

THE EGG DIAGRAM

by Dennis Wynne

We use the Egg Diagram in many of our methods and strategies in psychosynthesis. The traditional form that Assagioli used from early in the 20th century is like the one on the next page. On the following page is a revised version (which needs some design help). The traditional egg has a star representing a Higher Self or Transpersonal Self on top of the egg and the revised version does not. Both models suggest levels of reality using psychological language; lower unconscious, middle unconscious and super-conscious or higher unconscious. Within this psychological space the guide or therapist can move patterns of thought, feelings, and world-view to assist the client with greater understanding and transformation. The use of archetypes such as the meadow, the mountain, sun, wise person, the dark woods, basement, etc. can help move images of patterns into different consciousness levels.

The traditional model is grounded in a view of the universe called philosophical dualism in which levels of reality or even different worlds within reality are held as separate or dualistic (or more than two) realities. This model harks back to Dante Alighieri (14th century Italian renaissance) who was one of Assagioli's heroes. His *Divine Commedia* was divided into three levels of reality: *the Inferno*, *the pergatorio* and *the Paradisio*, (hell, pergatory and heaven, with the divine up on top.) Actually, it harks back to the Western Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam; but even further - perhaps 50,000 years or more, to the ancient Shaman's world picture: lower world, middle world, and upper world. The revised model is grounded in a view of the universe called philosophical monism in which the universe is one reality albeit with many levels, similar to Eastern world-views.

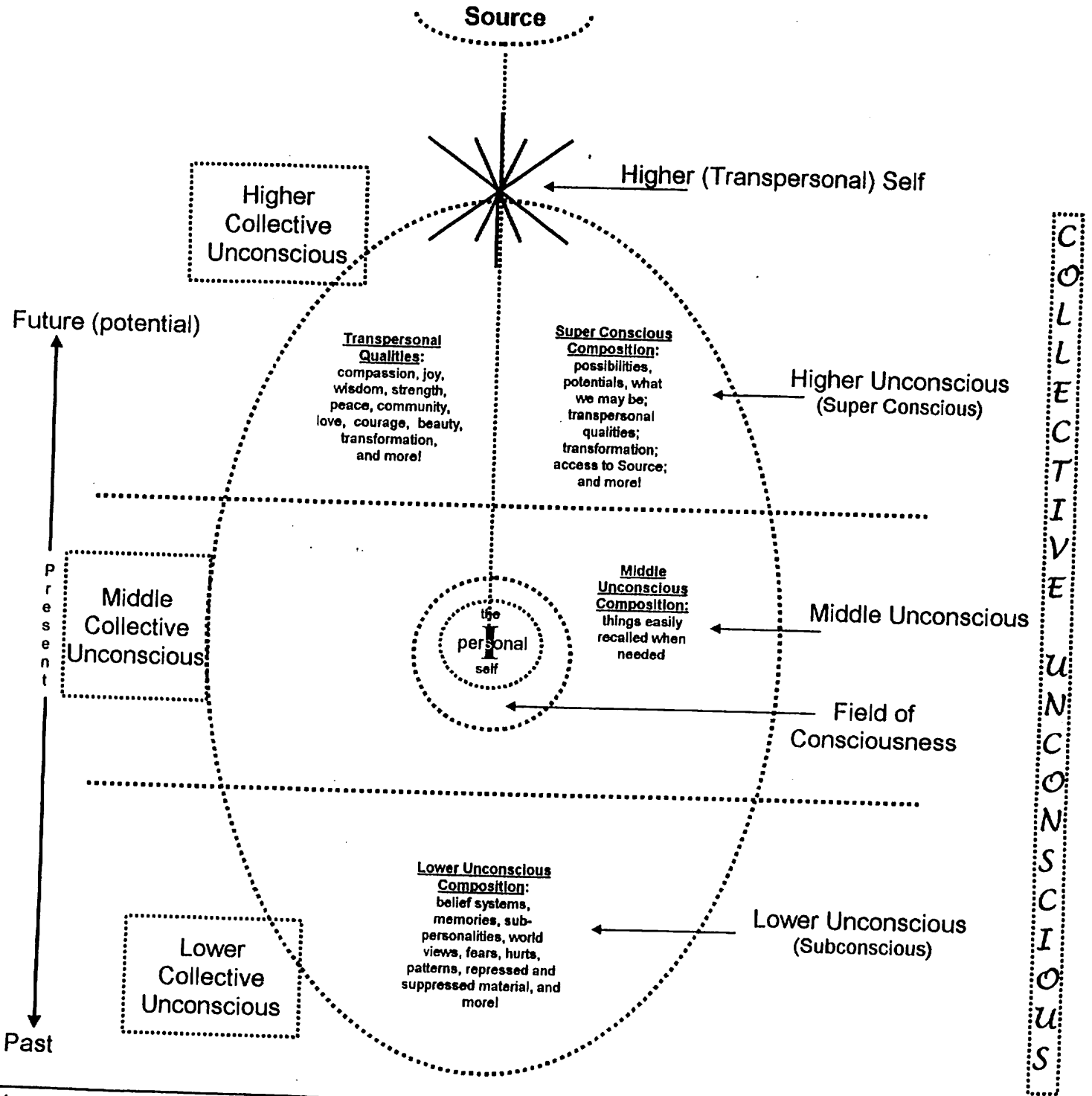
The dualistic three story universe, (usually with a male god on top) has come under criticism in recent years. Psychosynthesis has been compared to a patriarchal religion. The increasingly popular religions of the East, especially Buddhism and Hinduism, have been valued as monistic (one reality or one world.) Ken Wilber, a popular transpersonal philosopher, has named "Non-Dual" consciousness as an awakened state of high spiritual awareness. A new voice in psychosynthesis is recommending that we remove the star from the top of the egg and view the model as a monistic one. We in Minnesota teach psychosynthesis with both models so that students can better understand this proposed change in the model of the psyche and context it in the change underway in the larger culture.

The move to change the model appears to be in step with the times since pre-modernism (the age of myth) and modernism (the age of enlightenment science) are being eclipsed, beginning in the middle of the 20th century, by post-modernism, a world-view not yet widely understood. It holds that there is no center, the Logos is no longer with us, there are few absolutes (or none). Reality may be seen as pastiche, parody, self-referentiality (like Disneyland or Graceland). This emerging paradigm was first seen by Friedrich Nietzsche in the 19th century. When he said "God is dead," he meant the god of most Western institutions, not just the religious ones. He also said that metaphysics is dead. The sources of truth from other worlds, as in Platonism and much of esotericism, which, along with much traditional religion, are cited as examples of "the myth of the given." Under the new paradigm there is no acceptance of "the givens", absolutes, or commonly accepted truth. The internet and new communication technology allow each person to develop his/her own truth. In the 20th century cultural philosophers such as, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault, Jacques Lacan, and others have developed and grounded this idea in the human sciences and especially in the humanities, literature, and the new communications sciences. As it

becomes more understood it is unsettling to many people since one of its primary methods (perhaps overdone) is the deconstruction of formally trusted ideas, concepts, and institutions - including, it seems, the concept of logic.

Carl Rove, the Swift Boaters and the like have used and misused the new communications technologies brilliantly. The nation no longer trusts logic. There is less commonly held truth. Science can more easily be set aside by "Creationism". All is up for grabs and potential manipulation in a world where personal opinion reigns, fact and investigative reporting may be ignored. So now we have the bizarre, illegitimate presidency of George Bush (the younger) and the tragic irrationality of the war in Iraq. Perhaps we in psychosynthesis need to launch a new method called "post-modern policy analysis." Can we continue to promote understanding and provide safe harbor within the spiritual sciences as we have throughout the 20th century? Or will the changes leave people swimming without an anchor? How do we understand and promote synthesis at this level of consciousness? Perhaps the revised egg diagram represents a more authentic model in our time and may help us to be ahead of this wave, not behind it. As the cowboy says, "Grab your ass and hang on! Its gonna' be a wild ride!"

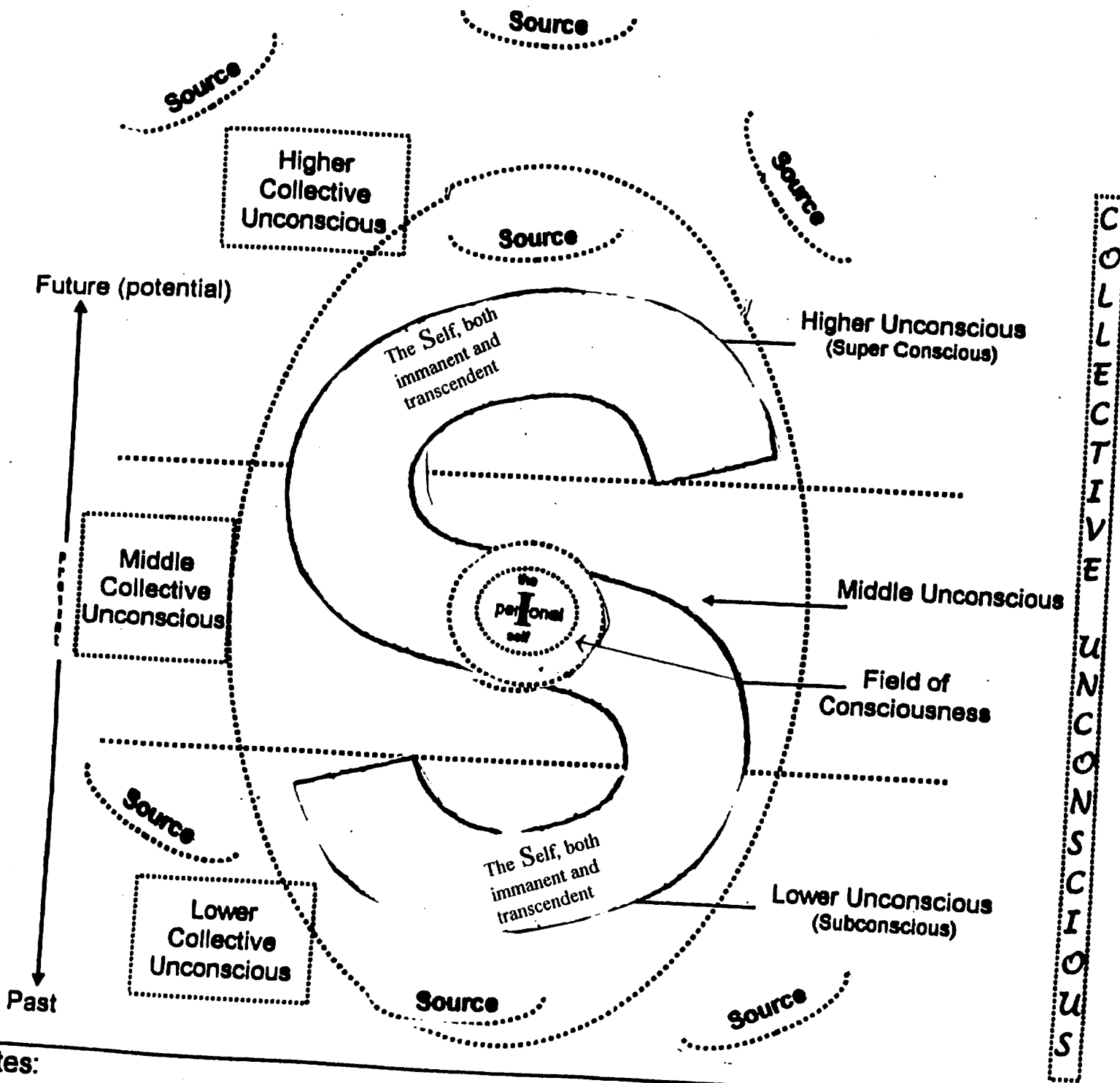
The Basic Egg (Diagram 3): Composition



Notes:



The Alternative Egg Diagram



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