

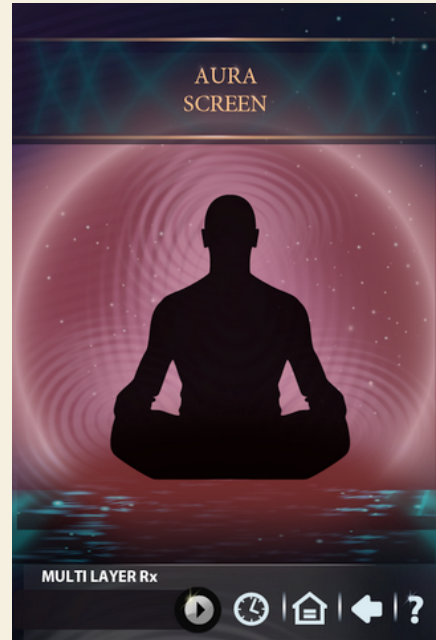
The human aura may be described as a fine, ethereal radiation or emanation surrounding each and every living human being. It extends from two to three feet, in all directions, from the body. It assumes an oval shape--a great egg-shaped nebula

The Aura, which looks like a halo of coloured light surrounding a person, whose colour's and patterns change according to that person's health, mood, intentions, spiritual condition, and so on, is a staple of 'New Age' theories and spiritual paths. It is a phenomena which people have claimed to have seen for as long as such observations have been recorded. There are even special photographic techniques which can be used to get a picture of a person's aura. And as part of the multi-billion dollar new age industry that has sprung up over recent decades there are now a multitude of professional aura readers, along with many, many books in the stores which teach interested candidates How to read aura's for themselves.

When mystic practitioners talk about some kind of spiritual energy, or the light of the soul, or uses whatever language their particular tradition has adopted, then the automatic reaction of the scientist is to dismiss it as religion or superstition, and then not pay the matter a second thought. But just because the Vikings thought thunder and lightning were caused by one of their gods striking a hammer in the heavens does not mean that thunder and lightning doesn't exist, just that they were wrong about the reasons. I believe the same could be true for many new age phenomena, including auras. Likewise if a mystic talks about the motions of the heavens being regulated by universal love, he may well be talking at least in part about gravity and the motions of the planets. And that is

why I was fascinated to read of research conducted by Jamie Ward of University College London and reported in the journal Cognitive Neuropsychology which suggests that a rare form of synaesthesia could explain the phenomena of auras. Many of you will be familiar with a condition called synaesthesia. It is not a common condition, and has only been thoroughly documented and explained quite recently, but because it is such an interested condition it has received relatively large amount of publicity, including many television programs and magazine articles. To summarize the condition briefly: synaesthesia, in its most common form, is when the area of the brain dealing with two separate senses somehow becomes linked. When this happens the subject experiences a mingling of usually distinct faculties, and finds they are able to smell colors, taste sounds, and so on. Synaesthesia may also involve the subject associating colors, or tastes, or whatever it may be, to certain words or numbers; so that whenever they come across a particular word, the corresponding taste comes into their mouth.

The aura is an energy field- it's our life force. It takes two forms - the cosmic vibratory energy that is omnipresent in the universe, structuring and sustaining all things and the specific aura that sustains each human body.



The aura is shaped like an egg made of fibrous light surrounding the whole of the body. To some, it is like a heat haze radiating all around the person shimmering with light and energy.