

Cosmic Ecology

An exploration of the cosmic significance of humanity based on the natural philosophy of J.G.Bennett and drawing on multiple sources of science and spirituality,

Part 1 – Human Beings in the Universe

Module 5 – Transcending the Limits of Space Time

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“Our experience is far too rich to be shoe-horned intellectually into a simple dimensionality of just space and time and simply described by Cartesian co-ordinates.”

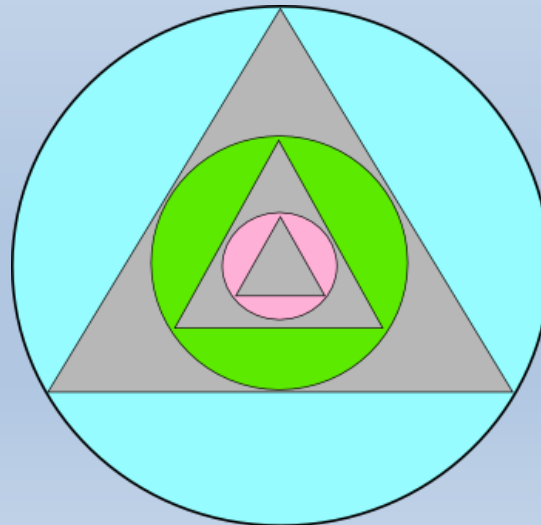
Hodgson

This Module:-

1. The Fourth Dimension Trap
2. Hidden in Plain Sight
3. Representing Extended Dimensionality
4. Accessing the Future Through Imagination
5. Conclusion

Section 1

The Fourth Dimension Trap



The Fourth Dimension Trap

Henri Bergson points out, from the point of view of our direct psychological experience of time as duration, treating time as simply a fourth spatial dimension does not illuminate that experience.

“Numerous are the philosophers who have felt how powerless conceptual thought is to reach the core of the mind....They did not see that *intellectualized time is space*, that the intelligence works on *the phantom of duration*, not on duration itself, that *the elimination of time is habitual*, normal, commonplace act of our understanding, that the relativity of our knowledge of the mind is a direct result of this fact, and that hence, to pass from intellection to vision, from the relative to the absolute, is not a question of getting outside of time (we are already there); on the contrary, *one must get back into duration and recapture reality in the very mobility which is its essence.*” (Bergson, 1992, p30-31)



The Source Inspiration of my Thinking

J.G.Bennett (1966) who's research in the middle of the last century was based on a life-time of seeking ways to reconcile his actual experiences of what, in modern terms we would describe as altered states of consciousness, with the worldview promoted by the contemporary physics of his time. This led him to challenge the limitations of Einsteinian relativity and eventually move on from mathematical physics to considering the phenomenology associated with dimensionality. He introduces his treatment of the **present moment** with the following observation:

The Present Moment is All

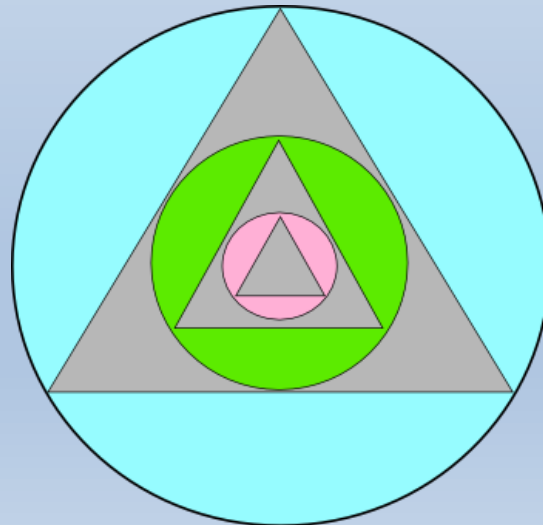
“We live in the present moment. So far as we can have any direct perception and sure knowledge, this present moment is all that there is. Because its content changes, we tend to think of it as impermanent, a state of ‘perpetual perishing’ as Locke expressed it. But it is also in a state of perpetual renewal and neither perishing nor renewal are so certain as the immediate experience of the present as always here and now.”

(Bennett, 1996, p13)



Section 2

Hidden in Plain Sight



The seven aspects of experience in the present moment

1. Location – there is 'somewhere'
2. Separation – there is 'somewhere else'
3. Rotation – there are multiple perspectives on 'somewhere' and 'somewhere else'
4. Succession/Duration – one thing happens followed by another
5. Potential – of many possible things not all happen
6. Manifestation – there are relative strengths of happening
7. Connectivity – things seem linked to each other in hidden patterns

1 Location Exercise

2 Separation Exercise

3 Rotation Exercise

Bring together the three experiences of space and ask:

What would happen if rotation was removed?

What would happen if separation was removed?

What would happen if location was removed?

4 Succession/Duration Exercise

5 Potential Exercise

6 Manifestation Exercise

7 Connectivity Exercise

Putting it All Together

We integrate space and time by motion.

We realise potential through choice.

Normally we sleep-walk through our dimensional world unless we receive some kind of shock (which can be negative or positive)

In timeless moments we intuit Undivided Wholeness.

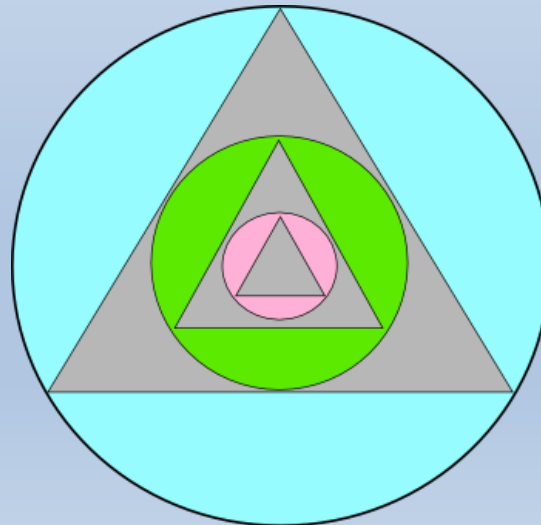
Discussion Interlude 1

What observations did you make during the seven exercises?

RANDOM
TRIOS

Section 3

Representing Extended Dimensionality



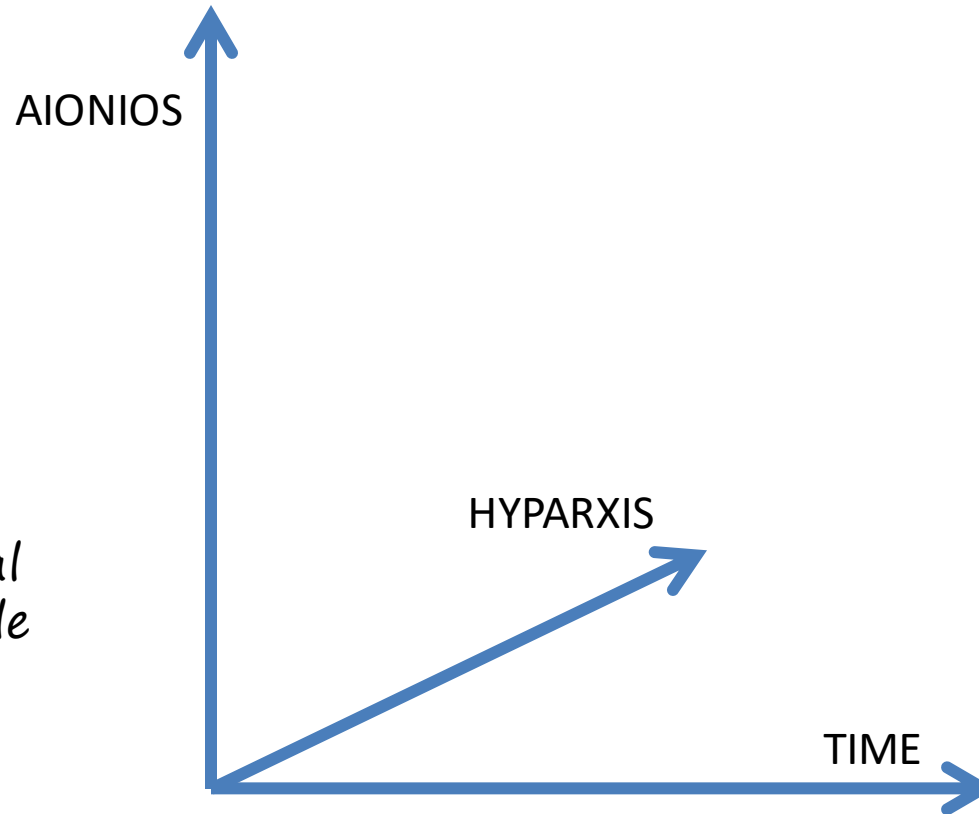
The Dimensional Qualities

Bennett Reading

SPACE-LIKE DIMENSIONS	TIME-LIKE DIMENSIONS	TRANSCENDENT DIMENSION
Location	Duration	Singularity
Separation	Potential	+ Non-locality
Rotation	Manifestation	

Representing Three Time-like Dimensions

The three dimensions of space are presumed, so that the representational space is available for additional dimensions.



The Greek Terminology

Succession – **Chronos**

– the sequence of events and cycles as measured by methods from the rotation of the earth to atomic clocks

Potential – **Aionios**⁽¹⁾

– the inherent patterns of everything lying outside of chronos

Manifestation – **Hyparxis**⁽²⁾

- actual specific occurrence, ableness-to-be selected from all potentials

Indivisible Unity – **Henosis**⁽³⁾

- the cosmos as one inseparable Subject both penetrating and containing the six other dimensions

(1)The pattern of eternal nature – (*panta aiona estin on*) “*Aion* is what is properly eternal, in contrast with a divine imitation of it in ages of time, the result of the creative action of God which imitated the uncreate as nearly as He could in created ages. It is a careful opposition between eternity and ages; and *aion* and also *aionios* mean the former in contrast with ages.” “for the completeness which embraces the time of the life of each, outside which there is nothing, according to nature, is called the *aion* of each” Aristotle

“in eternity nothing is passed, nothing is about to be, but only subsists”

<http://stempublishing.com/authors/darby/DOCTRINE/31003E.html>

these are also referred to as ‘latents’. http://www.philosophos.com/philosophical_connections/profile_056.html and others

(2)Bennett introduced the term hyparxis for this dimension, after hyparcho – ‘to make a beginning’ which he interprets as the free will to create.

(3) Henosis ([Ancient Greek](#): ἑνωσις) is the word for "oneness," "union," or "unity" in classical Greek



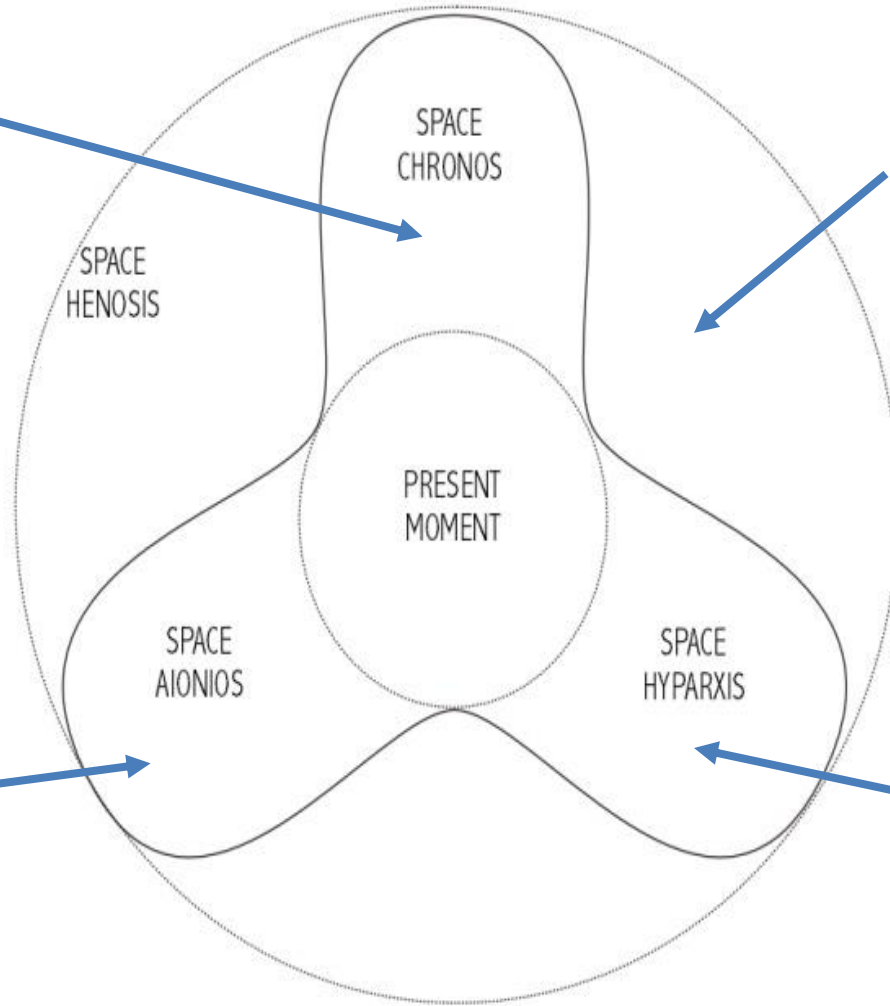
The Four Continua

Sequences of
durational
events in a
location

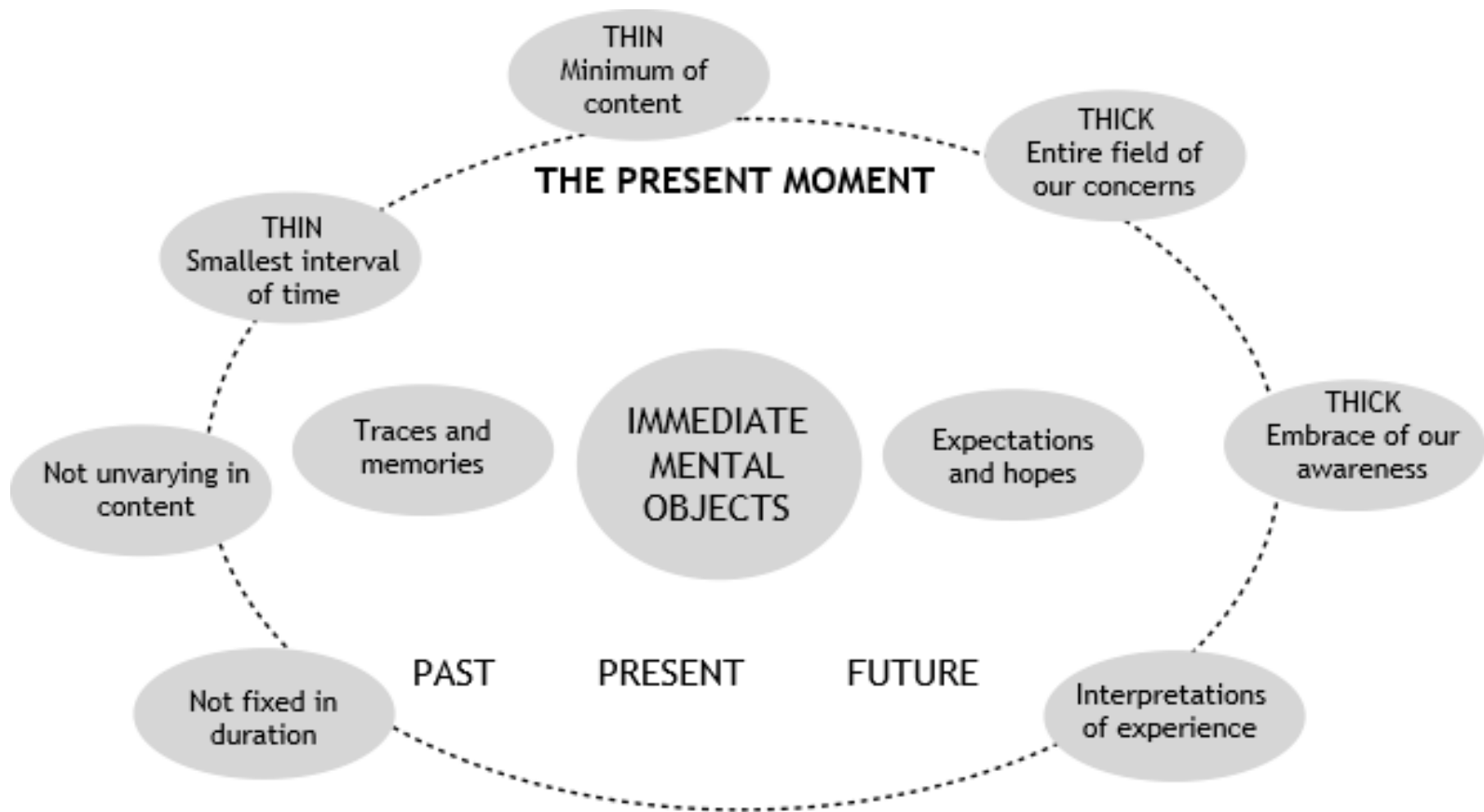
Unity
beyond space
and time but
omnipresent

General
latent
patterns
in space

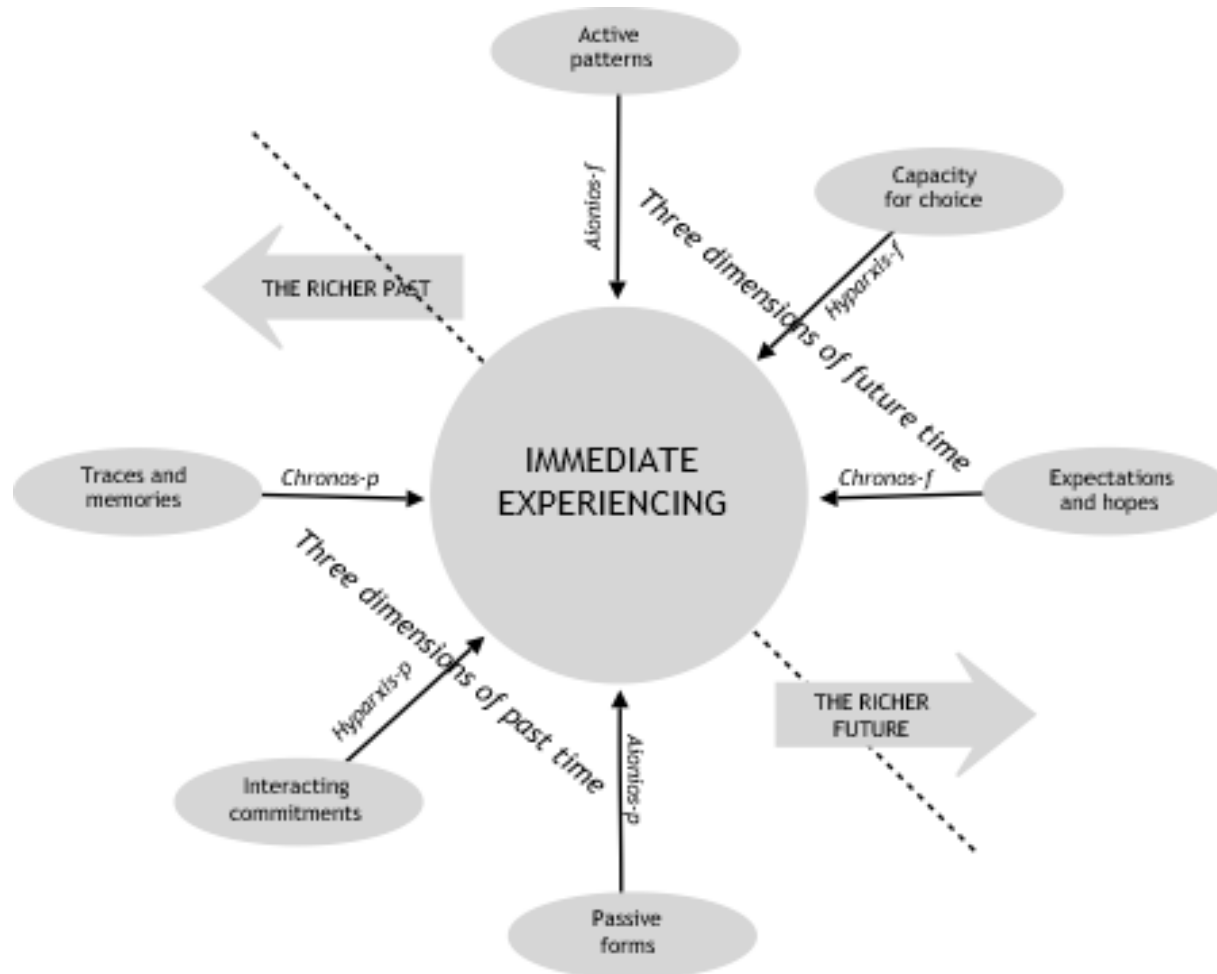
Local
manifestation
of the
individual
and the
particular



Structure of Your Present Moment



The Six Dimensional Influences



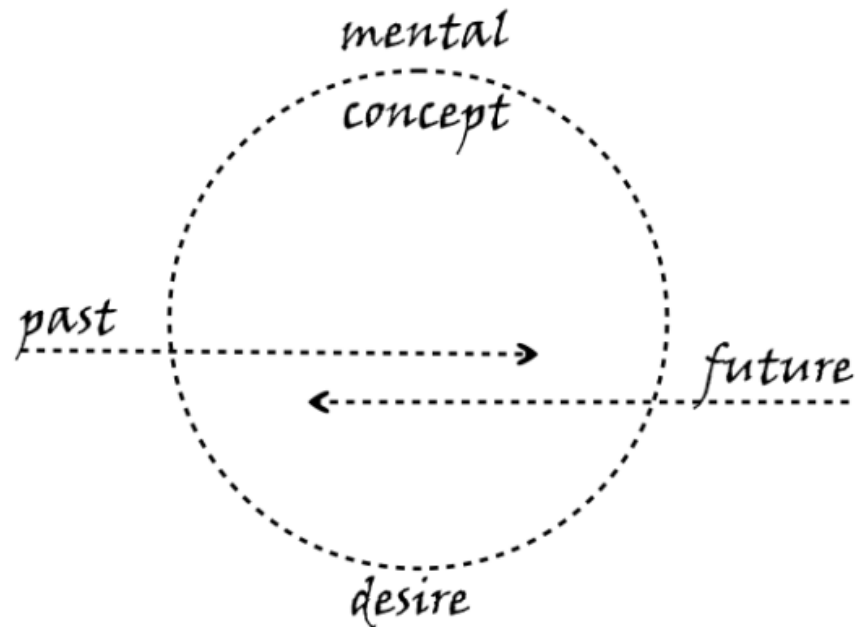
Dimensionality and Insight

1. *Space-chronos (past)* - Insight is not simply a matter of trying to imagine what the extension of linear time might lead to in the future. There are other dimensions to consider.
2. *Space-chronos (future)* - Accepting retrocausality changes the way we look at decisions. feedforward includes actual information from the future.
3. *Space-aionios (implicate)* - All synergetic processes draw their patterning from space-aionios. The selection of patterning requires the third time-like dimension of hyparxis such that life can regulate to some degree the sustaining of its life pattern.
4. *Space-aionios (explicate)* - Insight also requires a grasp of past linear time. There are situations of momentum that will inevitably lead to certain things.
5. *Space-hyparxis (retrospective)* - There is also the aspect of the living past which lies deeper than simply temporal momentum. On the human scale these might be called commitments. On the cosmic scale they are implied in the term Creator.
6. *Space-hyparxis (prospective)* - Then there is the aspect that life is an open system especially towards the future. To develop a rich present moment requires cosmic creative imagination to come into play. It might be possible to be receptive to creativity that is presently being played out invisible to the conventional consciousness and methods.



The Steiner View

Rudolf Steiner, in his psychological model, has something similar in which the mind is an arena of interaction between mental concept and desire responding to the tension between the momentum of the past and the incursion of the future.



Discussion Interlude 2

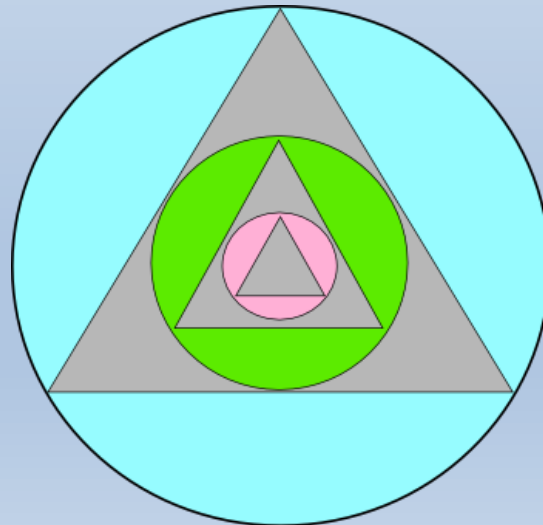
Questions



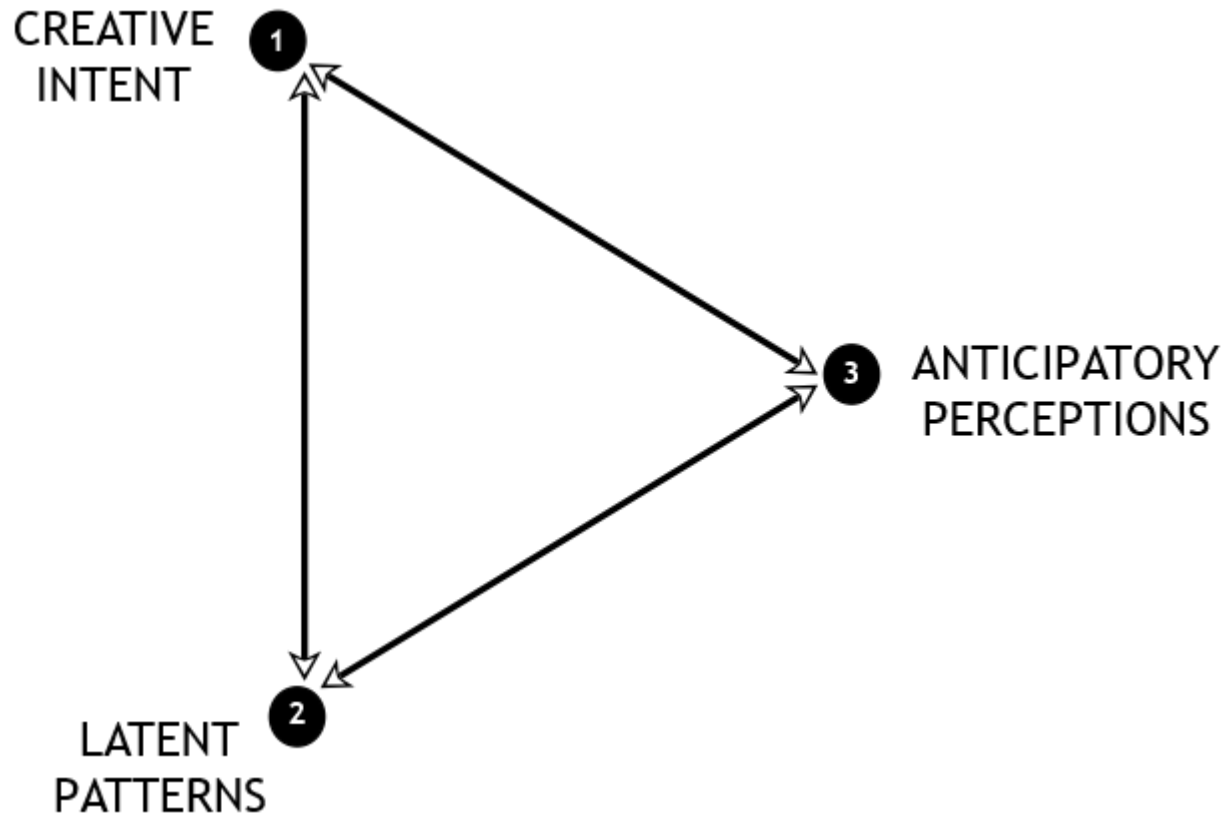
PLENARY

Section 4

Accessing the Future Through Imagination



Accessing Insight Through the Dimensions as a Practice



The Six Modes of Access

Formal relationship	Access Modes	Illustration	Access Catch Phrase
1—2—3 (expansion)	Discovery – imaging a latent pattern evokes location of a potential and enables possibilities of realisation to be anticipated	Lateral exploration of speculative future changes	Fantasy to fact
2—1—3 (concentration)	Evolution – potent potential excites creative intent and breaks through to new possibilities	Recognition of completely new priority domain relevant to the future	Feeling the looming issue
1—3—2 (interaction)	Learning – creative observation of unfolding future events shows where to put attention	Carrying out mental or actual role plays of improbable situations	Rehearsing the unlikely
2—3—1 (identity)	Recognition – the active intrusion of potential through observation confirms the field for imaginative exploration	Cognitive priming – science fiction alerting recognition of new facts	Imagining the unimaginable future
2—1—3 (order)	Necessity – the act of anticipation orients imagination to focus on a previously unrecognised domain of potential	Circumstances demanding new views of the future	Encountering unavoidable truth
3—2—1 (freedom)	Serendipity – random, capricious or speculative anticipatory acts open up potential for creative imagination	Certain forms of ‘what if?’ simulation	Consulting an oracle

The Seven Questions

1 What is likely to come about by momentum from the past?

Chronos as past

*2 What seems to be new **not** coming from the past?* Chronos as future

3 What is a positive potential beyond the above events? Aionios as past

4 What tangible forms are likely to dominate? Aionios as future

5 What has the most promising life in it for the future? Hyparchic past

6 Can you see/sense/imagine a desirable outcome that would be surprising? Hyparchic future

7 What now is the essential value of this future in the present moment? Holistic intuition



Discussion Interlude 3

Insight Exercise

Choose an area of your life where you would like to gain greater insight. You will then be guided through the seven questions. You might want to make notes as you go along.

PLENARY

The Seven Questions

1 What is likely to come about by momentum from the past?

Chronos as past

*2 What seems to be new **not** coming from the past?* Chronos as future

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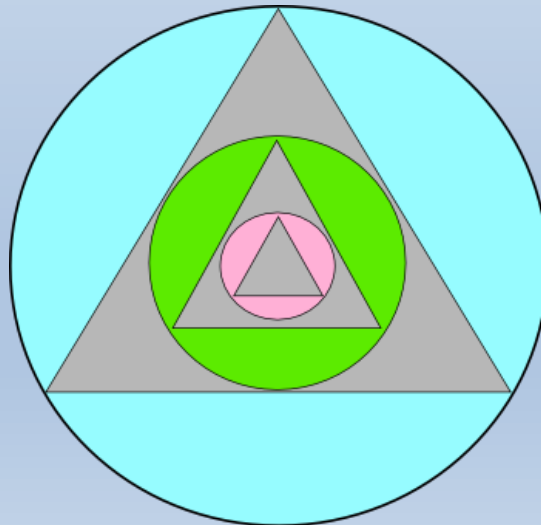
7 What now is the essential value of this future in the present moment? Holistic intuition

HOW DID YOU FIND THIS EXERCISE?



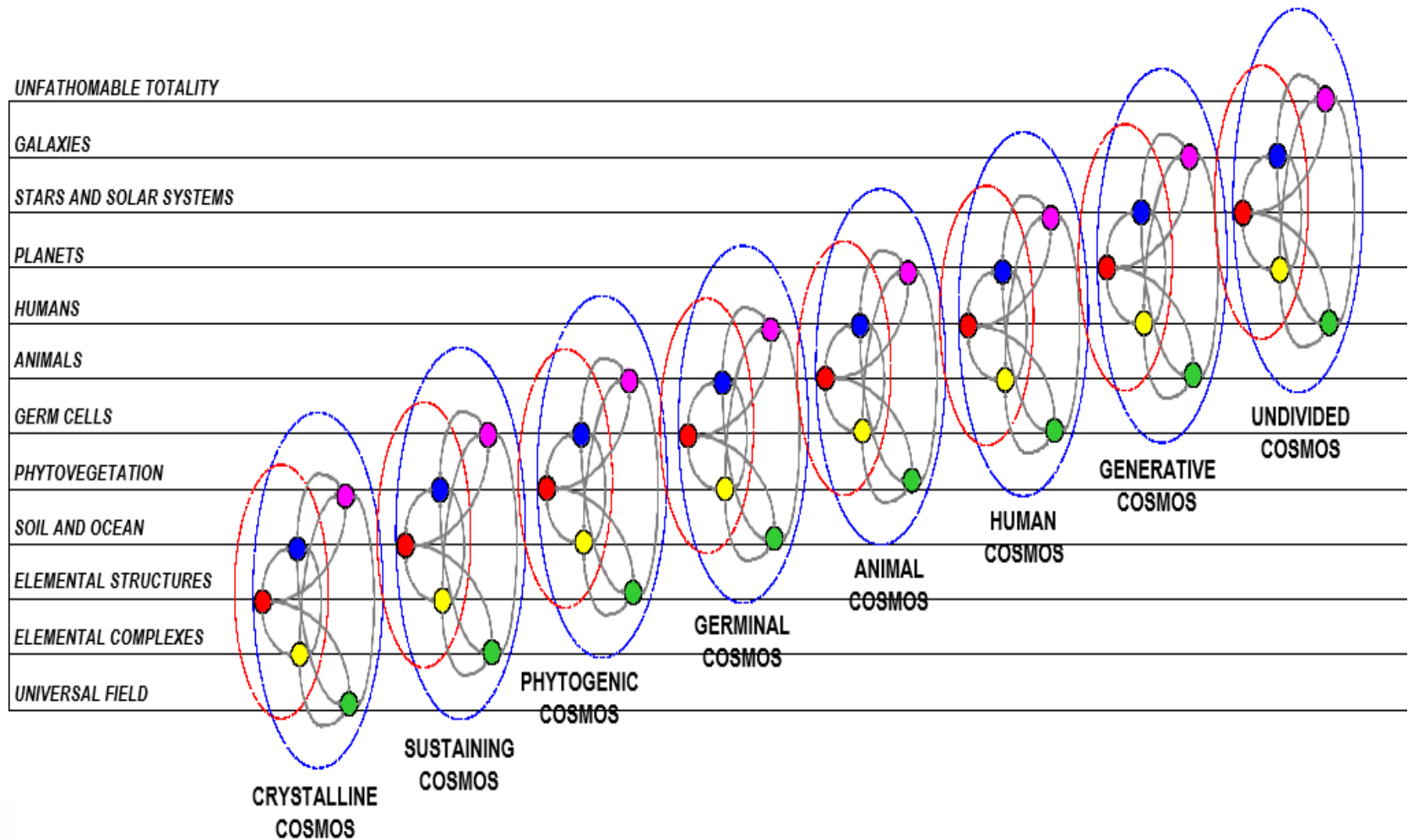
Section 4

Conclusion



The Full Scheme of the Eight Cosmoses

The Eight Cosmoses Mapped Across the Twelve Universal Levels





Appendix

What is Time?

From *Man and Time*, J.B.Priestly, 1964, Crescent Books, New York
Pages 272-273, Quoting interview with J.G.Bennett.

“There is no simple answer. Our experience of temporality is complex and it varies from one situation to another. The variations are so important that we should not speak of time in the singular, but distinguish different times and different kinds of time. Careful observations show that the time experience comprises three main characters that can vary independently. When such characters can be measured and expressed in numbers their core parameters and a system with independent parameters is called n-dimensional we can therefore say that time is three dimensional. As there are also three dimensions of space, there are in all six dimensions in terms of which measurable, that is physical, events can be described. My co-workers and I have shown that a six dimensional geometry will serve to describe not only the movements of bodies, but also other physical situations such as atoms and quanta, and the properties of matter generally.

This raises the question whether three kinds of time apply to other situations such as those of life, consciousness and human free will. To answer this we must see what the three kinds of time mean in terms of experience. (continued →)

What is Time? (2)

I shall describe them without attempting to prove that the descriptions are either adequate or exhaustive. I've adopted three names for the different forms of time on the principle that the best way of avoiding confusion is to call different things by different names.

TIME

We experience events as successive. This gives rise to the sense of 'before and after'. The present exists in the past and future do not 'exist' or at any rate do so in a different way from the present. If there were no time but this, existence would be whittled away into an elusive 'present' that is gone as soon as we reach it.

ETERNITY

We are aware of persistence. Without persistence there would be no change only the meaningless present. Moreover, there is in every situation the potential for a variety of actualisation is. Potential does not come and go as does the actual moment. Pure potential is eternal and imperishable. I have called eternity the quote storehouse of potentialities". This means that there can be many lines of successive time simultaneously present in eternity our experience of changes of consciousness gives as a direct confirmation alternative times. (continued →)

What is time? (3)

Furthermore, in all living things there is a persisting pattern that directs their development and regulates their lives. It is impossible to make sense of this self-regulating property of life within the limitations of successive time

HYPARXIS

the simplest approach to the third kind of time is to consider the requirements of free will and with it of ethics and responsibility. Successive time does not allow choice. Eternity presents as with the choice, but gives is no room to make it. The third degree of freedom is needed to pass from one line of time to another. This leads to the notion of the third kind of time connected in some way with the power to connect or to disconnect potential and actual. To understand fully the importance of the third kind of time, that I have called hyparxis, we must observe that being itself has gradations. We ourselves can be aware of states when we are wholly controlled by causal influences and other states when we can, not only entertain purposes, but deliberate and choose our actions with the aim of realising them. I call this variable factor 'ableness-to-be' present in different beings. (continued →)

What is Time? (4)

It can be traced throughout all levels of existence from atoms through the simplest living forms up to man and it is this factor that entitles us to look beyond man to the attainment of superhuman levels. Without this factor everything will be compelled to remain wholly determined by its own internal plan.

CONCLUSION

The three kinds of time are strictly quantitative – that is capable of being measured and expressed in numbers - only in the physical world. They change from quantity as we mount the scale of existence. In terms of our most intimate experiences, even successive time is not measurable. We can travel in eternity; not in our physical bodies but in our consciousness. We can move in hyparxis by an act of will. But although will and consciousness cannot be measured, they are elements of our experience no less real than sensations of sight and touch by which we know the physical world.