

27 June 1960

READING 7

ALL GROUPS

PART 1. AN ANATOMICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE SYMBOL

Whether applied to energy in the human organism or to anything else, the Universal Symbol will remain only a picturesque abstraction, until a man feels it in his own experience.

Let us take a step in that direction by discussing last week's Figure 1 on very broad lines in relation to our structure.

Taking it first on the scale of the organism as a whole, we can define the right-hand side of the triangle as the spinal cord to which are brought all sensations from the surface of the body – touch, temperature, pain, vibration and muscle sense, etc; and from which go the motor nerves to all the voluntary muscles (Moving Centre). In addition, all the visceral nerves to and from the internal organs of the body (Instinctive Centre) also centre in the spinal cord through the paired chains of Sympathetic ganglia.

The left-hand side of the triangle, representing the basis of our emotional life, depicts the great plexuses of the Autonomic Division of the nervous system, which match their corresponding levels in the Spinal Division. The base of the triangle shows the representation of both these divisions in the brain; anyone acquainted with anatomy knows that the centres or nuclei for the 'cranial nerves' belong partly to the Cranial Autonomic Division (left half of the base) and partly to the Spinal System (right half).

What will be the meaning of the top apex of the triangle? We are told that the most powerful energy of the ordinary man is the energy of sex; and we are told also that man possesses a house of three storeys but lives only in the basement. Let the top of the triangle then represent the sex centres in the base of the spine (the 'Sacral Autonomic'). Proceeding thence along the left side of the triangle, we pass on through the pelvic, the mesenteric, and the solar plexuses, then the cardiac, the pharyngeal and the cavernous plexus round the pituitary body (downwards in the Symbol, and upwards in the body).

In answering the question 'What are the accumulators which provide the energy for these nervous centres?' we recall that accumulators are seen in the body as *paired* organs, and in relation to the sex centre these are easy to find in the paired sex glands. Don't forget, though, that these glands contain two quite different formations; they are factories for making germ cells for the reproductive function, but, in addition, the so-called 'interstitial cells' produce powerful internal secretions capable of transforming all the other endocrine glands and affecting profoundly all our psychological and physical life.

The study of the other Endocrine glands is a matter for the expert, since they have become greatly changed in the course of evolution. Nevertheless, one recognises a number of accumulators (suprarenals – pancreas) supplying the region of the solar plexus, and another group supplying the region of the heart (thyroid – parathyroids – thymus.)

We can now leave this subject, for guesswork is useless; it requires careful study by those trained in anatomy and physiology.

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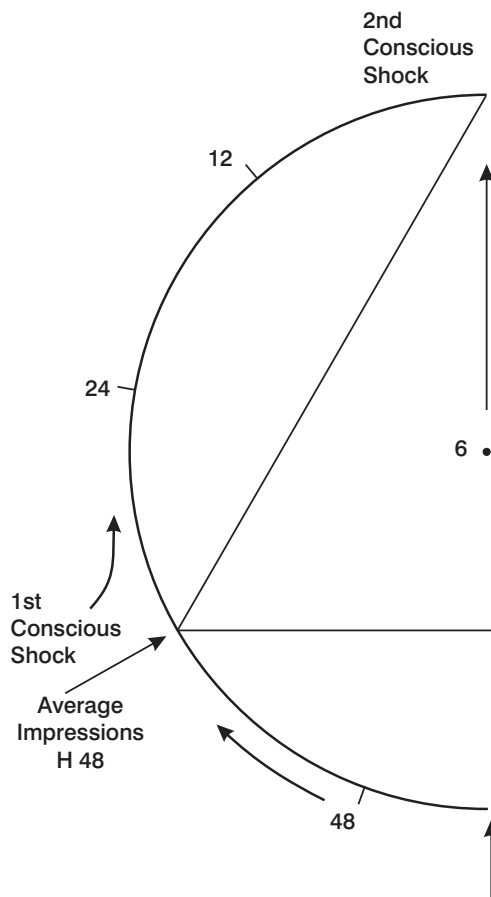


Figure 1

PART 2

Perhaps enough has been said to guide our understanding of the psychological steps which we have to take to become completed beings. Look again at the points round the left-hand side of the Circle (Figure 1a of 60/34) keeping in mind what has just been said about the anatomical position of the accumulators and nervous centres (Figure 1 above.) When we ordinarily say 'I' we speak from a position at the lowest point of the circle (arrow) – the busy brain behind the forehead with its flickering and partial consciousness. Progress will depend on bringing Consciousness deeper and deeper into our nature until, with the 'Second Conscious Shock', we awaken the sex centres in their highest function – the complete transformation of man. Progress from the bottom to the top of the Symbol means penetrating deeper and deeper into our own nature. Full Self-Consciousness is reached when its innermost recesses are illumined. This has been amply confirmed in our recent experience. Before we could bring Consciousness into our relations with the external world (Cosmic Consciousness) Consciousness must be well and truly established within – we must be 'rooted and grounded in love'.

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PART 3

Many of the questions you have been asking in the last two weeks (notably this one; 'Is the Large Accumulator filled entirely mechanically from the three Foods?') cannot be answered without recalling another diagram of the System. We cannot understand until we see everything in the Universe as *alive*. The 'Diagram of All-Living' uses exactly the same Hydrogens as the Food

Diagram, though it is, of course, on a much bigger scale (Figure 2). The hydrogen number on the left of each square represents the ‘centre of gravity’ of each *order* of living beings. The figures on the right of each square represent what living beings ‘eat’, and what living beings are ‘eaten by’ this class of being.

Transferring part of this diagram to the Symbol and being careful to preserve the range of Hydrogens within which we have been speaking, we may enjoy flashes of Understanding and answers to many of our problems (Figure 3, overleaf). Taking the figures on the left of each square – that is the ‘centre of gravity’ of each order of living beings, we put the names round the circle. To include the whole of the Diagram of All-Living we can picture the circle turning clockwise to include its highest ranges, and counter-clockwise to include Metals (768) and Un-named Matter (1536) – ‘Matter without the Holy Ghost’.

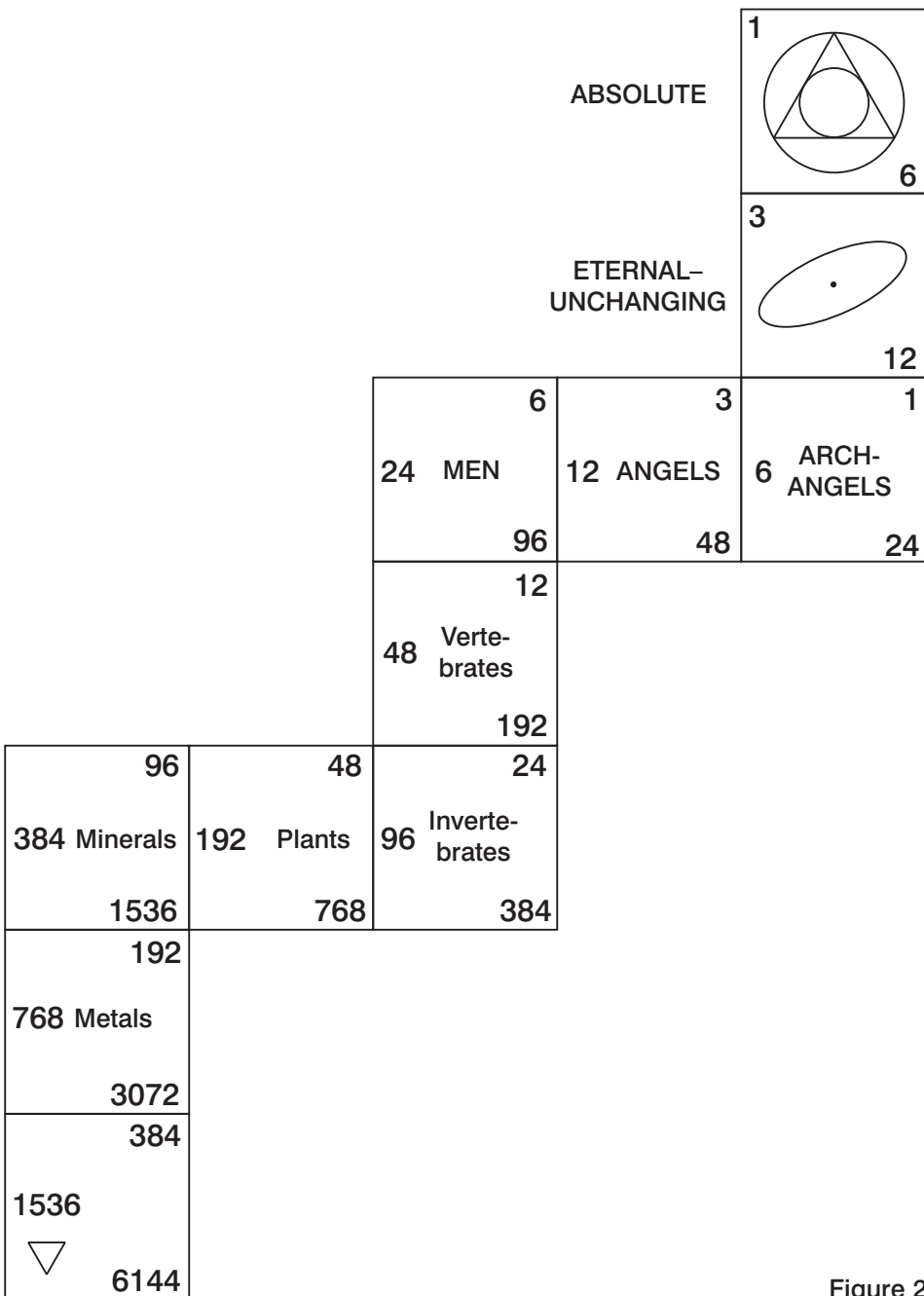
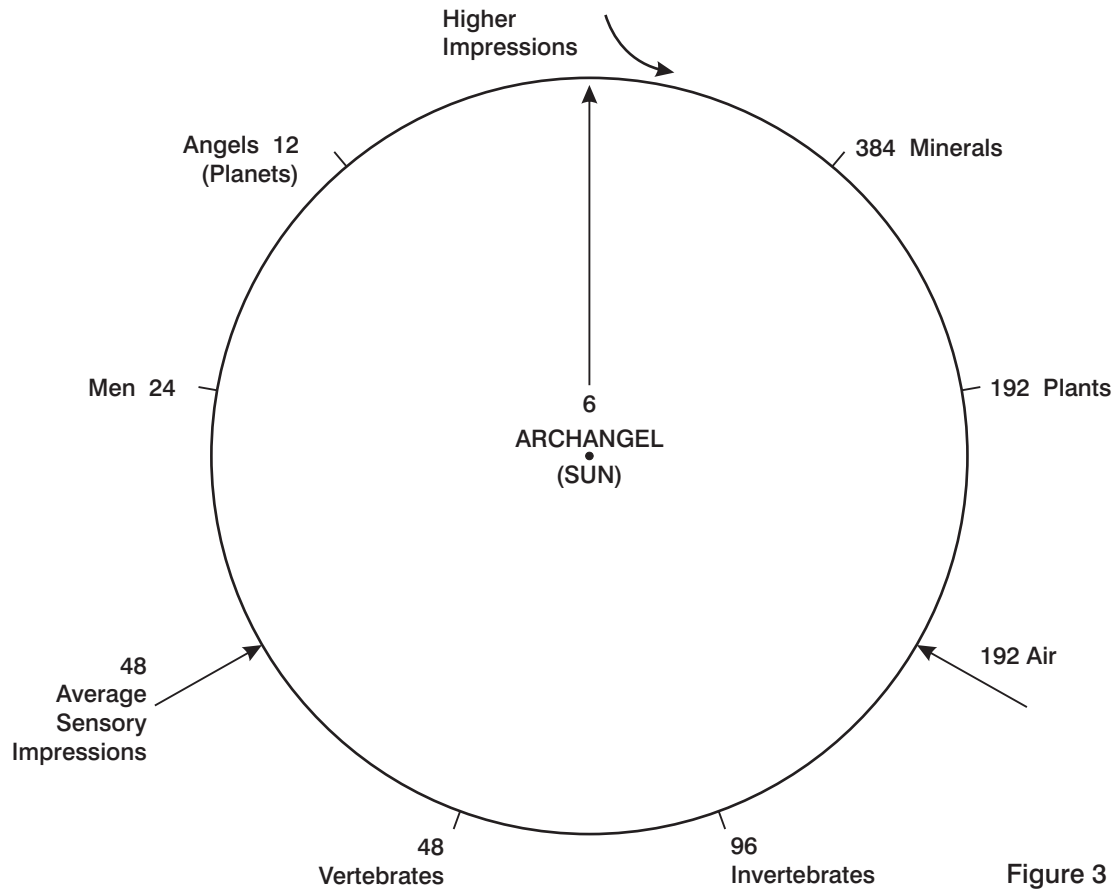


Figure 2



Two weeks, at least, will be needed to do justice to this vast subject. Many hints in ancient writings come into the mind. For instance, the Manna in the wilderness, when 'man did eat Angels' food', and the words of Christ to the devil: 'Man does not live by bread alone but by every *word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.'

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