

# The Etheric Formative Forces In Cosmos, Earth and Man by Dr. Guenther Wachsmuth (Part 5)

(continued from Part 4)

We do not propose merely to pass over in a schematic fashion from the results of the investigations of the lifeless to investigation of the organic, the phenomena of life, the living; on the contrary, we propose to unite a new sort of Anew of the world with a new inner mood of spirit, which ought to penetrate us and remain with us from the beginning in the scientific investigation of both the living and the lifeless. Here there is no great gulf in man separating religion and science, such as has been artificially created by the merely quantitative-mechanical tendency in science. Whoever reads this book with an open and unprejudiced mind will find, nevertheless, that the vast results of the previous investigations in the same field are used as its foundation and serve as its tools. But this is to be the chief distinction of what we shall strive to accomplish: that, although the coming generation dare not, cannot, and will not set aside the results of the quantitative idea of the world and begin anew to work without these, but will weave the already attained results of quantitative research into their new conception of the world, where these are very valuable supports for knowledge, yet they will, on the contrary, reject these, especially in their own attitude of mind, wherever their effect is to degrade our cosmos into a corpse.

Everything contained in the following pages owes its origin to the fact that the author is an adherent of Spiritual Science as given its determinative direction by Anthroposophy.

Whatever is false or imperfect in the book is the fault of the author and not of the theory. I am well aware that the volume is only the first feeble endeavour to master the problems attacked. Many slips, many failures in clarity, have doubtless crept into this attempt to survey by a new method such varied and complex fields of human knowledge. Yet a conviction as to the rightness of this new way of viewing the problems and of the urgent necessity for such a view has given me the courage to risk the attempt. Whoever has blazed a trail in a hitherto unknown region will know that, in such a journey of exploration, no one can at first take the most direct or the easiest path to his goal. Yet only a man of small nature will come to grief because of the roughness of the path, right in itself; a man of spirit will take pleasure in the new trail, and will himself lend a hand in order that the new goal may be reached.

As a small portion of that comprehensive contribution which Anthroposophy will make toward the evolution of humanity, this book is dedicated, from the author's profound sense of an inner necessity, and in spite of his consciousness of its imperfections, to him who has called Anthroposophy into being—Dr. Rudolf Steiner.

Heartfelt thanks are due also to many others, all of whom I would gladly mention by name, but especially to Mr. Scott Pyle, of New York, to Count Otto von Berehenfeld-Kofering, to Frau Harriet von Vacano—who has translated into German for us the great Christian philosopher Vladimir Solovjeff—and to my brother, Wolfgang Wachsmuth, as well as Dr. Ita Wegman, all of whom have given both counsel and another. Some call it