

The Centers and the Glandular System (*Esoteric Healing*, A. Bailey/Tibetan, pp. 141-144)

The importance of this glandular system cannot be over-estimated. It is a replica in miniature of the septenary constitution of the universe and the medium of expression and the instrument of contact for the seven ray forces. . .

The glands constitute a great relating system in the body; they bring all parts of the physical vehicle into relation with each other; they also relate the man to the etheric [141] body - both individual and planetary - and likewise to the blood stream, the carrier of the life principle to all parts of the body. There are consequently four major agents of distribution to be found in the physical body. They are all complete in themselves, all contributory to both the functional and the organic life of the body, all closely interrelated and all producing both physiological and psychological results according to their potency, the response of the centers to the higher inflow, the point in evolution achieved, and the free expression, or the reverse, of the incoming energies. These four agents of distribution of energy are:

1. *The etheric vehicle itself.* This with its myriads of lines of force and of energy, the incoming and the outgoing energies, its responsiveness to energy impacts coming from the environment as well as from the inner spiritual man and the subtle bodies, underlies the entire physical body. In it are to be found the seven centers as focal points of reception and of distribution; they are the recipients of seven types of energy, and they distribute these seven energies through the entire little human system.

2. *The nervous system* and its various interlocking directorates. This is a relatively tangible network of energies and forces which are the outer expression of the inner, vital, dynamic network of the etheric body and the millions of nadis or the prototype of the nerves which underlie the more substantial body. These nerves and plexi and their many ramifications are the negative aspects of the positive energies which condition or are attempting to condition the man.

3. *The endocrine system.* This is the tangible and exoteric expression of the activity of the vital body and its seven centers. The seven centers of force are to be found in the same region where the seven major glands are located, and [142] each center of force provides, according to the esoteric teaching, the power and the life of the corresponding gland, which is, in fact, its externalization.

Centers

Head center
Center between eyebrows
Throat center
Heart center
Solar plexus center
Sacral center
Center at base of spine

Glands

Pineal gland
Pituitary body
Thyroid gland
Thymus gland
Pancreas
The gonads
Adrenal glands

These three systems are very closely related to each other and constitute an interlocking directorate of energies and forces, which are essentially vital, galvanic, dynamic and creative. They are basically interdependent, and upon them the entire interior health of the physical organism depends. They are responsive first to one or other of the bodies (emotional or mental), then to the integrated personality and its ray, and finally to the soul ray as it begins to assume control. They are, in reality, responsible for the production of the physical body and - after birth - they condition its psychological quality, and this in its turn produces the developing physical man. They are the agents for the three divine aspects of all manifestation: life - quality - appearance.

4. *The blood stream.* This is the carrier of the life principle and of the combined energies and forces of the three above systems. This will be an idea of some novelty to the orthodox. The relationship of the circulatory system of the blood to the nervous system has not been as yet adequately developed in modern medicine. Much,

however, has been done to relate the glandular system to the blood.

Only when these four interrelated systems are viewed as one integrated whole and as the four aspects of one vital circulatory system will the truth emerge. Only as they are acknowledged to be the four major distributing agents of the combined rays of the individual man will the true nature of material phenomena be grasped. . .

These four systems are in reality the manifestation of the four aspects of matter in its lowest or purely physical expression. There are other aspects of expression of the fundamental substance, but these are the four of greatest importance. Each of these is essentially dual, and each duality corresponds to the ray of the soul or of the personality. Each is therefore both positive and negative; each is a combination of certain aspects of matter and substance – matter being the relatively static aspect, and the substance the relatively fluid or quality-endowing agent. Their interplay, relationship and unified function are an expression of the One Life Principle, and when they have reached a point of perfected fusion or synthesis or coordinated activity, there then appears that “life more abundantly” of which the Christ spoke and of which we, as yet, know nothing.

The Seven Major Centers, The Etheric Body, Nervous and Endocrine Systems (pp. 145-163; 190-204)
Chart on p. 202 The following is a summary by Patsy.

The etheric body, the nervous system, and the endocrine system are closely “related to each other and constitute an interlocking directorate of energies and forces, which are essentially vital, galvanic, dynamic and creative. Upon them, the entire interior health of the body depends.” To these three are added the blood stream as the conveyor throughout the body of the Life Principle. The combined energies of the three above systems and the combination of forces govern the underlying causes of health and disease.

The etheric body conditions, controls and determines the life expression of the incarnated individual and is the conveyor of the forces of personality, through the medium of the centers [chakras], which galvanizes the physical body into activity. These forces, routed through the centers, are those of the integrated personality as a whole, or are simply the forces of the astral/emotional body and the mind body; they also transmit the force of the personality ray or the energy of the soul ray, according to the point in evolution reached by the person. The physical body, therefore, is not a principle. *It is conditioned and does not condition* – a point often forgotten. It is a victim of personality life or the triumphant expression of soul energy.

Each of the seven major centers governs or conditions – from the material angle as well as from that of the soul and of the life principle – the area of the physical body in which it is found, including the multitude of lesser centers of energy and plexi of force that may be found therein. . . . The appearance in the etheric body of a developed or developing center indicates the place of a person upon the ladder of evolution. . . . This produces a consequent effect upon the surrounding tissue, substance and organic forms within the radius of influence of the center.

The incoming energy is transmuted within the center into forces. This involves a process of differentiation into secondary energies and is an automatic process. The rate of transmutation, the strength of the resultant aggregation of forces, and the subsequent radiator activity (producing conditioned results upon the dense physical body) are dependent upon the extent of the unfoldment of the particular center involved and its awakened or unawakened state.

The outgoing forces from a center play upon the etheric counterpart of the entire intricate network of nerves which constitute the nervous system. These counterparts of identical subjective correspondences are called in the Hindu philosophy, the “nadis”. They constitute an intricate and most extensive network of fluid energies which are an intangible, interior, paralleling system to that of the bodily nerves, which are an externalization of the inner pattern of energies. (The idea of these nerves being the dense physical result of an inner sensitive response apparatus is still undefined and unrecognized by modern Western science.) The nadis determine the nature and quality of the nervous system with its extensive network of nerves and plexi covering the entire physical body. The nadis and then network of nerves are related primarily to the seven major centers in the etheric body (the substantial body that underlies the dense physical body) and the spinal column with the head. The etheric body is a physical body, though composed of subtler material than the one we can see and touch. It

is made of substance that underlies every part and particle of the dense physical vehicle.

The nadis correspond with the spirit (life) aspect; the nerves correspond with the soul (quality) aspect; the endocrine system corresponds with the form (matter) aspect. These three – the nadis, the nerves, and the glands - are the material correspondences to the three divine aspects. They are esoterically responsive to these three divine aspects and they make the person upon the physical plane what he/she is. These three groups are conditioned (via the seven centers) by the astral or mental vehicles, or by the integrated personality, or by the soul, which begins to use the personality as a transmitting and transmuting agency.

These three major systems (nadis, nerves, glands) express through the medium of the physical body the condition or the state of development of the centers. The life, the quality, and the energy, which they represent are conveyed to every part of the physical vehicle via the blood stream.

When the centers are awakened throughout the body, there will then be present a highly electric nervous system, responsive with immediacy to the energy carried by the nadis; the result will be a well-balanced endocrine system. The vitality and life force pouring through the entire body will then be of such potency that automatically the physical body will be resistant to disease. Eventually, we will have the three systems perfectly coordinated, psychically responsive to the inner pattern of nadis and centers, and consciously integrated with the soul, and later, with the Life principle [the Monad].

When there is uneven development, with some centers awakened, others over-stimulated, and with centers below the diaphragm over-active, you have consequently, whole areas of the body where the nadis are in an embryonic state, other areas where they are highly energized but with their flow arrested because some center along the path of their activity is still unawakened or – if awakened – is still non-radiatory. These uneven conditions produce potent effects upon the nervous system and upon the glands, leading to over-stimulation in some cases, subnormal conditions in others, lack of vitality, over-activity, and other undesirable reactions, which inevitably produce disease.

The spinal column is primarily intended to be the channel through which the energizing centers and the distribution of energy to the surrounding areas of the body is carried forward by the intelligent, integrated personality, acting under the *conscious* direction of the soul. This refers not to the bony structure of the spinal column, but to the cord, its esoteric counterpart, and to the nerves that issue from the spine. Today this planned, directed esoteric control of energy is not present, except in the case of those with initiate consciousness and certain advanced disciples. There are inhibitions, blockages, unawakened areas, deficiency of vitality, lack of free flow and consequent lack of development within the whole person; or else there is too much stimulation, a too rapid vibratory activity, a premature awakening of the centers, leading to the over-activity of the atoms and cells governed by a particular center. All these conditions, along with others not mentioned, affect the nervous system, condition the glands and produce psychological difficulty and disease in some form or another.

On the following page, the simple yet suggestive and symbolic diagram of the spinal column and the head, demonstrates both from the angle of the centers and glands. Note that the spleen is not included in the diagram. Its function is a peculiar one, being the center of vitality in relation to the planetary vitality and the radiation from the sun. It is not controlled in any way from the spinal column.

The center at the base of the spine has a unique function. It is to the substance of the body, to the physical tissue and to all matter not included in the organs mentioned above, the source of life. In the perfected person, the two centers (the highest head center and the basic center) represent the great duality of spirit and matter, and they then control and govern, in perfect unison, the entire direction of the vehicle of the soul. Finally, you will have the spiritual aspect of the human being expressing itself perfectly through the related Monad and the personality (which is brought about by a third great major fusion). The material being is then responsive to these two, via the head center (the Monad) and the basic center (the spiritually energized personality). These two centers will then be in complete rapport, expressing the full nature of the spiritual human being.

From the standpoint of the esotericist who admits the fact of the centers, the glands are the major determining factor in connection with the general health of an individual. They indicate not only his psychological

development far more than is grasped, but they have a most potent effect upon the whole organic system. Their influence, via the blood stream, reaches into every part of the body and to the extremities. The glands are the result of the activity of the centers; they are first, last, and all the time *effects of inner predisposing causes*, and it is through the centers and their affiliated glands that the soul builds the apparatus upon the physical plane, which we call the physical human.

We have the seven areas of the body, governed by the seven major centers and their affiliated glands, the appearance again of the basic trinity of manifestation:

1. Spirit or life – the energy center.
2. Soul or quality – the gland.
3. Matter or form – the organs in any particular area governed by any one center.

