this tube the rays are, for the first time, obtained in quantity outside the tube. Applied to the body of a mouse for the fraction of a second the cathode ray caused the mouse completely to disintegrate without charring the flesh. Radium is very powerful, also very expensive, but the effect of this tube is estimated to be the equivalent of a ton of radium.

The various types of psychic phenomena are made possible through the utilization of the finer forces that, common to the astral plane, are able to affect material substance only under certain conditions. This astral plane and its energies are an important part of man's invisible environment.

Countless invisible entities swarm in the space about us, but only under certain conditions can they help or hinder us. These conditions relate to our thoughts. We "tune in" on entities and energies having the same vibratory rate as our thoughts. Unpleasant thoughts "tune in" on intelligences that are disintegrative. Pleasant thoughts "tune in" on intelligences that are constructive. Whatever the subject or quality of our thought, we "tune in" on intelligences that correspond to it. We thus, by the direction and quality of our thinking, in great measure, build our invisible environment.

Perhaps the words of an eminently practical man on this subject may be quoted to advantage. As reported in *Cosmopolitan Magazine* for February, 1926, Henry Ford says:

"I believe that there are entities or little auxiliary life atoms, or whatever you want to call them, flying about and when a person is doing something to help people—doing something for people and not for himself—that these little entities fly to him and help

him. The vital stuff we need is all about us—it feeds and strengthens our spirit. All we need is to keep our lives pointed in the right direction and what we need will come to us."

But in addition to invisible entities and invisible energies that we "tune in" on with our thoughts, there are other potent astral vibrations beating upon man from the planets. These planetary forces set up subconscious trends of thought and stimulate action in specific directions, even as the sun tends to cause man to seek the shade, and as storm urges him to find shelter.

I know there are scientific men, who have never taken the trouble to learn to set up a birth-chart, who hold that astrology is an exploded science. Yet these same scientists just as stoutly maintained, until the last few years, that alchemy also was an exploded science, and that the transmutation of metals is but a myth fostered by occult students.

As for transmutation, here are records of 1926: Professor F. Paneth and Dr. Peters, of the University of Berlin, transmuted hydrogen into helium. Dr. William D. Harkins, of the University of Chicago, reported to the National Academy of Sciences that when hit by the nucleus of an atom of helium, nitrogen is changed to fluorine and then to hydrogen and oxygen. Furthermore, Dr. A. Gaschler, of Berlin Technical High School, claimed to have transmuted gold into mercury.

One of the great handicaps to the acceptance of the possibility of transmutation of metals was the great difficulty and expense of the experiments relating to it. But astrology is not under such a handicap; for it may be demonstrated at a trifling expense by any intelligent person who will put forth the small effort necessary to learn to set up a birth-chart.

This birth-chart maps the centers of energy within the astral body at birth, and thus is an index to character and ability. It also indicates the harmonies and discords in the astral body as affecting the different departments of life. It is not a map of what inevitably will come to pass; but a map of the invisible energies that tend to cause the life to flow in a given channel.

The energies of the planets after birth, as the planets reach certain positions where they form definite angles to their places at birth, stimulate into activity the centers of energy present at birth. This stimulation tends to cause the person to feel and think in a certain way. And as the effect of such stimulation to cause a person to act in a given way, or to be attracted to a given environment, has been carefully observed in innumerable instances when each of the centers of energy have been stimulated by beams from each of the planets, it may usually

be predicted with much accuracy just what event will transpire and when it will come to pass.

Yet there is nothing fatalistic about this, unless the tides of the ocean, the winds of heaven, and the coming of rain, also be considered fatalistic. The ocean tides cannot be changed, but man can arrange his affairs to take advantage of the tides that favor him; nor can the tides of energy from the planets be abated, but the affairs of man can be so ordered that they will assist rather than impede his efforts. The winds come and go without man's consent, as do the influxes of planetary energy; but man, aware of the winds and aware of planetary energies, need not permit himself to be too greatly inconvenienced by either. Furthermore, the rains fall from the sky, but whether man suffer loss from them or obtain gain, largely depends upon his foresight in making proper preparation. So also the energies of the planets beat upon him, and what will happen to him as the result, if he is ignorant of these influences, may closely be predicted. But if he is intelligent enough to recognize the influence of this section of his invisible environment, and prepare properly his reaction to it, he may free himself from such invisible compulsion, in large measure, and direct his life into channels of his own choosing.

The Millikan Ray, which was the subject of the 1926 "Annual," it seems likely, is not the energy by which the planets affect human life. Yet it has been discovered during the past year by Dr. Werner Kolhoerster, German physicist, that this ray varies daily with the aspect of the heavens. So, also, do planetary energies vary, from day to day, depending upon the aspects, or angular positions, with which their energies converge.

And now comes the report, as I write this, that the Millikan Ray reveals important information on the mystery of life, Professor Pupin stating his belief that the energy of all living cells come from these rays. Truly, life is conditioned and swayed vastly more than scientists usually admit, by its invisible environment.

It is believed that planetary energies stimulate sections of the astral body, and organize centers of energy in it, in the same way as do thoughts. Hence thoughts, properly directed, have the same kind of influence over the astral body, and consequently over the life and destiny, as do planetary energies. When the temperature is cold man is accustomed to counteract this environmental influence by preparing a fire. When the temperature is hot, man is accustomed to counteract the environmental influence by means of ice or an electric fan. The energies reaching man from the planets are also an environmental influence, and when not favorable to man's ends, they may be counteracted by properly directed thought. Furthermore, properly directed thought and feeling can build up in man just such conditions

as might be expected from favorable planetary positions.

The visible and tangible objects by which man is surrounded also have an influence. They, as do colors, each radiate energy of a specific character. Even names and numbers, through the mental energy radiated by those thinking them, have an influence. This invisible energy, radiated by the various objects with which man associates, stimulates the centers of energy in his astral body in a manner similar to that of the energy from the planets. Thus by proper selection of colors, names, numbers, and objects, with which he closely associates, man can increase those harmonies within himself that tend to attract success and happiness.

Still another important factor of man's invisible environment is the thoughts of his associates. Critical thoughts, harsh thoughts, antagonistic thoughts, radiated by his associates, tend toward building up those inharmonious centers of energy in his astral body that attract him to sorrow and failure. But loving thoughts, helpful thoughts, kindly thoughts, tend toward building up the harmonious centers of energy in his astral body that attract to him the realization of his ambition.

Such modification of Einstein's Theory of Relativity as to admit of an "ether drift" would require no modification in the ideas usually held by occultists, because Einstein insists the ether a logical necessity. But in view of the fact that the Einstein Theory is a great aid to getting a proper conception of the relation of man's invisible environment to his visible environment, it should be recorded that the "ether drift" experiments for which Dr. Dayton C. Miller was awarded the \$1000.00 prize for the most notable contribution to science in 1925, has not been further verified. On the contrary, experiments by Dr. Rudolph Tomaschek, of the University of Heidelberg, fail to confirm it; experiments by Dr. Carl T. Chase of the Norman Bridge Laboratory of Physics, at Pasadena, fail to support it; experiments by means of a midnight balloon ascension in Belgium show no evidence of ether drift; and the Michelson-Morely experiment, as repeated by Dr. Ray J. Kennedy, of the California Institute of Technology, fails to indicate it. Consequently, the Einstein Theory emerges from 1926 more strongly supported than ever.

As I have briefly outlined it here, man's invisible environment embraces these four important factors: 1. Invisible entities, including such influences as may be exercised by discarnate human beings. 2. Energies from the planets. 3. The radiations of objects by which man is surrounded. 4. The influence of the thoughts of other persons.

Each of these four categories of influences affect man through energies that impinge upon his astral

body and thus either stimulate subconscious trains of thought that lead to action, or form centers of energy that by their harmony or discord tend to attract events of a given type. But man himself is a potent engine for radiating energy. His thoughts, especially when reinforced by proper emotions, are capable of organizing energies within his astral body quite as potent as any he may receive from without. He thus has within his own power, if he has the intelligence to use it, the means by which he can, when desirable, annul the influence of his invisible environment. And he can build within himself, by the power of his own thoughts, just such centers of energy as would be organized by the most favorable invisible environment. Thus he may become the director of his own life and fortune.

The details of such constructive thinking cannot be given here. They will be found in Courses V and IX. But it may be mentioned that in general a life actuated by the desire to be of greatest possible service to universal society, engenders constructive thinking, because it is reinforced by love of others. If in addition, discrimination is developed, and the ability to feel pleasure even under very trying circumstances, an immediate invisible environment is built up that attracts happiness and great accomplishment.

Each year more is learned about our invisible environment. The sound of even a single atom of radium was made audible, to those who listen to the radio, by Dr. H. P. Cady, chemist of the University of Kansas, who amplified a minute electric current 700 billion times. But of far greater importance than this experiment, and of far greater importance than other discoveries of 1926, is the power of human thought to modify the invisible environment and thus enable man to become the master of his own life and destiny.

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Course VIII.—Horary Astrology (Hermetic System)

This Course is embraced in 7 lessons. The first three of these lessons are equally essential for the mastery of any branch of astrology, and should be studied by all who expect to take up Natal Astrology. The last lesson of the Course is especially important. It teaches how to select the best time to start anything under the Sun. The success of any venture depends to a great extent upon its being commenced at the proper time.

Before taking up this Course—the first in which mathematics appear—we advise the student to study lessons 41, 42, 46, 47, 5 and 61. With this preparation no difficulty will be experienced in mastering Course VIII.

Raphael's Ephemeris for 1920 is essential for this Course. Price 40 cents.

86. How to Erect a Horoscope.
87. Strength and Aspects of the Planets.
88. First Steps in Judging Any Horoscope.
89. Doctrine of Horary Astrology.
90. Questions Relating to First Six Houses.
91. Questions Relating to Last Six Houses.
92. How to Select the Best Time for Starting Any Undertaking.
85. 8th Degree. Value of Totems. NOT SOLD.
36. Examples of Erecting a Birth-Chart (Supplementing No. 86). For those who have difficulty with this part of the work.

Course IX.—Mental Alchemy

This Course is embraced in 7 lessons that show the specific kind of thinking that causes each disease, each variety of failure, and each difficulty in life. It also indicates the particular kind of thinking that should be used to cure any of these conditions, and how and why a specific thought should be used in a given case to produce desired results. The most practical set of instructions ever issued.

95. The Inner Nature of all Disease.
96. How to Find the Thought-Cause.
97. How to Find a Mental Antidote.

98. How to Apply a Mental Antidote.
99. Just How to Heal Yourself.
100. Just How to Attain Realization.
101. Just How to Give Absent Treatments.
93. 9th Degree. Personal Cycles. NOT SOLD.

Course X.—Natal Astrology (Hermetic System)

This Course is divided into two sections. Before taking up this Course we advise the student to study lessons 41, 42, 46, 47, 86, 87 and 88. With this preparation and Raphael's ephemeris for 1920 (price 40 cents), no difficulty will be experienced in mastering Course X.

Section I. Delineating the Horoscope.

103. First Eighteen Decanates Analyzed.
104. Last Eighteen Decanates Analyzed.
105. Stature, Temperament, Disposition, Mental Ability.
106. Vitality, Health, and Disease.
107. Business, Finances and Vocational Selection.
108. Friends, Enemies, Hopes and Associations.
109. Love, Marriage, and Partnership.
110. How to Delineate a Horoscope.

Section II. Predicting Time of Events.

19. Hermetic System of Directing.
111. Major Directions of Sun and Angles.
112. Major Directions of Moon.
113. Major Directions of Planets.
114. Minor Directions of Sun and Angles.
115. Minor Direction of Moon and Planets.
116. Transits, Revolutions, and Cycles.
117. Rectifying the Horoscope.
94. 10th Degree. How to Travel in the Astral. NOT SOLD.

Course XI.—Divination and Character Reading

Seven lessons giving complete and practical instructions on divination and instantaneous character-reading.

118. Doctrine of Divination.
119. Tea-cup and Coffee-cup Divination.
120. Divining Rod and Other Divination.