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30 people came to BHU at the end of February. I suspect more might have come if the subject matter hadn't been the knotty issue of the 7 chemical elements or siblings which Dr. Stueber brings to the fore in the lecture 1 of the Agriculture course. On successive days we considered minerals, plants, and animals to find ways to grasp this elusive subject. I shared some ideas about carbon and hydrogen in relation to the human and delegates seemed interested, but felt they should be written down for clarity and deeper digestion. Here goes...

First, it seems appropriate to put lecture three back into the context of the Agriculture course. Lecture 1 has a gentle "prologue" with a great deal of thanks to the hosts and some diverting anecdotes about professor's' wives and smoking. Then the correspondence of the humans and plants is mentioned in contrast to the relatively unappreciated humans. This correspondence is deepened in the mineral plurality of silica and calcium.

The given course off in lecture 11. After the ideal form is characterized as an individuality we hit turbulence as images come thick and fast - inner and outer plants, plants with their heads in the soil, living and dead weights and their, a moving course appearance from the clay preparation, or "maturation periods" of the tree, chaotic and plasticity inspired by the active, maturation in Agri-forests, coastal and ruralized roots, remaining qualities higher or lower in the plants, knowing what is common to terrestrial, tall yuga and apocryptic intimations, animals' solar heads and lunar bottoms.

Assuming one's sense of orientation is not terminally confused and that we don't have to overcome chemistry anxiety from our school lab days, we might feel that we are back on familiar territory as we meet carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, hydrogen and sulphur. With the linking words of the laboratory complex lecture 11 which is the subject of lecture 11 can seem like an oasis promising security and time for orientation.

Alternatively we might experience surprise that Dr. Stueber deflects from his course of presentation into increasingly more cosmic mystique towards more matter, indeed, into the episode of materialism, the legs blocks of which the materialist universe is constructed - the chemical elements. Here we really don't do this work as understood hierarchies and successive incarnations of people and plants only to find out that we could have argued with these chemical elements all along? Could we have spent ourselves the ridicule of our scientifically orthodox friends and neighbours?

If we could have just studied the chemical elements then why is this presentation so "confusing"? We all know that we are searching for a truly practical spiritual life, but exactly which element does "carry" the spiritus? One can read that it could be sulphur or carbon, and if I turn to the material lecture 11 then the spiritus proper (the Spirit) is carried by hydrogen which merely dissolves forms in the agriculture course. Confusion seems to descend upon again. A sense of deeper wishes over us as we watch the oasis dissolve into a mirage, perhaps leaving us grasping for some comfort in anti-materialism... or... or we could take a deep breath and try again to call for some clues that can turn this dark confusion towards crystal clarity.

Temporarily proposing that goal for a necessary detour, I would like to throw in some images and ideas to help us work with this lecture. First, a quote from p 19 of

