

The Human Condition

How As a Species We
Got to Where We Find
Ourselves Today

The Human Condition

- Context
- Natural Conditions of Existence
- Conditions of Mental Existence and Early Human Responses at the Dawn of Human Consciousness
- Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

The Human Condition

- Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices
- Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices
- How Today We Understand and Manage Existence and Development
- Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

The Human Condition

- → Context

Context

- ◆ The context is persisting and growing cultural, religious, political, social, economic-financial, environmental, interpersonal and individual problems, difficulties and crises, conflicts, confrontations and violence
- ◆ Problems and difficulties we face, we create and we have to deal with individually, as societies and as a species, locally and globally around the world today
- ◆ Problems and difficulties understanding and managing individual existence and development, particularly the mind, mental existence and mental development

Context

- ◆ Problems and difficulties connecting, communicating and interacting with each other
- ◆ Problems and difficulties relating and interacting with the world around us, with nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Specifically, the focus and concentration are the human causes and what lies behind them
- ◆ What lies behind problematic human behaviour, actions and practices
- ◆ The mind, mental existence and mental development, the internal mental conditions, how we understand and manage them

Context

- ◆ How we understand and manage what takes place, what we face and have to deal with, what we do and need to do, what we must establish, develop and maintain individually in the mind and mental existence
- ◆ How in the mind and mental existence we deal with, respond and adjust to demands and challenges, change and changing conditions
- ◆ The understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we develop, on which we rely, how we develop and use them

Context

- ◆ The choices and decisions we make, and how we make them, the aims, goals and objectives we pursue, and how we define them
- ◆ The mental behaviour and actions in which we engage, and how we plan, organize and manage them
- ◆ The direction of the answers and solutions
- ◆ The direction we need to take in conceptual and mental development and growth, individually and as a species

Context

- ◆ The understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we need to develop, how to develop and use them
- ◆ To sustain an expanding global human population, in equitable ways, on the limited and finite natural material resources base of the Earth, within the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature
- ◆ And not contribute further to the premature demise in the long-term of the human species at its own hands

The Human Condition

- Context
- → Natural Conditions of Existence

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ We exist in and as part of a constantly unfolding, changing and transforming world, both natural and human-created world
- ◆ We are biological organisms, defined and governed by nature, natural forces and processes, development and change
- ◆ We have an active role to play in our existence and development, meeting our needs, dealing with, responding and adjusting to change, changing conditions, demands and challenges
- ◆ We are not genetically preconditioned to behave and act in necessary and appropriate ways

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ We must individually take an active part in our existence and development
- ◆ Managing existence requires a sense, an understanding of the conditions, demands and challenges of existence
- ◆ To guide and direct our behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives
- ◆ We exist, mentally and physically independent of each other and of any larger organic collective social whole

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ Although we depend on and must interact with each other and with the world around us, with nature and the natural environment to meet our needs, both mental and physical needs
- ◆ Consciously we exist and act in the mind and mental existence
- ◆ It is where we experience, become aware and must consider the conditions of existence, our own individual mental and physical existence and development and the world around us, and how to deal with them
- ◆ Our experiences, perceptions, sensations and feelings are the only access of the mind and awareness to the conditions of existence and the world around us

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ We do not experience all of reality
- ◆ Our experiences fragment, divide and separate an integrated, connected, related and interacting world
- ◆ Perceptions, sensations and feelings do not on their own impress themselves fully in all their details on our awareness
- ◆ They do not order and arrange themselves in the mind and awareness in clear and meaningful ways
- ◆ Perceptions, sensations and feelings do not form clear images or pictures in the mind about the conditions of existence that lie behind them

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ Initial mental conditions and state of mind are disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity
- ◆ What comes to mind and we become aware of first appears as vague notions, lacking in clarity, detail and depth
- ◆ Managing existence, existing in and as part of a constantly changing world requires clarity of mind and understanding of the conditions, demands and challenges of existence

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ It requires establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, before acting, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, with others and the world around us
- ◆ Considering and making sense of our experience and the conditions of existence that lie behind them
- ◆ Dealing with mental disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity, addressing the mental conditions that lie behind them

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ Managing existence requires developing the necessary knowledge, understanding, and mental faculties, our natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary and appropriate mental skills and practices, and engaging in the required mental work and effort

The Human Condition

- Context
- Natural Conditions of Existence
- → Conditions of Mental Existence and Early Human Responses at the Dawn of Human Consciousness

Conditions of Mental Existence and Early Human Responses at the Dawn of Human Consciousness

- → Conditions of Mental Existence

Conditions of Mental Existence

- ◆ At the dawn of human consciousness human beings faced the unfamiliar, in the unknown, without guides to behaviour and actions
- ◆ Facing a mysterious self and a reality of hidden forces
- ◆ Unfamiliar experiences, needs and conditions
- ◆ With no understanding of the human self, individual mental and physical existence and development
- ◆ No understanding about how to manage the individual self and deal with external conditions, respond to change and changing conditions

Conditions of Mental Existence

- ◆ In their mind they faced disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity
- ◆ Lacking a conceptual foundation and framework of understanding within which to make sense of the conditions, demands and challenges of existence, and how to deal with them
- ◆ Lacking guides to behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives
- ◆ Unaware of the human natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, how to develop and use them

Conditions of Mental Existence and Early Human Responses at the Dawn of Human Consciousness

- Conditions of Mental Existence
- → Early Human Responses

Early Human Responses

- ◆ Early human responses were instant, instinctive and intuitive responses, behaviour and actions
- ◆ Responding in stimulus-response ways to experiences, perceptions, sensations and feelings that enter the mind and awareness
- ◆ Behaviour and actions, choices and decisions were instinctive and intuitive, guided and directed by instant awareness and first impressions, by feelings and emotions
- ◆ The approach of dealing with the conditions, demands and challenges of existence was one of trial-and-error, discovering and doing the humanly doable and humanly possible

Early Human Responses

- ◆ Conceptually extending and projecting human mental existence onto the world around them
- ◆ Viewing the individual as a small piece of a larger organic whole, governed and controlled, guided and directed by hidden forces, spirits and supernatural forces
- ◆ Viewing the world around them and everything in it, animate and inanimate, in terms similar to their own mental existence and reality

Early Human Responses

- ◆ Viewing themselves, their experiences, choices and decisions, behaviour and actions, as well as everything around them to be governed, guided and directed by hidden spirits and supernatural forces
- ◆ Searching for a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, certainty and security and guides to choices and decisions, behaviour and actions externally, beyond the mind and mental existence
- ◆ In the search for order, stability, certainty and security the focus is on regularities, uniform and recurring patterns

Early Human Responses

- ◆ Understanding and managing the self through observing the world around them
- ◆ Looking for guides to behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives beyond the self in the larger world
- ◆ Looking to other species, viewed to be governed, guided and directed by the same hidden spirits and supernatural forces

The Human Condition

- Context
- Natural Conditions of Existence
- Conditions of Mental Existence and Early Human Responses, at the Dawn of Human Consciousness
- → Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Early human responses lead to a set of fundamental assumptions, approaches and practices, about existence and development, how to understand and manage them
- ◆ Fundamental assumptions, approaches and practices that have defined and governed the path and direction of human development through the ages
- ◆ That have taken the human species to where we find ourselves today, the problems and difficulties we face, we create, and we have to deal with

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ They lie behind, define and govern the development of all cultures and societies, past and present
- ◆ They define and govern how today we understand and manage existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions
- ◆ The fundamental assumptions, approaches and practices include:
 - ★ Understanding and managing existence and development in the collective

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ★ Conceptualizing and understanding the conditions of existence in the abstract, beyond our experience of them
- ★ Establishing a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty and security in the collective, externally, beyond the mind and mental existence
- ★ Understanding and managing human existence and development through understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Understanding and managing existence and development in the collective
 - ◆ Human existence and development is viewed and understood in terms of the existence and development of the larger collective social whole
 - ◆ The individual is seen as a dependent part, and its role and responsibility is seen to be defined by the collective
 - ◆ The individual is understood to depend on, and to be governed, guided and directed by the collective

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ In understanding and managing its existence and development, in its understanding, behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives, relations and interactions
- ◆ Demands and challenges of existence and development are divided and separated into different social-collective positions, roles and functions
- ◆ Individual needs are defined and met within the context of meeting the needs of the collective
- ◆ Human relations and interactions are defined, organized and managed within the context of social-collective positions, roles and functions

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ The collective is seen to possess the totality of the human natural potential and the accumulated human experience and knowledge, with the individual possessing only a small part

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Conceptualizing and understanding the conditions of existence in the abstract, beyond our experience of them
 - ◆ Considering, conceptualizing and understanding the conditions of existence in the abstract, beyond considering our experience of them at length, in depth and detail
 - ◆ Without making sense of individual experience and considering the conditions of existence that lie behind and that are reflected in them
 - ◆ Looking for knowledge and understanding beyond the mind, mental existence and individual experience

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Extrapolating and abstracting from first impressions and instant awareness, the self-evident and obvious in our experience
- ◆ Extrapolating and abstracting from what in perceptions, sensations and feelings impresses itself on human awareness
- ◆ Creating abstract images and conceptual structures in the mind about the conditions of existence
- ◆ Images and conceptual structures not firmly rooted in or reflective of human experience, and the conditions of existence that lie behind them

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Establishing a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty and security in the collective, externally, beyond the mind and mental existence
 - ◆ Not establishing them individually in the mind and mental existence, where individually we are in charge and in control, through individual mental work and effort
 - ◆ Establishing them externally, beyond the mind and mental existence, in socio-cultural, religious, political, economic-material and professional-occupational terms

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Defining a sense of self, an identity, in terms of social-collective, professional-occupational positions, roles and functions
- ◆ Establishing a sense of certainty, security and confidence through the accumulation, possession, control and consumption of material-financial resources, goods and values
- ◆ Establishing a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence through creating the ideal external conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world around us

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Ordered, stable, secure and predictable human behaviour and actions, relations and interactions are secured, defined and governed within hierarchically structured social-collective and professional-occupational positions, roles and functions

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Understanding and managing existence and development through understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us
 - ◆ Not understanding and managing human existence and development within existing and changing external conditions
 - ◆ Improving existence through improving external conditions and the world around us
 - ◆ Creating the ideal external, socio-cultural and physical-material conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world

Fundamental Human Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Managing, controlling, rearranging and directing nature, the natural environment, natural forces, processes, development and change
- ◆ Trying to control irregular, non-uniform, non-recurrent and unpredictable natural forces, processes, developments and changes

The Human Condition

- → Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Development of collective existence
 - ◆ Human existence, from the beginning is viewed in the collective
 - ◆ With growing diversity in human activity and increasing complexity in human relations and interactions, the collective grows more complex in structure and organization
 - ◆ Human behaviour and actions, relations and interactions become organized and managed in rigid, narrowly defined and hierarchically structured social-collective positions, roles and functions

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Growing diversity in human activity and complexity in human relations and interactions, leads to growing diversity and complexity in social-collective institutions, structures, conventions, practices, rules and regulations
- ◆ The division of labour in understanding and managing existence leads to the development of social classes, based on social positions, roles and functions, social status and power, possession and control of collective resources and surplus
- ◆ It leads to the development of centralized collective authority, governing, guiding and directing the collective

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Collective authority changes from tribal chiefs and community elders to rulers of ancient kingdoms and empires, Greek democracy, roman emperors, absolute and constitutional monarchs, and 20th century liberal democracy
- ◆ Collective authority is legitimized, first on supernatural-spiritual grounds, with rulers, kings and emperors linked to supernatural forces, spirits and gods
- ◆ Today, in scientific culture, collective authority is legitimized on natural grounds, with society, social relations and interactions viewed to be defined and governed by nature, natural forces and laws

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ An expanding collective and growing collective authority take up an increasing share of collective resources and surplus
- ◆ Rising costs of collective existence and collective authority require expanding surplus production, growing demand on human beings, nature and the natural environment, to provide increasing material-financial surplus

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Development of conceptualizing and understanding in the abstract
 - ◆ The approach begins with viewing experiences, perceptions, sensations and feelings, and images they create in the mind and awareness, to be messages and instructions from a larger collective whole, spirits and supernatural forces
 - ◆ The approach progresses to extrapolating and abstracting from instant awareness and first impressions, the self-evident and obvious in experiences, perceptions, sensations and feelings, and creating abstract images, pictures and conceptual structures in the mind

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Progressing from the random, vague and speculative images and beliefs of animism and polytheism, to the reasoned beliefs of monotheism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity
- ◆ With science, the approach develops into a systematic and ordered process of formulating assumptions, or hypotheses, tested experimentally, and translated into symbolic, linguistic and numeric theories, formulas and models
- ◆ The approach of understanding in the abstract leads to the development of abstract mental images and conceptual structures

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ First, of a supernatural-spiritual world, then a natural-material world, that explain the conditions of existence, and provide guides and directions for human behaviour and actions, choices and decisions
- ◆ The approach starts with viewing experiences, what impresses itself on human awareness, and progresses to extrapolating and abstracting from the self-evident and obvious in human experiences
- ◆ With the development of conceptual tools, such as symbols, language and numbers, the approach changes to attaching symbols, words and numbers to experiences, and working with them in the mind, instead of considering and making sense of changing experiences

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Greek metaphysics and philosophy add to understanding in the abstract
- ◆ Mathematical knowledge, to Greek thinkers appears certain, exact and about the world
- ◆ It is seen to exist in a metaphysical realm, separate from the supernatural-spiritual and natural-material world
- ◆ It is to be accessed and obtained through human thought and reason, or philosophy, without appeal to the senses

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Christianity, adopting the reasoned approach of Greek philosophy, carries the approach of understanding in the abstract through the middle ages (approx. 400 to 1400 AD)
- ◆ The approach continues with the transition to science, the scientific-material view and understanding of the conditions of existence
- ◆ The reasoned construction of mental images and conceptual structures of a natural-material world

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ A world governed by natural forces and processes, not by mysterious spirits and supernatural forces, where everything is evolving and unfolding from simple to complex forms
- ◆ A world, which it is assumed, that can be understood, directly and objectively, and that can be influenced, changed and improved through human actions

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Development of establishing a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, certainty and security in the collective, externally
 - ◆ The approach begins with conceptually extending the human self beyond individual mental and physical existence, and viewing the human being as a dependent part, governed, controlled and directed by a larger collective whole
 - ◆ Confronted with disorder, instability, doubt, confusion, uncertainty and insecurity, guides to human behaviour and actions, and answers and solutions to problems and difficulties are sought externally beyond the mind and mental existence, in the world around us

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Within this context, a sense of self is established, first through locating the human being in images of a supernatural-spiritual world
- ◆ Later, it becomes defined in terms of the position, role and function of the individual in the social-collective, and the possession, control and accumulation of spiritual, social and material resources, goods and values
- ◆ The approach progresses from searching for to constructing order, stability and security, externally in the world around us

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ First, creating images in the mind of an ordered, stable and secure, supernatural-spiritual and natural-material world
- ◆ Then, trying to realize abstract mental images in concrete reality
- ◆ First, in the social-collective, organizing and managing human behaviour and actions, relations and interactions in accordance with supernatural-spiritual prescripts
- ◆ Later, realizing abstract mental images in the natural-material world, through managing, controlling and rearranging nature, the natural environment, natural forces, processes, development and change

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Development of managing existence through managing the world around us
 - ◆ The approach is rooted in viewing the human being as a dependent part, governed, controlled, guided and directed from the outside by external forces
 - ◆ With the conditions of existence and human behaviour and actions, governed, controlled, guided and directed from the outside, managing and improving existence required managing and improving external conditions
 - ◆ External conditions are managed and improved first indirectly, through seeking favours with spirits and supernatural forces, taken to be in charge and in control

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ An expanding supernatural-spiritual authority is seen to mediate between the community and supernatural forces, guiding and directing the behaviour, actions and interactions, choices and decisions of the community
- ◆ With the transition to science, the approach becomes more direct, managing external conditions through controlling, rearranging and directing nature and the natural environment, natural forces and processes
- ◆ Mental images of a natural-material world are translated into symbolic, linguistic and numeric theories, formulas and models

Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Which then are applied to improve and create the ideal external conditions
- ◆ Controlling irregular, non-uniform, non-recurring and unpredictable natural forces, processes, development and change, to create an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance
- ◆ Today, to improve the conditions of existence, we try to improve the world around us, nature and the natural environment at the cosmic, subatomic and genetic level

The Human Condition

- Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices
- → Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Limits and consequences of collective existence
 - ◆ The approach contradicts, conflicts with and falls short of the natural conditions of existence, existing mentally and physically independent of each other and of any larger organic collective whole
 - ◆ The results and consequences include, competition, conflict and confrontation, between and within social-collectives, and between the individual and the collective
 - ◆ Competition, conflict and confrontation between collectives, over territory and resources, and about different beliefs, views, values and practices

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Competition, conflict and confrontation within collectives, over collective resources and surplus, social positions, roles and functions, power and status
- ◆ Competition, conflict and confrontation between individual and collective, over collective demands and individual needs, collective authority and individual freedom, individual experience and collective beliefs, views and values
- ◆ Specialization beyond human needs, inappropriate and insufficient individual conceptual and mental development

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Persisting and growing problems and difficulties for the individual
- ◆ Rising costs of collective existence and collective authority, growing demand and pressure on human beings and natural environment to produce expanding material-financial surplus, beyond actual human needs

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Limits and consequences of conceptualizing and understanding in the abstract
 - ◆ The approach contradicts, conflicts with and falls short of the nature of human understanding, existing only in the mind
 - ◆ Human experience being the foundation of all human understanding, they are the only connection of the mind to the world beyond
 - ◆ The results and consequences include, failing to understand and deal with the natural conditions, demands and challenges of existence, which lie behind and which are reflected in individual human experience

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Discrepancy and disconnect between human understanding and the conditions of existence
- ◆ Failing to understand and manage the role and responsibility in our existence and development that by nature are individually ours to understand and manage
- ◆ Human behaviour, actions and interactions, choices and decisions are defined guided and directed by beliefs, views and understanding not rooted in, or reflective of human experience and the conditions of existence that lie behind them

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Human aims, goals and objectives, unrestrained by an understanding of the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature, conflict and interfere with nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Development of an abstract, artificial, human-created socio-cultural, religious, political, economic-material and scientific-technological superstructure, which is superimposed on human experience and the natural conditions of existence
- ◆ Development of different, competing and conflicting beliefs, views, values and practices, about existence and development, how to understand and manage them

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Limits and consequences of establishing a sense of self, a sense of order, stability, certainty and security in the collective, externally
 - ◆ The approach contradicts, conflicts with and falls short of the natural demands and challenges of existence, establishing a sense of self, order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty and security where individually we are in charge and in control, in the mind and mental existence
 - ◆ The results and consequences include, competition, conflict and confrontation over social positions, roles, functions, power and status, material-financial resources, surplus, goods and values

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Development of structures of dependence and control, domination and exploitation
- ◆ Rigid and inflexible social institutions, organizations, structures, conventions and practices, positions, roles and functions
- ◆ Resistance to change, dealing with, responding and adjusting to changing conditions, demands and challenges before they develop into larger problems and difficulties
- ◆ Persisting and growing individual mental disorder and instability, doubt, confusion, uncertainty and insecurity, fear, stress, anxiety, frustration and depression

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Exploiting natural material resources beyond actual human material needs
- ◆ Interfering in nature and degrading the natural environment beyond what is necessary and required to sustain human existence

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- Limits and consequences of managing external conditions and the world around us
 - ◆ The approach contradicts, conflicts with and falls short of the natural conditions of existence existing in and being part of the natural world, which lies beyond human control, within which we must understand and manage our existence
 - ◆ The results and consequences include failing to understand and manage the role and responsibility in our existence that by nature are individually ours to understand and manage

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Failing to understand and manage existence and development where we are in charge and in control, individually in the mind and mental existence, within existing and changing external conditions
- ◆ Failing to understand and manage the mind and mental existence, establish the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions and the world around us
- ◆ Viewing ourselves to be the creators of the conditions of our existence, relating and interacting with nature and the natural environment in counterproductive, harmful and destructive ways

Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices

- ◆ Contradicting, conflicting with and falling short of the natural conditions, demands and challenges of existence
- ◆ Interfering in nature, natural forces, processes, development and change, and degrading the natural environment
- ◆ Bringing about changes in natural development, which in the long term, will render the natural environment of the Earth uninhabitable for the human species

The Human Condition

- Development Through the Ages of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices
- Limits and Consequences of Fundamental Assumptions, Approaches and Practices
- → How Today We Understand and Manage Existence and Development

How Today We Understand and Manage Existence and Development

- ◆ We understand, organize and manage existence and development in the collective, not individually, in cooperation with each other
- ◆ We consider and understand the conditions of existence in the abstract, beyond our experience of them
- ◆ We establish a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty, security and confidence externally, in the collective, beyond the mind and mental existence

How Today We Understand and Manage Existence and Development

- ◆ We understand and manage human existence and development through understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us, instead of understanding and managing them within existing and changing external conditions
- ◆ We understand and manage existence and development from the top down and from the outside in
- ◆ We understand and manage everything in life we face and we must deal with in a externalized, fragmented, general and disconnected way in the abstract

How Today We Understand and Manage Existence and Development

- ◆ We understand and manage existence and development from the human-created socio-cultural level, the level of beliefs, views, values and conventions down to the level of the natural conditions of existence
- ◆ From the socio-cultural, political, economic-material and scientific-technological level down to the individual
- ◆ Understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us to understand and manage internal mental conditions, individual mental existence and mental development

How Today We Understand and Manage Existence and Development

- ◆ We divide and separate a holistic, integrated and interacting reality into different issues, subject matters, disciplines, fields of study and areas of human activity, specialization and expertise
- ◆ Each defined and governed by different, competing and conflicting assumptions, objectives, approaches and practices
- ◆ We consider, understand and manage existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, primarily and in the first instance, in socio-cultural terms, at the level of human-created socio-cultural reality

How Today We Understand and Manage Existence and Development

- ◆ The focus and concentration are collectively creating the ideal external, socio-cultural and physical-material conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance
- ◆ The results and consequences are persisting and growing cultural, religious, political, social, economic-financial, interpersonal and individual problems, difficulties and crises, conflicts, confrontations and violence

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- → Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Changing the approach, focus and direction of development, of understanding and managing existence and development
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development individually, in cooperation with each other, not in the collective
- ◆ Considering and understanding the conditions of existence, through considering individual experience and the conditions that lie behind them, not understanding them in the abstract

Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Establishing a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty and security, individually in the mind and mental existence, not externally in the collective
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, within existing and changing external conditions, not through managing and controlling the world around us
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, from the ground up and from the inside out

Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ From the ground up, at the level of the natural conditions, common to all human beings, which in the first instance define and govern existence and development, that lie behind and that are reflected in individual human experience
- ◆ From the inside out, beginning with the mind and mental existence, the inner mental life and the mental self
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions in their essence, in depth and detail, in a holistic way, a differentiated, but integrated, connected and related way

Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development at the level and within the context of understanding and managing, in the first instance, the mind and mental existence, the inner mental life and the mental self
- ◆ From within the mind as reflected in individual experience
- ◆ Individually establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, not collectively creating the ideal external conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world

Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Establishing the necessary internal mental conditions before engaging and dealing with external conditions, with others and the world around us
- ◆ Establishing and maintaining a sense of self, the human and the mental self, a sense of order and stability, clarity of mind and understanding, a sense of certainty, security and confidence, in the mind where we are in charge and in control, in everything we do and we engage in
- ◆ Dealing with, responding and adjusting to change, changing conditions, demands and challenges when only a minimum in mental work, effort and adjustment are required, before they develop into larger problems, difficulties and crises in the mind

Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Developing individually the necessary understanding and mental faculties
- ◆ Developing the natural mental powers and abilities, translating them into the necessary mental skills and practices, and engaging in the required mental work and effort
- ◆ Engaging in a process of continuous, life-long conceptual and mental self-development and growth
- ◆ Reconsider, update, correct, expand and improve, in light of change and changing conditions, the knowledge, the understanding and the mental faculties on which we rely, how we develop and use them

Where to Go From Here, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Reconsider, update, correct, expand and improve, whenever necessary and required, in light of problems and difficulties, failures, errors and mistakes, the choices and decisions we make, and how we make them,
- ◆ The aims, goals and objectives we pursue, and how we define them, and the behaviour and actions in which we engage, and how we consider, plan, organize and manage them