

## **Dark energy – the ether is back! (1998)**

During the ancient era some people believed the universe to consist of five basic elements. These were fire, soil, water, air and ether. The ether was the space surrounding Earth. The spirits of dead people gathered in the ether. During the 18<sup>th</sup> century the notion of the ether faded. Today we talk about the ether as in saying radio waves travel through it.

In universe there is dark energy and dark matter we cannot see. It is believed 73 % of all matter consists of dark energy. No one understands the dark energy. In contrast to other matter it is repulsive. This might be the reason why universe expands at increasing speed. The dark energy is as mysterious as the ether was. It is like the ether has returned!

One artwork shows the five basic elements. In the ether hover spirits of dead relatives of Linda. The other artwork symbolizes the expansion of universe due to the dark energy. In 1998 while studying a certain type of supernovas in distant galaxies the terminology dark energy was introduced.