

16 January 1970

A NEW DECADE

JANUARY 1970

What is the chief factor that keeps us earthbound and prevents our discussions from lifting us off into unexplored realms? It is ultimately, of course, that we don't each of us make adequate and persistent efforts to explore our own nature by getting the most out of the two half-hours in the way of the peace and stillness of silent 'communion'. Such intensity would come from a passionate desire of some sort – better human relationships, or hunger for exploration and discovery and answers to burning questions, or for more 'power upon the hour'.

But there is a second important factor which has a bearing on the first. We let our minds be pulled down by the gravity of the earth and the moon because we don't realise the enormous difference in space-time between the gross physical and the subtle levels, but keep speaking of subtle things in ordinary physical terms. We need a better model of 'worlds within worlds' to carry in our minds.

PART 1

To try to bring this point home, I have turned to the Enneagram because it was from this symbol that the great men who framed our System took the Ray of Creation, the Octaves of Radiations and the Food Table. We need to see the Symbol and all of this with an added dimension. The Symbol (Figure 1, overleaf) is supposed to be the architect's plan by which Nature's computers count – without tables and slide-rules and man-made mathematical systems. You start by numbering the nine points of the circles – clockwise if you go outward into the increasing Time of seconds per cycle, and counter-clockwise if you go inwards into decreasing Time – that is, increasing frequency of cycles per second. Three circles are enough to contain all the times of the physical, subtle, and causal levels of individual man, and the large circle of 'Historical Time' – the 'past' history of Organic Life on Earth. That largest circle of 'historical time' is the only time that we (and the scientists and everyone else) recognise, but it is really the big cycle of the life of the earth. The time unit here is a human generation of 30 years, and the numbers round the circumference are the powers to which this number is raised (each point being ten times the one before, so that the 9th point at the top means 10,000 million years which is the life expectation of this planet earth.

If you want to, you can work the figures out as accurately as you wish; but if you are not interested in numbers, you can at least see that this very large scale of time and space has little to do with an individual life. On that scale you answer questions about history as far as the point 12, and beyond that about the evolution of Organic Life.

The next smaller circle gives the total timescale of the individual physical body, from a resting heartbeat (1 second per cycle) through hours, days and years to a full lifespan (up to 30,000 days or nearly 80 years). This comprises all the 'Food Octave' and the long-term memory store. One second is the smallest time we can experience *as time*; anything less than instantaneous we distinguish in other ways such as 'tones' in relation to sound, luminosity and colour in relation to light, and psychologically as thoughts, desires, short-term memories and changes

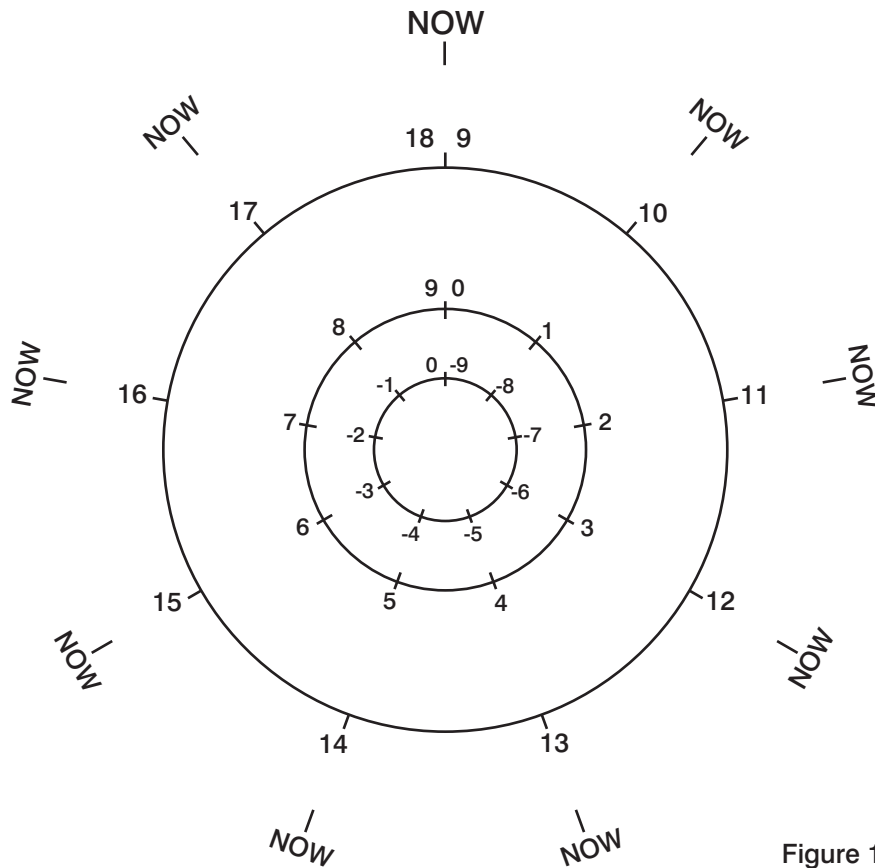


Figure 1

of mood. This [middle] circle comprises all the subtle level of our psychology – the psychosomatic chemical changes, and then the range of unselected impressions.

For a circle within that again (not shown in the figures here) the time unit is the ‘nano-second’ (a thousand millionth of a second), the time taken for light to travel a distance of one foot – the human measure. It is the world of Consciousness, which the Shankaracharya calls the ‘Causal Level’, which Figure 1 shows as the central point or ‘Pole’. These 3 worlds with space-times which are incommensurable with one another all co-exist, just as the world of 3-dimensional objects co-exists with the biochemical world, and again with the electronic world.

As His Holiness recently wrote to us:

All events take place at the physical level only, though their causes arise from higher levels, and their effects pass on to higher levels also. But the intervals of time and space decrease with rising levels. A thing far off at the physical level, such as Self-realization, is not so at the subtle level.

And he went on to tell the story of Lakshman and Rama and the dive for the ring – which you have heard.

In order to bring home the immensity of the difference, we can now take a contemporary example (see *The Grand Tour* by Patrick Moore, *The Listener*, 1 January, 1970, p.15). The Jet Propulsion Laboratory at Pasadena, California is planning a space programme for the late 1970’s when the outer planets (except Pluto) will be favourably lined up for what they are calling the ‘Grand Tour’ by unmanned rockets (gross physical level!). If they don’t achieve it then we shall have to wait 179 years for the next favourable line-up. Their time schedule is:

4th September 1977	Launch from Earth	
28th January 1979	Encounter with Jupiter	(Time elapsed 1.4 years)
30th September 1980	Encounter with Saturn	(Time elapsed 3 years)
2nd January 1984	Encounter with Uranus	(Time elapsed 6.4 years)
8th November 1986	Encounter with Neptune	(Time elapsed 9.2 years)

They are beginning to tackle the difficulties, not the least of which is that all equipment has to last 10 years in space. What the cost will be is another astronomical figure!

So much for the difficulties of the physical world, but in the same talk Patrick Moore gave a timescale for radio over the same distances:

Radio waves move at the same speed as light (186,000 miles per second), so that they leap from the Earth to the Moon in $1\frac{1}{4}$ seconds. To reach Mars, a radio signal needs $3\frac{3}{4}$ minutes; to Jupiter about 35 minutes; to Saturn, one hour and ten minutes; to Uranus, $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours; and to Neptune, four hours.

This is an example of two very different time scales associated with *velocity*, that is, movement from place to place. The difference of ratio between frequencies when there is *no* movement in space, as between the 'times' of the physical, subtle and causal worlds (which are co-existent) can be much greater.

*

In summary, it is ignorance of these facts that gives us the false picture of what Self-realization could mean, and this it is which halts our progress. Here are a few questions and answers from recent correspondence:

Q. Is it the 'attachment' to form and substance which has to be given up?

S. Partly, yes. But more precisely, the reflecting consciousness (Chitta) should give up the physical world, and the Atman should give up the Chitta.

Q. Is stillness essential food for Man?

S. Yes. Stillness and joy are the natural food for the Self. We forget that they are always there; but under the stimuli of a false external world, a delusion of unrest is created. It is the giving up of this delusion in our thoughts and beliefs that is the real giving up.

N.B. It is important to note that giving up a thing is always within our powers, whereas acquiring a thing is not always so.

*

PART 2

But, as Mr. Ouspensky pointed out in *A New Model*, the flat surface of concentric circles is the 5th Dimension of space-time, and 5 dimensions are insufficient to describe the Universe with all its (yet unrealised) possibilities. The flat surface of the 5th Dimension shows Eternal Repetition on the *same level* and the prison by which our consciousness is bound.

To show his 6th Dimensions it is only necessary to add a new co-ordinate – a line through the centre at right angles to the surface of the paper. Figure 2 shows how simple and clear is this 6-dimensional cone, like a beam of light or a solid 'helix'. We have previously used it to make a model of the Ray of Creation. (Later you will see that the 3 Octaves of Radiations is a helical or 'spiral'

line descending from the top point, which is timeless, down into ever-increasing times with the hydrogens spaced along the spiral.) The central line passing through the centres of all the circles is the Absolute which remains constant, while time and space are always changing according to the level of the observer. The 'expansion of consciousness' from the narrow to the Universal is the rise of the Atman along that line. The sloping lines (of which only two out of an infinite number are shown here) represent those lines of 'Now' – the perpetual existence of each moment.

Perhaps this figure will show more clearly what His Holiness was saying, in the quotation on page 2. It also illustrates Mr. Ouspensky's argument on p.427 of *A New Model*:

Everything we know, everything we recognise as existing, lies on the line of the fourth dimension (lowest circle); the line of the fourth dimension is the 'historical time' of our section of existence. This is the only 'time' we know, the only 'time' we feel, the only 'time' we recognise. But though we are not aware of it, sensations of the existence of other 'times', both parallel and perpendicular, continually enter into our consciousness. These parallel 'times' (circles) are completely analogous to our time and consist of before-now-after, whereas the perpendicular 'times' consist only of 'Now'...

It's not very profitable, therefore, to sit in 'flat-land' discussing higher hydrogens, the two Conscious shocks and so on. Much better to get up there and see for ourselves!

It is relevant here to recall the quotation from *Tertium Organum* about the 'foolish traveller' (p.34).

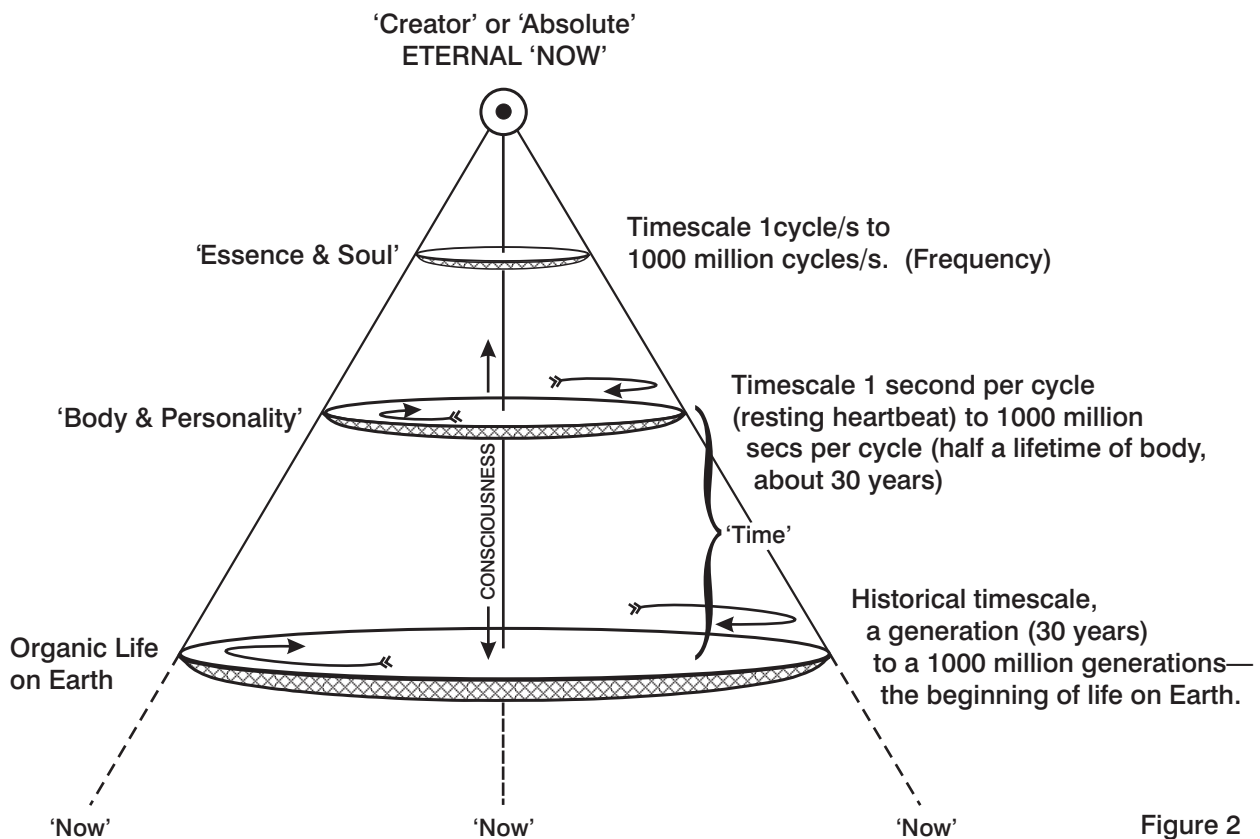


Figure 2

[NOTE: These figures follow from the numbers round the circles in Figure 1, but those numbers are powers—in this case of the number 10, so they go in geometrical progression. This is the way the brain codes vibrations received from the senses.]

PART 3. ANOTHER APPLICATION – THE GENERAL PLAN OF INDIVIDUAL MAN

Man is centred on the Spirit or Universal Self (Atman) which is his 'Axis', outside of time and space.

In time and space the System describes 4 divisions of man's nature – *Body, Essence, Personality* and *Soul*. We are only now beginning to understand these words in the light of modern discoveries.

Until now the Western World has only regarded Man as a duality compounded of Body and Personality, and the biological sciences (such as physiology) study only the body, while the budding 'science' of psychology studies only the Personality.

'Essence' From both of those approaches, however, the two other components of man have begun to emerge. In biology a chemical formula has been found to be present within every cell of the body consisting of a double helix of DNA composed of invisible components, the genes. There is some evidence that the difference between the Plant and Animal Kingdoms and Orders depends upon the relative complexity of the DNA helix; the number of genes and certainly the number of chromosomes. But, for us, the chief point is that it enables us to think of the 'Essence' as being something like a chemical formula and the basis of the physical and psychological 'constitution' carrying instructions for the cell factories.

Protein synthesis in tiny factories (the ribosomes) is carried out according to the 'instructions' contained in this formula. Science will be working on this for years to come.

There remains for us the problem of the scale of space-time on which to take this. Biology sees no alternative at present to the enormous scale of evolution in the Biosphere over the whole surface of the Earth. Attention is concentrated on the *germ cells* and the reproduction of body after body, so that it is only after many generations that the individual members of a species can change. But it remains unexplained why *all the cells of the body* carry the same formula, and why under the electron microscope tiny areas of the genetic substance have been observed to change under the influence of hormones. Can it be that the genetic substance of the body cells of an individual are changing all the time? Why should this be so; to what could it lead, and what is the purpose of so general a mechanism? These questions remain unanswered. We only know that such changes are not apparently transmitted from individual parents to offspring – from life to life.

'Soul' Is there any modern meaning that we can attach to the word 'Soul'? 'Soul' is an Anglo-Saxon word which used to carry the meaning of 'permanent vehicle of Consciousness' – something more important and permanent than the changing personality which quite certainly dies with the physical body. The interest of neurophysiologists with their new electrical techniques has during the last 2 or 3 decades been concentrated on the most recently developed part of the brain (the 'forebrain' in the embryological sense), which is the only part of us in which we can be directly conscious. In that sense it might be thought of as the 'vehicle of our consciousness'. A great many suggestive discoveries are being made about this vast area. Thus it is seen to be organised in 3 'tiers' or zones; the innermost the 'alerting system' wherein changes of consciousness (sleeping and waking) have been proved to occur; round it are the 'limbic'

circuits in the deeper parts of the forebrain; and outside this again is the mantle or 'cortex' of the cerebral hemispheres, where fine adjustments, learning and willing seem to take place.

Then again this forebrain contains the pineal body, which is the transducer by which the electromagnetic energy of light on the retina is transformed into chemical energy (hormones). Finally, at the lowest level of the forebrain the nervous activity of the hypothalamus seems to be transformed into chemical (hormone) changes throughout the body via the pituitary gland.

All these discoveries, put together, seem to point to some evolution or transformation of the individual (which used to be called 'psychotransformism') on a very rapid timescale within the individual life. This could be a repetition of immediate experiences on a subtle (or 'psychological') level but co-existent with the repetition of bodies from generation to generation.

The answer to the eternal question 'Who am I?' must inevitably be more complicated than our usual unthinking answer: 'I am this body or this mind'.

* * *