

Spiral Dynamics Integral (SD_i)

**There is no certainty only adventure –
Be Resourceful – Act!**

Rosemary Wilkie, is known to her friends and colleagues for her networking skills. Within her life's journey she has been a catalyst for change. Whilst living in France in the 60's as a young bride she founded along with Marianne Seydoux *Mensa France* which is still thriving today. Rosemary's current passions are Spiral Dynamics, Psychosynthesis and the Group for Creative Meditation. These interests are linked by a common thread of evolving spiritual consciousness. Each reveals the essence of Divinity within the individual, the group and the whole invoking a collaborative working together in the service of the greater group – the society of humanity.

This final article on Spiral Dynamics Integral accompanies the papers on the sixth of the Laws and Principles: that of the Principle of Essential Divinity. Many of us are discouraged by global problems: climate, population, poverty, species extinction, terrorism, dwindling resources, changes in the balance of economic power, and turmoil everywhere we look. Or daunted by the moral choices posed by advances in science and technology - eg. genetic engineering. Others just don't want to know - they have enough personal worries, thank you. Hence the widespread retreat into cynicism, nostalgia, escapism and virtual living online. It is not easy now to perceive the essential divinity in all human beings.

Dr. Don Beck, who has been visiting the UK for a series of well-attended talks in London, reminded us that Professor Clare Graves, the founder of what is now Spiral Dynamics Integral, predicted a 'momentous leap' for humankind. Dr. Beck said that we should not be discouraged by economic and political collapse, as before major change, society *regresses* to old methods and values. One step backwards to prepare for the leap forward. A leap into the Second Tier, and **Yellow** and **Turquoise** consciousness from which we will have an overview of and empathy with all fellow human beings, and the ability to solve old problems with new more complex thinking.

People in many countries are trying to break free from their current Life Conditions in a three-pronged movement across the globe.

1. Billions in **Purple** and **Red** are trying to escape poverty, repression and various forms of social and psychological feudalism - and find meaning and purpose in **Blue**.
2. Others are trying to escape the *isms* of **Blue** and enjoy individual freedom and the good life in **Orange**.
3. **Green**, fuelled by guilt and too much materialism, is determined to attack any form of injustice that rewards one 'class' of humans over another.

For all these people, these are huge steps forward in evolution.

Around the world aggressive tribal communities are evolving from **Purple** into **Red**. This is not new. Countless others - including our own ancestors - have done so, waging bloody battles until they get tired of fighting and welcome the rudiments of

Blue law and order. The problem now is that they are armed not with spears and swords, but with Kalashnikovs and bombs. So instead of seeing these as local problems that can safely be left to sort themselves out as the consciousness of the participants grows, we move in with our big guns, and cameras, to 'free' them and 'give' them democracy. But until they have experienced **Blue** discipline and thereby learned *self*-discipline, they interpret our efforts according to their own thinking, which is **Purple** and **Red**.

Closer to home our 'feral youth' are living in the same Memes. They may never have bonded in **Purple** with their families, and compensate by bonding with a gang. None of them have experienced discipline and have not learned self-discipline, so their thinking is **Red** - ready to turn everything we say or do to their own advantage. The **Blue** structures in society that coped with wild youth over the centuries have been steadily dismantled over the past fifty years, and need to be rebuilt in new ways, because the healthy functioning of all the Memes - including **Blue** - is essential to the overall health and strength of the spiral.

The Middle East is a bubbling cauldron of tribes and other **Purple** residues of the breakup of the Ottoman Empire still percolating under the sand; the impact of **Orange** Western imperialistic ventures; fiercely competing **Red** /**Blue** religious zealots striving to protect 'their' respective holy places, and the enticement of windfall oil money. Much of the region is still - as far as potential for change is concerned - Closed or Arrested.

Closed-minded True Believers who insist on their -ism - or else - are not the only reason for the region's difficulties. Behind these are First-World **Orange** versus Second-World **Blue** and even Third-World **Red** and **Purple**. The world's finest negotiators and conflict management teams have been working there for years. When they have peak **Orange** or **Green** world views, they often make things worse instead of better. And negotiators are often perceived as backing or blaming one side or the other. Like teaching or leadership, arbitration has to function within a half-step or so of the base Memes.

TERRORISM

Let us take a closer look at one of our big worries, and the dark side of the Memes described in previous articles. Most terrorist behaviour arises from frustration, the need to attack and overcome barriers, or retrieve something lost. It appears when people are confused by chaotic change and transformation, or feel they are being left behind. *Why* people do things much more important than what they do.

The minds behind terrorist acts (the sponsors or beneficiaries) are usually at a higher level of complexity than the actual perpetrators - seeking political advantage (**Orange**) by exploiting individuals who believe they are fighting evil forces (**Blue**) or settling ancient scores (**Red**).

PURPLE - Tribal Terrorism Assaults and purges to preserve tribal honour and sacred ways, honour ancestors, and to kill rivals for food or territory. Examples: ethnic conflicts in Bosnia, Ruanda, Liberia, Idi Amin's Uganda. Inner city ethnic and gang wars. Racial prejudice. Massacres of indigenous peoples. Cult members obedient to a god figure.

Personality: obedience to chiefs - belief in signs and omens - anger covering underlying fear - identification with group or clan - willing self-sacrifice for leader's desires.

RED - Predatory Terrorism Personal grudges, vendettas, destroy enemies and enhance power. Glorious martyrdom for a cause - kill or be killed - live long in legend if not in fact. Examples: Pol Pot - Mao's Red Brigades - Mugabe - West Bank 'incidents' - war crimes - native american scalping raids - religious based fanatical religious militants.

Personality: seeks personal glory and heroic reputation , or revenge. Saves face at all costs - no feelings of guilt - no regard for consequences - does not value human life.

BLUE - Dogmatic Terrorism Fights against evil in the name of a political system, religion, or other all-powerful 'Truth.' Righteous defence and extension of the one True Way as agents of Divine will - cleansing evil and smiting evil doers. Examples: the holocaust, Yugoslavia, Chechnya - absolutist religious fundamental theocrats such as jihadin - the inquisition - skinheads - KKK - IRA Contras.

Personality: needs law, order and stability - racist, separatist, blind faith, fights "wrong" authority to the death - disciplined, duty bound - willing to sacrifice self for reward to come.

ORANGE - Strategic Terrorism Seeks political and economic advantage through the media, business and finance, using "the system" against itself. Examples: state sponsored terrorism - arms trafficking - sophisticated military hackers - business reprisals by drug syndicates - attacks on newspapers - economic terrorism.

Personality: air of superiority - desires recognition. Buys allegiance and political influence - formulates principles to fit desires, ie rationalises - is excited by the 'game' and ruthless when frustrated.

These are the people manipulating us now, through the media, keeping us in fear so that we continue to toe the line - 'hang on to nurse for fear of something worse' - if terrorism becomes stale news, let's have a pandemic or nuclear proliferation to worry about. . . .

GREEN - Eco/Info-Terrorism Attacks environment, infrastructure and information systems to stop exploitation and free the human spirit. Claim to act on behalf of living things and oppose crimes against humanity, liberate the oppressed and prevent waste and needless consumption. Examples: animal rights activists - 'peace' attacks on military installations - hacking into computer systems. *Personality:* Smug - self-satisfied.

ALL the above need help. *That* is what we have to address. The disastrous phrase 'war on terrorism' just puts up defensive barriers and provides more justification for their actions.

'All that is necessary for evil to triumph is for good men and women to do nothing.'

Edmund Burke.

MOVING INTO YELLOW

Dr Don Beck says that we have to change our thinking, shift the focus, see the whole situation from a wider viewpoint, with a fresh set of assumptions about human nature. He has evolved Meshworks - a different way of connecting individuals or groups of any kind and any size. Static for strength and permanence. Flow for resilience, flexibility and a morphing capacity. This is a *meshing* not a melting pot - individuals and organisations each contribute the best of what they are without becoming lost in a common blob. (I visualise this as a traditional jazz band, each player expertly extemporising on the same air, producing a sound much greater than its parts).

Dr Beck has introduced SDi to more than thirty countries, and during the past three decades has master-minded large-scale systems change in governments, businesses and communities. He is now working in Israel and Palestine, where the differences are so enormous, and the anger so intense, that the rift cannot be bridged while both sides see themselves as victims.

To move forward together into a higher level of existence for everyone here on earth, we have to change two ingrained habits:

1. Piecemeal, ad hoc, fragmented, competitive approach to problem resolution.
2. The way these complex problems are overlaid with racial and ethnic poison, compromising every initiative and polarizing the elements which should be working in concert with each other.

SDi, reveals the hierarchies of complexity beneath the surface of our society, enabling us to focus our efforts on the huge gaps and imbalances that plague social order round the world, pay attention to different world views and diverse realities, collaborate on all initiatives in public and private sectors and weave them together in a spiral-like coil where everything connects to everything else. If that sounds impossible, it shows how heavily the shackles of past thinking lie upon us!

Sundial House students have probably found that they are already evolving into the **Yellow Meme**, and will readily understand that an integrated, aligned and well coordinated policy of human development *is* possible if we can trust the essential divinity within everyone and help and encourage others to see human existence as part of one great living system

As Michal Eastcott reminds us in *Jacob's Ladder*, the urge to achieve a higher state of being has impelled human beings through all the ages, and we stand on the shoulders of all the seekers that have gone before us, ready to cooperate in the prodigious task of raising the consciousness of the human race and making space for the lower kingdoms to evolve.

If you are interested in learning more about SDi and its application in the community, business and political spheres, please look at the books and websites on the extended list. If you are also interested in finding out more about the Group for Creative Meditation and the service work that it undertakes visit www.creativegroupmeditation.org

“The fragmentary consciousness of the human frame is seeing its way towards the Soul, the Self, the Whole from which it came, and is set, like an aircraft turning on to the take-off runway, to begin the flight which will lift it into the sun.”

(Michal Eastcott)

GLOSSARY

√MEME - √MEME reflects a world view, a valuing system, a level of psychological existence, a belief structure, an organising principle, a way of thinking or a mode of adjustment. It represents, firstly then, a core intelligence that forms systems and directs human behaviour. Secondly, it impacts upon all life choices as a decision-making framework. Thirdly, each √MEME can manifest itself in both healthy and unhealthy forms. Fourthly, such a √MEME is a discrete structure for thinking, not just a set of ideas, values or cause. Fifthly, it can brighten and dim as the Life Conditions (consisting of historic Times, geographic Place, existential Problems, and societal Circumstances) change.

USEFUL RESOURCES

CDs

Spiral Dynamics Integral by Don Beck, PhD. (Sounds True Learning Course, 6 CDs)
The best, most comprehensive and up-to-date source. ISBN 1-59179-425-0

BOOKS

Spiral Dynamics, Mastering Values, Leadership and Change by Don Edward Beck and Christopher C. Cowan (Blackwell 1996) The classic text book on SDi.

Integral Consciousness and the Future of Evolution by Steve McIntosh. (Paragon House 2007) An excellent overview of the development of integral thought.

The Reflexive Universe by Arthur M Young (Anodos 1976)

Demonstrates that the entire universe is a purpose driven *process* that proceeds
in stages, each transcending and including previous stages.

A Brief History of Everything by Ken Wilber (2001)

Boomeritis, a Novel That will Set you Free Ken Wilber (Shambhala 2002)

Lots of information about SD if you have the patience to wade through, or skip the sex and drug passages. He probably had fun writing it.

The Starfish and the Spider by Brafman and Becksrom (Portfolio 2006)

Decentralisation - the hidden power behind Wikipedia and Skype.

Blessed Unrest by Paul Hawken ((Viking 2007) How we are collectively changing the world.

Be The Solution, How Entrepreneurs and conscious capitalists can Solve All the World's Problems *by Michael Strong and John Mackey (John Wiley & Sons April 2009)*

MAGAZINES

EnlightenNext (formerly *What is Enlightenment*) - interviews with world's greatest living thinkers and teachers. www.wie.org.

Kosmos - *an integral approach to global awakening.*

Leading edge thinking and beautiful artwork. www.kosmosjournal.org

WEBSITES

www.che-uk.ning.com

www.humanemergence.org

www.spiraldynamics.net

www.freshconnections-integral.com German with English translations

www.resurgence.org For past article "Cultural DNA" with summary of vMemos

www.adizes.com Leadership and management

www.arlingtoninstitute.org/

RESEARCH AND DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS

An extensive array of Spiral Dynamics values and psychometric tests are available for businesses. www.onlinepeopleSCAN.com

Spiral Dynamics mastering values, leadership, and change by Don Edward Beck and Christopher C. Cowan; Blackwell Publishing; ISBN 1-55786-940-5

Esoteric Psychology Vol.I & II by Alice A. Bailey. Published by Lucis Press Ltd
ISBN 0-85330-123-9