

THE DEVELOPMENT OF FIVEFOLD MAN.

When Man looks out at his world he perceives the greater and the lesser of his being. Looking one way he perceives the lesser within him, for example, the cells which make up his body. Looking the other way we perceive that which is greater than us, that of which we are a part, for example, the solar system.

GREATER. _____ e.g. Solar System.

MAN. _____

LESSER. _____ e.g. Cells.

On the basis of the smallest we are able to perceive we construct an image of what we think we are. For example, the ideas of modern biology have had an impact on the way society views itself. The notion that we are collections of chemicals programmed for survival is an image of what Man actually is.

On the basis of the greater world of which we are a part we construct an image of what we think we ought to be. A topical example is the contemporary environmentalist movement. These are people who have had a vision of the greater living world of which we are a part and this provides them with an image of how they think Man should behave, This is their version of the ideal society.

So between the two limits of our awareness we construct an image of what we think we are and of what we think we ought to be.

GREATEST _____

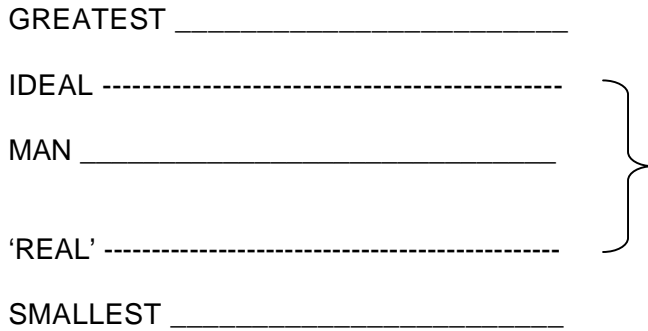
IDEAL SOCIETY. -----

MAN. _____

'REAL' NATURE
OF MAN. -----

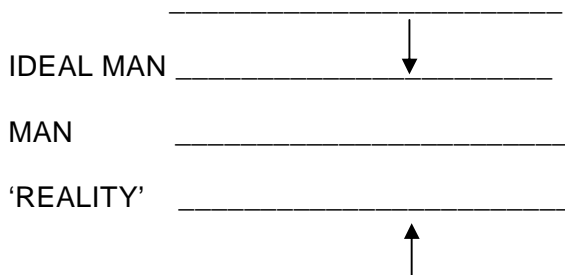
SMALLEST. -----

There is obviously a relationship between the two images. Your image of what you think we really are governs what you think we can achieve, If you believe we are all collections of atoms struggling to survive this tends to limit the sort of society you can envisage. Conversely, your ideal affects your view of what Man is. For example, the different ideology of communist countries tends to give different 'facts' about the 'real' world from those of western countries.



If Man is to grow it is essential that we continue to extend our awareness of both the greater and the lesser. If this is not done then our world tends to get smaller. For example, you could argue that probing the nature of matter is irrelevant to Man's 'real' needs. Thus building particle accelerators is a waste of time and money. But if Man does not continue to probe and explore in this way our image of what are becomes fixed.

Similarly, you could argue that the exploration of space is not going to solve the pressing problems we face on earth. Your social ideal then becomes the greatest you can conceive and your world effectively shrinks.



Your ideal now becomes the greatest you can conceive. This now sets our individual and collective goals. We cease to probe what we are and our image of our 'real selves' becomes fixed as dogma.

IRRELEVANT _____

IDEAL
SOCIETY. _____

WHAT WE
CAN ACHIEVE. -----

MAN _____

WHAT WE
ARE. -----

'ULTIMATE'
REALITY. _____

IRRELEVANT _____

People's ideals are set by their breadth of vision. When Man turns within himself, ignoring the greater world, the vision is lost. No growth is possible. Men then cease to see their society defined as a single entity within a much greater world, and the coherence of society is lost. There is an analogy here with the idea expressed in the second law of thermodynamics. This is a physical law which implies that any change within a closed system tends towards increasing disorder. The coherence of any system is maintained by its openness to external influences. Your own physical body would soon decay if its food supply was cut off. This is why well meaning attempts to 'improve' society as an end in itself lead to social decay or at best revolution. But when Man looks beyond himself society is transformed.