

Spiral Dynamics

A dive into vMEMES that shape human development

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The heroic quest

To be what we are . . . and to become whatever we are capable of becoming, is the only end in life.
- Robert Louis Stevenson

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Survival and instinct

The first level of human value systems development was labelled *SurvivalSense*

Consciousness, coping mechanisms/thinking systems are based on stimulus – response. It's staying alive by using innate sensory equipment. It's *instinct* driven.

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Human beings evolve when the quality of their lives, *their life conditions*, are no longer fulfilling.

They start searching for new conditions and new *vMEMEs* (coping mechanisms) in order to handle those new conditions.

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Conditions and capacities

Life conditions refer to

- Time
- Place
- Problems
- Circumstances

Mind capacities refer to

- Biology
- Neuro-meshwork
- Intelligences
- Neuro-plasticity

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Once you can physically take care of food, shelter, water and safety on a sustainable basis, you begin to want more.

You seek more pleasure and security so next level thinking and value systems develop so that individuals and societies can learn to cope with emerging new life conditions.

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KinSpirits

Level 2 **Tribal Order** developed through safety concerns. People perceive their world to be dangerous, mysterious, and magical so they combine together with other people...

...because there's safety in numbers. It's living in a tribal organisation and group think. Its about blood relations and mysticism in a magical and scary world. **Multiple gods.**

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Once you've got survival, safety and appropriate rituals in place, at this point mankind is satiated.

Somewhere along the line, some individuals begin to feel that **ritualistic** living is not enough and they want more.

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As dissonances builds within them, new **conditions and values** develop.

Individuals move from the **tribe** and strike out on their own. Or they become **Power Gods** within the tribe as they've move to **level 3.**

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PowerGod

PowerGods are driven by significance and *egocentric* hero status – they want a bigger life, they no longer want to follow rituals, they want to be gods.

They're exploitative, exert power over self, nature and others. They do as they like regardless. They're impulsive and controlling.

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Eventually *power* is not enough.

Once you play all the games and fight all the battles, you eventually figure out (or not) that it's pretty lonely being an unloved power monger.

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When you yearn for something more, life conditions start to change what you value.

At level 4, there's a shift from individualistic endeavours back to conformity living. Some people never grow out of level 3 and remain centrally located there. Others miss it and experience dysfunction.

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Absolutism

At *level 4*, people develop beliefs that in order to be significant, there must be something beyond this life. They develop values and needs about the hereafter.

They want certainty and develop a belief in *right* way thinking and *obedience* to authority.

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Order in the Absolute

They're encouraged to sacrifice now in order gain later rewards. *Level 4* is about dogma. If you live the rules, you're significant according to the dogma.

And if you don't live the rules, you face expulsion from the group and rewards in the hereafter.

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Order in the Absolute

Level 4 involves hierarchy and rigid pyramid structures. Life has meaning, direction, purpose and predetermined outcomes.

Impulsivity and '*meism*' is controlled through fear and guilt. Sacrifice and save produces perceptions that the enjoyment of wealth is somewhere in the future.

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StriveDrive

Most of the industrialised world exists within levels 4/5. As people want more, they tire of living by rules.

They tire of authority, toeing the line and doing what powergods, or rigid authority says. They tire of sacrifice and living for tomorrow.

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StriveDrive

Level 5, *striver-driver-achiever* is driven by achievement, strategic enterprise and making things better for themselves.

At this level, *fear* and being *right* reside and *inquiry* takes over. It's the advancement model –where you try things, you figure them out and you eventually win.

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StriveDrive

You act in your own self interest. You're full of self-reliance, optimism and risk is calculated.

It's *possibility* thinking with a focus on materialism, achievement, image, status, growth, success, strategy, technology and competition.

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StriveDrive

ER

Orange still believes in hierarchy and everything runs on hierarchy. The difference is personal gain. You get to choose your results. You get to run the business.

It's about knowledge acquisition, and testing the limits of tradition, status quo, establishments and boundaries. You get status and economic power... you're in charge.

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HumanBond

FS

Level 6 is a move to socially conscious thinking. At green, people really care about society and other human beings.

There's a real connection with people, the environment/earth, animals.

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HumanBond

FS

At green, you care more about the wellbeing of people and nature. Caring and sensitivity replace hard nosed rationality. Exploitation affects you personally.

You seek peace within and you expand community. You seek to free the human spirit from greed, dogma and divisiveness.

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HumanBond

According to green thinking and problem solving, hierarchy is the problem with life because its how people have been treated unfairly throughout history.

Level 6 has everything done by the group, resources are equally shared and together you collectively figure things out.

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Because each **primary level of consciousness** me centre, they tend to think that their reality should be everybody else's reality, so the total focus is all about what you believe.



You think that the '**vMEMEs**' below your level don't make sense because, according to you, your **model of the world** is the **right** one.

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For this reason, each of the **vMEMEs** is at odds with the levels above and below them.

As individuals journey through **changing life conditions**, their consciousness **arrests** at the level that best fits their needs.

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Once you get stuck in any of these levels, this is how you filter and see your world.

Fights, wars, pain, hurt, arguments, relationship breakups come about because people are positioning for *significance* and being *'right'*.

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When you arrest at any particular level, you only have access to the level you're at and those below you.



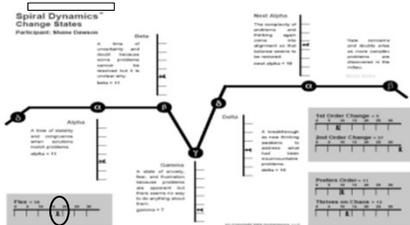
You need to learn to *recognise* the values you live most of the time. Where do you go when under stress?

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Challenge of the vMEMES

In the desire for higher development, the greatest challenge with *subsistence vMEMES*, is their lack of flexibility 'right way thinking'.



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Subsistence levels of consciousness, first tier *vMEMEs*, use their version 'right way of thinking'. They all have judgements about each other and lack degrees of flexibility.



People don't see or perceive past their own *vMEME*. This is especially the case when it comes to making more money.

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Each of the first tier *vMEMEs* speaks a language unto itself and that language is foreign to other *vMEMEs*

It's as though one speaks German while another speaks Italian. To German speakers, their language is completely understandable.

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To those who don't speak German, little communication takes place. In primary *vMEMEs*, there's a lack of flexibility and adaptability.

Einstein expressed a wisdom which observed, "In any given context, the person with the *greatest behavioural flexibility* will end up controlling that situation."

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Challenge of the vMEMES

Einstein observed, "In any given context, the person with the greatest *behavioural flexibility* will end up controlling that situation." What happens when...



...you take your particular *vMEME* into business, the share market, money making, real estate etc.?

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FlexFlow

In terms of man's evolution, the '*momentous leap*' Clare Graves spoke of, is a shift into second tier consciousness...

...where *beingness, adaptability and flexibility* are hallmarks. Yellow is an integrated, flexible and flowing *vMEME*.

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FlexFlow

Yellow is an integrated, flex flow *vMEME* where all previous levels are integrated. You believe in hierarchy and oligarchy but only if they are best fit for the life conditions.

An integrated view says that no one level is better than the other... its all about *best fit* for particular types of life conditions.

People on first tier *vMEMES* dislike the values and thinking above and below them because their *value* model is the proper way to experience the world.

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FlexFlow

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The significant challenges you face today cannot be solved at the same level of thinking that you had when you created them.

It's not possible to achieve *economic & personal freedom* through *vMEMEs* that don't allow you to go there.

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Arrested

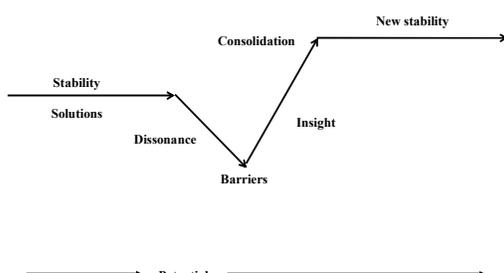
Look at each of the major areas of your life and think about the *vMEMEs* responsible for your results in each of those areas.



If you feel stuck, examine the values of the level you feel stuck at.

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GlobalView

HU

GlobalView, the next level, is someone who is literally an awakened soul. It's the spiritcentric level.

It's an holistic existence where you feel everything happening as it occurs. Its **vMEMEs** that encompass whole-earth dynamics and macro level action.

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GlobalView

HU

Yellow involves *integration* and *flexibility* whereas **turquoise** believes that everything is already integrated and all that's needed is to feel, associate and align with it.

Very few people are at turquoise in their lives. **Turquoise** views the world as a single, dynamic organism with its own collective mind.

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GlobalView

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At one and the same time, self is both *distinct* and a *blend* of a larger *compassionate* whole.

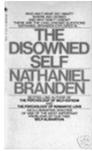
Everything is connected and ecologically aligned. Holistic, intuitive, and cooperative thinking is the norm.

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Consciousness

The search for *rich* and *meaningful* experiences is enhanced by learning to access the higher levels of consciousness that are available to you.



It's about learning to integrate your *disowned selves* into a greater sense of whole.

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Consciousness

It's about not denying any piece of yourself and not trying to be a certain way just to please others.



Think of the *vMEMEs* as *mental* and *behavioural* process containers.

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Consciousness

None of the containers can hold *everything* and none of the containers will necessarily hold the same *mental* and *behavioural* processes equally comfortably.



Different *vMEMEs* conceptualise concepts and context differently... e.g., money.

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Consciousness

As you gain greater insight and understanding of how the various levels on the spiral help solve various life conditions, you'll gain greater understanding of how...



...your own mind works in relation to concepts such as *economic* and *personal freedom*.

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Consciousness

It's important to understand how you *conceptualise* things because it has a critical bearing on how you might accept, reject or process certain ideas, concepts and behaviours.



How you think about *what* you think about determines your results.

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Thinking systems

How I think about something *is not* what I think about. What I think about are *concepts*, how I think about those concepts is to say how I *conceptualise* them.



Each of the thinking and coping systems *conceptualise* similar things differently.

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Dr Clare Graves



“I’m not saying in this conception of adult *behaviour* that one style of being, one form of human existence...

...is *inevitable* and in all circumstances superior or better than another form of human existence, another style of being.

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Dr Clare Graves

“What I am saying is that when one form of being is more *congruent* with the realities of existence...



...that it is a better form of living for these realities.”

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Dr Clare Graves

“And what I am saying is that when one form of existence ceases to be functional for the realities of existence, then some other form, either higher or lower in the hierarchy, is the better form of living.



“I do suggest, however, and this I deeply believe is so...

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Dr Clare Graves

“...that for the overall welfare of total man’s existence in the world, over the long run of time, higher levels are better than lower levels and that the prime good of any society’s governing figures...”

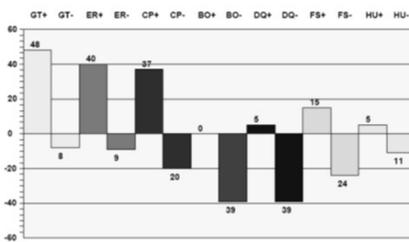


“...should be to promote human movement up the levels of human existence.”

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Spiral Dynamics® Values Profile II



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