

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 9 – An Evolutionary History of Humanity

Dr. Anthony Hodgson

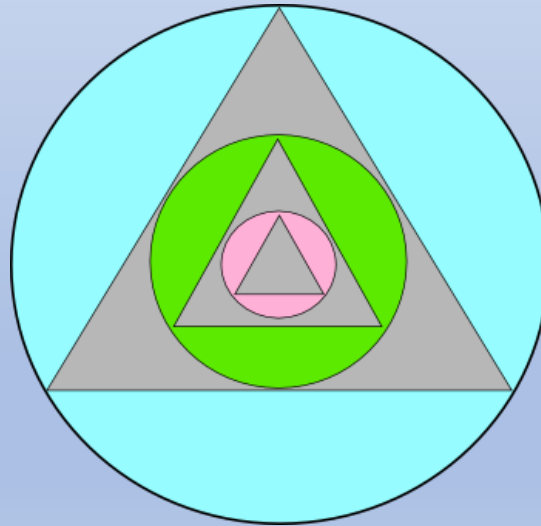


This session: -

1. The Astronomical and Temporal Context of Earth
 2. Epochs and the Hyparchic Future
 3. Expanding the Epochs
 4. Our Role in the Consciously Evolving Solar System and How We Fulfil It
- Conclusion and What Next

Section 1

The Astronomical and Temporal Context of Earth



Planet Earth in Context

Conditions on earth are strongly influenced by the context of the solar system and the local region of the galaxy.

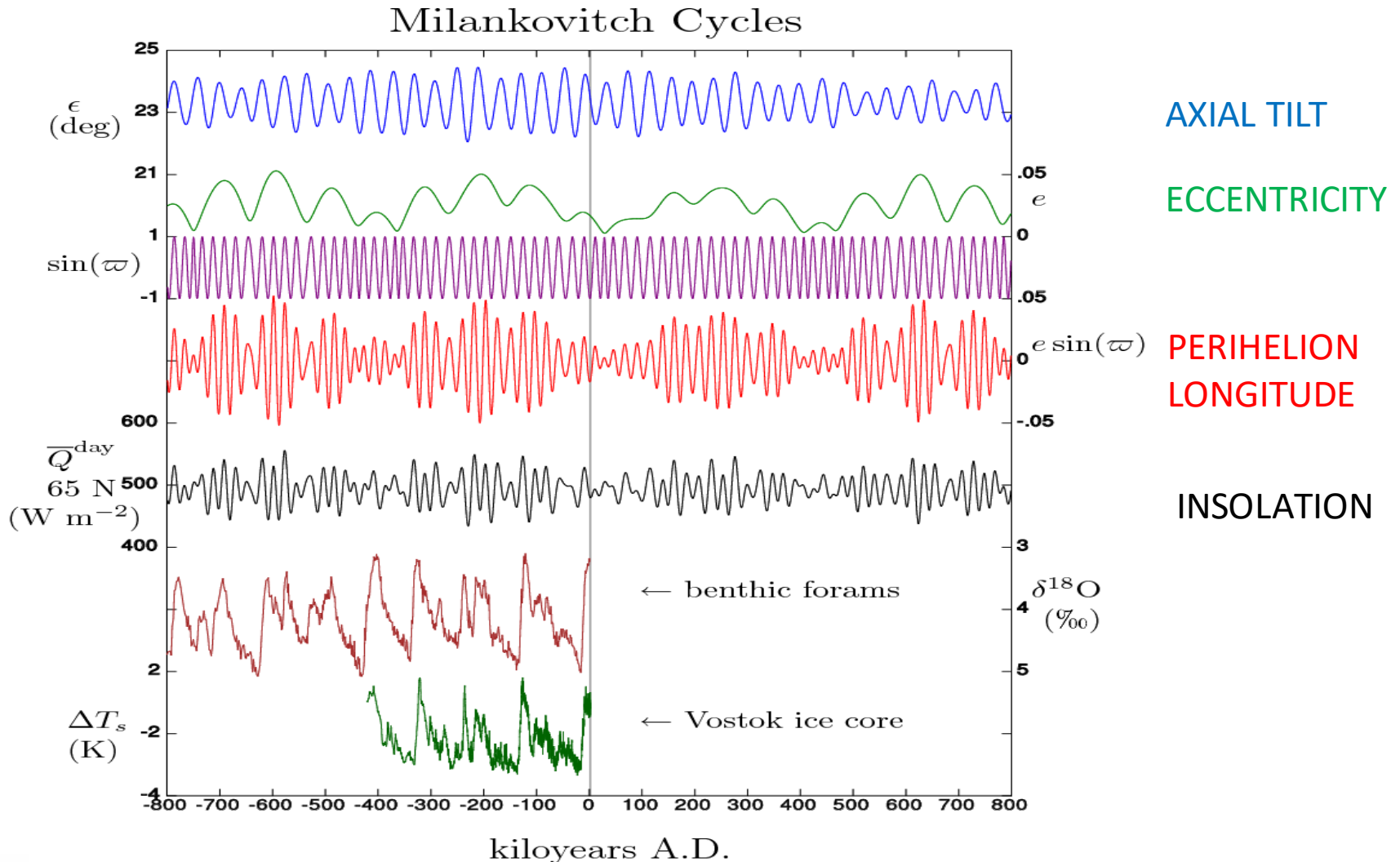
The Serbian scientist Milutin Milankovitch researched these in the 1920s - 30s. This has been further verified by modern examination of ice cores and other geochemical factors. The picture is complex but a simple fact emerges. Our climate oscillates in synchronisation with these cycles which affect the radiation received. We have ice ages with interglacials.



Milankovitch (orbital) cycles

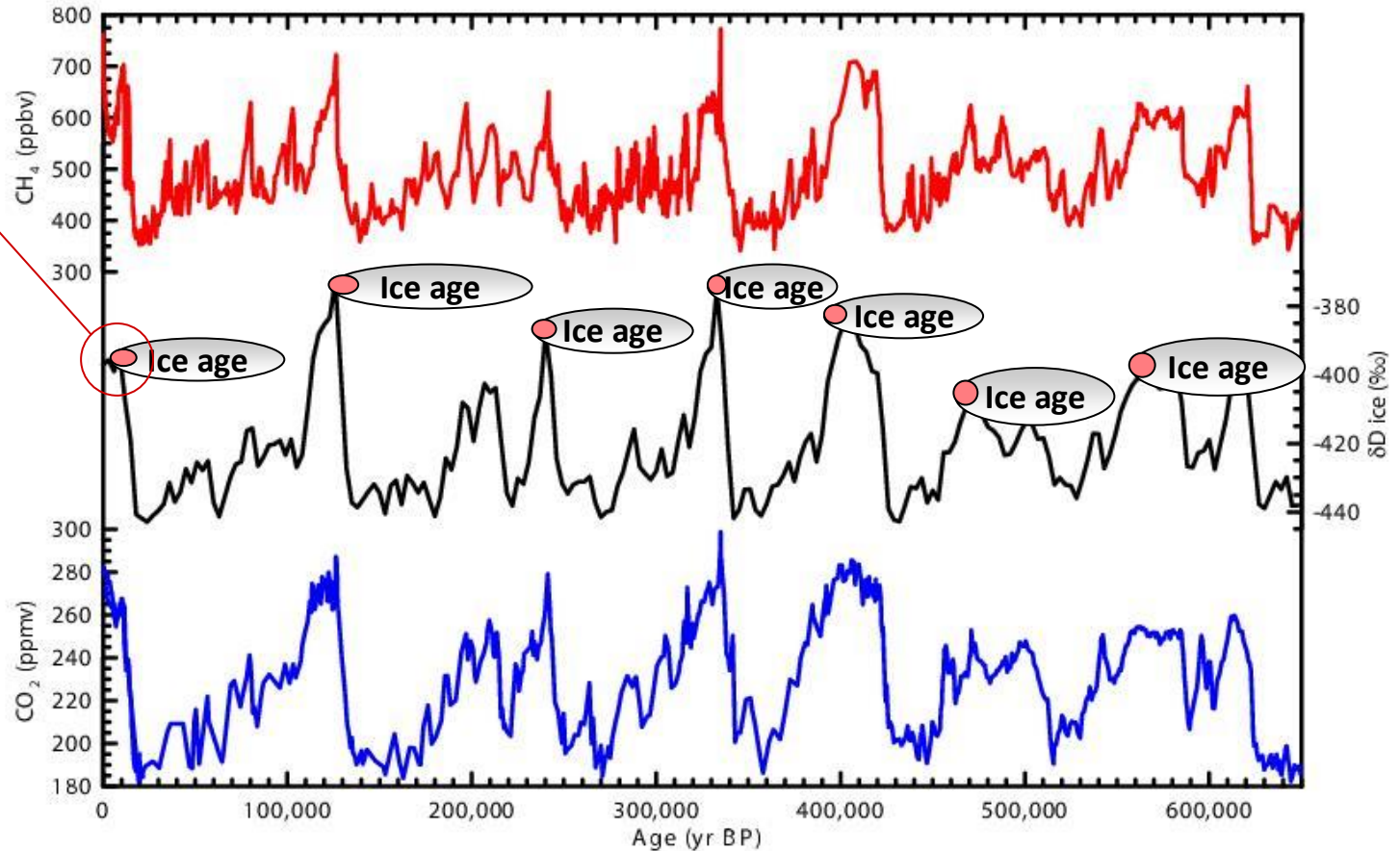
1. The shape of Earth's orbit, known as **eccentricity**;
2. The angle Earth's axis is tilted with respect to Earth's orbital plane, known as **obliquity**; and
3. The direction Earth's axis of rotation is pointed, known as **precession**.
4. https://climate.nasa.gov/system/video_items/143_eccentricity_with_border.m4v
5. https://climate.nasa.gov/system/video_items/146_obliquity_with_border.m4v
6. https://climate.nasa.gov/system/video_items/149_axial_precession.m4v

Fine tuning of solar radiation



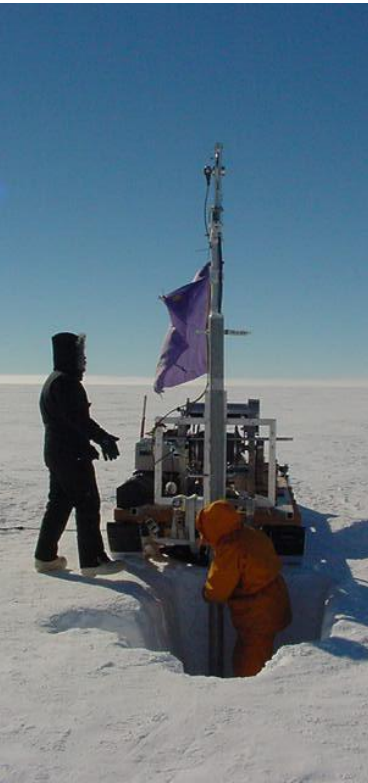
We live in Warm Interludes on an Ice Planet

NOW



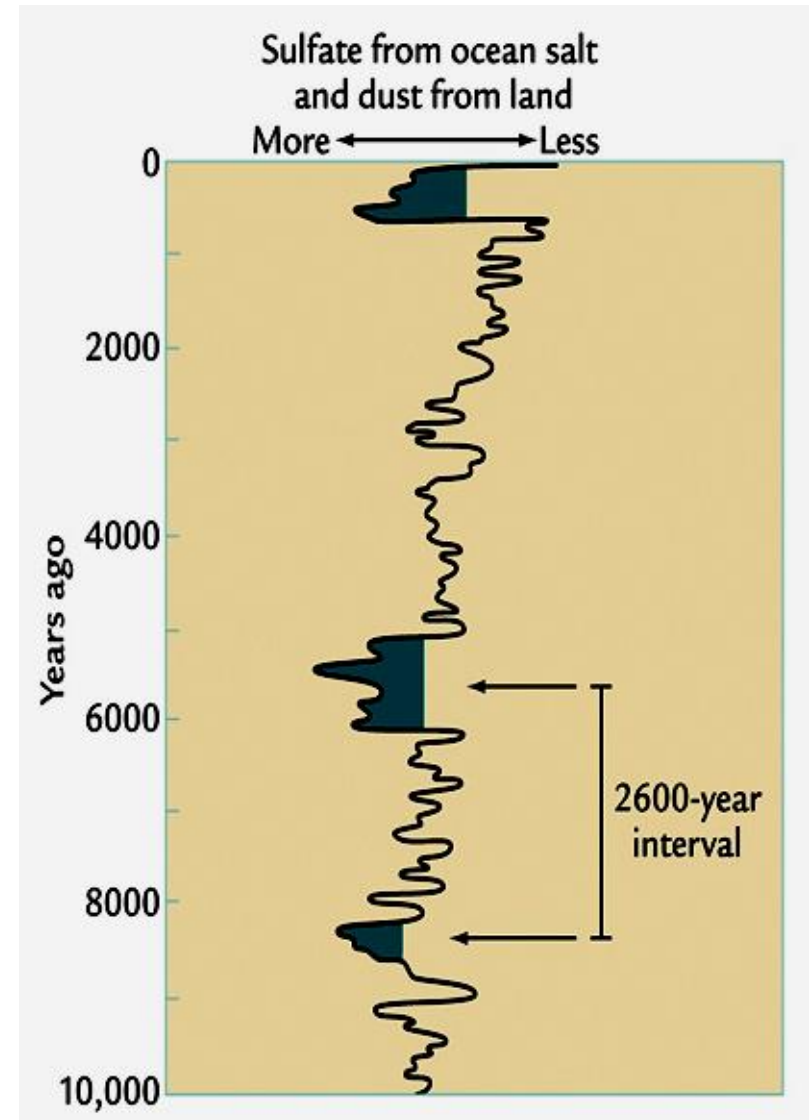
NOW

600,000 years ago

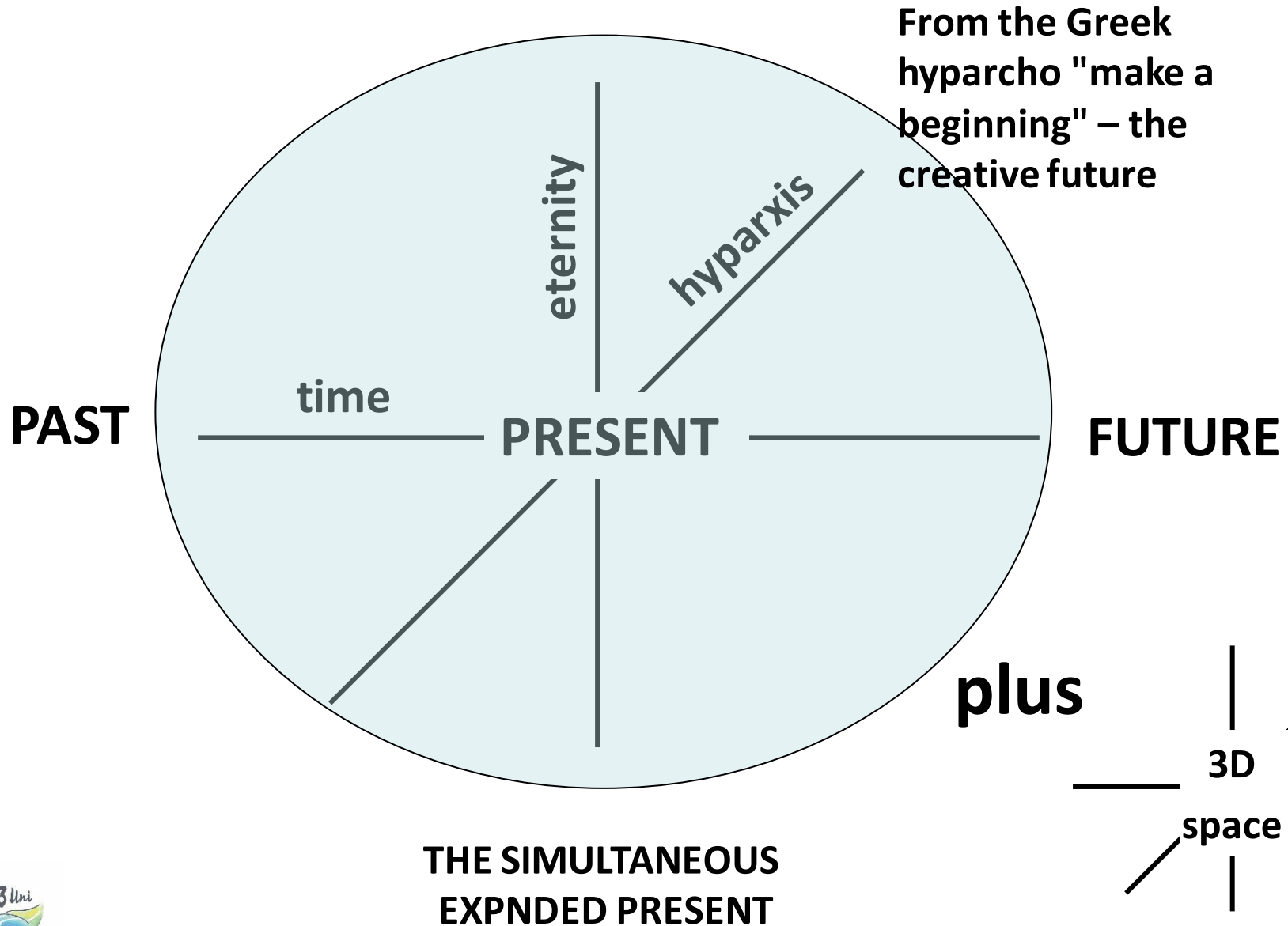


Geo-physical Correlate of Millennial-Scale Oscillation

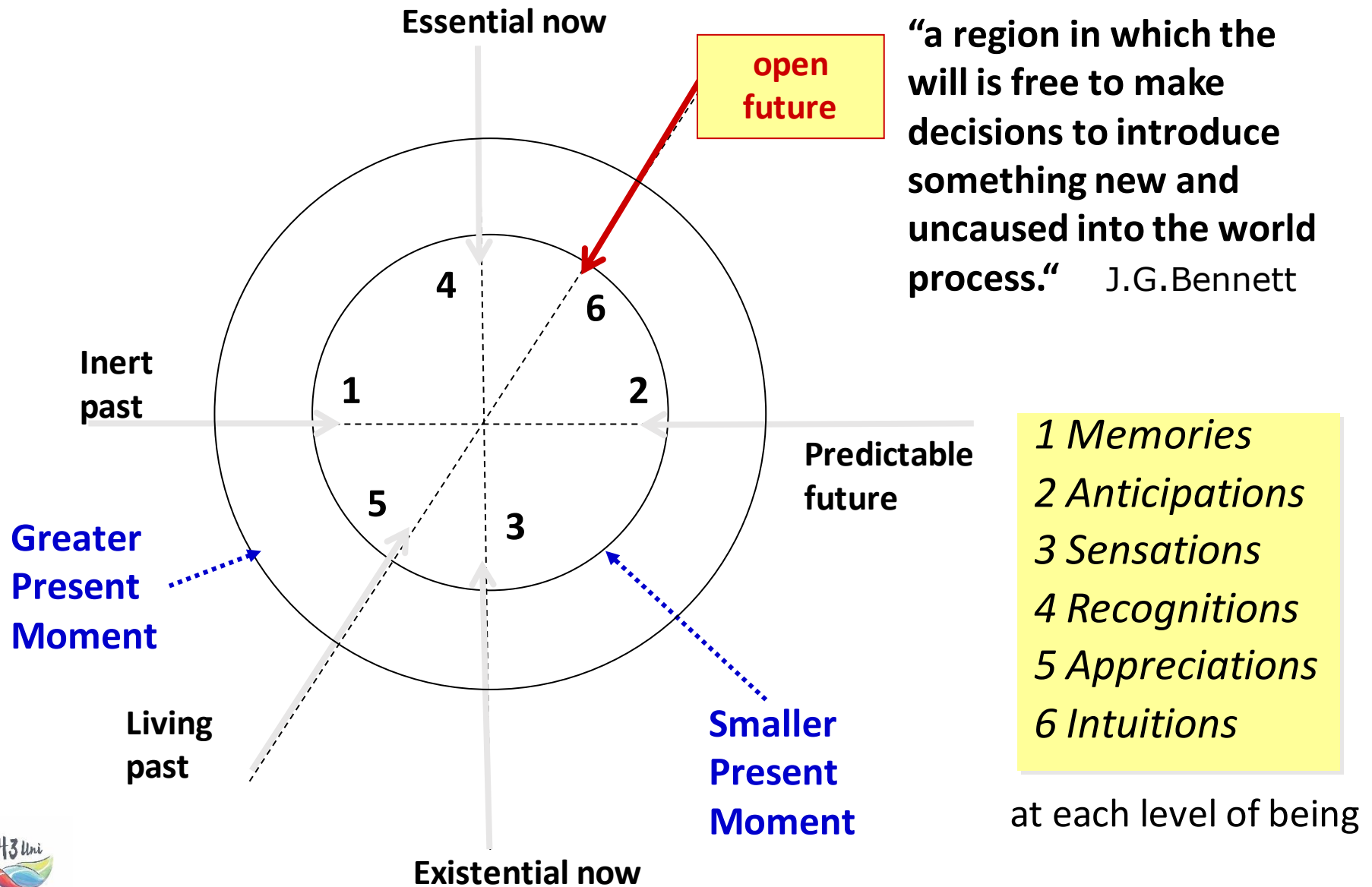
- Although lower in amplitude, oscillation exist
 - Fluctuations weak and show variations of 2,600 year cycle
- Changes in sea salt have ~2,600 year cycle
 - Greenland ice cores
- Oscillations referred to as Dansgaard-Oeschger cycles



The Three Dimensions of Time



Consciousness is Determined by the Scale and Scope of the Present Moment.



A Different Orientation to History

In the physical world:

- The energy-momentum equation in quantum physics links time, speed and mass.
- These equations have two solutions:
 - One in which time moves from past to future and
 - One in which time moves from future to past
- The co-existence of causes from the past and causes from the future is called “super-causality”
- Diverging waves have causation in the past; converging waves have causation in the future

In the psychological world:

- Life occurs at the interface between past causation and future causation
- This is the domain of choice and free will
- Consciousness is the exercise of choice at any given moment
- Causation from the past leads to degradation; causation from the future brings fresh order
- Conscious choice has the power to invoke order from the future or chaos from the past.
- This choice is always exercised in the *present moment*.



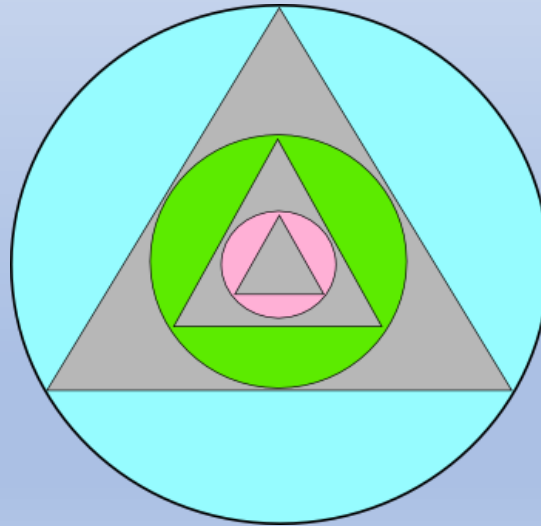
Discussion Interlude 1

Questions and Observations

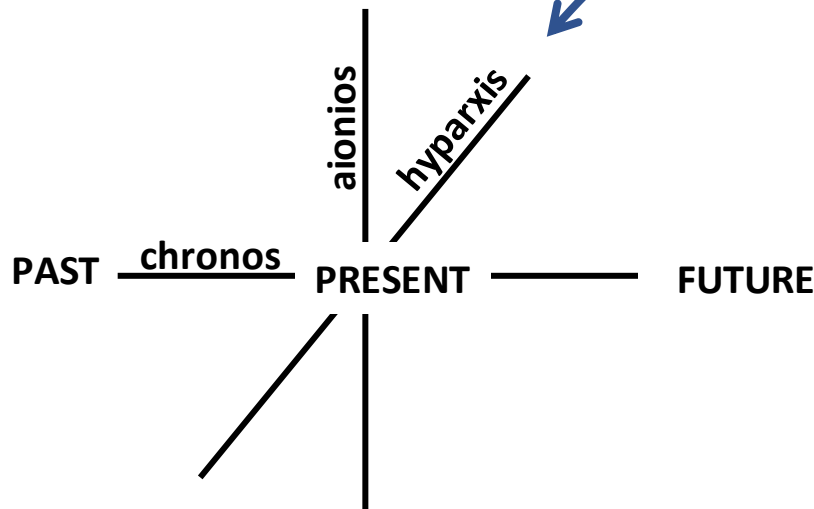
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Section 2

Epochs and the Hyparchic Future – Correlation of Levels



Guidance from the Hyparchic Future



THE HYPARCHIC FUTURE

There are three kinds of future

Chronos – a relatively fixed future that will mechanically unfold (but subject to hazard)

Aionios – a latent pattern of possibilities far more extensive than the immediate present

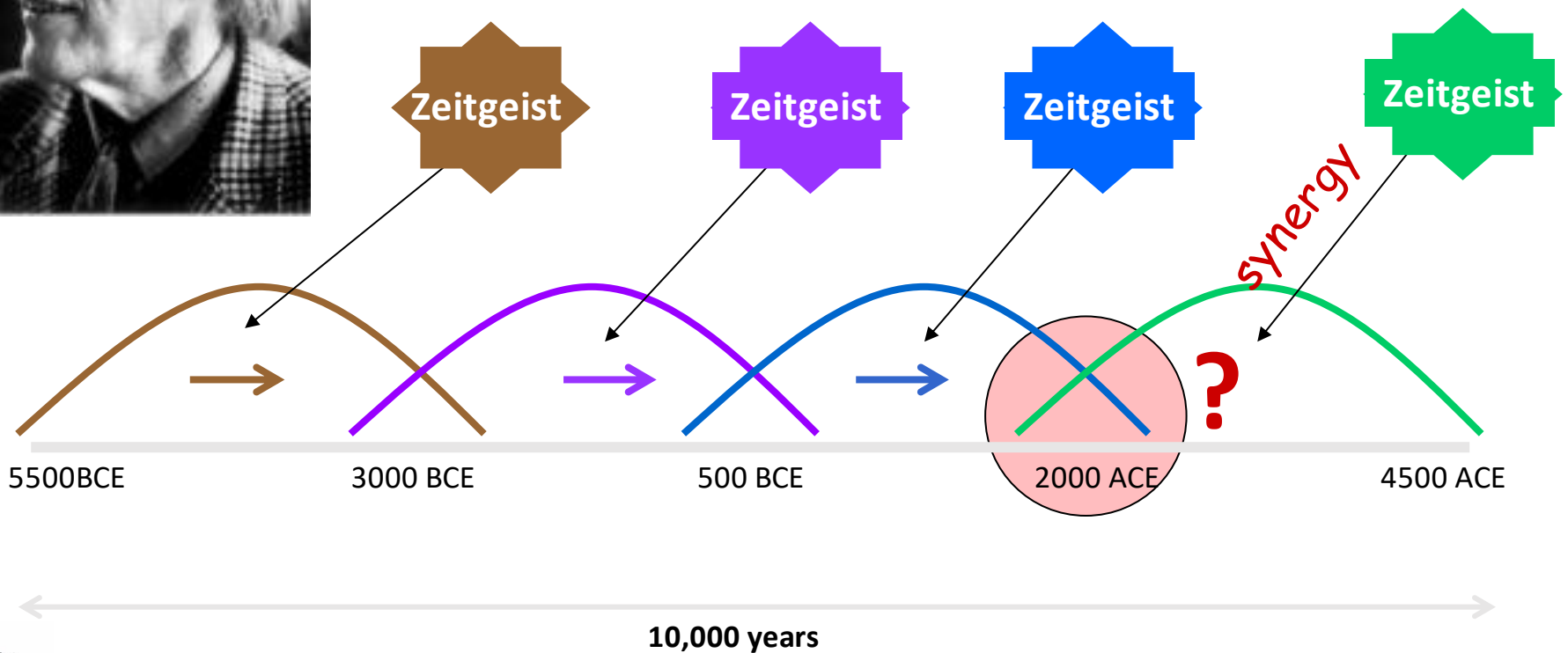
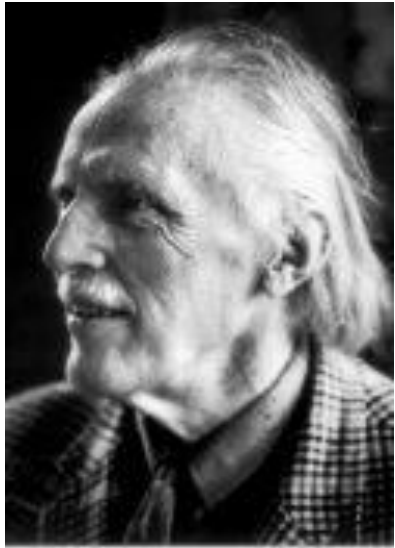
Hyparxis – sustains a living future of activation of new pattern potentials unreachable through chronos

Humans can be guided by this higher intelligence field if creatively receptive.

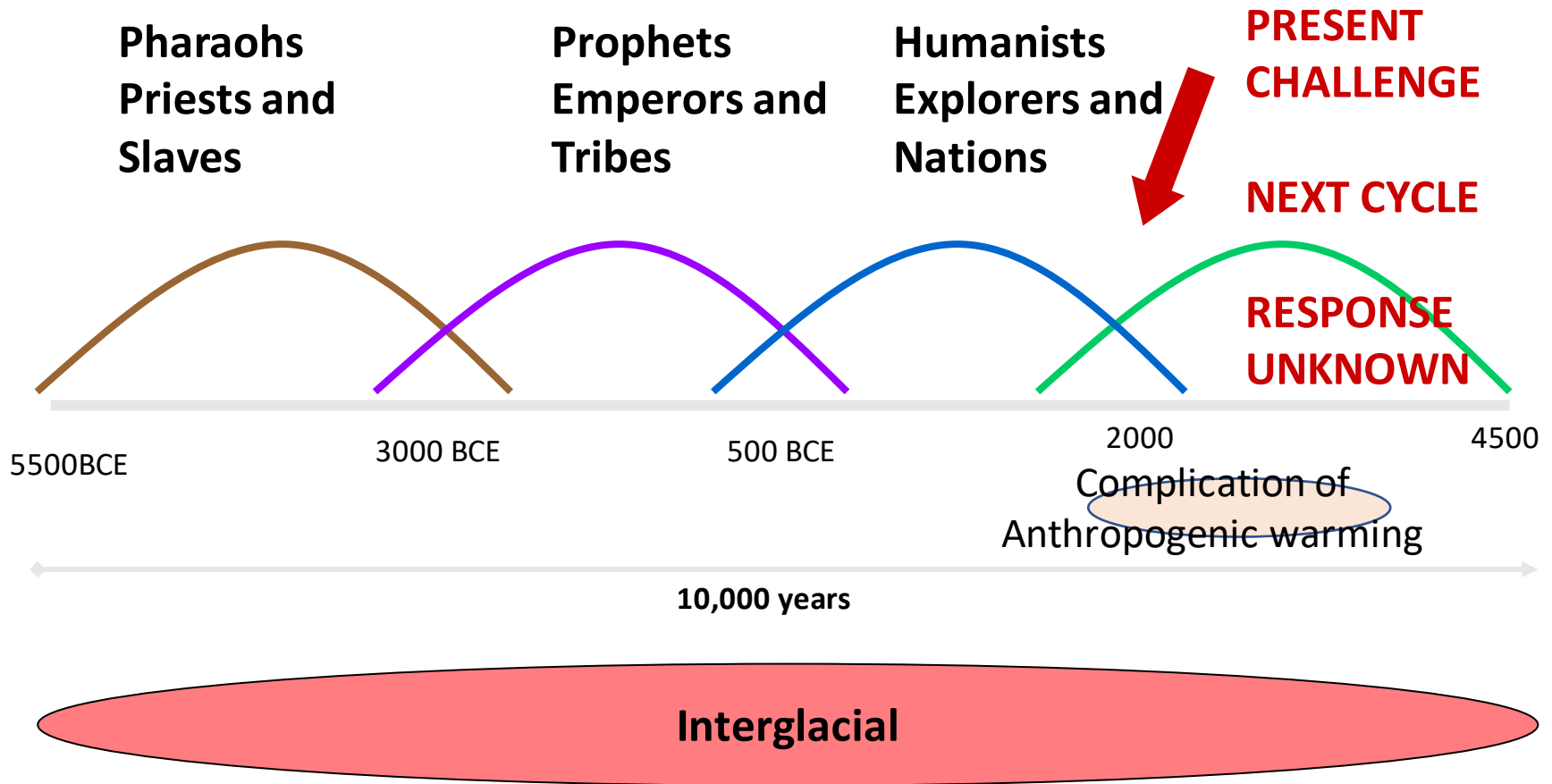
Epoch, Zeitgeist and Myths of Human Progress

"An epoch is characterized by a grand conception, a Master Idea, which insemminates the whole life of Mankind for a new harvest of temporal activities"

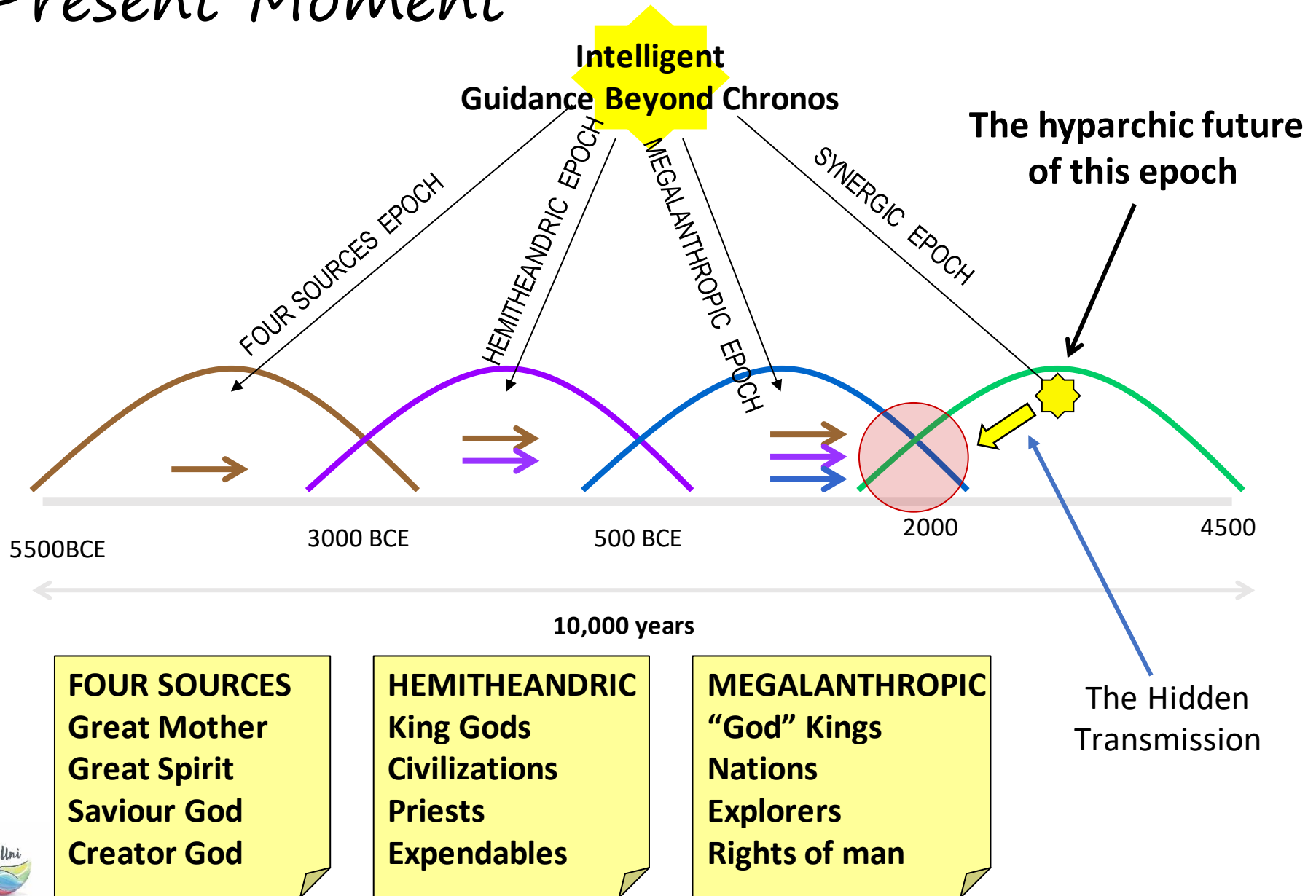
J. G. Bennett



The Current Interglacial Arena



Future Influence on NOW from a Greater Present Moment



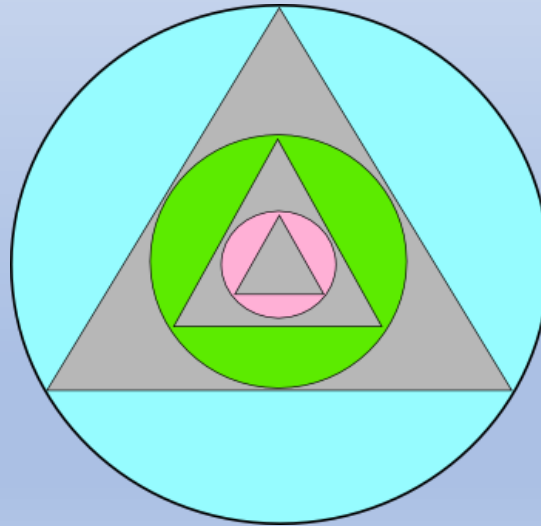
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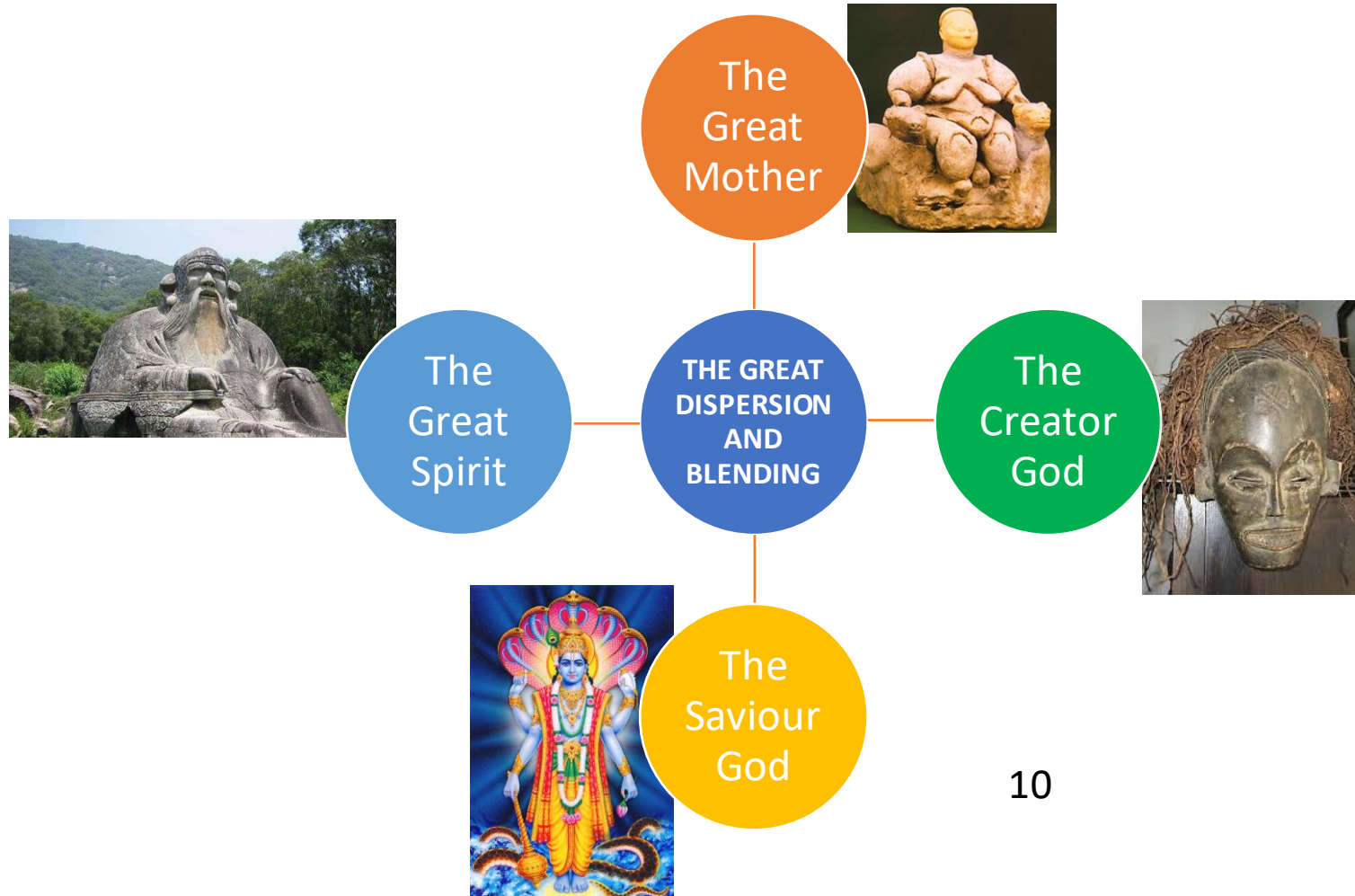
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Section 3

Expanding the Epochs



The Four Sources of Conscious Evolution



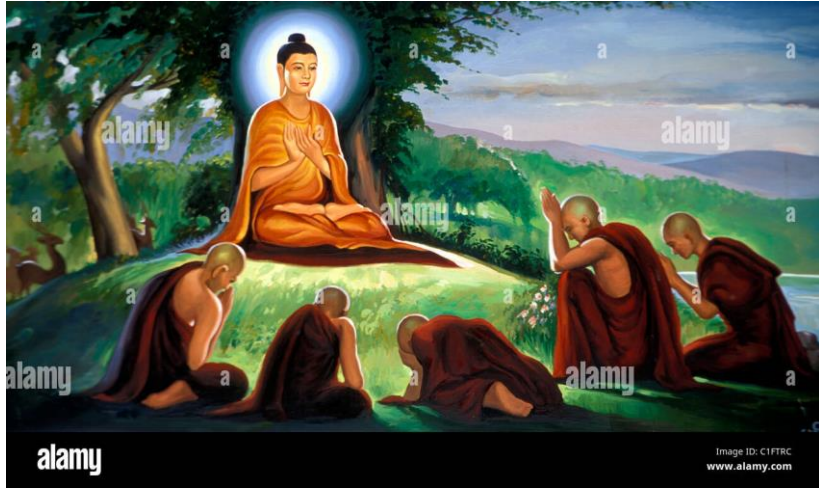
The Epoch of the Demi-Gods – The Hemitheandric



Priest



The Epoch of Individuality – The Megalanthropic



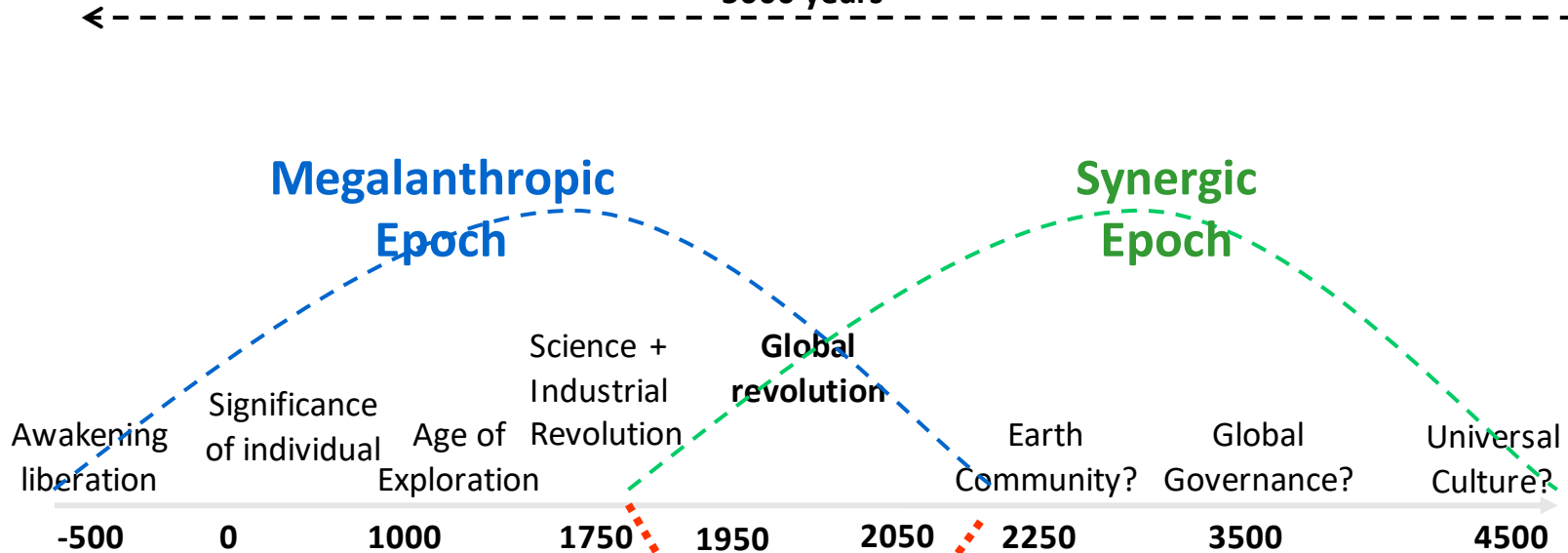
Qualities of the Synergic Epoch

- A resonating myth of holistic integration
- A collective unconscious archetype of synthesis
- An emergent synchronicity of new patterns
- A morphic resonance of regenerative stewardship
- A creative repatterning (pushed far from legacy equilibrium)
- A new great attractor in the global fitness landscape
- Tuning in to a new patterned integrity from Universe
- Inspirations from the muses of future time



Our Present Moment of Transition

5000 years



Master Idea:

The emergence of individual power

- Power over nature
- Creativity
- Salvation

turbulent transition

The Great Turning
From Empire to Earth Community

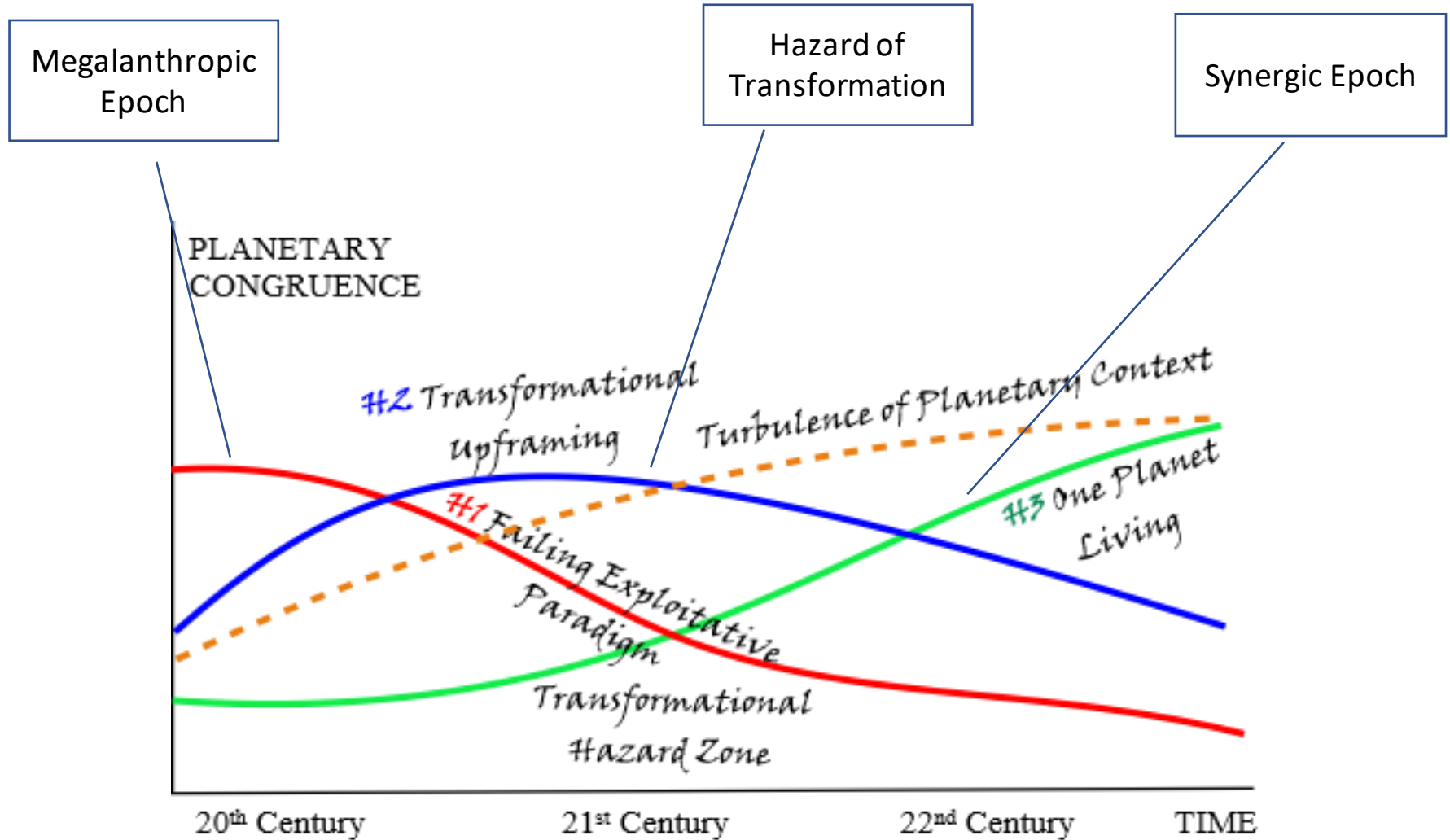
Master Idea:

The emergence of community power

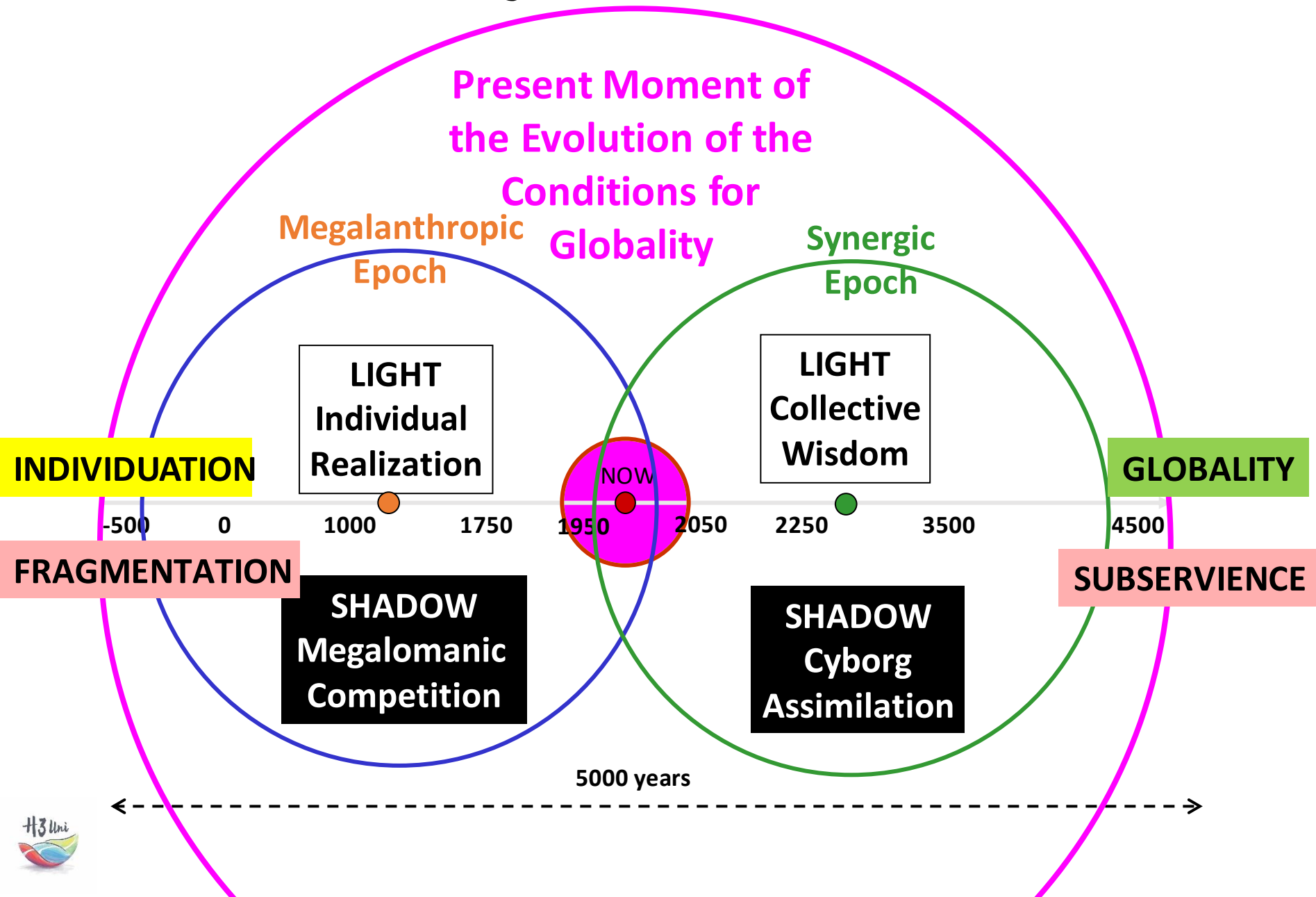
- Power with nature
- Integration
- Group Consciousness



Epoch Transition in Three Horizons



The 5000 year Present Moment



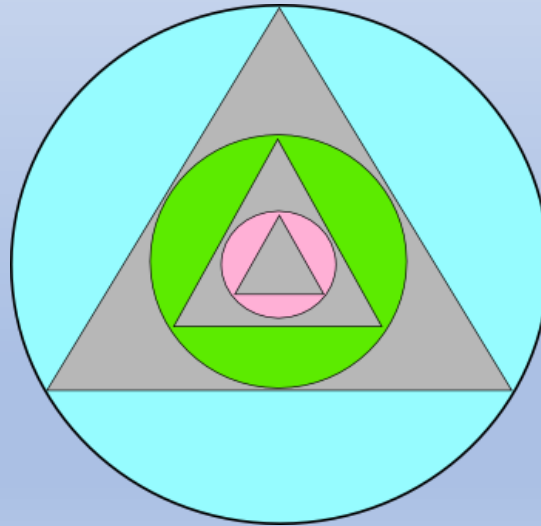
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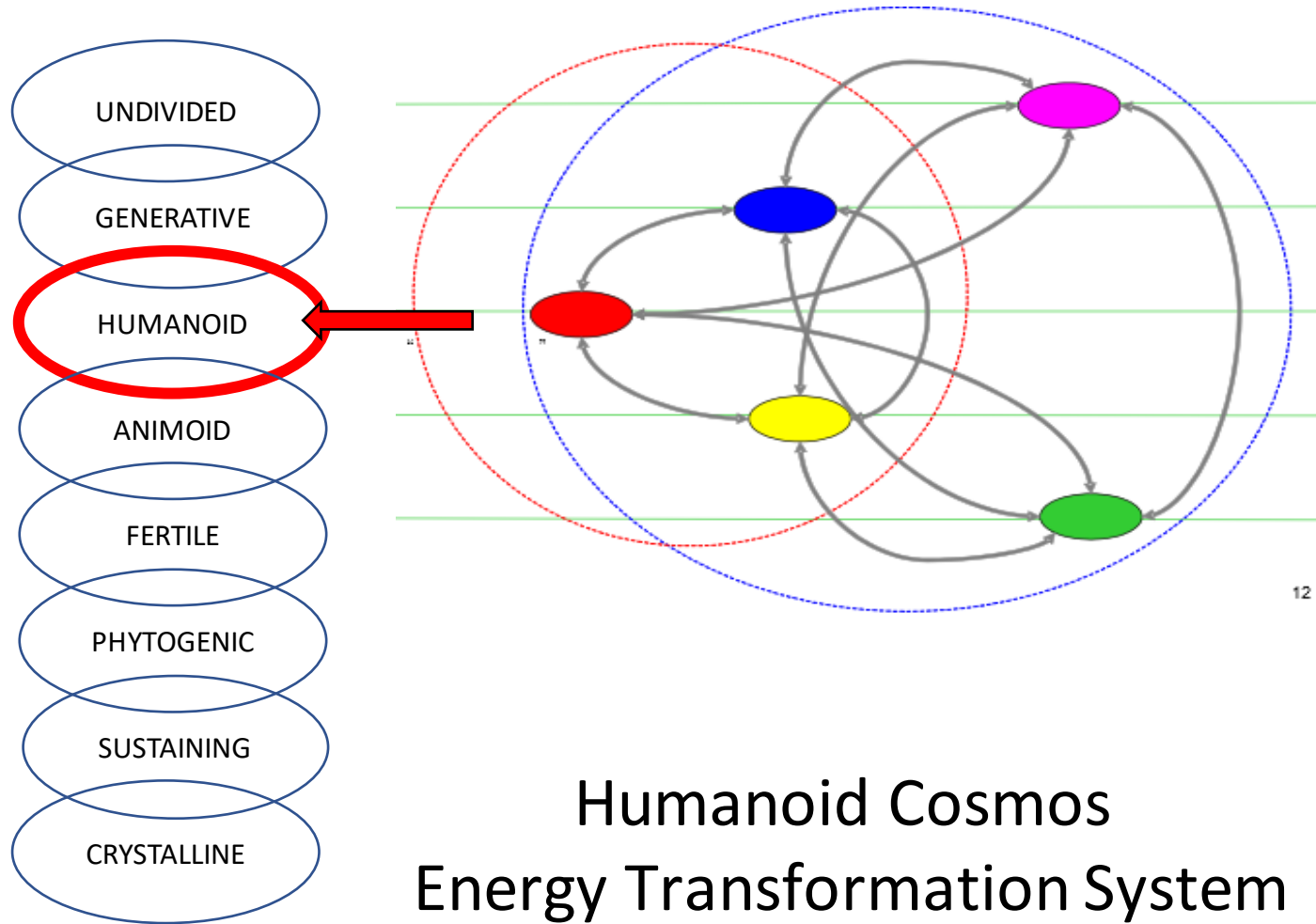
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Section 4

Our Role in the Consciously Evolving Solar System and How We Fulfil It

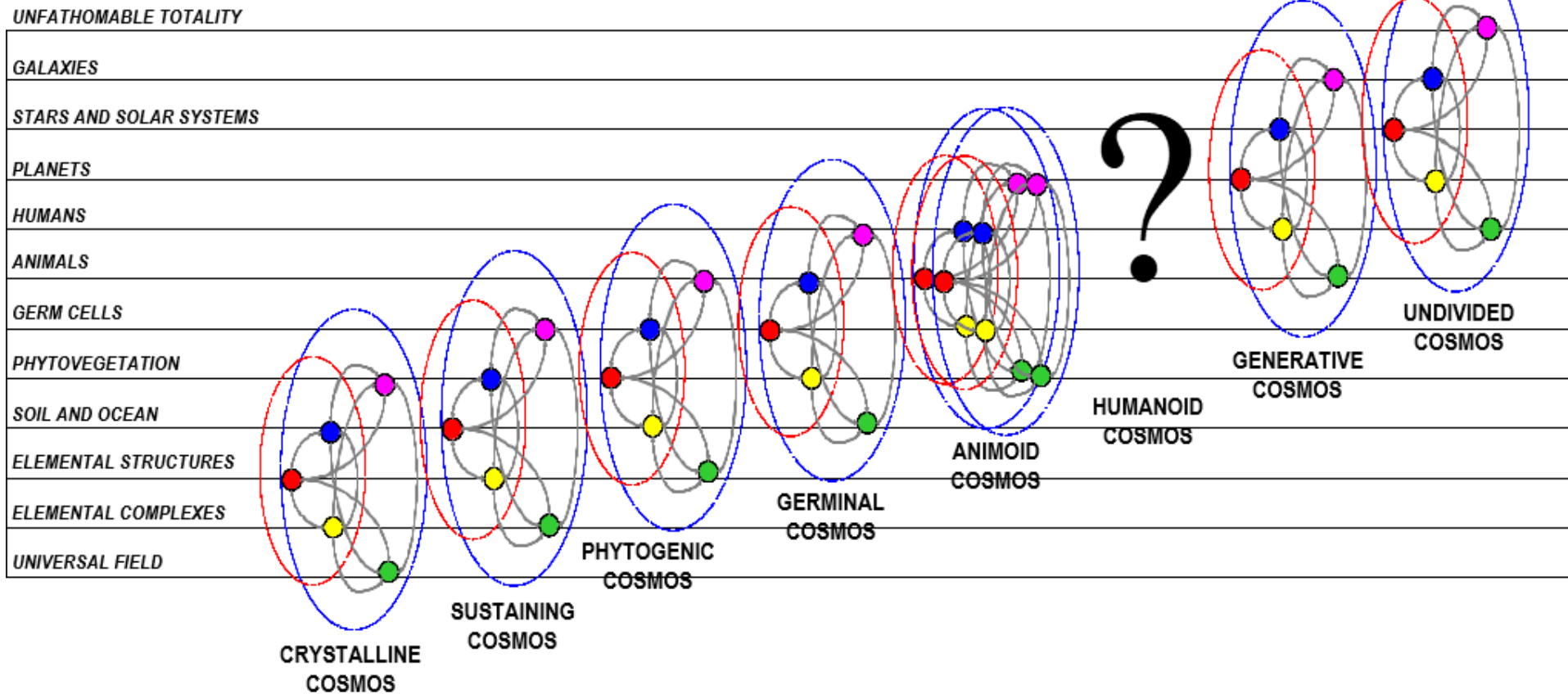


Evolving Humanity



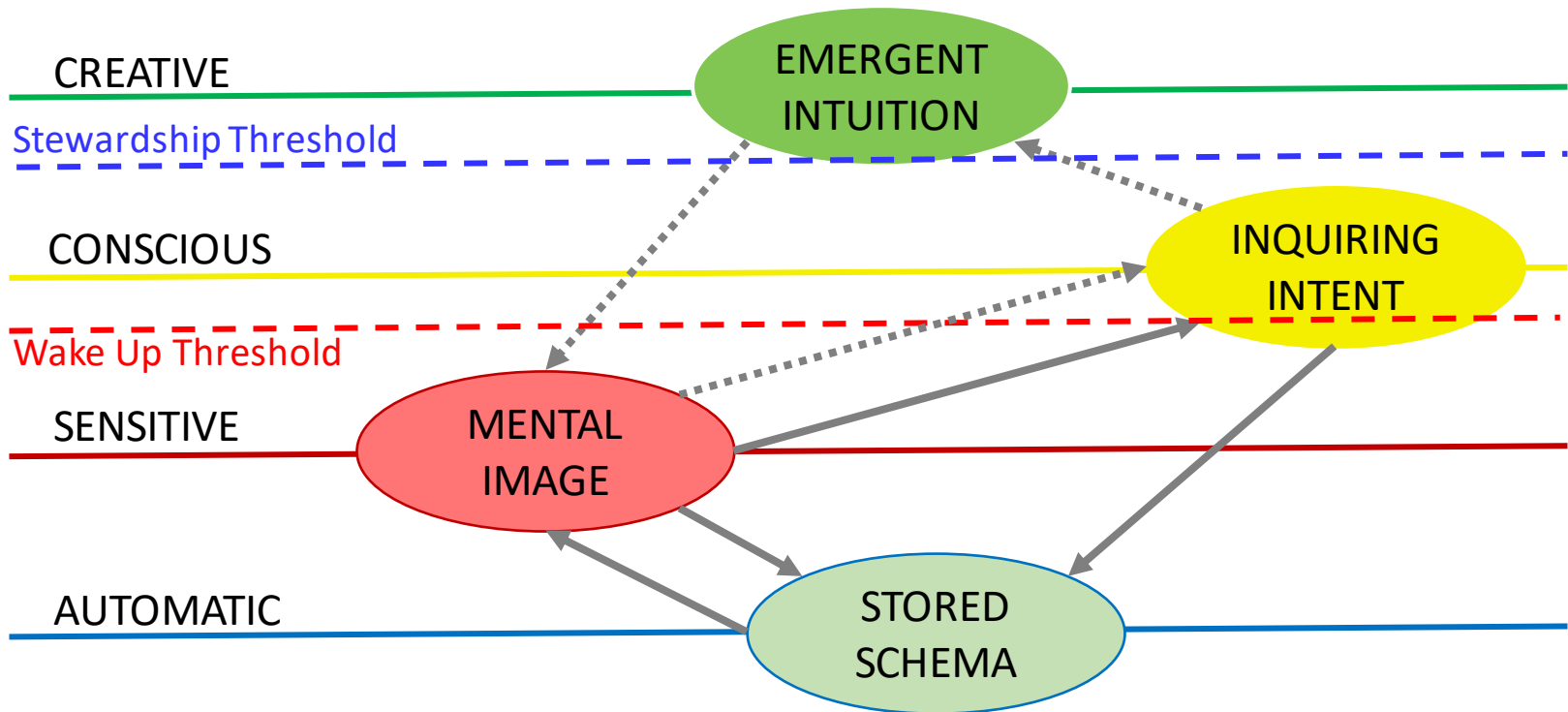
“The Terror of the Situation

When Humans Fail in Their Cosmic Role ?



Transformative Work in the Humanoid Cosmos

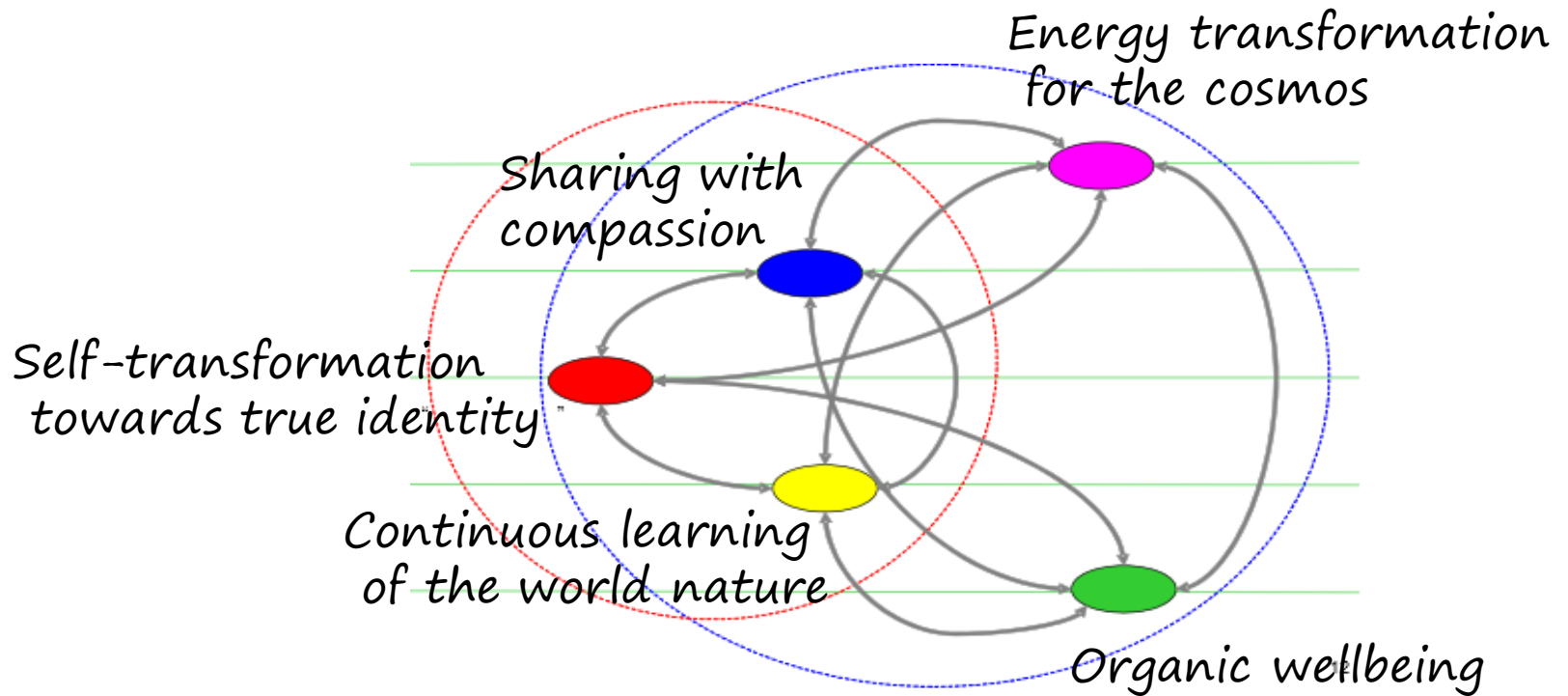
Super-conscious – access to guidance of unitive energy



Sub-conscious – care for vital earth and body



The Transformative Work of Being Human



The Five Tasks of the Human(oid) Cosmos

1. Taking care of our physical living body and wellbeing environment
2. Continuous learning of the nature of things, the laws of world creation and maintenance
3. Inner work for our awakening and self-realisation of our latent spiritual identity
4. Helping others by passing on our learning with humility and compassion
5. Contributing conscious energy transformation to the balance of earth and the solar system

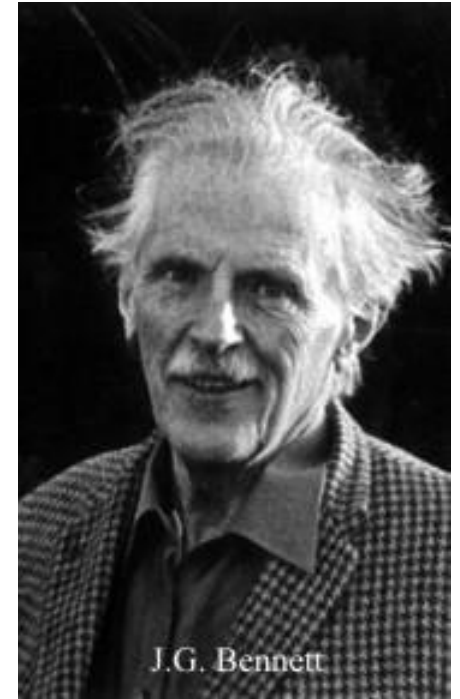
The Deeper Search

“The search will take us out of the natural order into the realms where being and will meet with function, and the transformations concerned not only in personal energies but the very essence and individuality of man himself.

It is in the transformations of being and will that all values reside. By our study of the natural order we can become aware of the unity of all existence and even catch a glimpse of the cosmic plan we shall only find when we see the universe in its dramatic aspect, where life is seen not merely as a device for the transformation of energies but as the instrument whereby the universe becomes conscious of its own significance.”

J.G.Bennett

The Dramatic Universe



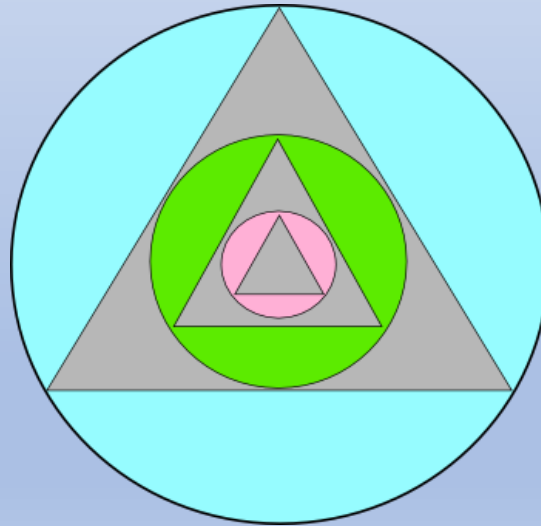
Discussion Interlude 1

Questions and Observations

PLENARY

Conclusion

A Sample of Some Background
Sources



Some Background Books

- Bennett, John G. - *The Dramatic Universe Volumes 1,2,3 and 4*
- Bennett, John G. - *Hazard*
- Calleman, Carl Johan - *UnivThe Purposeful erse*
- Gardner, James - *Biocosm*
- Gardner, James - *The Intelligent Universe*
- Greene, Brian - *The Elegant Universe*
- Goswami, Amit - *The Self-Aware Universe*
- Harding, Stephan - *Animate Earth*
- Hoyle, Fred - *The Intelligent Universe*
- Hoyle, Fred - *Our Place in the Cosmos*

- Lovelock, James - *Homage to Gaia*
- Laszlo, Ervin - *The Creative Cosmos*
- Ouspensky - *In Search of the Miraculous*
- Radin, Dean - *The Conscious Universe*
- Seielstad, George - *Cosmic Ecology*
- Sheldrake, Rupert - *The Science Delusion*
- Swimme, Brian - *The Hidden Heart of the Cosmos*
- Swimme, Brian - *The Universe is a Green Dragon*
- Talbot, Michael - *The Holographic Universe*
- Young - *The Reflexive Universe*



Some Published Background Work

Hodgson, Anthony. "[Qualitative Systems Thinking: A Fresh Look at J.G. Bennett's General Systematics](#)." In 50th Annual Meeting of ISSS. Sonoma, California: International Society for the Systems Sciences, **2006**.
<http://journals.iss.org/index.php/proceedings50th/article/view/323>.

Hodgson, Anthony. 'A Transdisciplinary World Model'. *Systems Research and Behavioural Science* 29 (**2012**): 517–26.

Hodgson, Anthony. "Towards an [Ontology of the Present Moment](#)." On the Horizon 21, no. 1 (**2013**): 24–38.

Hodgson, Anthony. 'Reperceiving the Future'. *World Futures Review* 9, no. 4 (**2017**): 208–24

Hodgson, Anthony. 'Second Order Anticipatory Systems'. In *Handbook of Anticipation*, edited by Roberto Poli, 1–18. Springer, **2018**. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-319-31737-3_97-1.

Hodgson, Anthony. "[Foresight and the Seven Dimensions of Experience: A Transdisciplinary Transcultural Approach](#)." *World Futures* 75, no. 3 (**2019**): 113–34.

Hodgson, Anthony. *Systems Thinking for a Turbulent World: A Search for New Perspectives*. Abingdon: Routledge, **2020**.

Hodgson, Anthony. 'Ch27 The Farthest We Can See'. In *Knowledge for the Anthropocene*, edited by Francisco Carillo and Guenter Koch, Vol. 1. Edward Elgar Publishing, **2021**.

Hodgson, Anthony. 'Accessing the Future Through Imagination'. In *Routledge Handbook of Creative Futures*, edited by Alfonso Montuori. Routledge, **2022**.



Some Videos on Different Angles

This is a selection of videos that show contemporary philosophers and scientists reaching towards cosmic ecology (though they don't know it yet!).

The Living Universe – Adrian David Nelson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HD4WthE414k>

(TED) *Do we see reality as it is?* Donald Hoffman

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oYp5XuGYqqY>

Is Consciousness Primary to Reality? - Adrian David Nelson

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYjnZCy_ZK4&t=23s

Consciousness and the Mystery of Existence - Adrian David Nelson

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2DyvF03isM>

Does a Fine-Tuned Universe Lead to God? (four perspectives)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NVbjOkLu2gc>






Part II – The Universe in Man

- This course explores a particular viewpoint that the intelligent universe is indeed a manifestation of supreme intelligence and that, within it and as part of it, we have choices as to our role. These choices lead to consequences for one and all. One form of choice (I will call **search**) requires that we individually undertake transformation beyond just improvement. The problem is that the ways of transformation are fragmented, scattered and often corrupted. Historical spiritual traditions have incubated various attempts to enable search but have become petrified in cultural forms and cults whether religious or scientific.
- The course also explores what the underlying essentials might be that are beyond the cultural accretions (in so far as I am not completely caught up in them myself) from my own decades of search. Cosmic ecology is a help in this task.
- Fellow searchers are invited to share some of the ideas, practices and insights that have got this far.



Cosmic Ecology – Part II

The Universe in Human Beings

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| 1. Waking Up to Transformation | 1 February |
| 2. Mapping Our Human Structure | 8 February |
| 3. Being Human to be a Human Being | 15 February |
| 4. Pathways of Spiritual Development – Past to Future | 26 February |
|  | |
| 5. Paying Attention and Self-Remembering | 5 April |
| 6. The Sevenfold Way of Inner Transformation | 12 April |
| 7. Working with the Sevenfold Way | 19 April |
| 8. Loving Creativity - The Next Evolution of Humanity | 26 April |



The Form of the Sessions

First Four in February

- Powerful Ideas
- Exercises of Engagement
- Review of Implications

Pause in March for Assimilation

Second Four in April

Will be similar but with more emphasis on practice, feedback and coaching

Sessions of 90 minutes online through Zoom