

## Muse Ten

### About this Site.

One of the characteristics everyone is born with is the innate **Potential** to achieve various things: subject to the conditions being appropriate to the manifestation of that potential.

One such potential may be for a unique Mindset that becomes the framework for a uniquely personal **Model of Reality**.

During our early life the first 'fleshing-out' of the framework is subject to conditioning from our social background and those humans in a position to have significant influence upon our development.

The end result is one of modified uniqueness that falls **within a range of which the extremes are Highly Conventional and the Bizarre**.

This 'Model' has the capacity for finite adjustment in response to Experience and Education, but the early influences remain with us throughout our lives, as Positive and Negative influences over which we have to exercise awareness and understanding.

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The boundaries of this 'Model' may be represented by the surface of a cone: the narrow end is a measure of our undeveloped 'Personality' at birth: The diameter of the cone at any point along its centre axis represents the development since birth; the centre line of the cone is thus scaled to represent the passage of time since our birth.

Our lives may be thought to progress along optional paths: there is the fast track along the centre line that affords the least experience; there is the slowest path that meanders around the cone's surface, affording the most experience; and there is an optimum route that spends sufficient time at the surface to acquire valuable experience; with time passed at the centre allowing us to gain benefit from that experience.

Whatever the relative merits of the various options; we rarely have much control over the one we are able to take at any moment in time; that one is almost entirely conditional and determined by others.

The countless number of available paths ensures we acquire a personal 'Model of **Reality**' i.e. the Model that determines our reactions and responses to each situation. These will always be located somewhere on **the scale from Delight to Repugnance**.

It is the position on this scale - to a raft of situations - that categorises our opinions and determines the Social and Cultural Groups in which we feel most comfortable.

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Arguably The Cone Of Reality has a mirror image: The Cone of Unreality.

If so, it is likely the said mirror is distorting; because the Cone of Unreality is unlikely to have the same geometric dimensions, or ratios, as the Cone of Reality.

This is because it manifests our dreams and imaginings: it could be said to represent our Subconscious Mind: alternatively, one could think of it as **the Mind of the Soul**.

**Therein lies the site of our capacity for Goodness and Evil and their keeper, our Conscience.**

Also located there are our capacity for **Common-Sense, Respect and Compassion**; together with all the other characteristics of goodness; together with all their corresponding antonyms.

It is of particular relevance that however extensive and comprehensive our experiences and education may have been - and as important as these are - they have little significance if they are inappropriate to a situation and/or the capacity to process **Knowledge**, into **Understanding**, has yet to be acquired.

The degree of this capacity determines how far we have travelled down the road towards **Wisdom**.

To be truly wise is to have attained a state in which we may approach problems by the use of **Thought** only: i.e. to exist in the state of **Being**.

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If one can imagine these two cones connected at their small ends, the connection point can be considered the point of both the genesis of our general existence, as a human race, and also the point of an individual's birth.

In the case of all levels of existence above that of the individual, the surface of the cone represents the limit of experience, knowledge and understanding applicable to the various culture/ethnic group sizes contained within a containing outer cone that represents our space-time continuum.

Thus within that extreme 'barrier' there can exist a number of different 'families' of concentric cones: some completely independent of any other families of cones; others will have some form of interrelationship at varying degrees of cooperation: not necessarily of a voluntary nature.

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A few sentences ago I intimated that the existence of the 'shadow' cone of Unreality was arguable: from the strictly philosophical view the one cannot exist without the other; or at least we would not be able to recognise either if the other did not exist; from this standpoint - with one exception as I shall discuss shortly - I perceive both to exist as inviolate twins.

In booklet six I discuss the likelihood we each have our own Model of Reality, based upon our conditioning, personal experiences, education and our potential for understanding: it is this which is the probable limit of our individual cone of reality i.e. the location of the cone's surface.

This cone represents our physical existence in the physical world into which we are born: in contrast our cone of unreality possibly represents our emotional and psychological existences that although they are capable of physical manifestation - through our actions - they are essentially intangible.

The lines at the centre of both cones represent the quickest, most naive route between our birth and the present - ultimately our death - a path few will have been restricted to during their travels. Most of us are forced to make excursions to the surface of our cones where we have interface with our surroundings, including our family and the society to which we belong: here we are subject to the conditioning factors and determinants that shape our innate personality and may even determine our destiny.

In this context both ends of the cones must be in close proximity to each other: a position possible only if one thinks of the cones curved around the circumference of a circle, the diameter of which increases as we grow older; not necessarily at a regular, or predetermined rate.

Can we assume that both cones are replicas of each other? While this may be theoretically possible; it seems more probable that each will develop separately; each subject to the action and reaction process initiated in both cones as our lives are constantly modified by the various influences that can impinge on either, or both. Thus in reality the ring-shaped pair of cones is unlikely to have uniformity of shape. Since each personal destiny could assume a multitude of shapes - as malformed as they may be - they will all be 'endless rings'.

Perhaps to make it simple it would be better to consider they have a uniform shape.

In this form we are able to consider the synonyms for Reality and Unreality appropriate to the discussion: I am sure these are numerable, each having particular significance to whomever may wish to follow this discussion and develop it further.

For me the most meaningful is **the Cone of Conscious Existence** and **the Cone of Subconscious Existence**: the first driven by our physical and mental existence; the second being the world of our dreams and aspirations under the control of our conscience.

However, in a religious context, the ring - with all its ritual significance - could be said to signify the betrothal of Body and Soul.

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If we were to briefly consider the large ends of the two cones meeting at the same plane, but with the diameter of the 'Soul' Cone being smaller than that of the 'Body' Cone, the annular ring between the smaller and larger cones could represent that part of our persona not under the control of our conscience: this would then be **the zone of dependency, addiction, selfishness and greed containing all the uncontrolled negative factors with which we are burdened.**

The numbers of individuals who do not live in the shadow of this negative zone will be relatively few.

Arguably these few will have little to offer society other than as icons of respect who we should all seek to emulate: typically historical are the Saints in Catholicism.

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In general terms the majority of us will travel a Journey of Living motivated by the need to survive. Granted in a materialistic society our perception of the necessities of Life are grossly distorted beyond the real fundamental necessities.

The extent of this distortion determines whether we have the 'time' to seek **Wisdom**: yet it is unlikely that true contentment – and thus a state of harmony – is achievable in the absence of a critical minimum level of Wisdom.

It should be emphasised that Wisdom comes from Intelligence and Understanding rather than from Knowledge; particularly if this has been obtained by rote.

Although it has to be conceded that for those of us who make up the majority and are not innately and uniquely 'clever' and 'creative' ; Education and Knowledge are essential to the development of our Potentials including those of our Understanding and Wisdom.

Additionally it has to be accepted that there must be a multi-dimensional spectrum of Wisdom whereby some are generally wise to a greater or lesser degree; some are specifically wise in certain areas of our existence, namely, the Practical, the Emotional, the Psychological and the Spiritual; and those who achieve a mix if several, or, many of these attributes.

However many, or few, of these 'Wise' there are; and however useful their Wisdom may be; it is of little, or no, account if society is following a path that does not allow Wisdom a free voice and gives little, if any, respect.

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One could well ask, 'What is the role of Religion in this process?'

Particularly in an increasingly virtual society!

The subject is treated in my Books Four and Five: see Book Section.

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Hopefully to be continued in response to general feedback.