

26 November 1962

THE 'SEVEN STEPS' Continued

In order to find the 'Seven Steps to Self-Realization' in the Universal Symbol, we first draw the Inner and outer Circles of humanity with the 'Creator' at the centre. The Outer Circle is the 'Circle of No Understanding' – of confusion of tongues. The Inner Circle is composed of 'Men of Understanding'. In both Systems there is complete agreement on this.

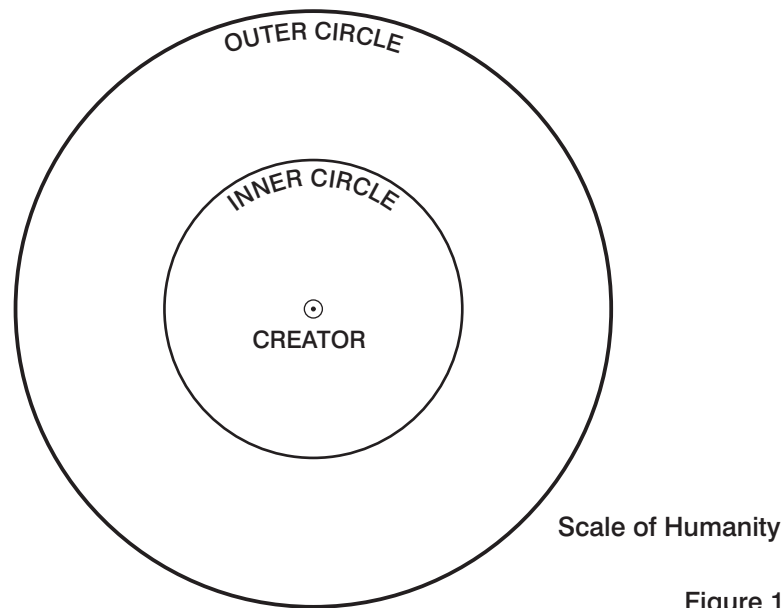


Figure 1

In the past, His Holiness said, provision was made for constant guidance by the Inner Circle of the people of the Outer Circle through their rulers; but in India this connection has been lost. The connection may be re-established now through some people in the West.

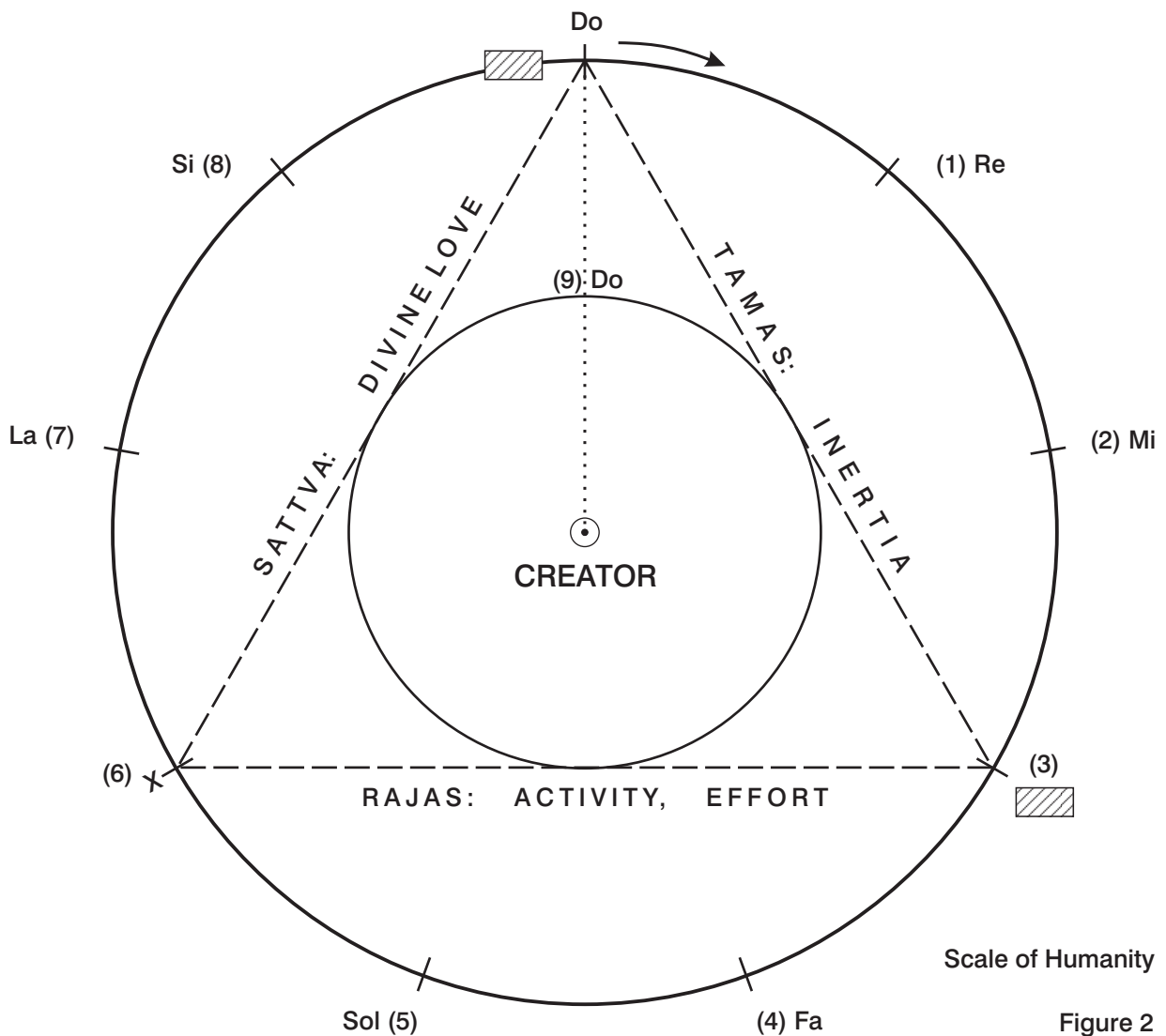
To continue: The Creator creates first the Three Gunas: out of Inert matter (Tamas), by means of Creative Force and Effort (Rajas) he forms something new – something neither inert nor active in itself – the Force of Love (Sattva):

An ascending octave is shown clockwise (Figure 2, overleaf). At points (3) and (9) major 'intervals' have to be bridged by special 'shocks' or Impulses. At point (6) something has to be consciously prepared to make possible the final shock at point (9) leading to the new Do of the Inner or Higher Octave. Thus the connection with Inner Circle is made by means of a spiral connecting the two circles – a 'Return to the Source'.

We now study the same ascending octave on the Scale of Individual Man, for all progress possible for humanity comes through individuals. We therefore show on the Symbol the 'Seven Steps to Self-Realization according to the Nyaya System' (Figure 3, overleaf):

In Figure 3, the octave is completed by means of the two shocks, so that the Circles are united by a spiral. The sides of the Triangle and the connection with Atman are no longer shown as dotted, for the Three Gunas are pure and harmonious and help is being received from within.

You will quickly see that ordinary activity is shown by movement round the circumference of the outer circle, the Circle of Passing Time. Movement round the inner circle will still be in Time, but a different time not governed by clocks and calendars. But the direction of *effort* is always along a radius connecting any moment (NOW) with the centre.



For two half-hours in the day the direction of attention is always inwards. During the rest of the time the direction of the attention is upon what one is doing – *how* one walks, *how* one talks, doing everything as well as possible; for we have recently been taught that the outward component of attention is Efficiency:

Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.

This new direction to and from the centre must be clearly distinguished from the mechanical movement round the circle:

I returned and saw under the sun, that the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of knowledge, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all.

For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so are the sons of men snared in an evil time when it falleth suddenly upon them.

(*Ecclesiastes* 9: vv. 10–12).

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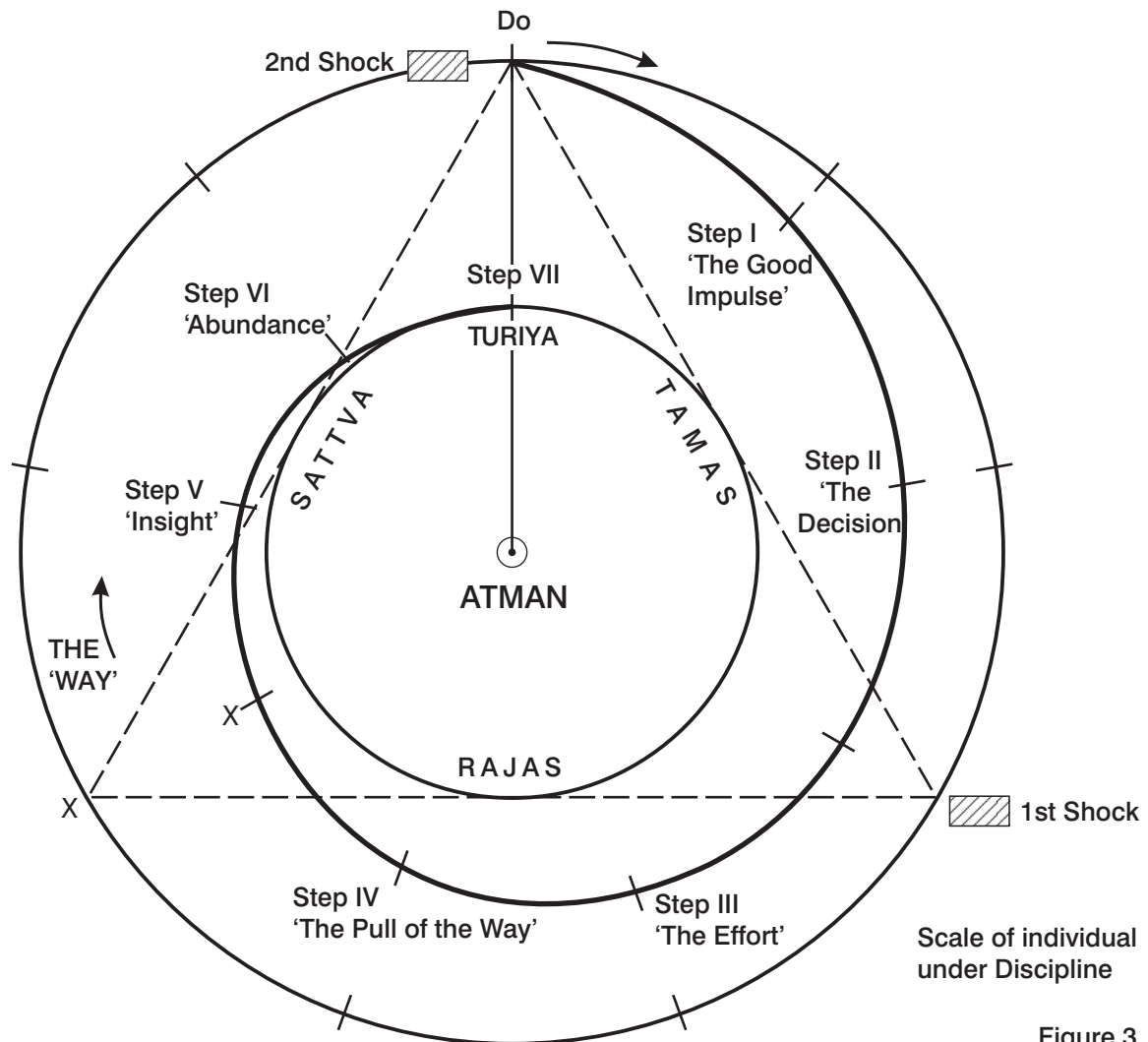


Figure 3

We naturally ask: 'What do the three points at the apices of the Triangle symbolise in the ascent of the Ladder?' It is good to have questions, for the finding of better and better answers can take one up this Ladder. If you accept other people's answers you deprive yourself of this very potent spur to effort! Answers, and more right answers, come only from Work on oneself.

Now since the Understanding of Men of the Inner Circle depends upon their understanding of the interaction of the two sets of Cosmic Laws, the Laws of Three and Seven; and since this Symbol connects the two on any scale throughout the Universe, there should be plenty of questions you could ask yourselves!

And the Realized man who is guiding us fully demonstrates that his power to *Do* (that is, to bring a pupil to Self-realization) rests on his understanding of human nature given by complete Knowledge of the Three Gunas and of the Steps of the Ladder. He says that is *all* that needs to be known.

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