

While many may think that the Enneagram symbol only describes personality styles, J. G. Bennett pointed out that it can also be applied to any process. J. G. Bennett's book "Enneagram Studies" was based on ancient Sufi tradition and work of G.I. Gurdjieff. Understanding the steps in a process gained from Mr. Bennett's book has been of immeasurable value through passing years. I first gave talks on his information in 1987 but indeed my review as I write this has led me to yet deeper understanding and new "ah hahs." Sentences in quotation marks are quoted from "Enneagram Studies."

THE ENNEAGRAM - UNVEILING A COSMIC MYSTERY

One of many illuminating examples of Enneagram processes in "Enneagram Studies" explains our current state of existence. Mr. Bennett called it 'Biospheric Symbiosis' which I describe below but first a description of how the enneagram symbol is put together.

"The Enneagram symbol describes every process that maintains itself by self renewal, including of course life itself." (Quotation from "Enneagram Studies" by J. G. Bennett).

The Enneagram, derived from 'nine' in Greek, is a symbolic pattern showing how completing processes of development conform to a plan. It represents the action-structure of situations. The Enneagram describes and enables perception of our threefold reality. The symbol combines a number of laws of existence: law of duality, law of three or trinity, law of seven or law of the octave, law of cycles and spiral, and law of numbers. The combination symbolism enabled me to not only see life occurrences from a dual perspective but incorporated a third dimension in keeping with my three dimensional life in this world.

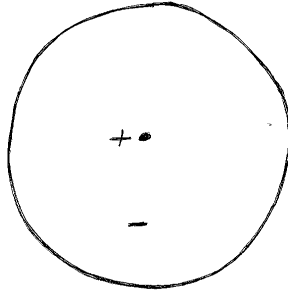
ENNEAGRAM SYMBOL EXPLANATION

Start With the Absolute

Beginning at the level of the God head with the Absolute described symbolically as wholeness, or as one, there is no movement, no vibration, only consciousness. It is shown as a circle encompassing all.

Add Law of Duality

In the law of duality movement beings within wholeness, or one, as consciousness within the absolute. It focuses into a powerful force and withdraws energy from space around it becoming a positive point like a bindu or a (+). It leaves remaining space, now emptied receptive to being filled or negative (-). One cannot exist without the other.

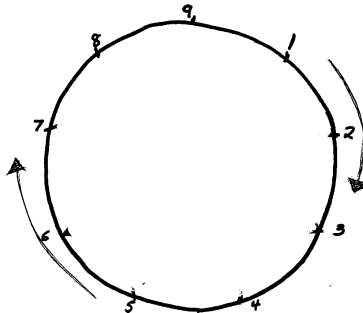


Add Law of Cycles or Spiral

The two forces create a flow of movement, a process, shown in the Enneagram diagram to be moving from apex top of circle around its perimeter from right to left. Returning to its starting point at the apex flow continues but now at a higher octave since it incorporates all that has gone before. When flow returns to apex starting point the cycle begins again incorporating all that has gone before therefore the new cycle is on a higher octave of evolution. Thus the continuing cycle becomes a type of spiral with the enneagram representing a form of perpetual motion.

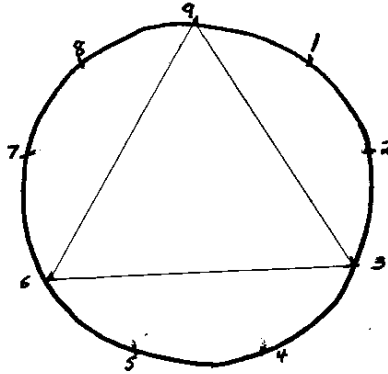
Add Law of Numbers

Numbers evolve from 1 to 9 and then begin again on a higher octave at 1 plus the number. The 9 point is also the original starting point 0 in the first cycle. Beginning at the apex where the 9 point of the triangle touches the circle we add to the right circling around the perimeter in equidistant spacing the remaining numbers 1 through 8. The relationship of points 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, and 8 are created from the **law of seven** giving us a complete **cycle from 1 to 9**. Point 9 is both the beginning and ending of the cycle symbolizing the manner in which a coordinated sequence of actions sets out with the end already in view, already present though not yet in existence. An example would be a plan to achieve a goal knowing what the results will be if you follow the needed steps.

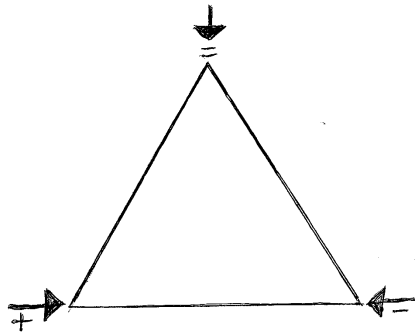


Add Law of Trinity

Add the law of trinity to the design by placing a triangle in the center of the circle touching the circles outer edge. Mathematically thus the circle's perimeter is divided by thirds. The one (wholeness) is divided in three parts. 1 divided by $1/3$ equals a recurring decimal .3333 etc. When 1 is divided by $2/3$ it becomes a recurring decimal .6666 and when another $1/3$ is added the recurring decimal .9999 is obtained. "Hence we obtain a symbolism for one as an endless recurrence of the number nine." The points where the triangle intersects the circle are thus numbered 3, 6 and 9. Lines are drawn between the three points, 3 to 6, to 9, to 3, creating an equilateral triangle within the circle.

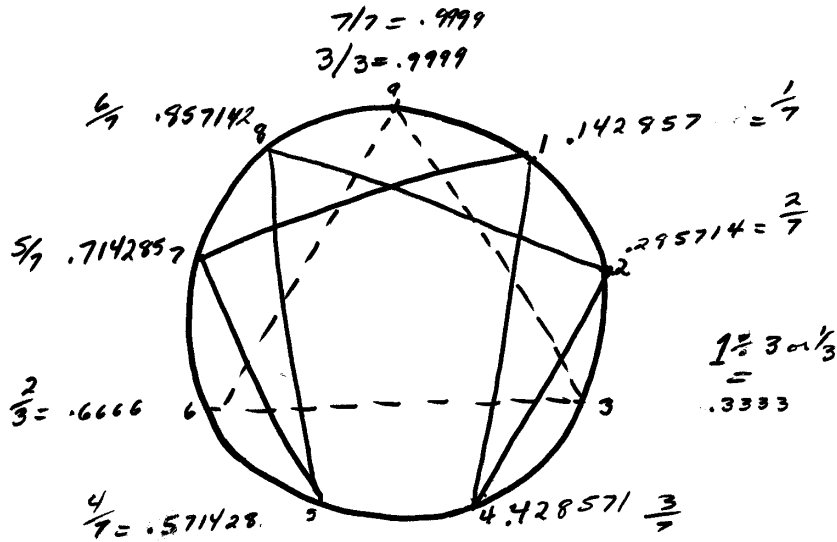


The law of trinity is a law of dynamic harmony. It contains two opposing forces where deviation and correction are applied plus a third neutralizing force. On one point we have a negative denying force (-), on opposite point a positive affirming force (+) and at top between the two a neutralizing force or (=). Opposite the apex neutralizing point is a blank space where we have a destabilizing force as flow of energy changes from negative to positive in the cycle process.



Add Law of Seven and Octave

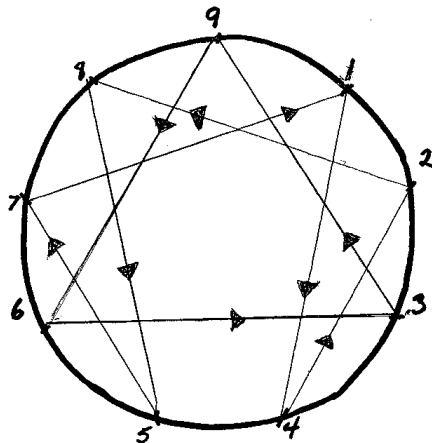
Wholeness or one (1) divided by seven also produces recurring decimals .142857142857etc. The same number sequence occurs when 1 is divided by 2/7 but it now begins at the 2 position .285714285714. When (1) is divided by 3/7ths again the same sequence repeats starting at .428571428571 and in the same manner with 5/7^{ths}, 6/7^{ths} and 8/7^{ths}. Lines are added to the diagram to connect numbers 1,4,2,8,5,7,1 in accordance with the relationship of their recurring decimals obtained by dividing (1) by one or more 7^{ths}. Thus a line is drawn from number 1 to the next number 4 then to 2, 2 to 8, 8 to 5, 5 to 7, and 7 back to 2 until all lines are connected.



These lines within the circle indicate inner flow within a process that moves from 1 to 9 around the perimeter. At the apex 9 we have a neutralizing harmony force leading to a new beginning at 1. At base of circle in the blank area we have a destabilizing trauma force as direction of flow in the process changes from negative to positive. It is an opposite force to the neutralizing force of the 9 position.

Flow direction

Imagine arrows have been added to the lines in the direction of their numerical connections. Thus the arrow on the line starting at (1) points in direction of (4), the arrow from (4) points to (2), from (2) points to (8), from (8) to (5), from (5) to (7), and from (7) to (1). Imagine arrows also connecting (9) to (6), (6) to (3) and (3) to (9) on the triangle.

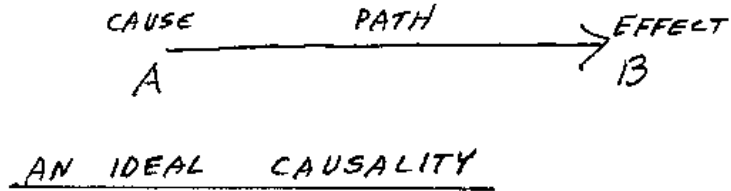


During a process from any point within the Enneagram you may look forward along the energy flow lines indicated by the arrows to see the future or past steps in a process. Thus for instance at (1) you can see what the future is leading to at point (4) and at point (2) you can see what will lead to at point (8) where the process is nearing completion.

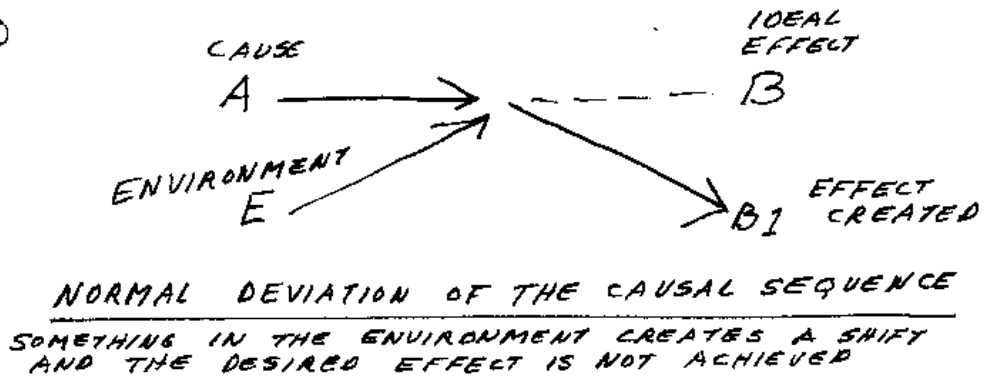
“Every process, leading from an initial state A towards a final state B, must undergo deviation and distortion due to environmental disturbances.” As a process progresses

from point to point around the circle the energy flow needs correction to maintain its direction from start to finish. Otherwise it would not continue in the direction of the process. At the 3, 6 and 9 points impulses from outside the circle are required to keep the process on track.

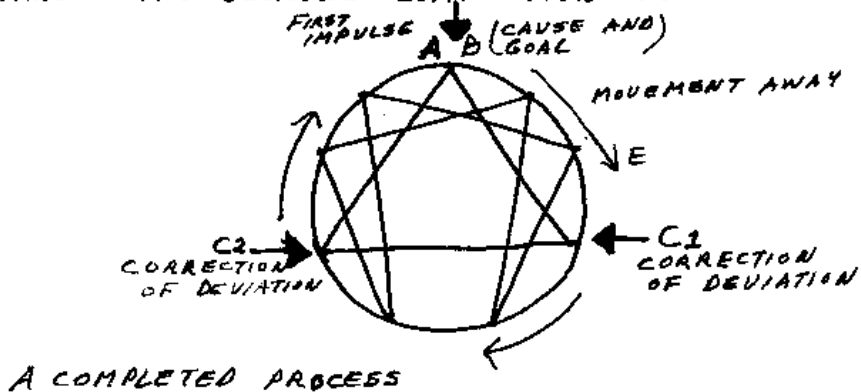
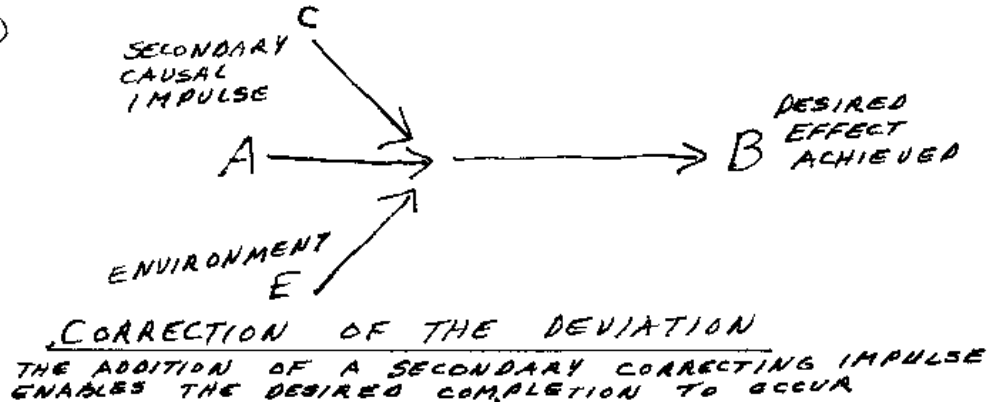
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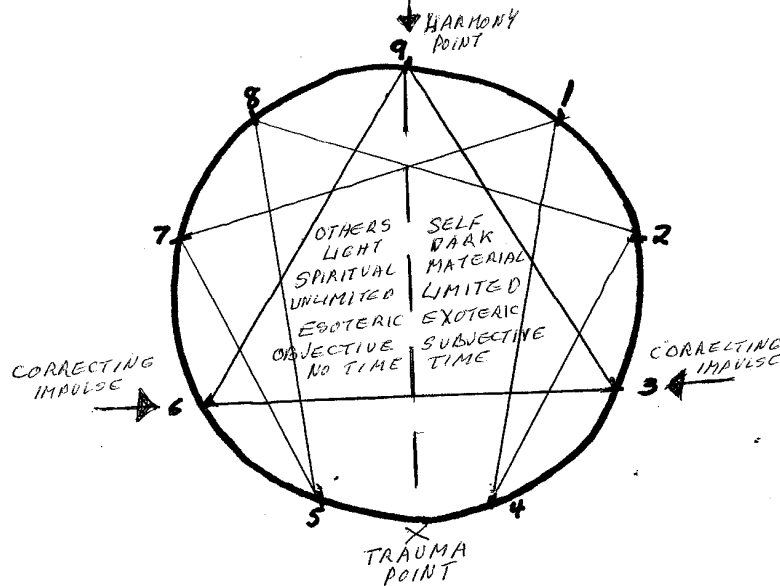


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While not part of the drawing of the symbol visualize the completed enneagram symbol to have a dotted line drawn through it from top (9) to bottom space between (4 and 5).

Each half thus created represents opposing forces of a process. The side containing numbers from (0 to 4 ½) indicates involution energy and side from (4 ½ to 9) indicate evolution energy on route to completion at (9). Empty space at 4 ½ becomes the transition or chaos point between these two energy flows as they change direction. Thus the second half expresses opposite qualities to the first after the progressing cycle passes through trauma change point. For example in a food process cycle example in Mr. Bennett's book raw food on involution side will be cooked after passing the trauma point (the oven). Another example is that of a self oriented material person moving through the abyss at the trauma point to become a spiritual other oriented being while moving onward to ultimate unity with the essence of all at (9).



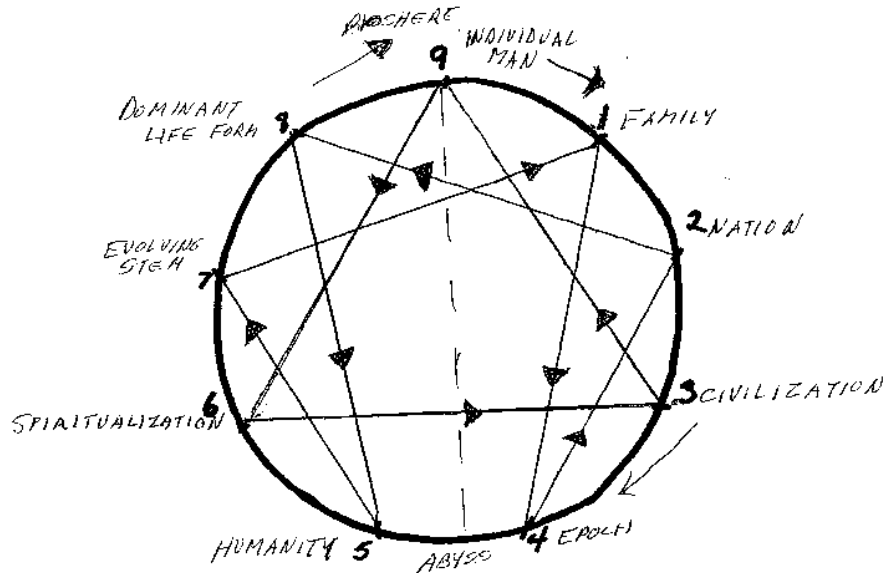
BIOSPHERIC SYMBIOSIS

In the example of 'Biospheric Symbiosis' Mr. Bennett describes life on earth and the path of humanity's "process of cosmic transformation of Man himself." It represents our past and present life process leading to the spiritualization, unity and transformation of mankind into a new creation. It includes the involution (0 to 4 ½) and evolution (4 ½ to 9) we are currently living through. Starting point (0) is named "Individual Man;" point (1) is the "Family;" (2) is the "Clan or Nation." At (3) point an impulse comes in that Mr. Bennett named "Civilization" meaning the material impulse of seeking to find happiness outside oneself; mankind focused with a goal of self interest. The involution side represents mankind's growing awareness of larger and larger groups but still self oriented.

The points between (3) and (6) are society in transition. Point (4) labeled "Epochs" was world societies limited in time with specific recognizable contributions and power struggles. The (4-5) space of trauma and transformation includes darkness, the abyss, brutality, wars, and cataclysms as the separatist attitude begins to transform into recognition and inclusiveness of others as it moves toward point (5) "Humanity." Another correcting impulse "Spiritualization" comes into the process at (6) including

help from spiritual hierarchies beyond earth. This spiritual impulse pulls man to seek within to find his essential self and to seek communion with all life forms in unity.

Point (7) the “Evolving stem” representing “*The society or a particular form of life which over a major period of time is the growing point in which the significance of life on the earth is concentrated, the form in which spiritualization is concentrated.*” Point (8) is “Dominant life form” representing development of a totally new being that embodies a great new soul of the Biosphere as well as a conscious creative beingness. Point (9) is “Biospheric Symbiosis” or oneness, the totality of the great united being that includes all of nature and mankind within it in an essential harmony embracing all life on our planet.



With the arrival of the internet I believe we have almost reached the (5) point of awareness of “Humanity.” Mankind as a whole is moving steadily closer toward the “Spiritualization” (6) point. Great surges of remaining power struggles and wars, efforts to maintain mankind’s self interest, are giving way to world wide movements of caring, compassion and peace. There is growing recognition that we are really one humanity. Spiritual help has been arriving through teachers, gurus and masters all over the world directing mankind to forget our material self interests, asking us to turn within to live from our essence. People here and there around the world are responding beginning to awaken to their inner calling and awareness of Truth. Instead of living only for themselves being selfishly focused without, they are being asked to live from within their hearts while embracing all life without. The increasing spiritualizing influence will keep mankind on track eventually leading us to become a new creation united into one all inclusive being. In time we will move beyond our petty selfish separatist differences into newness and all embracing love.

“Enneagram Studies” by J. G. Bennett 1974 (Edition 1983)
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