

# Aether

## The Transcript



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## Contributors

N C (Nick) Thomas, independent scientist, mathematician, 17 years an RAF electrical engineering officer, authority on aetheric technology

Dr Edi Bilimoria, consultant engineer for the Channel Tunnel, London Underground and other major projects

Dr Margaret Colquhoun, biologist/ecologist, Executive Director of *The Life Science Trust* UK

Patrick Dixon, actor, esotericist, speaker

Dr Geoffrey Douch, GP, homeopath, anthroposophical doctor

Professor Brian Goodwin, biologist, Open University, University of Sussex, Schumacher College UK

David Lorimer, teacher and Programme Director of *The Scientific and Medical Network*

Laurence Newey, esotericist

Yiannis Pittis, healer, clairvoyant, Director of the *Philaethia College of Healing*

Professor Ian J Thompson, Physics, at the University of Surrey UK

Michael Watson, independent scientist, electrical engineer and avionics engineer in the design of the Concorde aircraft, authority on aetheric technology

John Wilkes, sculptor, inventor of *Flowforms*, Director of the *Virbela Research Institute*

Professor Arthur Zajonc, Physics, at Amherst College USA

The contributors were recorded between 2004 and 2006 with the exception of two earlier recordings, one of Nick Thomas and one of Arthur Zajonc.

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## What is this Aether?

NT: I think one has to become involved.

I don't think that's an issue now, for me. It was at one time.

For years I didn't become involved, because I was concerned about possible misuse. But then life brought it towards me from different directions and I had to. And I recognise that.

And so I think now that it's not a question of whether you become involved – I think you have to – if you're in my line of business, that is.

'Out of the Aether!'

*'The idea just came to me out of the Aether', it's often said.*

Or we speak of information and messages travelling *'through the Aether'*, and of things unaccountably vanishing *'into the Aether'*.

What is this Aether? And where exactly are all these ideas and messages floating and flying about?

It seems that the Aether would have to be everywhere. So does it actually exist? Or is it merely a figure of speech?

NT: There are certain things in this world that really need to be known about more widely – if we want to understand it and our place in it better.

Our education institutions, our scientific institutions, our religious institutions – none of these really teach this vital thing: the nature and significance of the Aether.

The Aether is not a familiar or obvious subject to approach at first. The whole project could be seen as an exercise in following up various clues... leading to the rediscovery of some powerful, well concealed knowledge – knowledge that affects all areas of our lives.

Why a secret?

And, inevitably, a further question arises:

*How come the Aether has been so effectively excluded from our mainstream culture for so long, despite an Internet search in 2006 finding several million very diverse references to it? (That is, including the two alternative spellings.)*

This question will become a significant part of our enquiry as the bigger picture emerges.

The Internet itself can be seen as an outer, materialized symbol of the inner developments that are taking place in human consciousness. The essence of the Internet is its *non-locality* and *continuous connectedness*, both of which are characteristics of the Aether and ideas at the heart of Quantum physics.

The global brand name *Ethernet* – for a system which connects up networks of computers – illustrates this point. Then there's *Cyberspace*, a very real, yet intangible and infinite, realm of ideas and information, accessible through the hard-wired hardware and the ever-evolving software of the Internet. And like the Aether, it's available to all who have the know-how and the means to access it.

A common question

A common question arising in this work has been:

*Since you can't see, hear, touch, taste or smell it, what difference would a clearer awareness of the Aether make to my life?*

One brief answer goes like this:

*Imagine that you've been taught and you believe that the Earth is not spherical but flat – with all the implications that would follow from this denial. You could still get by on a day to day level, but your whole outlook would be severely limited and distorted.*

Powerful new knowledge can sometimes seem threatening but we have to be prepared always to question the status quo, since this whole cosmos is perpetually in a state of change.

Independent

This project is a completely independent venture, owing no allegiance to any organization. It has been produced on a very low budget and without any fancy visuals, dramatic effects or even a fictionalised plotline. It's simply offered as the combined thoughts of a few straight talking people who know that it's the attitude, the motives and assumptions behind the questions we ask, that determine the kind of answers we get. And they do ask some pertinent questions for our time, regardless of how these may be responded to, officially or unofficially.

The contributors

You'll hear from a number of people, all well qualified in their own areas of work or study, who each have something significant to say regarding our opening questions about the Aether. As individuals, they may not completely agree with all the other views expressed, but they do share a strong common purpose.

Their differences enrich the project – in the way that *bio-diversity* makes for a healthy ecosystem. And when the essentials of each are pinpointed and the dots joined up, as it were, then a clear picture emerges.

And here, by way of introduction, are the voices of the main contributors to this project:

N C (Nick) Thomas independent scientist, mathematician, an electrical engineering officer in the RAF for 17 years, an authority on aetheric technology:

*'It's the Aether that gives us life. It's the Aether that gives us vitality. It's the Aether that makes us healthy or ill. Or at least it*

has a huge role to play in all of that. And if we have no idea what the Aether is then obviously we're going to judge these things in a false way.'

Professor Arthur Zajonc, Physics, at Amherst College, USA:

'We stand in an open field, we look out into the blue of the sky and we ask the question which every child asks: Why is the sky blue?'

Professor Ian J Thompson, Physics, at the University of Surrey, UK:

'There's another kind of process in physics which has often also been identified with Aether, and this is the idea of 'zero point motion' – the fact that in a vacuum there are many things which appear to be happening, or potentially happening, but not actually happening. And this has often been thought of as the Aether. Because it's what's in the world when there are no material objects.'

Dr Margaret Colquhoun, biologist/ecologist, executive director of *The Life Science Trust*, UK :

'One thing that's very interesting is that I've met quite a few people who, when they start doing this kind of training on the development of their relationship or use of Aethers within themselves, they grow. And that's a very extraordinary phenomenon, as a middle-aged adult, to find that your hand size, your head size, your feet size...is all getting bigger.'

Professor Brian Goodwin, Biology, at the Open University, University of Sussex, and now at Schumacher College:

'We've strutted around in our culture as controllers and dominators of the Earth. And the result is, the earth is going through a pretty drastic transition that's going to challenge our culture very deeply.'

Michael Watson, Independent scientist, electrical engineer and avionics engineer in the design of the Concorde aircraft:

'The Aether is not just an abstract force like electricity is. It's got this mobility inside it which electricity doesn't have.'

Dr Edi Bilimoria, consultant engineer for the Channel Tunnel, London Underground and other major projects:

'You can have something that's very precise that's totally fallacious. You can have the graph to twenty-one decimal points. You can build an Eiffel Tower of logic on very shaky sands. And the logic and the superstructure can be impregnable but it'll topple over if your fundamental assumptions are shaky.'

David Lorimer, teacher, writer and programme director of *The Scientific and Medical Network*:

'Scientists act as philosophers. They say philosophical things. And you cannot divorce science from its metaphysical context. Because if you don't make your philosophy explicit then it's going to remain implicit. Because you cannot exist without having a set of assumptions which you operate from.'

Patrick Dixon, actor, esotericist, speaker:

'A knowledge of the aetheric in the arts will open up vistas both of the universe in a completely new way, but also give the individual localised personality a tremendously great context out of which they move and develop.'

Laurence Newey, esotericist:

'We can expand our idea of the Aether by also considering it in terms of fire. And we find the idea of 'celestial fire' in the ancient Greek concept of aither, the fifth element.'

Yiannis Pittis, healer, clairvoyant, teacher:

'Aetheric vision - anybody really can begin to trigger it. It's not so difficult. Everyone, when we do some lectures on healing or aura and so on, I give a simple practice, and then we have pretty much a ninety-nine per cent success of everybody being able to see the 'aetheric body' - that glow that is around the physical form.'

John Wilkes, sculptor, inventor, research scientist in water enhancement:

'Real investigation of real things started in the realm of modern art. That's not abstract at all!'

Dr Geoffrey Douch, GP, homeopath, anthroposophical doctor:

'In a way, it's only the effects of the aetheric forces that you can study.'

What connects the contributors is a compelling awareness that something vital is missing from our present Western culture, and therefore from our lives in the Western and westernized world. Whether qualified in the sciences, the arts, teaching or in medical and healing work, each of the contributors has courageously followed his or her intuitive knowing.

The contributors are referred to as courageous because it does require considerable inner strength and integrity to refuse to unquestioningly comply with the requirements of the status quo and instead, seriously question it.

Similarly, it takes courage to try and counter what's being programmed into young minds in the name of mass education - which includes, of course, teacher training.

They've made it a priority, some even their life's quest, to recover the missing knowledge, the key to the lost meaning of our lives - that intermediate level between the earthly and the cosmic,

between the material and the spiritual.

It's as though certain vital pages of the manual have somehow gone missing.

And the vital missing factor, we suggest, is awareness of the Aether.

In other words

In our language, various terms have been substituted for the missing Aether. For example, we speak of an 'air of celebration', a 'highly charged atmosphere', someone having an 'air of grace' about them, or a radio station being 'on air'. We speak of the 'chemistry' between people which is really the alchemy of qualities, which is itself actually about aethereal processes.

Then there's the 'thrill' of anticipation or excitement as we await the indefinable, magical 'X factor' in a performance. All these physical-material terms are used poetically to describe our experiencing of the aethereal realm.

Meanwhile, there are any number of industries and professions providing an endless supply of substitutes - for the insatiable demand, the worldwide addictive hunger for that missing fulfilment, meaning and magic.

The search for the 'missing something' has been given form in stories of quests - some portrayed in highly popularized epic movies and novels. These have dealt, for example, with superhuman forces and powers, the blurring of the boundaries between real and imaginary worlds, ideological conflicts, and love lost and found. The stories of Western medicine and science - from alchemy to our present dilemmas - can similarly be seen as *quests...* as will become apparent in this project.

Another familiar aethereal phenomenon is what's known as the *ethos* of any organisation - be it a family, a gang or some other set

up. Briefly, it's the unspoken set of assumptions, rules and conventions which govern what is and what is not acceptable behaviour within it.

There are certain basic principles governing the functioning of the cosmos. And achieving harmony with these is what some have called the *science of being* and the *art of living*.

In a culture of death

We talk about life and living as if we know what we mean. But the fierce conflict between Church and medical science about the beginning and end of individual lives reminds us how little we really know. We can see in our materialistic Western world what amounts to a *denial of life*, such that we've ended up with a *culture of death*.

We seem caught in its grip – as exemplified in the fascination with murder mysteries, medical dramas and war stories.

This is a consequence of lost Aether awareness.

In the continuous recycling of living Nature, *physical death* can be understood as a process of progressive *releasing* or *shedding*. Our individual aetheric body is absorbed back into the greater ocean of the Aether. And what was the living physical body is left as inanimate, disintegrating matter to be reunited with the Earth.

The process then continues with our more subtle levels of being.

Aliveness

According to both the ancient and our modern wholistic understanding, the primary quality of the Aether is that of *aliveness*, *livingness*, *vitality* – the difference between you and a corpse. Life itself.

And what characterizes all living forms is that:

(1) they are *conscious* and act with purpose, beyond seeking mere physical survival or storing and applying information, and

(2) they *pulsate*: they rhythmically *expand* and *contract*, *breathe in* and *breathe out*, *grow* and *shrink*. And it's this interplay between *polar* opposites, within any system, that demonstrates the universal principle of *polarity* – something we find throughout all Nature and the cosmos.

also known as

Awareness of the *Aether* under different names, and ideas about it, go back into the farthest reaches of human history. *Aether* comes from an ancient Greek word, and one of its many meanings is: 'the substance that permeates the cosmos from which the stars and planets were made'. It also signifies *a blazing, the heavens, shining light* and *the upper atmosphere*.

*Sambhoga-kaya*, an ancient Tibetan term, refers to the intermediate stage in the emerging of the cosmos. From the nothingness or unity state emanated radiant light, which then evolved into this physical universe. Indian and Chinese culture have various names for different aspects of the Aether. In the Hebrew Old Testament it's referred to as the 'cosmic waters'.

Plato and Aristotle spoke of the non-material Aether, as did Sir Isaac Newton, Albert Einstein and even Max Planck, the founder of Quantum Physics.

It's also alluded to in hymns which speak of inspirational light, fire and radiance... and in the literary works of Milton, Keats, Wordsworth and Shelley.

The influential Renaissance philosopher Marsilio Ficino wrote, "...the force of the World-soul is spread...through all things through the quintessence, which is active everywhere, as the spirit inside the World's Body..."



*Quintessence*, which literally means the *fifth essence* or element, is another ancient term which has recently been re-introduced into modern physics. It refers to the subtle, indefinable, universal something that pervades the whole cosmos.

One eminent physicist, David Bohm, seemed very close to the idea of the Aether when he proposed a non-physical realm of potential manifestation. This he called the *implicate order*, which exists as the middle level of a three-level system. And another well known contemporary scientist and writer, Paul Davies, has suggested the concept of a *quantum ether*.

So despite various authoritative dismissals – including articles in the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* – the true Aether never really did go away.

Here's Nick Thomas talking about the most recent falling from favour of the Aether... and its inevitable re-emergence.

NT: In the 19th century people thought that light had to have something to travel through, just as sound travels through air. It was thought that you can't have light just travelling; light must travel through something. And so they invented the Aether as a sort of perfect medium, and then ran into problems, because the various experiments that I spoke about earlier, of light having a constant apparent velocity, don't work very well with that world outlook. And by the time the 19th century physicists had finished with it, the Aether was an impossibly perfect substance that couldn't exist really.

And so there was a huge sigh of relief when Einstein managed to come up with an alternative explanation that didn't need this 'luminiferous ether', as they called it. And so they were delighted to push it to one side. Einstein himself never actually did, as far as I am aware. He simply accounted for phenomena in his way.

So, having got rid of it, the last thing they wanted was another one. So when science had shaken off the shackles of the 'ether' at the beginning of the 20th century, they didn't want another one pushed on them straight away! And so somehow one had to go through eighty, ninety years of freedom from the ether, you see.

But now we've got new younger generations, we've got new experimental results, and they're all pointing to something which cannot be accounted for without it.

Four Aethers in one

Within the one Aether, four distinguishable levels have been identified.

The primary level, known as the *Warmth Aether*, is all about the power of fire and heat to transform substance into different states. The next level, moving inwards from periphery towards centre, is the *Light Aether*. This is concerned with the division into polarities, such as the opposing qualities of dark and light, density and rarity.

The third level inwards is variously known as the *Tone, Number, Chemical, Sound* or *Colour Aether*. And it's the key to appreciating the deeper significance of the gradations and patterns that constitute music, mathematics, chemistry, alchemy and much more.

The fourth level is known as the *Life Aether*, and it's about the meaning of the countless, separate, physical-material forms of our world in all its diversity.

One example of *aethereal* quality is the *ambience* or atmosphere that can be created through the magical power of music and colour.

Individually, each living being has a subtle *aetheric body* which permeates and animates the physical form.

So the Aether is not sterile chemistry or physics. Nor is it just an

old idea loaded with religious overtones. It's very much a reality that people felt they knew in a very immediate way, before this present era of our highly developed, analytical, quantifying, precise, machine mentality.

Aether is one of those big, inclusive words, like *world*, *ocean* and *mind*.

## Appendix F

### Aether/Ether Words & Spellings

*Aether*: refers back to the ancient Latin, Greek and its earlier, broader, timeless meaning.

*Ether*: a 20th century spelling more associated with Western science and a specific chemical substance.

*(A)ethereal*: having the essential status or quality of the (A)ether.  
Eg Like a *central* position

*(A)etheric*: refers to the dynamic, energetic aspect of the (A)ether.  
Eg Like a *centric* force.

*The (A)etheric*: is used by some as an all purpose name for the realm of the (A)ether.