

Towards a unified understanding of philosophy, science, religion, and the arts

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*All things arise and cease due to
interdependent causes and conditions*

~Δ~

Holy Peace or Unholy War

By

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In our attempt to understand the mysteries of living we rely heavily on symbolic metaphors. We try to simplify if not overly so. We use some everyday thing to comprehend truth. In this way we are able to relate and translate the meaning of truth into a form we can act upon or put into practice.

In the course of time, symbols are taken literally. Why? The principles behind them get lost along the way. This becomes a fertile ground for ignorance to breed, but at the same time, it is the same ground by which any ordinary mind can come to enlightenment.

If the principle of truth is seen behind the many symbolic metaphors propagated, enlightenment instantly takes place. From then on, understanding grows into the higher abodes of wisdom. *(Kindly see Chart, get the total picture, then keep referring to details.)*

Take the **Physical Principle**. Nothing so close to us could be more physical than the Earth. Our physical bodies are given birth and nourished by the fruits of our planet. We milk its produce as an infant feeds while in its mother's bosom. Thus the cow which gives us milk is like our mother. In gratitude, the cow has been revered and elevated to a state of holiness in the Holy Cow. To kill a cow that has given milk is like killing your own mother whose milk has given you life.

The earth as a whole is the mother of all physical bodies. She provides the materials that make physical birth possible. The earth is holy in its wholeness. The concept of the environmental balance of nature to preserve human survival points to our earth in its holism. Thus we have the earth as Mother Nature. If she is not kept whole (holy) in our reverence, our very existence is threatened.

The whole or entire earth is the true Holy Land. We make the land unholy, no longer whole, when the quality of our actions are not conducive to peaceful unity on the land we occupy.

Sensations arise as the senses contact physical objects. We do not perceive the physical world directly. What we internally perceive are the sensations about objects contacted by the senses. The sensations become the source of our desires which get multiplied and intensified by the rational or lower mental. More to this later.

Next, the **Emotional Principle**. Here, desire dwells. There is no emotion that cannot be directly or indirectly traced back to a desire. Emotion is the effect. Desire is the cause.

Chart: The Wholeness of Holiness

<u>Principle</u>	<u>Nature</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>Symbolic Metaphor</u>
Spiritual	Virtues	5	Holy of Holies, Promised Land
Altruitional	Ideals	4	Holy Mother Immaculate
Rational	Ideas	3	Holy, Unholy Wars
Emotional	Desires	2	Mother of All Wars (within and without)
Physical	Sensations	1	Holy Cow, Mother Nature Holy, Unholy Land

From an esoteric viewpoint, *Lands* symbolize states (dimensions) of matter that constitute our physical and higher bodies, functioning as vehicles for our indwelling principles (degrees, worlds) of consciousness.

Desire is the mother of all wars. The conflict of desires takes place within the human psyche and objectifies itself collectively in wars without, among individuals, factions and nations.

We become emotional when we do not get what we desire. That the emotions are hard to control is a truism. And aptly so. Why? The control of emotion as an effect is not by another emotional effect, but in the control of our desires that are the causes of our emotional conditions. The control is made possible by transforming our materialistic or selfish desires into aspirations for the spiritual ideals. For example, temperance, moderation, detachment, charity, associated with compassion, kindness, understanding, etc.

The wars without are unholy. Only the war within is holy. The violence of the war without is produced by the collective nature of pent-up violent emotions propagated by deplorable desires, devoid of wholesome ideas imbued by the spiritual ideals.

In terrorism, when the extreme selfishness of the ego seeks to satisfy its rabid desire indoctrinated by the false promise of eternal happiness in the life hereafter, there is hardly any hesitation to bring untold unhappiness and terror to others by resorting to mass murder that includes itself. Sadly enough, such a selfish ego seeks to satisfy and glorify itself in a delusion that distorts the true meaning of unselfish martyrdom. If only we could make this as clearly as can be, especially to those contemplating inhuman terroristic activities from a state so desperate and devoid of the light of spiritual wisdom.

The war within is that between our higher and lower nature, between spirituality and materiality, between our lofty aspirations and our selfish desires—the only war worth fighting for that leads to that everlasting victory—the triumph of spirit over matter within oneself, affirming the central essence of our original divine nature.

The **Rational or Lower Mental Principle** is the battlefield (Armageddon, Kurukshetra) of the true Holy War. The war is holy if engaged within, led by the higher virtues and ideals. Unholy wars are fought without, motivated by destructive thoughts and desires.

The rational is also the world of ideas by which reasoning is possible. Ideas are meant to be guided by the ideals, the basis of rationality. In a state of irrationality, ideas are misguided by unwholesome desires and overindulgent sensations.

When an idea pursues another idea prompted by sensations from an object, desire arises. As our collective desires and separative thoughts accumulate they explode into an unholy war. Conflicting ideas are resolved by the ideals, thus there is wholeness, holiness, and holistic healing. In oneness, we now have access to what follows.

The **Altruitional or Higher Mental Principle** is highlighted by the symbolic metaphor of the Holy Mother Immaculate, embodiment of the sanctity and purity of the spiritual ideals. It is pure because it is selfless, devoid of the selfish ego.

This higher mind is our Holy Mother whose qualities are the ideals, making us whole by her healing and blessings of health. This holy female principle is featured in various representations as the divine healer and protector throughout the various world cultures.

Our Holy Mother within nurtures the transformation of our selfish desires into our altruistic aspirations. In unity with the earth, she gives birth to the materials of our physical bodies, nourished by those nutrients she provides, appearing as our Holy Mother Nature

The ideals are our guide in making the right decisions in life. When the spiritual ideals are put into practice they become the divine virtues. The global education for ideals is the supreme effort that will bring universal peace to the nations of the earth.

The **Spiritual Principle** is our central essential being in the symbol or metaphor of the Holy of Holies. It is what makes whole the whole mental body (higher & lower), the whole emotional body, and the whole physical body, all taken together as one indivisible unity in relation to the rest of the universe—the Principle of the Unity of Life—our interdependent oneness with each other.

Our spirituality is the promised land within. But first it must be cultivated within before it can be fruitful without. In this realization, the divine virtues and the spiritual ideals are what resolves the unholiness at the levels of the physical, emotional, and the rational (made irrational).

In the Chart, when our sensations, desires and ideas are in oneness with the virtues and ideals, the wholeness of holiness is restored. Thus the holy lands of the physical, emotional and rational are spiritually preserved in their wholeness (holiness). This is the peaceful preservation of the true Holy Lands at all levels of creation.

In this glorious future, made and renewed according to our principles of being, is the supreme challenge of our millennium, from each individual effort to that of a global scale. ~ Δ ~