

## **Studies of Volition: the Zone of Personal and Spiritual Freedom**

When we examine the activity of human beings, we find that they are free in some areas, and bound in others. It is important that you, as a disciple on the path, understand the faculty of volition, which grants you personal and spiritual freedom.

As you continue to open new strata of the mind and the vehicles that operate at those new levels, you will also activate new levels of the will. It is essential that you be able to bring these octaves of will into expression.

This webinar will explore the octaves of the will and what they do. We will elucidate what is the will current, which has been called Ichaichashakti, and how it interfaces with the brain. We identify the new abilities of the will, as the Soul colonizes yet higher levels of the Continuum. We will describe the three modes of volition—personal guidance mode, Soul expression mode, and ecstatic expression mode—and when and how these operate.

We will draw upon our recent writing on this topic. Let us begin.



## The Track from the Brain to the Will Divine: Exploring Ichaichashakti

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Psychologists have identified that there is a nerve center in the frontal cortex of the brain above the bridge of the nose that appears to be the neurological origin of choice and decision-making. When we contemplate this neural center, we notice that it connected with an energetic thread to deeper layers of the psyche.

This energetic thread appears to convey the will current (Ichaichashakti) through nine levels, which are described below.

Level	Stage	Description	Where It Operates
1	Conflict stage	Conflicting subpersonalities representing unfulfilled needs and unresolved issues struggle to influence decision-making. You must identify what inner voice is that of the Self, and be clear as to what is the right choice to make. You may make many of your decisions from your ego when you are functioning at this level.	Conscious and Subconscious mind
2	Personal Integration	As you resolve life issues, and find ways to meet your needs healthfully, you increasingly set your own course in life, carrying out your goals and plans.	Metaconscious mind
3	Subtle Realm Overshadowing	Predominantly, your Self guides you in your life, but as this aspect of the volitional thread is activated, you may begin receiving guidance and direction from archetypes, “spirits”, or ancestors in certain situations. If you enter into trances induced through physical ordeals, engage in all-night dancing and drumming, invite gods and goddesses to possess you and speak through you, contemplate mythic themes in the Subtle Realm, or take psychedelic drugs, you may activate this aspect of the higher volition.	Subtle Realm
4	Present Time Awareness of the Eternal Now	At this level, you become aware of your ability to guide life from a deeper center, and to express your Soul’s abilities in the present time. You begin to create desired outcome through your own intention, affirmation, and visualization. You experience your life as physically embodied, but interpenetrated and activated by a deeper, noetic essence. You experience the state of harmony, or flow state, through contemplating the wave of the present time where your Soul’s intentionality interfaces with your life.	Biophysical Universe and Abstract Mind Plane

Level	Stage	Description	Where It Operates
5	Psychic Realm Overshadowing	Here you receive intuitive impressions from the Psychic Realm, which may come from departed spirits, guides, angels, or Ascended Masters. Your Soul may begin to express its psychic abilities, or you might begin to be able to give healing or guidance channeling attunements.	Psychic Realm
6	Overshadowing by Wisdom and the Holy Spirit	As the Soul enters the Wisdom Plane, the faculty of discerning wisdom begins to operate to guide decision-making. During the First Planetary Initiation, this aspect of the thread of will begins to receive revelation, guidance, and direction inspired via the Holy Spirit.	Wisdom Plane, First Planetary Initiation
7	Overshadowing by the Mighty I AM Presence	As you open into the Second Planetary Initiation, you receive guidance, inspiration, and direction channeled from the Mighty I AM Presence.	Second Planetary Initiation
8	Overshadowing by the Transpersonal Will	When this stage dawns on the mind, you become aware of your Soul, and that it is directing your behavior. At this stage, this higher will may begin to overrule the impulsive decisions of the ego, and direct the Self to carry out actions related to the Soul Purpose.	Third, Forth, and Fifth Planetary Initiations
9	Overshadowing by the Divine Will	This stage reveals the Will of God, which overshadows all other octaves of the will. This aspect of the volitional thread is active in the Transplanetary Realms and above, when your cutting edge of spirituality has migrated into these bands of the Continuum.	Transplanetary Realm and above

Psychotherapy guides people through the first two levels, so that they can exercise the integration and self-direction that marks the successful establishment of mature adult functioning. Religion and spiritual traditions aim to introduce people to the higher bands of volition, through which they can access deeper sources of guidance and direction for their lives, and connect to a spiritual essence that dwells in the higher Planes.

Familiarize yourself with the different octaves of the will. Some steps you can take that will help you do this include:

- Notice which of these octaves of the will are active in you.
- Differentiate the activity of each octave from the others.
- Determine when this octave of will functions, and what triggers its activity.
- Observe what abilities you express when this octave of will is active.

In time, you will be able to trace the thread of volition back from its neural anchor, and find the wellsprings of your deeper, and discover how it expresses in you.

## Overshadowing of the Personality by Superconscious Volitional Streams

By George A. Boyd © 2015

We have described the activity of gifts anchored from one of the vortices of the spiritual powers, which we call a Siddhi Yantra, in the *Mudrashram® Advanced Course in Meditation Manual*. To review, we said that these powers could either be suspended and not operated, or operated in one of three modes. These three modes are:

- (1) A gift, in which the power operates directly through the human brain, and can be voluntarily turned on or off through a voluntary request
- (2) A subconscious attunement, in which the power operates through an inner center, and the individual must enter an altered state of consciousness to turn it on; one cannot request that this power turn on from the level of the personality
- (3) A Superconscious attunement, in which the power operates through the intention of the attentional principle or the wish of the spirit, but the personality has no access to these powers

We examined these Siddhi Yantras from the perspective of how they appear in the Superconscious mind, and identified the target of the stream of energy that emanates from the Superconscious vortices of the spiritual powers—as to whether these streams were sent to the brain; to an inner center; or to one of the immortal essences of consciousness, the attentional principle or the spirit.

We also hinted that these Siddhi Yantras aligned along a track, where the ensouling entity of that band of the Continuum could activate them. We also intimated that in certain cases, when an individual had developed a nucleus of identity out of alignment with the axis of being and had fully identified with that essence that these powers could be operated from this secondary platform.

In this article, we will extend this examination of how these powers operate. But we will not only examine the operation of spiritual powers, which we call the *Soul Expression Mode* of the higher octaves of volition, but we will also detail how a higher spiritual essence—an ensouling entity, a nucleus of identity, or the spirit in one of the domains—comes to overshadow, control, and operate the personality, which we call the *Personal Guidance Mode* of the higher octaves of volition.

### **The Will Function of the Soul**

There is a Divine Power, which has been called Ichaichashakti, through which the ensouling entity expresses in the personality.

As the ensouling entity evolves, it has access to progressively higher octaves of volition in the Superconscious mind, and the powers or abilities that dwell in each higher realm that it opens. These are the Transpersonal Octaves of Will.

There are also three octaves of volition that operate within the personality while an individual is alive—the egoic or desire-driven will, the etheric will or habit, and the intelligent or personal octave of will. This is called the Personal Realm, which comprises the personal bands of volition.

These octaves of the will are summarized in the table below, together with their activity.

Type of Volition	What Activates It	Where It Operates	What It Does
Egoic Will	Human desire and passion, operates during periods of emotional arousal	Conscious mind	Operates “units” of human behavior, e.g., pick up that box, move the box to this location; has a present time focus
Habit	Presentation of situational cues that require enactment of a previously learned behavioral sequence	Subconscious mind	Operates “sequences” of behavior that have been previously learned “automatically,” e.g., drive the car to work, or catch the subway at 7:53am—these behavioral sequences do not require conscious attention or thought; draws from learning or training of the past
Personal (Free Choice, Intelligent Will)	Consideration of options and making a decision, creating a goal and a plan to carry it out	Metaconscious mind	Creates and operates goal-oriented sequences of behavior, and sustains them over long periods of time, e.g., complete your college degree, work for a number of years at a company, or marry and raise children; has a future time focus
Lower Subtle	Changes in Nature and the environment, which call the individual to participate in activity that benefits the tribe, clan, or family	Superconscious mind, Lower Subtle Realm	Calls one to participate in a collective activity that benefits the tribal or family group, e.g., gardening, hunting, fishing

Type of Volition	What Activates It	Where It Operates	What It Does
Middle Subtle	Cues from the environment that call for the expression of certain abilities or gifts	Superconscious mind, Middle Subtle Realm	Brings into expression one of the abilities the Soul has developed from the Subplanes of the Middle Subtle, e.g., ritual invocation of the gods, herbal healing, martial arts, or dramatic personification
Lower Astral Plane (Magical Will)	Desire to control other people, the entities of the Lower Astral Plane, and make others obey	Superconscious mind, Lower Astral Plane	Uses the will to perform magical rituals and invocations, to make others do one's bidding, and to use occult powers to control outcomes and to subjugate others
Upper Subtle	Desire to free others from the domination or subjugation of others	Superconscious mind, Subtle Illumined Mind Subplane	Uses the will to empower others and break the spells holding them in bondage; this is called the Wizard's Will
Biophysical	Desire to find a mate and raise children, to parent children, and to find a harmonious lifestyle	Superconscious mind, Biophysical Universe	Uses the will for courtship, intimacy, and establishment of a long-term relationship; finds a home and sets up family rituals and practices
Abstract Mind	Desire for creative expression or the wish to serve others using these gifts	Superconscious mind, Abstract Mind Plane	Expresses abilities of the Abstract Mind Plane in athletics, science, philosophy, "reading" and "remembering" past lives, coaching and motivation, and anchoring the Soul's visualized intentions

Type of Volition	What Activates It	Where It Operates	What It Does
Psychic Realm	Active evocation for a solution to a poignant longstanding problem, the quest for guidance and understanding	Superconscious mind, Psychic Realm	Expresses the powers of the Psychic Realm: creation or dissolution of thought forms, etheric sensitivity, awareness of the aura and the unconscious mind, healing, reception of telepathic and intuitive knowledge, channeling and attunement, and the knowledge of present, past, future, and eternity
Wisdom Plane	Active search to find meaning in life and to find integrity and wholeness	Superconscious mind, Wisdom Plane	Reviews and re-creates the “creations” of the past, and maintains only those that resonate with the Soul; grants the ability to understand and forgive others
First Planetary Initiation (Moral Will)	The quest for moral certainty that one is doing the right thing, pleasing to God	Superconscious mind, Exoteric, Mesoteric, and Esoteric Bands of the First Planetary Initiation	Formulates enduring “values,” establishes a relationship with the Divine through prayer and invocation, develops character and virtue, gains insight into scriptures, myths, and symbols
Second Planetary Initiation (Solar Angelic Will)	The quest to overcome obstacles to personal achievement, root out character flaws, and to actualize spiritual intention	Superconscious mind, Second Planetary Initiation	Uses decrees to activate the power of the Mighty I AM presence to mobilize the Superconscious mind to accomplish intended outcomes

Type of Volition	What Activates It	Where It Operates	What It Does
Third Planetary Initiation	Receptivity to the thought streams of the Adept Masters, and the evocation of humanity; desire to fulfill one's part in the Divine Purpose and Plan	Superconscious mind, Third Planetary Initiation	Uses thought to break up established patterns that bring discord and misery to humanity; establishes groups and organizations that respond to human need and suffering
Fourth Planetary Initiation	Compassion for the great suffering of humanity	Superconscious mind, Fourth Planetary Initiation	Sends the rays of Buddhic Illumination to change negative attitudes, uproot false and destructive beliefs, change ignorance into wisdom, grant insight into the nature of the Self and the Soul, and reveal the content of the vehicles of consciousness up to the level of the Soul's development
Fifth Planetary Initiation (Transpersonal Will)	This is the overshadowing will that ultimately controls and operates all other active octaves of will in the Personal, Subtle, and Planetary Realms up to the current level of the Soul's spiritual evolution. One can activate this octave of the will by asking the Soul to reveal what it is doing at the present time.	Entire Subtle and Planetary Realms	Gives permission, denies permission, or postpones permission to carry out an intended objective of volition at each octave of the will



Type of Volition	What Activates It	Where It Operates	What It Does
Transplanetary Initiations (Monadic Will)	This is the octave of will that embodies and anchors the Divine Will: which animates the Soul, gives purpose and calling, initiates the Soul, bestows Grace and new abilities, establishes a disciplic relationship with a Master, and gives ministerial tasks to the attentional principle and the spirit ministerial assignments. One can activate this octave of the will by asking to know what is the Divine Will for one's life.	Entire Transplanetary, Planetary, Subtle, and Personal Realms	Gives permission, denies permission, or postpones permission to carry out an intended objective of volition at each octave of the will; can overrule even the Transpersonal Will in those who are under Agya (direct attunement with the Master and the Divine); anchors the seven aspects of the Divine Will in the Soul.
Cosmic Initiations (Cosmic Will)	This is the octave of will anchored in the Astral Soul and through its nuclei of identity. Meditation on this octave of being activates it.	Entire Cosmic Sphere	Operates the abilities of each of the Initiations of the Cosmic Sphere; anchors them through the Siddhi Yantra as a gift, a Subconscious attunement, or a Superconscious attunement
Supracosmic Initiations (Supracosmic Will)	This is the octave of will anchored in the Supracosmic Soul and through its nucleus of identity, the Supracosmic Seed Atom. Meditation on this octave of being activates it.	Entire track of a Supracosmic Path, from its beginnings in the Cosmic Sphere to its origin in the Guru Padam of that Path in the Supracosmic Sphere	Operates the abilities of each of the stages of a path of the Supracosmic Sphere; anchors them through the Siddhi Yantra as a gift, a Subconscious attunement, or a Superconscious attunement

Type of Volition	What Activates It	Where It Operates	What It Does
Transcendental Sphere Initiations (Transcendental Will)	This is the octave of will anchored in the active Transcendental ensouling entity (Bridge Path, T1 to T7) Soul and through the spirit of that Path. Meditation on this octave of being activates it.	The track of spiritual development on a Transcendental Path	Operates the abilities of an active Transcendental Sphere Path; anchors them through the Siddhi Yantra as a gift, a Subconscious attunement, or a Superconscious attunement
Multiplane Mastery	This octave of volition operates on multiple Transcendental and Supracosmic Paths, through the entire Cosmic, Planetary, Subtle, and Personal bands of the Continuum. This octave of will only awakens when one has become a Multiplane Master. Aspirants and disciples can call upon a Multiplane Master to receive Grace and Ministry from this octave.	Throughout the Great Continuum of Consciousness up to the level of development of a Multiplane Master on the Bridge Path, T6, or T7	Operates, and has the ability to bestow all powers within the sphere of ministry of the Multiplane Master; can initiate others throughout the Great Continuum of Consciousness

The personal will is the controller of all aspects of the Personal Realm that are within its zone of command. The Transpersonal Will operates in all awakened aspects of the Superconscious mind in the Subtle and Planetary Realms, and has the ability to check or overrule the personal will. The Divine Will has the ability to overshadow the Soul. Higher octaves of will in the Cosmic, Supracosmic, and Transcendental Spheres have the ability to anchor the powers developed in these levels through one of the three modes for the Siddhi Yantras that have been awakened.

We will now examine how volition operates from these higher levels.

### **The Cascade of Volition**

Volition in the Superconscious mind is primarily anchored in the ensouling entity. We see however that this volitional power can be stepped down into a nucleus of identity or a seed atom of a vehicle of consciousness.

If you consider that the will stream is like an electrical current that can be shunted through different circuits, you can see that aspects of the volition operate through different vehicles of consciousness that are within the zone of the Soul's development.

These octaves of volition are not per se, a "separate will," but rather an aspect of will that operates on a discrete object or accomplishes a particular purpose. So for example, the moral will operates through the Christ Child or Moon Soul nucleus of identity, and it acts to formulate values, and studies scriptures, law, and symbolic truths. This aspect of the will awakens naturally as the Soul progresses to the First Planetary Initiation, or it can be prematurely stimulated into activity through contemplation and identification with the Moon Soul nucleus of identity.

Identification, as we shall see, plays a crucial role in activating these higher octaves of the will, especially in the Personal Guidance Mode.

In the *Soul Expression Mode*, you are aware that you are drawing upon an ability that is not within the survey of your personality. You are calling upon an ability that is anchored in the Superconscious mind, and you are inviting it to operate within you. You are not identified with it: you sense a Power greater than your Self is channeling through you. In the words of the Bible, "It is not I who does the work, but the Father [e.g., the Divine or a Higher Power]."

In the *Personal Guidance Mode*, you are identified as a higher essence—a nucleus of identity, the spirit in one of the 12 domains, or an ensouling entity—and you allow this aspect of your nature to guide your behavior through becoming a new or alternate Self. You no longer feel that the Self is who you are, but rather that you feel you have been reborn, and a deeper and wiser "new Self" now inhabits you and lives through you.

We can also discuss a hybrid form of these two modes, which we call the *Ecstatic Expression Mode*. This occurs when an individual has become absorbed in a spiritual essence in deep Samadhi, and operates the powers that are embedded in that level of the Continuum. For example, a yogi who gains union and identification with the cosmic consciousness nucleus of identity may be able to activate the Cosmic Octave of the Will and demonstrate a miraculous power or siddhi that is in the First Cosmic Initiation.

In both the Personal Guidance Mode and the Ecstatic Expression Mode, there is identification with a higher essence. In the Personal Guidance mode, however, the emphasis is on making the personality to become an expression of that higher essence. This can take the form of:

- Directing personal choices from this higher essence
- Gaining intuitive knowledge from this higher essence and disseminating it through "preaching" or "inspired discourse" (satsang)
- Studying the scriptures and writings of the group, and listening to lectures or discourses to gain greater knowledge and understanding of the teachings and strengthen the connection with the spiritual essence with which one identifies
- Setting goals that express this higher essence in human life
- Living values that come from inner revelation and the scriptures that come from the level where this spiritual essence dwells

- Shaping acceptable behavior and speech consonant with the religious or spiritual precepts
- Making long-term faith commitments to the spiritual or religious group that educates and nurtures this spiritual essence
- Developing habits, rituals, and “sacred ceremonies” that enable one to remember and bring this spiritual essence into personal expression
- “Checking” or restraining the ego from the behavioral guidelines advanced by the spiritual or religious group in its teachings or scriptures
- Turning behavior into “selfless service” or acts of devotion to the Spiritual Master who overshadows the spiritual or religious group

In contrast, in the Ecstatic Expression mode, there is no interface with the personality or awareness of it. The higher essence directly operates one of the powers within its consciousness, and creates or manifests from this platform. So a yogi in Samadhi might use one of the powers of the First Cosmic Initiation to make the body levitate. The yogi is not aware of the personality of all, but only of the spiritual essence with which he or she is identified, and uses volition at this level to manifest the siddhi.

In the Soul Expression mode, one retains the sense that one is the natural Self, but the higher essence or Divine Being is experienced as expressing autonomously through the personality. There is no re-identification with an alternate spiritual essence, and one is not aware of the operation of the higher octave of the will that manifests the spiritual power—one only experiences the results of this bestowal from a higher source.

We can tease out the key characteristics of these three modes:

*Ecstatic Expression Mode*

1. Identification with this higher essence
2. Activation of the will stream anchored in this essence
3. Awareness of potential powers anchored in the Plenum surrounding the spiritual essence that are within the consciousness of that essence
4. Expression of one of these powers using the octave of will native to this essence

*Personal Guidance Mode*

1. Identification with the Higher Essence
2. Connection with the personality is established
3. Shaping or directing personality from this essence

*Soul Expression Mode*

1. No identification with the higher essence
2. Witnessing the expression of this higher essence from the standpoint of attention and/or the attentional principle

We encourage aspirants and disciples to study these aspects of will that operate within them, and to notice the times when they are in Ecstatic Expression Mode, Personal Guidance Mode, or Soul Expression Mode.

Using the will appropriately is a key aspect of Mastery; though studying the will, you will begin to utilize the great potential that is hidden within you, and bring your entire nature into expression.



What octaves of the will are active in you?

What behavior or activities do these octaves of the will initiate?

What areas of your life does your volition not control?

In what ways does your spiritual nature overshadow you?

How does the personal expression mode of volition operate in you?

How does the Soul expression mode operate in you?

Have you ever experienced the ecstatic expression mode of will? If so, how did this manifest in you?

Have you ever overruled your egoic expression of will? What aspects of your nature checked it and stopped it from acting on passion or desire?

As you have progressed spiritually, what new volitional activity has emerged in you? In what ways does this manifest?

In what situations do you proactively use your will, e.g., you make things happen? In what situations do you reactively exercise your will, e.g., something happens to you and then you respond to it?

What is the difference between commitment and will? What is the difference between willingness and will?

Thank you for attending our webinar today!

