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From The Speculative The Operative Becomes The Integrative

*An Ageless Interpretation of
the Symbolic Orders*

by

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In a superlative understanding, the speculative is translated into our operative endeavors that lead us to the integrative, from diversity to unity onto integrity.

Thus the three terms in our title refer to a hierarchy or levels of human consciousness above the physical, the plasmal or energy-field, and the emotional states. The speculative refers to the world of ideas of our rational mental nature; the operative to the world of ideals of our altruistical (from altruistic) mental nature; and the integrative to the spiritual virtues of our intuitional nature.

Ideas in themselves are speculative about truth or reality. No matter how grandiose ideas are, from the persuasiveness of a construed rhetoric to every sacredness the mind can conjure, they remain but symbols or speculative representations of truth and, therefore, cannot be truth itself. In other words, the idea of an apple is not the fruit itself that we can add on to our breakfast cereal.

Ideals are promises we make in order to live the immortal virtues, such as, compassion, beauty, truth, love, justice, peace, strength, honesty, wisdom, humility, forgiveness, goodness, and many other selfless endeavors.

When an ideal is lived or is put into practice, we have a state of virtue, the fulfillment of the ideal itself. It takes a lot of practice to transform an ideal into a virtue. Thus just like in the arts, when an artist has practiced and practiced with success the person is called a virtuoso.

Virtues, therefore, are ideals translated into action. The virtues and ideals are the immortal qualities of our spiritual nature or of our spirituality. No one person has more virtues and ideals than another. Our individual differences are determined by the extent to which we have been true to our spiritual nature.

Now we come to the main thesis of the title of our subject matter. The ideas are speculative. The ideals are operative. And the virtues are integrative. In the virtues, the ideas and ideals are integrated. Or, the integrative is the operative and speculative in a state of wholeness. In the integrative we have the whole truth.

At the level of ideas, we speculate, theorize and divide the truth into arguments, concepts, theories, paradigms and what-nots. As we act on the ideals, we make all kinds of promises to live and to practice them. At last, the ideas about the ideals are now operative.

The operative becomes integrative when the ideas are in accord with the ideals, and the promised ideals are fulfilled as living virtues as we live. Then there is wholeness or holiness as we are restored to our original spiritual nature.

In certain religious or symbolic orders, the rites and rituals are about metaphysical ideas that represent the virtues and spiritual ideals, thus they belong to the speculative. When we start trying to live up to the ideals, we are into the operative mode. As we come to the realization of the virtues, we begin to touch or to enter the integrative domain, the source of our divine integrity.

Thus the speculative is rationalization; the operative is revelation; and the integrative is realization. All these three possibilities are present in our human condition. Certain rites and rituals, if done with the right spirit of understanding, can help tremendously in the transformative process of translating our ideas into the ideals, and onto the spiritual virtues that define our immortal divine nature.

For those who enter and are able to commit themselves to these altruistic endeavors involving the symbolic orders, significant energies are engaged with the divine forces that awaken the spiritual potency of our humanity into our divine potential.

Therefore, with the integrative virtues and the operative ideals, we are able to cultivate and craft the speculative ideas of our rational mental nature accordingly; circumscribing the divisive desires of our emotional nature and thus transforming our total nature into upright acts of service in the upliftment of humanity.

Summa Sophia, ISE

Dedicated to every true seeker of wisdom

In the service of the quest for truth



Initiatic Key To The Mysteries Of The Symbolic Orders

N World Consciousness Symbolic Metaphors

Spirituality or the Real Self (the Higher Bodies):

- | | | |
|---|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 7 | Volitional Powers | W.M. / M.M. / 15°-32° |
| 6 | Intuitional Virtues | S.W. / F.C. / 4°-14° |
| 5 | Altruitional Ideals | J.W. / E.A. / 1°-3° |

Personality as Unreal or Illusory Self (the Lower Bodies):

- | | | |
|---|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4 | Rational Ideas | S.D./Carpenters/Ceremonies |
| 3 | Emotional Desires | J.D. / Masons / Rites |
| 2 | Plasmal Sensations | I.G. / Workers / Rituals |
| 1 | Physical Senses | O.G. / T. / Security / Tomb |



Co-M: R.W.M. = Wisdom of Strength = *Atma-Buddhi*

S.W. = Strength of Wisdom = *Buddhi-Atma*

