

Human Development

Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law.

The success of the A.'A.'. program lies in its innate understanding of the normal progress of consciousness as expressed through the personality of the maturing individual. This was developed in a time when the world's great psychologists were developing their own discipline. And as the discipline of psychology grew and developed, we have only seen further and further validation of the wisdom of the A.'A.'. program. Ken Wilbur quantifies human experience into a system called "All Quadrants" that has since been explained by Dr. Susanne R. Cook-Greuter in an essay called *Actionlogics*.

We've taken the various stages of psychic growth that she details in light of W.R. Torbert's *Leadership Development Framework* and have added our own empirical observations. We don't pretend that somehow this parallels one's development in the A.'A.'. program by its succession of Grades. Rather, this presents a maturation of the psyche that is prophesied in Liber AL vel Legis as the general state of a more evolved humanity, as symbolized by Horus taking the throne of Ra. The whole of this matter is derived from an empirical Gnosis that can only be expressed theoretically; leaving to the individual to test these notions through his or her own experience.

Actionlogics details six general stages in the origin, development and maturation of the psyche. These are distributed through four layers of the body/psyche complex as mapped by Ken Wilbur. The following diagram shows the relation, which will also show an obvious parallel to the four worlds of the Qabalah:

<i>K. Wilber</i>	% of US population	<i>Torbert</i> Action Logics	<i>Cook-Greuter</i> Ego Development Stages
<i>SOUL</i> Transcendent	<u>Postpostconventional, Transpersonal, Ego-transcendent</u>		
Unitive view	<1%	Ironist	6 Unitive
<i>VISION LOGIC</i> <i>Postconventional</i> Systems view	<2%	Magician	5/6 Construct-aware
	~12%	Strategist Individualist	5 Autonomous 4/5 Individualist
<i>MIND</i> Conventional	~75%	Achiever Expert/technician Diplomat	4 Conscientious 3/4 Self-conscious 3 Conformist
<i>BODY</i> Preconventional	~10%	Opportunist Impulsive	2/3 (Δ) Self-defensive 2 Impulsive

We will quote from Dr. Cook-Greuter's essay as we examine her interpretation of Torbert's developmental stages. The reader is also referred to our article: [Religious Experience & the Existential Crisis](#) for another perspective on the developmental experience of the maturing psyche.

Stage 1 – Infant Stage (Pre-social, Symbiotic)

“The earliest stage is given here for completeness only because we postulate that all human beings are born undifferentiated and symbiotically merged with their initial caregivers.”

This sentence contains more complexity than is provided; at least for those of us in the Western Mystery Tradition. Yes, a newborn is “undifferentiated and symbiotically merged” with their parents; who are themselves, the child's first gods! But this idea can be quite misleading. We should not infer from this that newborns are all alike; the proverbial *tabula rasa*. Rather, a newborn is born with a combination of genetic characteristics that are inherited from the parents and will be reared and conditioned with certain resulting characteristics that are the innate characteristics of the parents. They will be the source of most of the initial impressions pressed upon the newborn psyche. For this reason, the Astrologer interprets one's childhood by reading the charts of the parents, which is quite significant and an important indicator of the strength of this congenital totality.

Stage 2 – Impulsive Stage

“This stage describes individuals who show signs of the beginning use of language simultaneously with the emerging ego as reflected in such statements as “I want” and “mine.”

“Magical ideas prevail and a sense of unlimited power exists only curbed by punishment from various sources.”

This is the raw force (the Beast) that is the innate nature of the emerging and developing ego with its link to that which is most internal inside the psyche. This egoic source is directly connected with the body/flesh and its mitochondrial consciousness (the ‘Force’ of Star Wars!...cf. [Liber Vox Viva Voce vel Video](#)), which adds what we perceive as the emotional affection (Babalon). Hence, we follow this internal ‘gotta do this’ impulse that is our individualized measure of Babalon astride the Beast. In the A.'.A.'. , this is very much akin to what we call one's Aspiration. It is the driving force behind everything we do. Though at this stage, the force is raw and immature; even quite libidinal (itself, but an aspect of the ego-emotional complex), it will mature and develop as time moves forward.

Stage 2/3- The Opportunist

Self and other become appreciated; in the discovery of one's own ‘will’, one simultaneously begins to comprehend that others also have wills that may or may not be in competition or contrast with what one is ‘feeling’ as one's own identity. Measuring these differences adds to both an appreciation of self and others; when completed in a wholesome manner. However, many really fail at this stage; they rather join the herd (the amalgam of others) due to an inferiority perceived in the self. This delusion keeps them socially viable and is generally supported by the herd; known as society. Subsequently, those again, who wholesomely succeed at this stage are generally derided by the herd.

Stage 3 – The Diplomat (Rule-oriented Stage)

“At this stage people vacillate between points of view. Sometimes they wonder “how do I look to you?” other times “how do you look to me?” They now recognize external differences regarding features or behaviors. Often children entering school are exploring this developmental stage. The Rule-oriented stage describes people who are discovering the second person perspective and begin to make simple, external comparisons and who are capable of concrete mental operations.”

One feature of this minor stage, which Dr. Cook-Greuter declares is a rare stage, is that a possible result is the inferiority complex. This is a common feature found in creative and spiritual leaning personalities and is an important key to the advanced development of the intuition. Such a person, from the earliest age, studies the faces and body language of others very carefully in a desperate pursuit of approval. A life-long habit of this makes people ‘readable’ in a way that is perceived as psychic by others.

Stage 3/4- Expert Stage

“Stage 3/4 or the self-conscious stage characterizes people who are now able to step back and look at themselves as objects from a distance. They can see themselves as object and thus start to reflect upon the self.”

For those who succeed at the wholesome contemplation of self, they can achieve a Vedantic appreciation of themselves; discovering not only an objective distance by which they can evaluate themselves, but an appreciation for that [indescribable] essence of self that holds that objective evaluation. That which is indescribable, we call the Augoeides or the Holy Guardian Angel. This represents the maturation of the initial impulse that we encountered at the youngest age with its onset of egoic development.

Stage 4 – The Achiever

The achiever is one who does things...a producer of new ideas, inventions and insights; even new Gnosis for those concerned with magickal growth and/or work in a magickal lodge. It is the achiever that becomes recognized as a genius when he or she produces work that inspires others to work. The highest of this is when such work then assists the herd to its own evolutionary transformation.

Stage 4/5 – The Individualist

“People now realize that things are not necessarily what they seemed at earlier stages because the interpretation of reality always depends on the position of the observer.”

This individualist stage is proceeding when recognizes that objective truth or truisms are actually relative; the position of the observer being as important as the event or object being observed. It is an expansion of consciousness that appreciates then the position of others; though it may or may not deride the observations those others produce. Ultimately, though, what is being experienced here is a merging in the psyche of the internal and external worlds. Indeed, when we contemplate ourselves as the individualized expressions of the godhead and can see that we are all and each within that infinity, then we can appreciate that everything we feel is external to ourselves is actually internal to the godhead and all that is internal to ourselves is the godhead itself...we are all gods!!!

We can equivocate this with the Tower Atu and its path on the Tree-of-life. This represents a refinement of the intuition and an increase in the potency of the experience. One develops a prophetic sensibility that begins an exploration of the relationship of the individualist expression of the godhead with the godhead itself; along with the simultaneous understanding of the chorus of individualized godheads that is a dance with the living.

Stage 5 – The Strategist

“The Strategist action logic represents an enlarged fourth person perspective which places the individual’s experience into the context of particular societies and within the totality of a person’s lifetime.”

In Thelema, we call this knowing one’s Will and realize that this is what we’ve been doing all along. Indeed, the original impulse has been there all along and the individual comes to realize that though he or she wasn’t necessarily aware of the reason for the many impulsive decisions that have been made through the course of one’s life to the present moment. Will is action and nothing less than action...and nothing more abstract than action. The impulsive decisions are here found to have been in accord with a realized sensibility that has coordinated these decisions in a formerly unconscious manner and is now becoming quite conscious.

Stage 5/6 – The Magickian

I like that this is referred to as the Magickian/Clown.

Not only does the ego become aware of itself, but also, a quest for meaning develops that is considered foolish by the herd. The Mage has moved beyond the map (an abstraction) and can see the territory for itself, which is beyond the grasp of most others that again, have failed the 2-3 stage described above. Moving beyond duality; good and evil, one is no longer bound by conventional morality. This is by the way, what got the ancient Gnostics into a good deal of trouble with the world around them. Not that they acted in any vile manner, but that they expressed this idea, which brought about intense condemnation by the herd that had been corralled into the emerging Roman Catholic Church with its misplaced idea that morality and spirituality are one in the same.

Stage 6 – The Ironist

“From the ancient wisdom literature to re[c]ent research in higher stages of consciousness there is evidence of many more stages beyond the rational, personal realm or postconventional tier of meaning making...”

When I reached this stage, I became quite affected by HPB’s Secret Doctrine and Isis Unveiled as this was the first true record of the ancient wisdom that I’ve been able to find. This naturally led me to the translation of the Enochian Liber Loagaeth. But ultimately, this is what New Gnosis is all about. Connecting the past to the present in the light of truth; rather than the darkness of the false histories that prop up conventional religions, brings a clarity of the self and one’s true place in the Universe. From this, a spiritual path forward is gleaned and one’s ‘internal voice’ is enabled to ‘speak’ directly to the conscious mind.

This statement from Actionlogics is most profoundly descriptive of my perception:

“The Ironist action logic presents an entirely new way of perceiving human existence and consciousness. The previous way of viewing reality solely from the self’s perspective and through the medium of language is transformed. The new paradigm has a *universal* or *cosmic perspective*. Ironist individuals experience themselves and others as part of ongoing humanity, embedded in the creative ground, fulfilling the destiny of evolution.”

Love is the law, love under will.