

MISUNDERSTANDING AND QUALITATIVE SYSTEMS OF THOUGHT

One of the primary values of qualsystems theory and practice is the illumination of understanding. We notice this more clearly if we have a corresponding map of **mis**understanding. In our personal and professional lives we experience things not working out or going off track all the time. This reflects itself at the bigger scales of communities, nations and the global situation.

Qualsystems proposes that a great deal of this going off track is due to faulty cognition that does not correspond to the actual state of affairs. It is as if we were trying to drive a car without appreciating how and engine works, how a transmission works and how to steer it. We are inadvertently projection mental models that do not correspond to how things really work. Qualsystems provides a series of mental models and modes of perception that improve our capacity to understand. Each qualsystem has a particular quality or attribute which reveals a harmonic state of affairs (the qualsystem attribute) or, in contrast, how things are falling apart and evoking confusion.

What follows here are the first six systems rendered conspicuous by their absence. If a given qualsystem is not in some way evoked, applied or understood in a situation then the kinds of behaviour listed are likely to occur.

ABSENCE OF MONADIC SENSE

- failure to recognise and engage
- unable to agree on what the issue is because there is no common ground of worldview
- disagreement about what is the centre and what is the boundary
- disjointed and incoherent rambling around the issue
- obsessive certainty that pre-empts any exploration and conjecture

Monadic attribute – unity and wholeness

ABSENCE OF DYADIC SENSE

- going around in circles over fixed opposing viewpoints
- presuppositions around good/bad; right/wrong; valuable/trivial; sacred/profane
- confronted with a strong dilemma
- domination of either/or thinking
- no greyscale between black and white

Dyadic attribute – complementarity and polarity

ABSENCE OF TRIADIC SENSE

- failure to find 1/3 perspective in a polarised argument
- fixated views of relationship
- blocking scope for conjecture outside of the dominant polarity
- rigidity in not being able to entertain alternative viewpoints to the received positions
- blindsided to discovering room to manoeuvre
- inability to transcend polarity and conflict into creativity
- fixed focus on winning rather than resolving

Triadic attribute – Relational Dynamism

ABSENCE OF TETRADIC SENSE

- failure to identify a guiding goal or ideal
- failure to appreciate the realistic basis of the issue
- missing tools and techniques that could progress resolution and practical action
- absence of the appropriate skills and direction in applying tools in relation to the real situation and the purpose of the action
- weak motivation with confused ends
- Poor skills with confused or absent means

Tetradic attribute – Orderly action field

ABSENCE OF PENTADIC SENSE

- caught up in action without regard to its wider significance
- failure to identify available potentials
- disconnect with environment and sources of abundance
- disconnect with purpose beyond the system itself
- neglect of the basic requirements for effective manifestation realisation
- inadequate cultivation of inherent potential
- disconnect with the wider meaning and purpose

Pentadic attribute – potentiality and significance

ABSENCE OF HEXADIC SENSE

- failure to manifest and instantiation of the key idea or principle
- the necessary factors are not gelling, coalescing and harmonising
- imbalance in consideration of relation between fact and value, between inner and outer, between the manifestation for self and manifestation for other
- inability to demonstrate validity will be proof of concept
- never quite making it real rather than abstract
- absence of integral language

Hexadic attribute – Coalescence and instantiation

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