

Gnostic Psychology – Notes 01

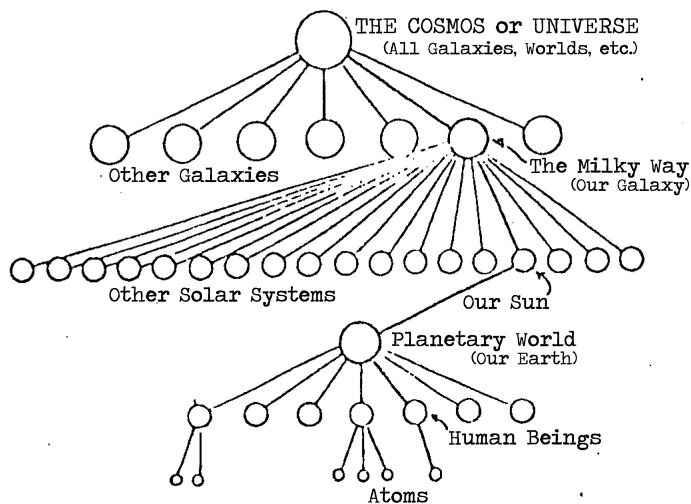
<http://www.gnosisdenver.org/index.php/psychology/gnostic-psychology>

Gnosis, Nature, the Universe, Consciousness and the Human Being

It has been said that modern science considers Nature and the Universe to be purposeless and somewhat unconscious. For the Gnostic, the Universe is understood as a series of interrelated and interpenetrating worlds which work together to form a cohesive whole. This idea can be represented with a diagram of different musical notes from the Positive Absolute (or Everything) to the Negative Absolute (or Nothing) which is called the 'Cosmic Octave'.

We begin with the Cosmos or Universe-as-a-whole. From the cosmos or universe are derived the Galaxies (including our Milky Way). Within these, in turn, are the Suns and Solar Systems. From the suns & solar systems: Planets are derived, and from planets we go into their interior where we find Organic Life on Earth (including the Human Being) and then as we go further, we have Atoms (and the sub-atomic worlds). Considering Nature and the Universe to be purposeless and unconscious is to miss something very important. This is because of what has been called the 'microcosm-macrocosm' relationship that exists between the Human Being, Nature and the Cosmos. This concept emphasizes that the human being is a Universe in miniature and that by studying the Universe, Nature and ourselves. And it allows us to grasp a great mystery: Each of these countless Cosmic Octaves is considered not only as a path of energy transformation (in its descent), but also as a line of growth (in its ascent).

Diagrammatic Representation
of the Cosmic Octave



Understanding Gnostic Psychology: The Study/Science of the Soul

All psychological systems and doctrines (those that exist or existed openly as well as those that were hidden or disguised) can be divided into two chief categories:

1. First - systems which study human beings as they find them, or as they suppose or imagine human beings to be. So-called 'modern psychology' belongs to this category.
2. Second - systems which study human beings not from the point of view of what they are, or what they seem to be, but from the point of view of what they may become; that is, from the point of view of the human being's possible development.

These second systems are in reality the original ones, they are the most ancient and only they can explain the forgotten origin and the meaning of Psychology. When we understand the importance of the study of the human being from the point of view of his possible development, we will understand that **Psychology is the study of the principles, laws and facts intimately related to the radical and definitive transformation of the individual.**

The Four States of Consciousness

Gnosis defines Consciousness as “a very particular kind of apprehension of inner knowledge which is totally independent of mental activity”. It is important to understand what the four states of Consciousness mean through experience. Note the distinction between the physical body being awake versus the Consciousness being awake:

	Gnostic Name(s)	Alternative Name(s)	Common Name	Description
4 th State	Objective Consciousness	Cosmic Consciousness	Enlightenment or Illumination	Physical body is awake, asleep or dead; and the Consciousness is fully or permanently awakened
3 rd State	Self-Remembering	Self-Consciousness, or Consciousness of One's Being	“In-Tune” or “Aware”	Physical body is awake, asleep or dead; and the Consciousness is partially or temporarily awakened
2 nd State	Normal or Asleep	Waking, Vigil or Day-Dreaming	Waking or Clear Consciousness	Physical body is awake; and the Consciousness is asleep
1 st State	Sleep, Dream or Death	Sleep	Sleep or Unconscious	Physical body is asleep or dead; and the Consciousness is asleep

Self-Knowledge Questions #1

Answer these questions as honestly as possible, they are not for anyone else but yourself. You do not need to share them with anyone unless you feel comfortable doing so. Do not day-dream about the answers. Write them down and take the trouble to do so accurately. Under “food” for example, do not assume that you like caviar unless you really do; under “situations” do not suppose that you either like or dislike military formality unless you have had sufficient experience with it to be able to form a real judgment about it. Do not guess.

- 1) What do I like? and dislike?
 - a. ordinary food
 - b. clothes
 - c. colors
 - d. occupations
 - e. situations
 - f. people
 - g. amusements
 - h. company
- 2) What do I look forward to? (i.e., what remains in life for me, just within the range of possibility?)
- 3) What do I fear most from the future?
- 4) What would I like to be? To know? To do?
(To be: what type would I like to incarnate?)
(To know: what single field of knowledge?)
(To do: what primary occupation if I were free to choose seriously?)
- 5) What have been my happiest moments? and my unhappiest moments?
- 6) What are my own personality characteristics? Which do I consider weak points? Which do I consider strong points?
- 7) What things about myself do I like? dislike?
 - a. physically
 - b. emotionally
 - c. mentally
- 8) Do I fear death? If so, why? If not, why not?