



Information

Knowledge

Wisdom

Oneness

# The 'Knowing' Utility



## Leonardo Day 1999

My name is Timothy Wilken. I am a physician and scientist.

I want a better world for myself, and my family. I want a future world that is truly **civilized** – a world that is free of hate and violence.

I want to live in a world where you can leave your home unlocked and not fear for your possessions – a world where you can allow your children to play with their friends anywhere in the community, and not fear for their safety. I want a world without fear. I want a **safe** earth.

However, today the earth is not safe, and the **probability** that the existent political-economic order can make it safe is **zero**. Today, humanity is plagued by **war**, **crime** and **poverty**. Consider the following facts:

Plagued by **war**.

“There are currently over 79 armed conflicts going on around the world, 65 of which are in the developing world. There have been over 123 million people killed in 149 wars since World War II.”<sup>1</sup>

Plagued by **crime**.

Despite the fact that as of “midyear 1998, the United States’ prisons and jails incarcerated an estimated 1,802,496 ‘criminals’ ”<sup>2</sup>, in the year 1997, “the number of violent crimes – murder, manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault – and property crimes – burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft – reported to the police departments in the United States totaled 13,175,070.”<sup>3</sup>

Plagued by **poverty**.

“Globally between 13 and 18 million people die each year due to starvation. That is nearly as many people dying each day as Americans who died in the entire Vietnam War. More than 800 million people are considered malnourished by modern health standards. More than a billion people lack access to any health care. There are 1.75 billion people without adequate drinking water. A billion people are without adequate housing, and 100 million are homeless.”<sup>4</sup>



# The 'Knowing' Utility

Humanity has been plagued by war, crime, and poverty throughout recorded history, and somehow we have muddled through and managed to survive. However, I don't want us to continue muddling through hoping to survive. I want us to understand ourselves so we can create a positive future and a safe earth for ourselves and our children.

I know things can change. Slavery was once a fact of life in the United States and that was abolished. Child labor was once common in England and that was abolished. Things **can** change.

In 1972, I committed myself to finding the necessary knowledge to help change our world. By 1974, I was devoting nearly all of my free time searching for a better world. The more I searched the clearer it became that the positive future I desired would require that we humans give up violence – that we humans eliminate adversary behavior.

As I studied human behavior, I began to see violence as a disease. And one that clearly caused as much pain and suffering as any other disease that had ever plagued humankind.

As a physician and scientist, I knew that when you truly understood a phenomena you could learn to control it. The history of science and the story of human progress is one of **understanding** and **control**. If we could learn to understand human behavior, we could learn to control it.

I knew from my study of medical history that the discoverers of cures possessed a thorough understanding of both the disease process they were trying to cure and the organ systems effected by that process. If I aspired to find a cure for human violence, I would have to understand both the adversary process that generates violence and the human mind. Only then could I hope to create an effective treatment for adversary behavior

My search for a cure lead me to read thousands of books, to converse with dozens of scientists, and to intensely study many disciplines.



My focus finally settled on studying human behavior, human relationships, and human intelligence. Slowly, I began to master this developing new science which for want of a better term I simply called "humanology".

Today, I bring good news. The understanding necessary for humankind to solve all of its problems exists today – right now in 1999. Until very recently much of this understanding was compartmentalized within the minds of a few individuals scattered over the planet. In the past twenty-six years, I have identified, located, studied, and finally unified and integrated that critical understanding into a single data base. I am now making that integrated data base available for all humanity.

In my search, I found a number of exciting and promising discoveries, and have been fortunate to have made a few of my own. My study of human intelligence led me to the discovery that there are four levels of 'knowing' available to the human mind-brain.

I designate these four levels of 'knowing' as: **information**, **knowledge**, **wisdom**, and **oneness**. Therefore, when I use the term 'knowing' it is in a larger sense that includes all four of these levels.

Hence the name of this web site is the 'Knowing' Utility rather than the Knowledge Utility.

Here, through the '**Knowing**' Utility, I will present everything that I have learned – all the 'knowing' necessary to **understand** and **control** our human crisis – all that is necessary for the creation of a **positive** future – for the creation of a **safe** earth.

While most of today's media focuses on 'problems' in our culture, the 'Knowing' Utility will focus on 'solutions'.

I believe in the **positive** potential of humankind. My belief rests on the premise that human 'nature' is not 'good' or 'bad', but rather that human 'knowing' is either informed or **uninformed**, knowledgeable or **ignorant**, wise or **certain**, unified or **chaotic**.





The **positive** potential of our species stems from our unique human ability to **understand**, and once understanding to **control**.

If our species is to solve its problems – if we are to transcend our crisis – if we are to cure our violence – we must give up the 'adversary' way of the animal.

We humans have an animal body but our mind is human. We were born in the jungle, but we can build a **civilization** even if we haven't done so yet. If we humans are to solve all the problems that face us, this 'knowing' must be widely communicated to all members of our species. I am originating the 'Knowing' Utility for the explicit purpose of encouraging the **meaningful survival** of our entire species and the creation of a **unified human culture**.

I will share all that I have personally discovered as well as the enormous amount of 'knowing' that I have learned from others. I believe that if enough of my fellow humans **understand**, we can control violence and change the world in a few short years. I have taken personal inspiration from the following definitions:

**Doctor** (dok•tor) {OFL}

1. A **teacher**; one who gives instruction in some branch of knowledge.

**Physician** (fizi•shan) {ME,OFL}

1. A student of natural science.
2. One who practices the healing art.
3. A **healer**; one who cures moral, spiritual, or political maladies.

Reference: Oxford English Dictionary

These definitions serve as an **ideal** of how physicians could relate to their fellow humans. After 26 years of searching for a better way, I am ready to share what I have learned with you. I want to teach my fellow humans the really important things. How to work co-Operatively with each other. How to nurture the earth and the children of the earth.



# The 'Knowing' Utility

How to be a part of tomorrow's solutions rather than today's problems. I will seek to entice, pull, and draw out the positive potential I know exists within each and everyone of you. Those who choose to read and understand are invited to join the **Time-binders**. We are a growing group of humans committed to building a world without war, crime or poverty.

Today, I know **how** to cure human violence. Today, I know **how** to build a human world free of war, crime and poverty. However, no matter how wise a physician I might be, as a single individual I cannot cure humanity of its violence. But, I can teach humanity how to cure itself. My mission then is to act as teacher and distribute this critical 'knowing' to my fellow humans.

This web site will function as a 'knowing' distribution system to support my mission. I am in the process of converting this 'knowing' from its present repositories in print and computer archives to web readable format. I begin with the publication of part one of my just completed book – **UnCommon Sense**.

I feel confident that with your help, **we** can make the world safe for ourselves, our children and all of humanity.

Bound through synergy,

*Timothy K. Wilson*



<sup>1</sup>**UNICEF**, State of the World's Children 1996, Oxford University Press, New York, 1996

<sup>2</sup>**Bureau of Justice Statistics**, Prison and Jail Inmates at Midyear 1998, U.S. Department of Justice, March 1999, <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/pjim98.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>**Federal Bureau of Investigation**, 1997 Crime Statistics and Reports, Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) Division, U.S. Department of Justice, 1998, <http://www.fbi.gov/publish/crime.htm>

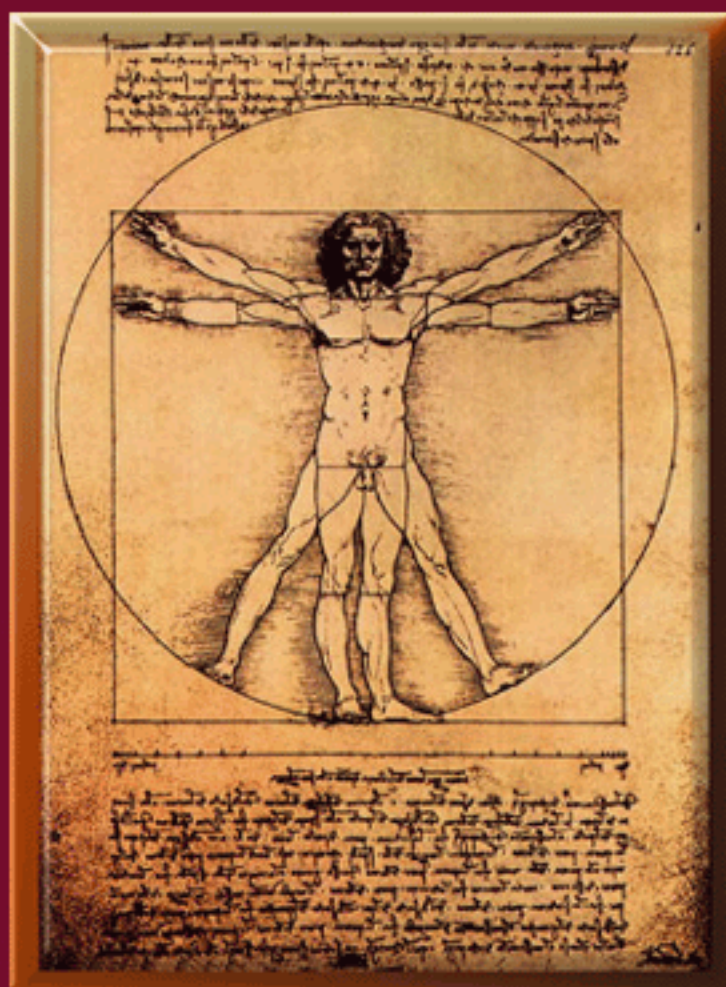
<sup>4</sup>**Medard Gabel**, et al, What We Have and What We Want—Section 1: The World Problem State, World Game Institute, Philadelphia PA, 1997, <http://www.worldgame.org/wwwproject/what-b.html>

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# UnCommon Sense

Timothy Wilken, MD



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## The future will be different

It's early in the 1900's along the East Coast of America and two young brothers are traveling to their secluded laboratory in an open motor car. They have recently invented a new vehicle of transport. With them is a wealthy railroad man, one of the many potential investors to whom they've pitched their invention. The three men talk as they drive along.

Hoping to influence the potential investor, the taller brother predicts the impact of their newly invented vehicle on society, "Our invention, will change the way humans travel in this world. We will go faster, farther, and quicker than ever before. And, people will use our vehicle to go all over the world. Someday, you will travel to London in a just a few hours."

"Yes," added the younger brother, "and travel won't be expensive either. Our invention is highly efficient, with very little mechanical friction compared to all other methods of transport."

By the time they arrive at the laboratory, the railroad man seems friendly if not a little skeptical of their project. Within a few minutes the vehicle was ready for a demonstration. They seated the railroad man comfortably in the center of the vehicle and took up their operating positions near the front.

Soon the motor was warmed up and running hard. The vehicle vibrated considerably and was also quite noisy. There were two long spinning devices that made it frightfully windy. The potential investor began to wonder to himself. "How could this device be any real improvement over the train or the motorcar?"

Then the vehicle began to slide along the ground on what appeared to the investor to be some type of track. Suddenly, the ride improved, the sound from the track was gone.



"Oh," thought the railroad man, "this is much nicer than I thought." Not even his best railcars rode this smoothly. And then, for the first time, the railroad man realized they were rising into the air. Panic replaced curiosity, and soon his screams drowned out even the sound of the motors. The younger of the inventors, noticing the investor's distress, signaled his brother to get back on the ground right away.

Later, safe on the ground, he asked his brother what had happened. The older brother replied, "I should have told him about leaving the ground."

"You didn't tell him the Flyer was an aeroplane?" Asked Orville in disbelief.

Wilbur replied in frustration, "So many of these investors won't even come to the laboratory if I tell them it's an aeroplane. So, I told him what it would do, and let him experience the **"how"** for himself.

\* \* \*

I invented this story about the Wright brothers as an introduction to some recent scientific discoveries and inventions that will allow us to do something that has been thought impossible for all of human history.

Scientific discoveries have the power to turn the world upside down. Prior to the first flight of the Wright's Aeroplane, when one believed something was impossible it was common to say, "You could no more do that than you could fly."

We are now 100 years later, and no one would say such a thing today. In those 100 years, humanity has continued to make scientific discoveries and invent evermore powerful tools. Many other things that were once thought impossible have become common place today.



The ability to make scientific discoveries and create inventions is one of the defining characteristics of being human. This ability results from the little known fact that we humans are **Time-binders**<sup>1</sup>.

Time-binders adapt to the stressors in their lives by analyzing and understanding their world. It is this unique **awareness of time** that grants us humans the ability to analyze and understand our world. By observing change over time, we come to understand process. And this understanding of process is the basis of knowledge. When humans act with knowledge they gain the ability to control. As our knowledge increases, the control we can exert in and on our lives increases as well.

With the growth of the human population and with the ever increasing knowledge, humans now exercise ever increasing control over their lives, and over the lives of others and the environment as well. And, whether for **good** or for **bad** humanity now **dominates** the **planet earth**.

This unique human power of dominion is made possible by the human ability called **time-binding**. It is through the binding of time that humans come to find themselves, in turn, bound together. Humans are bound by their mutual beliefs, bound together by their ability to store beliefs and to pass these beliefs onto their children.

Humans are bound together by their common 'knowing' in the form of science, art, religion, language, music, history, and myths that are passed from generation to generation. We humans are bound by a powerful inheritance. Our inherited legacy is alive. This legacy is constantly and continually growing; constantly and continually advancing. Every generation of humans refine, improve, and expand the knowing of their fathers and mothers; refine, improve, and expand the knowing of all the other humans who have ever lived.





Time-binders do this by living and thinking; by thinking and deciding. And not only is this legacy of human 'knowing' alive and growing, it is growing at an ever increasing rate. The **rate** of knowledge growth is never greater than it is right **now**. The scientific discoveries presented in UnCommon Sense are based on the knowledge available **now** in 1999.

Understanding time-binding is the key to understanding ourselves and explaining time-binding will an important focus of this book. Time-binding is one of a group of discoveries that I will designate as the “**synergic sciences**”.

The term synergic comes from the root word synergy. The dictionary defines **synergy** as the **working together** of two things to produce an effect greater than the sum of their individual effects. A simple example might be two muscles working together or two medications combined to treat a medical illness. R. Buckminster Fuller writing in 1975 explained:

“Synergy means behavior of whole systems unpredicted by the behavior of their parts taken separately. Synergy means behavior of integral, aggregate, whole systems unpredicted by behaviors of any of their components or subassemblies of their components taken separately from the whole. Synergy is the only word that means this. The fact that we humans are unfamiliar with the word means that we do not think there are behaviors of “wholes” unpredicted by the behavior of “parts”.

“Synergy can best be illustrated I think, by **chrome-nickel-steel** – chromium, nickel, and iron. The most important characteristic of strength of a material is its ability to stay in one piece when it is pulled – this is called tensile strength, it is measured as pounds per square inch, PSI. The commercially available strength of iron at the very highest level is approximately sixty thousand PSI; of chromium about seventy thousand PSI; and of nickel about eighty thousand PSI. The weakest of the three is iron.



“We all know the saying, “a chain is only as strong as its weakest link”. Well, experiment on chrome-nickel-steel, pull it apart, and you will find that it is much stronger than its weakest link of sixty thousand PSI. In fact it is much stronger than the eighty thousand PSI of its stronger link. Thus the saying that a chain is as strong as its weakest link doesn’t hold. So, let me say something that really sounds funny: Maybe a chain is as strong as the sum of the strength of all its links. Let’s add up the strengths of the components of chrome-nickel-steel and see. Sixty thousand PSI for iron and seventy thousand PSI for chromium and then and eighty thousand PSI for the nickel, that gives you two hundred and ten thousand PSI. If we add in the minor constituency of carbon and manganese we will add another forty thousand PSI giving us a total of two hundred and fifty thousand PSI.

“Now the fact is that under testing, chrome-nickel-steel shows three hundred and fifty thousand PSI—or one hundred thousand PSI more than the combined strength of all the links.

“This is typical of synergy, and it is the synergy of the various metal alloys that have enabled industry to do all kinds of things that man never knew would be able to be done based on the characteristic of the parts.”<sup>2</sup>

The **synergic sciences** focuses on the **whole** system to understand the relationships between the **parts**. These relationships can be positive – **synergic**, they can be indifferent – **neutral**, or they can be negative – **adversary**.

Using the **synergic sciences**, we humans can restructure our relationships so they are positive. This means that we can be more happy, more effective, and more productive through synergic relationship.

Then we will see, as with the Wright brother’s **aeroplane**, that the **synergic sciences** will allow us to accomplish many things never before thought possible.



Like the Wright's **aeroplane**, the **synergic sciences** can solve enormous problems for humankind. And, like the Wright's **aeroplane**, the **synergic sciences** can bring many positive and wonderful changes to our lives, but the "**how**" will be very different from the way things are done today.

The **synergic sciences** present us with a remarkably new view of humanity and of our human potential. This new view may challenge many of your current beliefs and some of your basic values. But this is good news, because without a major change in beliefs and basic values our human problems are not solvable.

Therefore, as you read, I ask only that you suspend judgement a little while. The synergic sciences are not hard to understand, but like all new knowledge they require some investment of your time. I ask only that you take this opportunity to think carefully and consider fully.

The **synergic sciences** allow the creation of tools that can turn the world upside down in the most positive of ways. They offer a basis for finally understanding humanity, the human condition, and ourselves. **UnCommon Sense** brings **good news** of a better way for humanity – a way in which we can all win. A way that will allow us to create a positive, safe and comfortable future for all of humanity. This is not a partial solution. The **synergic sciences** can be used to create a safe and positive future for all of us. They will allow us to make a world that works for all humans living today – all six billion of us. And they promise a world that could work for even more of us. If all solutions were synergic solutions, the carrying capacity of planet earth could approach 50 billion humans.

And this is without any need to damage the earth, or degrade our environment. This is the enormous promise of the **synergic sciences**. **UnCommon Sense** will explain how this can be accomplished. But to reach that safe and positive future, we will have to change the way in which we relate to each other.



Today most human relationships are either **adversary** or **neutral**. Adversary and neutral relationships by their very structure must result in **conflict**, **loss** and **indifference**.

The first discovery I will present is that of the **synergic relationship**. Synergic relationship enables human individuals to interact with each other in a new way. A way that creates positive alliances marked by strong commitment and trust. The synergic relationship offers us the choice of **co-Operation** as an alternative to **conflict** and **indifference**.

**UnCommon Sense** will reveal the methods and techniques for creating synergic relationships. Synergic relationship allows you to build strong mutually beneficial alliances with others and to effect corroborative solutions to even the most difficult of problems. This new way of relating can be applied to oneself as an individual, to our spouses—husband or wife, to our children and our extended families, and perhaps more importantly to everyone else – our local and global communities, and finally it can be applied to our relationship with the earth, and eventually even to the universe itself.

However, **today** we humans are **not safe**. Today our human world is filled with conflict, loss, and indifference. We have the **potential** for a positive and safe future, but that potential provides us no guarantees.

Tomorrow may be **neither** safe, nor positive.

**UnCommon Sense** points to the opportunity for us to transform ourselves, to change our relationships with each other, to choose **synergy**, and in so doing transcend our problems.

**UnCommon Sense** is written as a guide and includes the necessary knowledge and information to safely pass through this stage of human evolution.





Asked of one respected futurist in 1962, “What will the human population be in one hundred years?” He answered, “It will either be very large or it will be zero.”<sup>3</sup> . . .

In the hope that it will not be zero, let us begin.

**Timothy Wilken**

Earth, 1999

<sup>1</sup> **Alfred Korzybski**, The Manhood of Humanity, E.P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1921

<sup>2</sup> **R. Buckminster Fuller**, SYNERGETICS—Explorations in the Geometry of Thinking, Volumes I & II, New York, Macmillan Publishing Co, 1975, 1979

<sup>3</sup> **Andrew J. Galambos**, V50—Introducton to Volitional Science, Free Enterprise Institute, Los Angeles, 1962



# Synergic science is “real” science

Orville and Wilbur Wright were aeronautical scientists and they had to understand aeronautical science to invent the Aeroplane.

However, one doesn't have to be an aeronautical scientist to ride in an airplane, or for that matter even to fly one.

**UnCommon Sense** is based on the synergic sciences. I have devoted many years of study to the synergic sciences, but this book is not written for me. Most humans living today are not scientists and it is not necessary for them to understand science in order to benefit from it. Nor do they need to be synergic scientists in order to act synergically.

The solutions that the synergic sciences bring us must be made available to all of humanity. Since I am seeking to communicate with as large an audience as possible, this requires the use of clear and nontechnical language. The nonscientist reader of **UnCommon Sense** can expect to learn to understand the human condition, and his or her options for improving his or her life with synergic mechanisms.

But **UnCommon Sense** must also present the synergic sciences effectively to the most scientifically minded individuals within our species. It must include enough science to provide compelling proof to the most critical of readers.

It cannot ignore the scientists in the reading audience. The synergic mechanisms that can solve humanity's problems are based on “real” science and that science like all science has a history. **UnCommon Sense** will therefore present the story of human synergy in six sections – The Basics, The Science, The Past, The Present, The Future, and finally SAFE passage or how do we get from the Present to a Synergic Future.



**The Basics** section includes the fundamentals of synergic science necessary to understand and recognize synergic relationships and synergic actions.

**The Science** section is written to help deepen the reader's understanding of synergy. Much of it is written in the voices of the synergic scientists themselves. While this section contains some advanced synergic science, it is not as hard to understand as you might imagine.

## Bootstrap to knowing

I entered medical school in 1966. In my first week I would learn one of the most valuable lessons of my life.

A fellow classmate and I were in the medical library at our school. We had been reading some science papers assigned in an earlier class, when I noticed he was reading one paper, that I didn't have listed on my assignment sheet. He seemed much more interested in that paper than in those from our assignment sheet.

My classmate would read a paragraph or two and then hurry off to the big medical dictionary across the room. He made so many trips, I surmised the reading must be very difficult.

Finally, my curiosity got the better of me, and I also was beginning to worry that I might have missed getting the assignment to read that particular paper, so I queried him.

First he responded by saying, "No, its not part of our assignment, I'm just reading this for myself. The author is a Nobel laureate."

He started to return to his reading, but then he paused for a moment to look me over and for some reason he decided to share his secret with me. "Its something more than that. It is a secret way to learn that my Father taught me."



I leaned closer and he continued.

“When you read and understand the work of a world’s leading expert, you can become the world’s second leading expert.”

At first I didn’t know what to say. The thought was so foreign to me. I said nothing and returned to my study of the assigned readings. Later that evening after class, my mind kept coming back to what my classmate had said, “When you read and understand the work of a world’s leading expert, you can become the world’s second leading expert.”

## Shortcut

Could it really be true? Could getting ahead be as simple as finding out who the experts were and studying their most advanced works.

To think that I could catch up to a world expert by spending a few hours in the library seemed an oversimplification, and somehow terrible at the same time. Science was supposed to be much harder than that. In the next few years, I would learn that science is much harder than that and yet discover for myself the deep truth of my classmate’s lesson.

Science was hard, and as I began using the bootstrap I discovered there was nothing easy about understanding the advanced papers of experts. I had somehow missed the implication of my fellow student’s repeated trips to the reference dictionary that morning in the library. Now I finally understood. There is a shortcut in science, but like many shortcuts, the path is a more difficult one.

You can learn fastest from the world’s experts if you are ready to invest the effort to learn the expert’s language, definitions and methods.

Since then, this lesson has served me well.





I have saved years of study by using the knowledge of the world's leading experts to bootstrap myself to a position of better and more complete understanding. And always, with more understanding comes more control.

I have filled UnCommon Sense with the understanding and wisdom of many of the world's leading experts.

Please make their expert knowledge your own. Please invest a few hours in learning the language and methods of the experts and bootstrap yourself to a more powerful and positive future.

The nonscientist reader may find some parts of **The Science** section difficult. Fortunately, it is not necessary to completely understand or master this section in order to participate in a synergic future. However, I encourage you not to skip this section as it contains some very important information. I predict that those readers who invest the time to read and think carefully will discover they **can** understand synergic science.

The synergic sciences are new to everyone including most of today's scientists. Most scientists are specialists and synergic science is not their speciality. The trained scientist may have the advantage of thinking scientifically, but the material is equally new to all readers, and very likely not in most scientist's field of training. So please do your best. This science will be used throughout the rest of the book to analyze and understand our human past, the crisis that faces us in the present, the shape of a synergic future, and the synergic mechanisms that we can begin using now to move towards that future.

Eventually, I believe most humans will come to understand even the most advanced synergic sciences. While all humans are not considered to be scientists, all human beings are Time-binders. Since science is simply the most powerful form of time-binding, I would argue that all humans are to some degree scientists.



All humans notice and react to the changes in their environment, scientists just do it more intensively and carefully. Scientists discover the laws of Nature by observing changes in their environment. By studying these changes, they come to understand them. The synergic sciences are “**science**”.

## Science

The most powerful tool of science has been the **scientific method**.

First, the scientist carefully studies some natural phenomena or process – **observation**. Then the scientist thinks very carefully about what he has observed. He contemplates, he meditates, he **thinks**, when he sees a pattern, when he develops an insight, then the scientist states a **hypothesis** – a proposed model of reality. The scientist then makes predictions based on that hypothesis and develops a procedure to test those predictions – **experiment**. And finally the scientist gathers the results from the experiment and compares the experimental results with the predictions – **observation**.

Then the scientist begins again, the scientist thinks very carefully about the results that he has observed. He contemplates, he meditates, he **thinks**, when he sees a clearer pattern, when he develops a better insight, then he modifies his hypothesis and the **cycle** is repeated. This is the process of science, the scientific method is used over and over to create evermore accurate models of reality.

When a **hypothesis** is found to be **exceedingly accurate** in predicting reality, and when **no exceptions** can be found to its description of a natural phenomena or process, then and only then does it gain the **status** of **scientific theory**. A **scientific theory** sometimes called a **generalization** means a principle that has been found to hold true in every special case.

**Scientific theories** are **corroborated hypotheses** – they are the most accurate **models** of **reality** we have.



## Near truth

When a scientist uses the word **theory**, he is talking about something much more than an opinion – something much more than an assumption – something much more than a belief. Scientific theories are **near truths**.

We humans have used scientific theory to safely take us to the moon and to cure cancers. You can safely bet your life on scientific theory and you do – every time you walk onto an elevator or board an airplane.

And while scientists have the highest respect for **scientific theories**, they know they are **not absolutes**. They understand that **scientific theories** are **models** of reality and not the reality itself. In the past these models of reality were often confused with reality itself. Those scientific theories that survived continued human experience were thought to be **absolute truths**. They were thought to be **certainties**. They were given the most prestigious of names – “**Laws of Nature**.”

In 1999, scientists know better. Today we know that human knowledge always grows with more experience. A scientific theory believed to be true today will be improved or shown to be incomplete later. Newton’s scientific theories, published in 1687, formed the scientific basis for the Industrial Revolution and our modern world. Thought to be absolute “**Laws of Nature**”, they were shown to be incomplete by Einstein’s scientific theories published in 1915.

Einstein was not necessarily smarter than Newton. He was simply **later**. As Newton is quoted as saying, “If I have seen farther than others, it is because I have stood on the shoulders of giants.” Einstein was 230 years later than Newton. Einstein was standing on Newton’s shoulders as he created a more accurate model of reality. Humans will always seek to know more. Humans will always seek more accurate models of reality. Humans will always seek the laws of Nature. But, today in 1999, human science is more humble.



It accepts the fact that today's knowledge is incomplete. That human science will always know more later.

In UnCommon Sense, I will be presenting a number of **new scientific theories** for your consideration. These scientific theories are to my knowledge accurate, and I have found no exceptions in their description of humanity – including human evolution, human behavior, and the human condition. But I do not ask you to accept them on authority – mine or anyone else's.

As a time-binder, your greatest power is your own intelligence – your own ability to understand. I trust you to read UnCommon Sense critically and think carefully as you evaluate these new scientific theories – these new **models of reality**.

You will want to ask yourself, do these models help me to better understand humanity? Do they help me to better understand myself, to better understand the individuals important in my life, and to better understand the human condition? Do these models answer my questions about my life and the world as I experience it? Will they help me to make better choices in my future.

Again, they are **models** of reality, they are not reality. Scientists are human, and nothing can be taken as absolutely certain. So, irregardless of how certain my words may sound. I do not pretend to have all the answers. I believe I have the best answers based on what we know **now** – 1999.

But that's now, **tomorrow** we will know more. Tomorrow these scientific theories will be improved and will be shown to be incomplete. But, the promise of greater knowledge and better tools tomorrow is no reason to postpone building a better world today.

The next section of the book is called **The Past**. Here I will add much color and flesh out the story of our synergic evolution.





Here we will learn of humanity's struggle with adversity and neutrality, and of our discovery of synergic mechanisms and synergic relationships. Again, I quote extensively from a number of historians and scientists to explain our human story.

**The Present** section examines the state of our world today, and reveals a humanity in crisis. I will explain the causes of our adaptational crisis, and clearly delineate the problems that we **must** solve if humanity is to survive.

I will tell the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. If we humans are to continue as a viable species, we must know what is wrong with our world and what must be changed.

**The Future** section describes **how** things **could** be done in a synergic future. It reveals ways of solving human problems that are very different from the way we do things today. It explains how some problems that are difficult now could become easy to solve in a synergic future. It will also show how some problems that are impossible now could become solvable too. This section is very exiting and promises a positive and wonderful option for the continuation of the human story.

And finally, the **SAFEpassage section** is where the action is. If you are convinced by reading the earlier sections that you want a synergic future, this section of the book will tell you how you can begin changing your life and participate in the synergic revolution. This section reveals a number of powerful synergic mechanisms that can be used **now** to make your life safer and more meaningful.

A few ground rules and we will be ready to begin.

**UnCommon Sense** is written with a heightened awareness of **time**. Therefore, I will present these new scientific theories utilizing Alfred Korzybski's convention of **dating**<sup>1</sup>. **Dating** is a time-binding reference tool which allows more accurate communication.



**Dating** explicitly informs the reader of the temporal context in which a statement is made or **when** an action being described occurred. Thus America<sup>1776</sup> is not America<sup>1999</sup>, just as Physics<sup>1687</sup> is not Physics<sup>1915</sup> is not Physics<sup>1999</sup>. **Dating** can be applied to ourselves just as well. Human beings evolve and change as they live their lives. Timothy Wilken<sup>1966</sup> is not the same as Timothy Wilken<sup>1999</sup>.

**UnCommon Sense** relies heavily on the work of many other scientists and historians. Time-binding by definition implies that all scientific and historical works must to a large extent be **corroborations**. Therefore I have abandoned the practice of paraphrasing the work of others, in favor of presenting their work in their own words. This is accomplished through the liberal use of **direct quotations** from their original writings.

I have occasionally edited these quotations in an attempt to increase clarity, and to underscore their relevance to this work. All changes and additions to the quotations of others are very minor and have been made carefully to avoid disturbing the original content and flavor.

Where I have disagreed with a quoted author or felt the need to comment, I have used **\*annotations**. My annotations are clearly demarcated by a colored bold **\*font** preceded by an asterisk.

My extensive use of quotations should allow the reader a deeper understanding of the process of discovery and of time-binding. While some of these quotations are quite lengthy, your reading of them should not be considered a replacement for reading the original work. I have credited and referenced all quotations to facilitate your finding the originals for yourself.

Remember also that these quotations are themselves bound in Time. They will all be **dated** so the reader is aware of the time when they were written.



Because our language is evolving, you will discover many of the quotations are not gender neutral for example you will often see the word 'Man' used to represent the word 'Humanity'. Our language is currently full of pronouns with implied gender that do not necessarily represent sexist beliefs or intentions of the writer. Even writing in 1999, with an awareness of gender neutrality, I have not succeeded.

Many words have changing or multiple 'meanings' based on context or usage. Korzybski called these words "**multiordinal terms**" and made use of **single quotation marks**<sup>2</sup> to alert the reader to this risk of miscommunication. I will also use this convention in **UnCommon Sense**.

And now, a word about '**redundancy**'.

Redundancy is a **multiordinal term** that has two very different meanings. In the one sense, redundancy means repetition of an act needlessly, or the attribute of being superfluous and unneeded. In a second sense, redundancy means repetition of messages to reduce the probability of errors in transmission, as in electronics, a system design that duplicates components to provide alternatives in case one component fails.

Now both senses of redundancy involve **repetition**. However, in the first sense repetition is **unnecessary**, while in the second sense repetition is **very necessary**.

Neurobiology<sup>1999</sup> finds that information presented with the greatest duration, intensity, and **repetition** is best remembered by the learning mind. Redundancy is an important tool of education. This is especially true when that information contains revolutionary ideas or concepts. The synergic way is so very different from our present reality, that I have chosen to use redundancy as a mechanism to improve the accuracy and effectiveness of my communication with you. Therefore, you will find that I am **redundant**.



But, I hope that you will experience my redundancy in the second sense – as both **necessary** and **valuable**. I apologize for those hopefully few occasions when you find it unnecessary and annoying.

And finally, I would like to acknowledge Mark Davidson's use of the title Uncommon Sense for his book about the life and thought of synergic scientist Ludwig von Bertalanffy.

I had already chosen the name **UnCommon Sense** as the working title for this book when I came across Davidson's book in 1984. But, because of his precedence, I initially abandoned the idea of using the same title. Now fifteen years later, I have come to realize that **UnCommon Sense** is the right name for this work.

Mark Davidson's book is a very fine one and I recommend it highly. He had good reason to choose the title for his work, and I encourage you to take a closer look. In many ways, Davidson's words serve as the perfect conclusion to my own introduction of this "**UnCommon Sense**". Davidson writing in 1983:

"Common sense, which once assured humanity that the world is flat, now assures us that the world is the sum of its parts.

"As a result, most of us deal with our environment by taking it apart – piece by piece, problem by problem – on the assumption that our efforts ultimately will add up to success.

"The human race has gotten by with that piecemeal approach for centuries, just as it managed to get by for centuries with the pre-Copernican notion of a flat earth. But our age of innocence must now end. The unprecedented interconnectedness of civilization compels us to face the fact that the world is greater than the sum of its parts. We therefore must begin paying attention to the fate of the whole earth rather than just the sum of its nations.



“Similarly, contemporary crises compel us to consider the whole society rather than just its separate groups, and the whole person rather than just the person's separate roles.

“On nearly every level of our life, challenges have become too complex to yield to orthodox analytic approaches that deal with interrelated problems in artificial isolation. Nationally, we are faced by an interactive linkage of government budgets, interest rates, housing, employment, poverty, welfare, taxes, and crime. Internationally, we are confronted by an interactive linkage of population, food, natural resources, industry, technology, commerce, and conflict. And the overlap between international and national spheres is constantly enlarging.

“Everywhere, we are involved with immensely complex systems that authorities call counter-intuitive, because these systems do not necessarily behave as common sense leads us to expect. And everywhere, we are faced with a set of problems that authorities call a problematique: a veritable Rubik's Cube in which the solution of one facet by itself can actually be a step backward from overall progress.

“We have abruptly entered a new history, an era that demands a science and philosophy of synthesis.

“We need – all of us need – a new way of thinking.

“We need a way of clearly seeing the forest for the trees, a new perspective that is variously described as holistic, ecological, gestalt, global, molar, integrative, organismic, synergistic, synergetical, synholistic, and systems.

“We need, in short, an uncommon sense of interactive relationships within and between wholes. Not just the occasional holistic insight that some of us experience in one realm or another as we muddle through life, but a total vision of the holistic landscape.”<sup>3</sup>





Timothy Wilken's  
UnCommon Sense

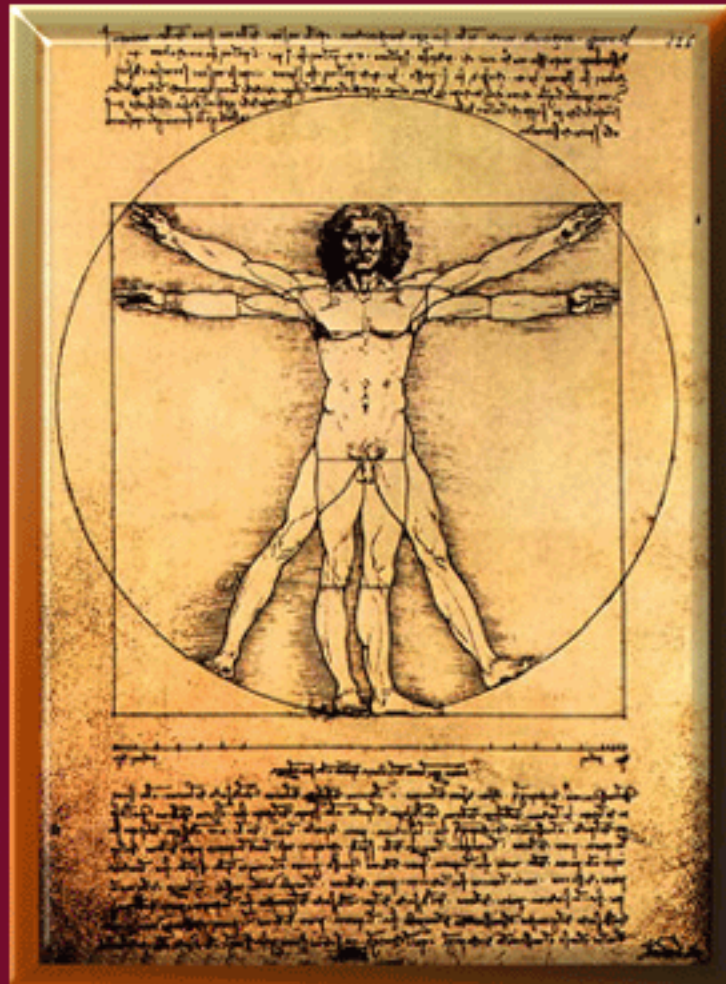
<sup>1</sup> **Alfred Korzybski**, Science and Sanity, The Colonial Press Inc., Clinton, Mass., 1933

<sup>2</sup> **Alfred Korzybski**, *ibid*

<sup>3</sup> **Mark Davidson**, Uncommon Sense – The Life and Thought of Ludwig von Bertalanffy, Father of General Systems Theory, J.P. Tarcher, Inc, Los Angeles, 1983

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# The Basics



We can all win!



# Life

Let us begin our journey towards understanding the human condition by examining **life**. Biology<sup>1999</sup> uses a number of different terms to represent living entities. These terms include **life forms**, **living organisms**, and more recently **living systems**. These terms have subtle but important differences which I will discuss later in **The Science** section, but for now these terms may be considered as synonymous.

We humans are a form of **life**. This is a fact of reality paramount to understanding ourselves. And, yet this fact is so pervasive and constant that it rarely enters our consciousness. Our clear and distant superiority to all other forms of life have made it easy for us to neglect our biological basis.

As we have seen ourselves **different** and **superior** to all other forms of life, we have missed the point . While we differ from plants and animals, we share their **aliveness** – we are still forms of **life** – we are still **living** organisms –we are still **living** systems .

When we examine ourselves **scientifically**, we discover that **humans** are **living** systems, and it follows therefore that our **powers** and our **problems** will be those of **life**.

If we are to create a safe and comfortable future for ourselves and our children, we must understand our connection to life. Our life connection is not only relevant, it is the **crucial** factor in determining a **safe passage** through the current human crisis.

A fundamental way of understanding life is by examining **needs** and **actions**.



## Needs and actions

All living organisms have **needs** and all living organisms **act** to meet those needs. The primary drive of all living organisms is to **survive** – to continue to live.

To accomplish survival, a living organism requires a zone of survivability. In science we call this zone of survivability the **biosphere**. The **biosphere** is that environmental zone wherein a living organism can meet its needs and act to survive.

Life on earth can be divided into three general classes – these are the **plants**, the **animals**, and we **humans**. These three classes of life each require a different biosphere to meet their needs.

**Plants** need sunlight, water, carbon dioxide from the air, and adequate minerals from the soil. Plants are able to grow and reproduce by utilizing sunlight in the process science calls photosynthesis. Photosynthesis allows plants to create organic tissue utilizing energy directly from sunlight.

**Animals** lack the plants' power of photosynthesis. They cannot utilize sunlight to create organic tissue. They must ingest either plant or animal tissue which they then digest to release chemical energy and molecular nutrients. They further need water and oxygen from the air instead of carbon dioxide.

**Humans** share animal body and like the animals lack the power of photosynthesis. We too must ingest plant or animal tissue. And, we too need water and oxygen.

The **biosphere** for **plants** must therefore provide **sunlight**, **carbon dioxide**, **water**, and **minerals**. It must also be some **shelter** from environmental extremes. It must not be too hot or too cold.

The **biosphere** for the **animals**, and for our **human bodies** must provide **food** either **plant** or **animal tissue**, **oxygen**, and **water**.



And for the animals as well as we humans, there must be some **shelter** – a safe place and time for the process of life itself – to breathe, eat and drink, to eliminate bodily wastes, to rest, and restore the body's energy from the stresses of living, and to procreate if the species is to continue.

The biosphere therefore must provide air, water, food, and shelter or neither animal nor human will survive. Biospheres are also specific to individual species. One particular biosphere might support one species of organism well, but not another.

### Tensegrity

In synergic science, a system of **continuous pull** balanced against **discontinuous push** is called a **tension integrity** or **tensegrity**.

**Needs** are **continuously pulling** on all living organisms to be met. To meet its needs, the living organism must take **action**.

Fourteen to Sixteen times a minute, I take a breath. Many times a day, I drink water. And two or three times a day, I eat food. My **actions** are **discontinuous**. Discontinuous means I have some control over **when** I act to meet my needs. I can eat now or a few hours from now.

Life and living then is all about the **continuing pull** of our **needs** and the **discontinuous push** of the **actions** we take to meet those needs.

Life is organized as a **tensegrity**. The **tensegrity** is the most powerful organizing pattern in universe and I will discuss it more completely in **The Science** section.

The needs of plants and animals are primarily physiological. Our human body shares the physiological needs of the animal. But what differentiates human from animal is our more powerful brain and mind. This dramatic difference in intelligence is reflected in our more complex human needs.





## Human needs

To survive for 24 hours, scientists have determined that the average human adult body requires 1.84 pounds of oxygen, 1.36 pounds of food solids, and 6.86 pounds of water.

For the majority of humans these basic needs seem pretty easily met. But few humans are satisfied with the basic needs as one very wise man once said, “**Man does not live by bread alone.**” We humans need a lot more, and most of what we need has nothing to do with our bodies. Humans require a rich **psychological** and **social** life. In a word, humans require **meaning** in their lives. Plants and animals can just survive, but humans require **meaningful survival**.

An internet search for “human needs” results in lots of returns. As we examine these needs, we begin to realize that the relationship between **other** and **self** is enormously important for humans. One internet page even divides human needs into two categories based upon whether they are related to **other** or to **self**.

Other Related	Self Related
Companionship	Significance
Love and affection,	Respect of self
To be wanted	Expression
Belongingness	Accomplishment
Esteem or respect of others	Acquisition of possessions
Security and safety	Independence and freedom

A second internet page references scientists Wackernagel and Rees writing in 1993, stated that “basic human needs are not only physical in nature ... but also psychological, such as **dignity** and **self-esteem**, **love** and **social connectedness**, **self-realization** and to have **control** over one’s life”.



And finally, a third internet page references the psychologist Henry Murray as identifying twenty human psychogenic needs. Again all of these can be broken down further into categories related to **other** and **self**.

Other Related	Self Related
1• Abasement —To apologize, confess, or atone. Self-depreciation.	2• Achievement —Do something difficult.
3• Affiliation —To love. To join groups. To form friendships & associations.	4• Aggression —To protect self by injuring/hurting other.
8• Deference —To serve other. To cooperate with a leader. To admire & willingly follow a leader.	5• Autonomy —To seek independence.
9• Dominance —To control others.	6• Counteraction —To fight back. To prove oneself.
10• Exhibition —To attract other. To excite, amuse, stir, shock, or thrill others.	7• Defenceence —To protect self from blame or belittlement. To justify one's actions.
12• Infravoidance —To avoid the negative opinion of other.	11• Harmavoidance —To protect self from physical danger.
13• Nurturance —To help helpless other. To parent a child.	14• Order —To organize. To be tidy and clean.
16• Rejection —To ignore or exclude other. To be aloof & indifferent.	15• Play —To recreate and relax. To amuse, have fun.
18• Sex —To form an erotic relationship with other. To reproduce or procreate.	17• Sentience —To seek pleasure. To focus on physical sensations or feelings.
19• Succorance —To seek other's protection. To Cry for help.	20• Understanding —To discover meaning in life.

## Plants, animals and others

Plant survival does not require any relationship with **other**. The plants unique ability to utilize sunlight directly to synthesize organic tissue frees them from the need for **others**. This fact makes plants the **independent** class of life – **independent of other**.



Animal survival depends entirely on finding **others** to eat. The herbivores depend on finding plants to eat. The carnivores depend on finding other animals to eat. The animal's **inability** to utilize sunlight to synthesize organic tissue means they **must eat** something. Animals survive by eating either plants or animals. Animals are completely **dependent** on **other** for survival. This fact makes animals the **dependent** class of life – dependent on **other**.

We humans share the animal body, to survive we must also eat. We are omnivores. We meet our basic needs and survive by eating both plants and animals. **Physiologically**, we humans are also a **dependent** class of life. But humans need more than basic needs. Sometimes **we need other** and sometimes **other needs us**. Some scientists have used the term “the social animal” in reference to these social-psychological needs of humanity. And it is these social-psychological needs that makes humans **more** than dependent upon each other. This means sometimes I depend on other and sometimes other depends on me. This fact makes us humans the **interdependent** class of life – **interdependent** on each **other**.

## Stop reading

Take a few moment to examine the contents of your pockets or purse. ...

Can you find any item there, that you obtained without the help of someone else? Look around you. What do you see? Did you make the clothes you wear? Did you grow the food you eat or the tools you use. Look around your home or workplace. Can you find anything that you made. Do you know the names of those who did make all these things? Do you ever know upon whom you depend. Can you find **anything** in your environment that was obtained **without** the **help** of someone else?

I am not talking about ownership here. I will grant that you own your possessions. But would you have them if they had not been for sale.



I would argue that nearly everything modern humans possess was obtained with the **help** of **others**.

As I examine my world I discover that I **depend** on others to grow and produce my food. I **depend** on others to design and build my home. I **depend** on others to generate my electricity.

I **depend** on others to supply my water. I **depend** on others to deliver my mail. I **depend** on others to educate my children. I **depend** on others to entertain my family. I **depend** on others to manufacture my automobile. I **depend** on others to refine the gasoline for my car. I **depend** on others to care for my family when we are sick. I **depend** on others to protect us from crime and war. I **depend** on others to .... I **depend** on others. I **depend**.

Human **interdependence** is made less visible by our present economic exchange system. I go to work and help my employer. He depends on me. At the end of the month he pays me for my help. I depend on him. I can then take some of the money from my paycheck to pay my house rent. While I depend on my landlord for the roof over my head, he depends on me to pay the rent promptly. Sometimes I depend on others and sometimes others depend on me. When we buy and sell in the economic marketplace we are really exchanging help. When I help others they owe me. When others help me I owe them. Money is just the present accounting mechanism we use to settle up.

This will come as a surprise to most readers, but humans **are not** and can not be **independent**.

We are an **interdependent** species. We rely on each other for nearly **all** our wants and **needs**.

Independence from other is not available to the richest man with the most affluent life style. He is as dependent on the staff of servants who wait on him as they are dependent on him for their shelter and sustenance.



Independence from other humans is only available to the poorest of hermits. This hermit must gather and prepare all his own vegetables and fruits. He must hunt, kill, skin, dress, and cook all his own meat. He must find or build his own shelter using only the materials he can gather and prepare by himself aided only by the tools that he can manufacture by himself from the materials that he can find. He must shelter himself from all storms and natural disasters, and protect himself from all enemies. Only by committing 99+ percent of his waking time to basic survival can he achieve true independence from other humans.

And, what is the cost of this independence from other humans? His lot will be to live a life of abject poverty devoid of any meaning. His search for independence forces him to forsake his very humanness and de-evolve into an animal. And, even then, he can not achieve **true independence**. For, his body is still dependent on plant and animal tissue for its survival.

We humans are not an **independent** life form. Despite the common desire of most of us to be independent, human independence is not possible in any scientific sense. Our bodies do not contain chlorophyll and we cannot get our energy directly from the Sun. Other plants and animals serve as our source of energy. We are just as dependent on others for our survival as are the animals.

We can ignore this fact of science by calling the **other** plants and animals – **food** and cooking their bodies in ways so that we are not reminded of the source of our sustenance, but we are still not **independent**. When we further examine our relationships with other humans, we discover that even here we are not **independent**.

In summary then, we can say that in the lives of plants – the **independent** class of life, **other** plays no role .

In the lives of animals – the **dependent** class of life, **other** serves primarily as a source of food.





And finally in the lives of humans, the **interdependent** class of life, **other** is very important. Our bodies are as dependent on others for food as the animals, but socially, psychologically and economically, **we depend on others and others depend on us**. We humans are **interdependent**.

## Actions

All living systems act to meet their needs. Let us now examine **action** more carefully. Science<sup>1999</sup> reveals that:

“What is most basic in universe is not material particles but **activity**. The older concept of a universe made up of physical particles interacting according to fixed laws is no longer tenable. It is implicit in present findings that **action** rather than matter is basic.”<sup>1</sup>

Science<sup>1999</sup> has discovered **action** to be fundamental in both **nonliving universe** which includes light, particles, atoms, and simple molecules as well as within **living universe** which is life itself – the living molecules, the plants, the animals, and we humans.

- Action implies motion, movement, animation – **process**.
- Actions require energy to occur. **No energy – no action**.
- Actions have location in space. Actions always begin somewhere and end somewhere else. **No location, no space – no action**.
- Actions have duration. Actions always have a beginning and an ending. While some actions may occur in a very short time, they all require some time. There are no instantaneous actions in universe. **No time – no action**.



Because actions require energy, location or space, and time, synergic science sometimes uses the term **energy event** to describe what we commonly call action. R. Buckminster Fuller explains:

“Two different energy events cannot pass through the same point at the same time. When one energy event is passing through a given point and another impinges upon it, there is an **interference**.

“We find experimentally that two lines cannot go through the same point at the same time. One can cross over or be superimposed upon another. Both Euclidean and non-Euclidean geometries misassume that a plurality of lines can go through the same point at the same time. But we find experimentally that two or more lines cannot physically go through the same point at the same time.

“When a physicist bombards a group of atoms in a cloud chamber with a neutron, he gets an **interference**.

“When the neutron runs into a nuclear component: (1) it separates the latter into smaller components; (2) they bounce acutely apart (reflection); (3) they bounce obliquely (refraction); (4) they combine, mass attractively. The unique angles in which they separate or bounce off identify both known or unknown atomic-nucleus components.”<sup>2</sup>

Therefore **actions can not and do not occur in isolation**. If they impinge on the environment, they will effect or impact the **environment**. If they impinge on others, they will effect or impact on **others**. Therefore:

- Actions can effect or impact environment and others in a **negative** and **harmful** way.
- Actions can effect or impact environment and others in a **neutral** or **negligible** way.
- Or, actions can effect or impact environment and others in a **positive** and **beneficial** way.



Therefore actions that effect or impact on others can produce the following results, using the language of games:

- Other can **lose**. They are **hurt** by the action. They are **less** after the action than before.
- Other can **draw**. They are **ignored** by the action. They will be the **same** after the action as before.
- Other can **win**. They are **helped** by the action. They are **more** after the action than before.

From the point of view of an individual effected or impacted by action, I can be **hurt**, I can be **ignored**, or I can be **helped** by the action.

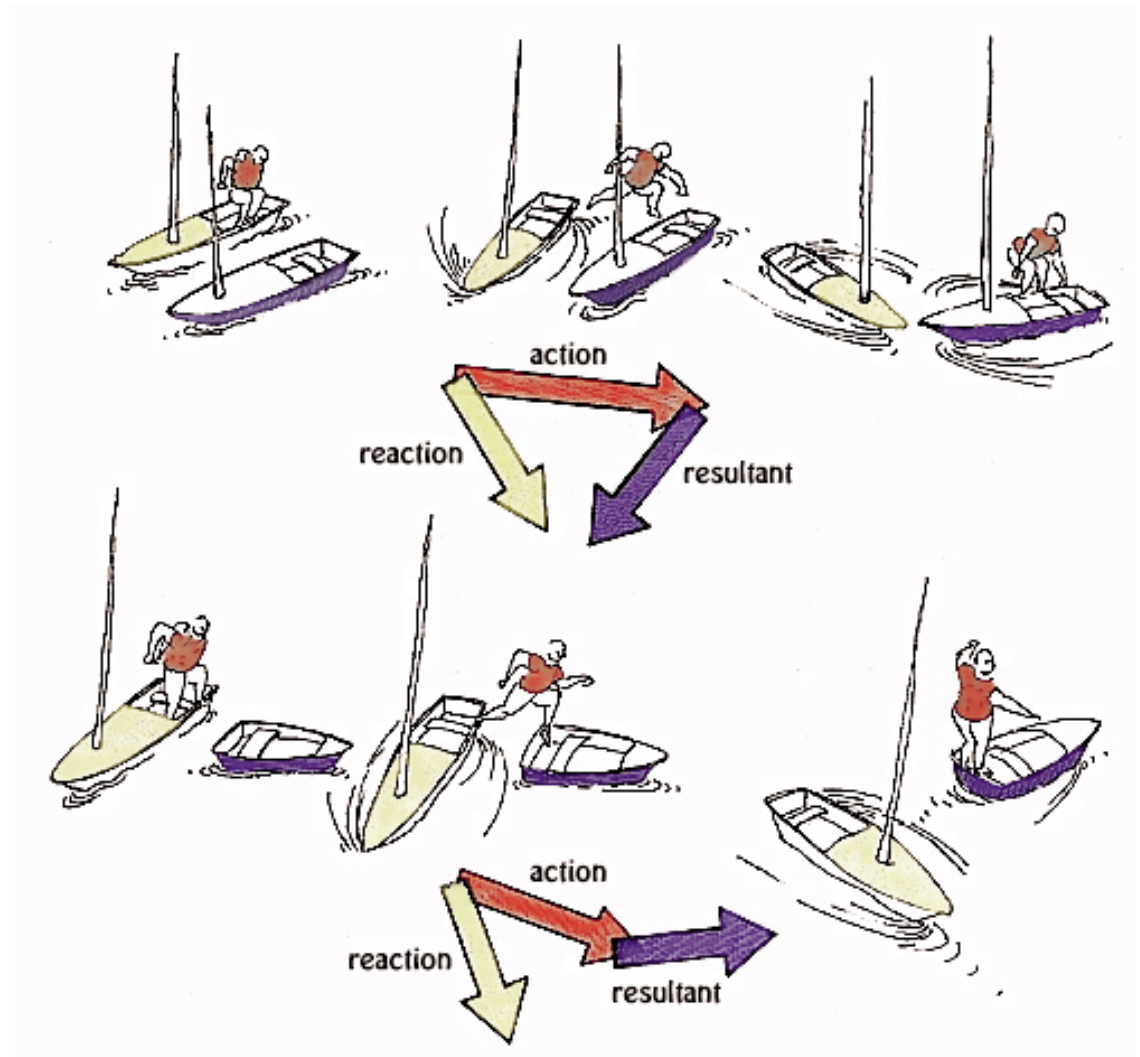
- Actions that **hurt** are **adversary**.
- Actions that **ignore** are **neutral**.
- Actions that **help** are **synergic**.

Because of the effect or impact that action always has on the environment or upon other, we discover that **action** is **always accompanied** by two other phenomena – the **reaction**, and the **resultant**.

The environment or other **reacts** at the beginning of the action. And the effect or impact on the environment or other occurs at the end of the action producing a **resultant**.

**Action, reaction, and resultant** are always found **together**.

In the following illustration<sup>3</sup>, we see the man **act** by jumping from one boat to another. As he jumps, he pushes off causing a **reaction** in the boat he left. As he lands his impact effects a **resultant** on the boat he lands on.



The **reaction** occurs at the **beginning of the action** while the **resultant** occurs at the **end**.

By understanding that these three phenomena always and only coexist, we should not be surprised that since **actions** can be either **adversary**, **neutral** or **synergic**. So too, reactions and resultants can have the same three effects. **Reactions** can be **adversary**, **neutral** or **synergic**. And, **resultants** can also be **adversary**, **neutral** or **synergic**.





And while this is not always the case, we would expect and discover that:

- **adversary** action usually provokes **adversary** reaction ending in an **adversary** resultant or **loss**, while
- **neutral** action usually provokes **neutral** reaction ending in a **neutral** resultant or **draw**, and
- **synergic** action usually provokes **synergic** reaction ending in a **synergic** resultant or **gain**.

Action implies a need for choice. The living system must choose which action or actions to take. The living system must decide **when** to act and **where** to act. Actions bring choices.

## Choice

Choice is defined in the dictionary as deciding, picking, selecting. This would seem a type of **pre-action**, or for living organisms mental or intellectual action. The phenomena of choice begins even before the beginning of life. An Englishman, Thomas Young in 1803, focused science's attention on the phenomenon of choice when he designed unique double slit light experiment. Some scientists interpret his experiment as demonstrating that photons make decisions.<sup>4</sup> A photon of light seems to be making a choice as to where it will go in universe.

When a photon is released at a particular point in universe, one second later it can be anywhere within a sphere of 186,000 miles. We cannot predict where it will be at the end of that second, for its choice is random. But we see that it moves to only one place in that sphere. If we were to define choice mathematically, we would say that **choice** is that condition where a system moves from a point of **multifaceted potentiality** to a point of **single actuality**.

**CHOICE –def–>**

**Multifaceted potentiality –becoming–> single actuality.**





The photon, once released at some point in universe has the **multifaceted potential** to be anywhere within a sphere of 186,000 miles within one second. But, it only goes to one place – it selects a **single actuality**.

Light is the simplest of universe's phenomena and humans appear to be the most complex. If photons choose, then they must have a form of **consciousness**. But, this is not the complex form of consciousness we see in humans, consciousness at the stage of light must be the simplest of consciousnesses.

Science<sup>1999</sup> reveals that universe contains no 'things'. All in universe is **process**. All in universe is **flux**. All in universe is **change**. And change means change in energy. Change in energy is change in information. Universe is full of change and universe is made up of energy and information.

We humans know that when we are confronted by change, we respond by making choices. Every event – be it birth of a child or loss of a loved one, feast or famine, poverty or prosperity, peace or war – represents change. Every idea – be it a discovery that cures cancer or a decision to commit a crime – represents change. Every situation – be it getting a new job or losing a job, marriage or divorce, childhood or old age – represents change.

We humans adapt to these changes by making choices. This is what all living systems do from the time of conception until they perish. They make choices. They make decisions.

The human brain is estimated to be capable of 10 raised to the exponential power of 800 thoughts ( $10^{800}$ ) – **multifaceted potential**. The human brain will have only one thought at the time of decision – **single actuality**. At any moment I am capable of an enormous number of behaviors but I will choose only one – **multifaceted potential** becoming **single actuality**. With the power of action comes opportunity for choice.



In **summary** then, **life** can be examined from the point of **needs** and **actions**. All living systems have needs and they meet those needs through actions. Living systems meet their needs within a **zone of survivability** called the **biosphere**. Biospheres differ for different species and different classes of life.

There are **three classes** of life on earth – **plants**, **animals**, and we **humans**. The **plants** are the **independent** class of life. They have no relationship with others. The **animals** are the **dependent** class of life. They depend on others to survive. And, we **humans** are physiologically dependent, but psychologically and socially **interdependent**. Our animal bodies require we eat the plants and animals to survive. Psychologically and socially, our relationships with other humans are interdependent. **Sometimes we depend on others and sometimes others depend on us.**

All needs of living systems are met with actions. All actions require energy and have duration and location. All actions effect or impact both environment and other. These effects or impacts can be **adversary** – negative and harmful, or they can be **neutral** – negligible, or they can be **synergic** – positive and beneficial.

All **actions** are always and only accompanied by **reactions** at the beginning of an action and a **resultant** at the ending of the action. Reactions and resultants are also either adversary, neutral, or synergic. Usually **adversary actions** provoke **adversary reactions** and end in **adversary resultants**. Usually, **neutral actions** provoke **neutral reactions**, and end in **neutral resultants**. And usually, **synergic actions** provoke **synergic reactions** and end in **synergic resultants**.

And finally, with action comes choice. Choice is deciding, picking or selecting an action to take. Choice is a pre-action. **Choice** is **multipotentiality becoming single actuality**. Choice made **without knowledge** is **random**. Choice made **with knowledge** is **controlled**.

**Life makes controlled choices.**



# Life

## Key Terms and Concepts

- Needs & Actions
- Biosphere
- Three classes of life – Plants, Animals, & Humans – Independent, Dependent, & Interdependent
- Actions – Reactions – Resultants
- Hurt – Ignore – Help
- Adversary – Neutral – Synergic
- Choice = Multifaceted Potentiality → Single Actuality

<sup>1</sup> **Arthur Young**, The Foundations of Science: The Missing Parameter, Robert Briggs Associates, San Francisco, 1984

<sup>2</sup> **R. Buckminster Fuller**, SYNERGETICS – Explorations in the Geometry of Thinking, Volumes I & II, New York, Macmillan Publishing Co, 1975, 1979

<sup>3</sup> **R. Buckminster Fuller**, *ibid*

<sup>4</sup> **Gary Zukav**, Dancing Wu Li Masters, William Morrow & Co., 1979



## Three Ways

### First Insight

When we examine the relationship between self and other, we discover that we can choose actions that result in our being worse off, actions that result in our being unchanged, or actions that result in our being better off. We can choose to hurt each other, we can choose to ignore each other, or we can choose to help each other.

It was as a child on the school playgrounds of rural America in the 1950's that I first learned of these three choices first hand. My twin brother and I were seven years old when our Dad was transferred to a new job and our family moved to the small community of Palco, Kansas. We arrived there after the start of the school year, and soon found ourselves threatened by the established group of boys at our new school. For reasons unclear to me then, conflict seemed almost constant, and real knock down battles occurred all too frequently.

One of my strongest childhood memories is of fear and running. A pack of boys are chasing me and my brother. If they catch us, they will beat us up. I am very tired. We have been running for nearly thirty minutes. My heart is pounding so hard I can hear little else. Perspiration fills my eyes making it difficult to see. A hundred yards ahead my twin brother is running easier. He is taller and a great runner. The pack cannot catch him. But, they are getting closer to me. Recess is almost over now, if we can just hold out until the bell rings, we will escape back into the safety of the classroom. But our escape will be short-lived.

I remember dreading every recess – every lunch hour. Just like in boxing, at the sound of the bell we would all come out fighting. At every recess, the war would resume.



While my brother could often run all noon hour without getting caught, I was smaller and slower with options more limited. Sooner or later the confrontation came, and with it would come the hurt:

a bloody nose,  
a torn shirt,  
a pair of broken glasses,  
detention after school,  
and the risk of a whipping when you got home for fighting at school.

To my seven year old mind, conflict seemed really stupid. Both sides got hurt. I tried to give as good as I got. Hurt and be hurt. I realized in that first year at the new school that there were no real winners in conflict. Even, when you “won” somehow you lost. It didn’t make any sense to me. I resolved to learn how not to fight.

By learning how not to fight, I did not mean giving in. In submission, the threatened party does what the threatener demands so the threatener will not hurt him. A bandit may say “Your money or your life,” the victim gives the bandit his money, and the bandit goes off with it, leaving the victim with his life.<sup>1</sup> This is an **ultimatum** – lose a little or lose a lot, but you will lose.

As a child, I recognized submission as a clear option. Some of the boys in the pack avoided getting hurt by giving in. But this is not what I had in mind when I sought to learn how not to fight. To me submission was worse than getting a beaten. I had always run my own life and I wanted things to continue that way. At my last school I had many friends. My brother and I began our education in a one room school shared by children ages 5 through 13. There the children were more like family. Conflict was unusual and little part of our daily life. We were friends and it seemed we had always been friends.

This way of being friends seemed to me the best way to relate.





I knew I wanted to turn the enemies in my new school into real friends, like I had enjoyed at my old school. But this could not involve giving in. I began my campaign very simply. I knew I liked friendly people. So, I started by just being friendly to my enemies.

I was friendly not submissive. I still did what I wanted. If that happened to be what others wanted that was fine, and I went along. If I didn't, I went my own way. But either way I was friendly, and I never tried to impose my way on others. The boys came to realize that while they could beat me up, they could not make me give in. And, since I vigorously resisted being beaten, my attackers could usually count on a few bruises and pains for their trouble.

My strategy of non-submissive friendliness worked to some degree. Conflict was less and my share of battles decreased dramatically. I found myself being more and more left alone.

They ignored me, preferring to focus their efforts elsewhere, but they were not my friends. I had managed to step outside the world of conflict. I was neither predator nor prey. I was in a different place.



I stand next to my taller brother a few years before the chase.



The other boys no longer sought to hurt me. They simply **ignored** me. We had shifted from an **adversary** relationship to a **neutral** relationship.

However, I was not where I wanted to be. Clearly, if I wanted these boys to become my friends, something **more** would be necessary. I had no idea what that **more** might be. The search for an alternative would dominate and shape my life far beyond any other concern.

Many years later as a physician and scientist, I would encounter the work of **Edward Haskell**. His relationship science would help me understand the phenomena, I had first encountered on the rural playgrounds of Kansas.

### Relationships can hurt, ignore, or help

Edward Haskell<sup>2</sup> discovered that when any two individuals relate the result of their interaction may be negative, neutral or positive. Returning to the use of common gaming language, when two individuals relate they can **lose**, **draw**, or **win**. In all relationships, individuals experience one of the following qualitative states:

- 1) They can **lose**. They are **hurt** by the experience. They are **less** after the experience than before.
- 2) They can **draw**. They are **ignored** by the experience. They will be the **same** after the experience as before.
- 3) They can **win**. They are **helped** by the experience. They are **more** after the experience than before.

From the point of view of the individual joining in relationship, I can be **hurt**, I can be **ignored**, or I can be **helped** by the relationship.

Relationships that hurt are **adversary**. Relationships that ignore are **neutral**. Relationships that help are **synergic**.



# UnCommon Sense

Timothy Wilken's

<sup>1</sup> **Kenneth Boulding**, Ecodynamics, Sage, Beverly Hills, 1978

<sup>2</sup> **Edward Haskell**, FULL CIRCLE: The Moral Force of Unified Science, Gordon and Breach, New York, 1972



# The Relationship Continuum

All human choices and all human relationships can be described as falling on a continuum.

**Adversity** — ● — **Neutrality** — ● — **Synergy**

I define an **adversary relationship** to be any relationship wherein the participants are **less** happy, **less** effective and **less** productive than they would be without the relationship. An adversary choice is any choice that reduces the happiness, effectiveness, and productivity of the participants in the relationship. The sum of the whole relationship in terms of happiness, effectiveness, productivity, profitability, satisfaction, etc. is **less** than the sum of the parts – **less** than the sum of the individual's ability to be happy, effective, productive, profitable, satisfied, etc. outside this relationship.

I define a **neutral relationship** to be any relationship wherein the participants are **equally** happy, **equally** effective, and **equally** productive as they would be without the relationship. A neutral choice is any choice that has no effect on the happiness, effectiveness, and productivity of the participants in the relationship. The sum of the whole relationship in terms of happiness, effectiveness, productivity, profitability, satisfaction, etc. is **equal** to the sum of parts – **equal** to the individuals's ability to be happy, effective, productive, profitable, satisfied, etc. outside this relationship.

I define a **synergic relationship** to be any relationship wherein the participants are **more** happy, **more** effective, and **more** productive than they would be without the relationship. A synergic choice is any choice that increases the happiness, effectiveness, and productivity of the participants in the relationship.



The sum of the whole relationship in terms of happiness, effectiveness, productivity, profitability, satisfaction, etc. is **more** than the sum of the parts – **more** than the sum of the individual's ability to be happy, effective, productive, profitable, satisfied, etc. outside this relationship.

Let us say that you are capable of "X" happiness, effectiveness and productivity. I am capable of "Y" happiness, effectiveness and productivity. If we choose to interact the results can be as follows:

We can have **neutrality**, your "X" and my "Y" are **unchanged** by our relationship. The sum of the whole (X + Y) is **equal** to the sum of the parts (X) + (Y).

$$X + Y = X + Y$$

We can have **adversity**, your "X" and my "Y" are **reduced** by our relationship. The sum of the whole (X + Y) is **less** than the sum of the parts (X) + (Y).

$$X + Y < X + Y$$





Or, we can have **synergy**, your “X” and my “Y” are made **greater** by our relationship. The sum of the whole (X + Y) is **more** than the sum of the parts (X) + (Y).

$$\boxed{X + Y} > \boxed{X} + \boxed{Y}$$

These are the three classes of relationship described in Edward Haskell’s Unified Science<sup>1</sup>. Haskell further explained that the two parties to a relationship would experience one of **nine** possible **co-actions**.

		<u>X</u>		
		—	0	+
<u>Y</u>	X			
	+	—, +	0, +	+, +
	0	—, 0	0, 0	+, 0
	—	—, —	0, —	+, —

A relationship can be effected in three ways. Your “X” can go up, remain unchanged, or go down. And, my “Y” can go up, remain unchanged, or go down.



Our relationship might be good for you, good for me; it might be good for you, neutral for me; it might be good for you, bad for me; it might be neutral for you, good for me; etc.; etc.. Again in our language of games, we have nine possibilities when examined particulately for gross effect.

		<u>X</u>		
		Lose	Draw	Win
<u>Y</u>	<u>Y</u> \ X			
	Win	Lose,Win	Draw,Win	Win,Win
	Draw	Lose,Draw	Draw,Draw	Win,Draw
	Lose	Lose,Lose	Draw,Lose	Win,Lose

And, if we examine the nine possibilities wholistically for net effect, we see the emergence of our three general classes of human relationships.

		<u>X</u>		
		Lose	Draw	Win
<u>Y</u>	Win	Lose,Win	Draw,Win	Win,Win
	Draw	Lose,Draw	Draw,Draw	Win,Draw
	Lose	Lose,Lose	Draw,Lose	Win,Lose

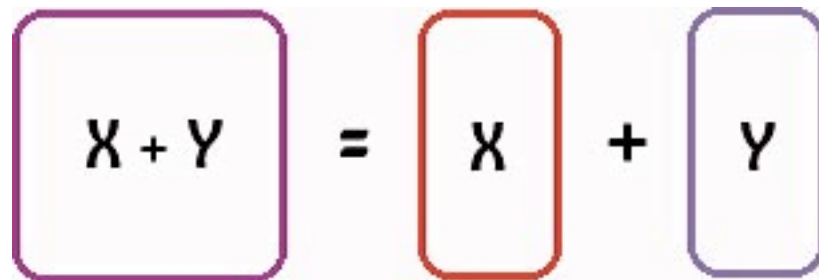
Adversity (Lose,Win; Lose,Draw; Lose,Lose; Draw,Lose)

Neutrality (Draw,Win; Draw,Draw)

Synergy (Win,Win; Win,Draw)

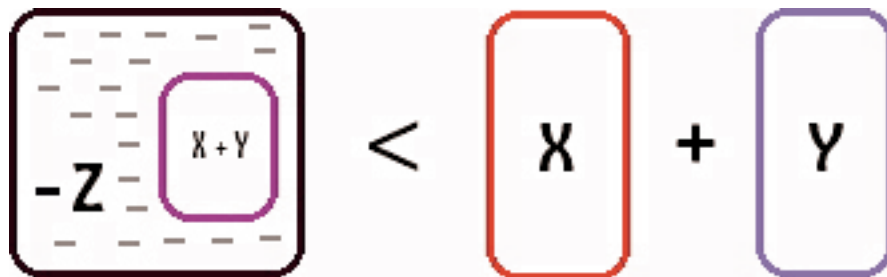


If we examine our three general classes of human relationships we discover some striking differences. In the adversary class, there is a net loss. We humans lose something, we are less together than we would be apart. The neutral class reveals no change. We are the same together as we would be apart. In the synergic class, there is a net gain. We humans gain something, we are more together than we would be apart. Recall our relationship boxes.



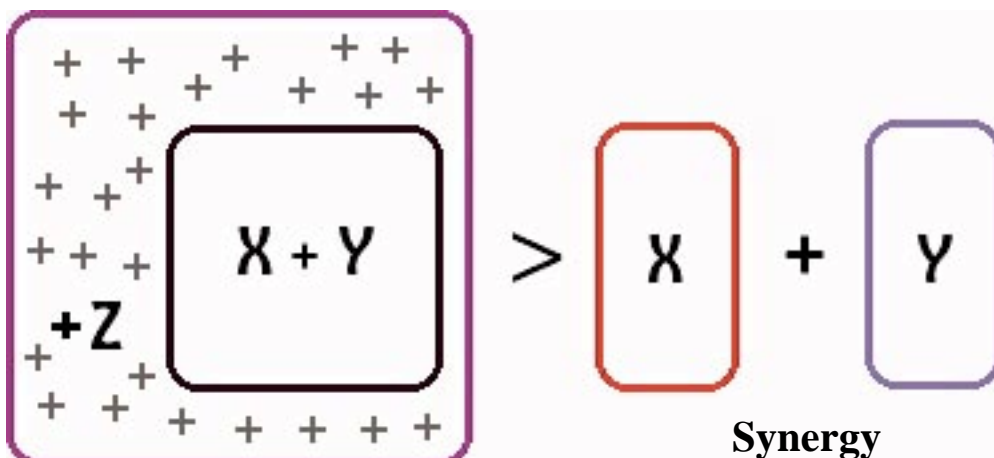
**Neutrality**

Edward Haskell called the **loss** of adversary relationship the “**conflictors’s deficit**”. Let us represent that **loss** as ( - Z ).



**Adversity**

He called the **gain** of synergic relationship the “**cooperator’s surplus**”. Let us represent that **gain** as ( + Z ).



**Synergy**

## Truth lies in eye of the beholder

Each participant determines for himself whether a relationship is synergic or adversary. This is determined from his point of view, and he cannot be fooled.

He is either **more happy, more effective, more productive** because of the relationship; or he is **less happy, less effective, less productive** because of the relationship, or he is **unchanged** by the relationship.

The truth is in the eye of the beholder. The effect can be partial. There may be relationships that are partially synergic, and/or partially neutral, and/or partially adversary.

**True synergy** exists when all participants are more happy, more effective, and more productive. True synergy is **WIN-WIN**. True synergy is +,+. True synergy maximizes the **cooperator's surplus** – maximizes ( Z ).

X

	<u>Y</u>	<u>X</u>		
		Lose	Draw	Win
	Win	Lose,Win Net Neutrality	Draw,Win	Win,Win True Synergy
	Draw	Lose,Draw Net Adversity	Draw,Draw True Neutrality	Win,Draw Net Synergy
	Lose	Lose,Lose True Adversity	Draw,Lose	Win,Lose Net Neutrality

<sup>1</sup> Edward Haskell, The Unified Science, Private Papers, 1947-1986





## Three Classes of Life

In 1921, Alfred Korzybski<sup>1</sup>, a mathematician and scientist, classified **Life** with precise and accurate operational definitions of plants, animals, and humans. He defined the **plants** as **energy-binders**, the **animals** as **space-binders**, and we **humans** as **time-binders**.

Korzybski explained that the **plants** adapt to their environment through their **awareness** and **control** of **energy**. The **animals** adapt to their environment through their **awareness** and **control** of **space**. And we **humans** adapt to our environment through our **awareness** and **control** of **time**.

### Energy-binding – the power of plants

The **power** of energy-binding is **transformation**, **growth**, and **organization**.

Energy-binders have the ability to **transform solar energy** to organic **chemical energy**. The plant is a solar collector. It spreads its leaves and harvests the ultraviolet rays directly from the sun.

Energy-binders have the power of **growth**. The plant draws water and minerals from the soil organizes this energy and nutrients into growth through cell division. The growth of the energy-binder and its self-propagation through progeny are the resultant of cell division – if the cells remain together we have growth; if they split off into a separate entity we have progeny.

Energy-bindings have the power of **organization**. Organization possible through the ability to time the release and binding of energy. Timing based on knowledge – energy knowledge.





Life requires complexity. Take one of the simplest of energy-binders – a single celled bacteria.

We are looking at a simple rod-shaped one celled plant which can avoid dangers and seize opportunities. Inside this simple one celled plant – there are four “boss” molecules. These DNA molecules have a molecular weight of 2.5 billion each. Then we find 400,000 assistants to the bosses, RNA molecules of over 1000 types with an average molecular weight of 2 million each. Packed between all of these molecules are about 1 million protein molecules of over 2000 different types with an average molecular weight of 40,000 each. And to complete this simple cell we find 500 million smaller molecules of approximately 700 types with an average molecular weight of 300 each. All of these units working together to bind energy, making controlled choices, adapting to their environment, avoiding danger and embracing opportunity.

This description of a simple one celled energy-binder is mind boggling; but to keep our sense of proportion, we must recognize that life requires complexity. Energy-binders represent a much more complex order of organization than the most complex of nonliving molecules. If a molecule were likened to an automobile, then a cell is like an automotive factory – a vast organization of men, machines, and computers.

And so plants – the energy-binders are energy aware. They are aware and they process information about energy. They remember energy events and from that memory make controlled choices – energy choices. The plants think and decide.

This is not human thinking, not even animal thinking, but it is a form of intelligence – very powerful energy intelligence. The plants use their power to bind energy – to organize, to adapt to their environment. They must adapt by making controlled choices, which keep them within the narrow corridor of life or they will die. They must avoid the dangers threatening their survival and embrace the opportunities for growth and reproduction.



While the energy-binders have the power to collect and store energy, to make controlled choices of the use of that energy, they have limited adaptability. Limited because they cannot move. Plants are rooted to their environment. If a plant roots in the shade, it cannot move to a sunnier place. If it is dying for lack of water, it cannot move to a rainier spot. Plants lack the power of mobility. Plant growth is movement, but movement towards an infinitely remote goal – the sun. Plant motion is in a constant direction, either away from gravity or towards the sun.

## Neutrality – the natural law of plants

**Neutral** relationships originate in the **plant** world.

Sunlight provides **unlimited energy** for the plants. Each individual plant needs **only** the sun, and adequate water and minerals to survive. Plants are solar energy collectors. They use the sun's radiant energy in photosynthesis to manufacture glucose, carbohydrate and other plant cells.

Individual plants do not relate to each other. They relate only to the earth and the sun.

Plant survival does not require any relationship with **other**. The plants unique ability to utilize sunlight directly to synthesize organic tissue frees them from the need for **others**. This fact makes plants the **independent** class of life – **independent of other**.

While no plant will deliberately hurt another plant, it will also never help another plant. A plant's success or failure depends solely on its own efforts and talents. Individual plants have **no relationship** with each other. Plants have no awareness of each other, they ignore each other. To survive as a plant, you must be **self-sufficient**.

Plants are the only form of life that are truly **independent**.



If we analyze neutral relationships, we discover that individuals are unchanged by their relationship. They are neither less nor more after the relationship. They are the same.  $(1+1) = 2$ .

Choices which do not hurt or help are neutral. Actions which do not hurt or help are neutral. Relationships which do not hurt or help are neutral.

## Space-binding – the power of animals

The power of space-binding is **mobility** – the ability to **move** about in **space**. This is not the simple motion of plants. This is **mobility** – running, jumping, leaping, swinging, swimming, creeping, stalking, crawling, diving, and flying.

The space-binder moves towards a specific and attainable goal – water, food, a mate, shelter – and in any direction. The mobility of the space-binder is not just motion, it is controlled motion. The space-binder moves in search of food. For grazing animals the quest is continuous; for predators, occasional but more strenuous. And all animals are under constant threat from natural enemies. The animal, therefore, requires **sense awareness** – awareness of the **space** in which he lives. The space-binder uses his awareness to find food and to warn him of the approach of enemies. A deer may be motivated by thirst to go to a waterhole, but if it senses a lion, it will refrain. It must continuously evaluate conflicting stimuli and choose between alternatives, alternatives of pleasure or pain, alternatives of **good space** or **bad space**. Space-binders are aware of space, they are aware and they think, they think and they decide – constantly making controlled choices as to **where** and **when** to move.

Thinking for the space-binder is **wholistic**. The animals base their decisions on the whole situation. When the rabbit hears a sound in the thicket, he must react instantly, “fight or flight” and the decision must be made **now**, based on the **whole** situation. There is no time for analysis. Only wholistic thinking has the rapidity and flexibility to allow survival in the adversary world of space-binders.



Spatial intelligence allows the animal to move instantly towards **good space** – space that enables one to survive, and away from **bad space** – space that produces injury or death.

But the animals are not only space-binders, they also have some of the power of energy-binders. While they cannot transform solar energy directly into organic chemical energy, they can transform the tissues from the plants and animals they eat into organic chemical energy, they can also grow, and they can also organize energy. To the fox who sees the rabbit, success at seizing this opportunity for a meal depends not just on his ability to know when and where to move, but also on his ability to control the energy which he will need to power his movement. He must have adequate energy stored so that he can release it at the proper moment to catch the rabbit. And the rabbit can only escape if it uses its knowledge of both space and energy effectively.

## Adversity – the natural law of animals

**Adversary** relationship originates on earth in the **animal** world. Earth supplies **limited space** for the animals. Space is finite. Good space is even more finite. It is very limited. There is only so much good water, so much good grazing land, so much good shelter, and so much good potential food. There is not enough to go around. The space-binders must **compete** for this limited amount of good space. They compete **adversarially**. They compete by **fighting** and **flighting**. They compete by attacking and killing other space-binders. They compete by devouring the energy-binders.

Animal survival depends entirely on finding **others** to eat. The herbivores depend on finding plants to eat. The carnivores depend on finding other animals to eat. The animals inability to utilize sunlight to synthesize organic tissue means they must eat organic tissue. Animals survive by eating either plants or animals. Animals are completely dependent on **other** for survival. This fact makes animals the **dependent** class of life – **dependent on other**.



Imagine a fox chasing a rabbit, if the fox is quick enough, it will **win** a meal, at the expense of the rabbit who **loses** its life. On the other hand, if the rabbit is quicker, the fox **loses** a meal, and the rabbit **wins** its life.

The animals live in an adversary world of **losers** and **winners**. This is a world of **fighting** and **flighting** – of **pain** and **dying**. To win in this world someone must lose. Winning is always at the cost of another.

All animals, from the smallest **insect** to the largest **whale** are **struggling to avoid losing – struggling to avoid being hurt**.

**CONFLICT –def→ The struggle to avoid loss – the struggle to avoid being hurt.**

The animals must fight and flee to stay alive, and they do. Always ready at a moments notice to go tooth and nail to avoid losing – to avoid death. Losers/ winners is the harshest of games. Winning is always at the cost of another's life.

The loser tends to resist with all of its might occasionally prevailing by killing or wounding its attacker. So both parties can lose, turning the game – losers/ winners into losers/ losers.

If we analyze adversary relationships, we discover that individuals are less after the relationship.  $(1+1) < 2$ . In the animal world where the loser forfeits its life  $(1+1) = 1$ . Or in the end game of losers/ losers, both adversaries may die in battle, then  $(1+1) = 0$ .

**Adversity** is completely natural in the animal world. It is the **law of Nature** for **dependent** live forms. It is the way of all animal life. The adversary way is not bad for the animals, it is Nature's way.

The animals have acquired the ability to move voluntarily, but they lack the ability to understand their environment. Their inability to understand locks them into the adversary world.





To be complete, some plants do not have chlorophyll. They cannot convert radiant energy to chemical energy. They lack the full power of energy-binding. They are dependent life forms like the animals and survive through adversary relationships with other forms of life. This includes pathological bacteria and parasitic plants. This also includes the carnivorous plants which possess a primitive form of mobility.

## Time-binding – the power of humans

We humans are time-binders. We possess the power to **understand** and through that understanding to **control** and dominate planet earth.

The power of time-binding is to **understand** – to observe and remember **change over time**. Understanding comes from the **awareness of time** – an awareness that allows humans to experience time as **sequential** or **linear**.

Tomorrow follows today as today followed yesterday. Time always moves from the past to the present, from the present to the future. Change is bound in time. And time-binders can understand change in space because of their awareness of time.

**Time-binding** is a new **way of thinking** – analytical thinking. The time-binder can make decisions based on understanding changes in his environment over time. Time-binding analysis is sequential analysis – linear analysis – focused on the **parts** rather than the **whole**.

**Analytical thinking** recognizes **cause** and **effect**. Time-binders are the masters of cause and effect. When humans **understand cause** and **effect**, they make **scientific discovery**. They make knowledge. When humans make choices based on knowledge, they make inventions. They make technology. Time-binders are the creators of knowledge and technology. When **knowledge** is **incorporated** into **matter-energy**, it becomes a **tool**.



Humans are above all else **toolmakers**. Most of our knowledge is embedded in our tools. Human knowledge grows continuously and without limit. As we incorporate our evermore powerful knowledge into our tools. We produce evermore powerful tools.

## Time-binding's head start

Time-binding is also that unique human ability to pass that 'knowing' from one generation to the next generation. Both animal and human offspring begin their lives in nearly total ignorance. The differences that exist between them are small, but what advantage in 'knowing' that does exist belongs clearly to the animal. While the animal seems to begin life with a greater store of inherited 'knowing', it possesses little ability to learn from its parents. The animal is condemned to rediscover over and over, every generation must discover anew the 'knowings' of its parents. The wise old owl may know a great deal, but he has no way to pass what he knows to his offspring and they have no way to receive it. We humans are very different in that respect. We can and do pass our knowing from one generation to the next.

My grandmother was born in a house **without** telephone, radio, television, electricity, or running water. My mother was born in the same house, but with the addition of electricity, running water, and radio. I was born in a modern hospital, my mother was put to sleep for the delivery and I grew up in a house with electricity, running water, flush toilets, radios, and telephone, and when I was eight, we got a television.

My daughters were born in a hospital home birth center with my wife awake and participating. My daughters have grown up in a house with three televisions, two stereos, three radios, several telephones, two video recorders, and three personal computers.

We humans do not start our 'knowing' over every generation. My paternal grandfather had a 3rd grade education; my maternal grandfather had an 8th grade education.



My parents were high school graduates. I have 26 years of formal education and a doctorate. My wife's mother has a grade school education; her father finished high school. My wife completed 23 years of formal education and has a graduate degree.

Our two daughters are now teenagers attending college, but both were involved in organized and systematic educational programs since their births. I am not smarter than my grandparents or my parents, I am simply **later**. Present humanity is not smarter than past humanity, they are simply **later**. As Alfred Korzybski explained in 1921:

“Human beings possess a most remarkable capacity which is entirely peculiar to them – I mean the capacity to summarize, digest and appropriate the labors and experiences of the past; I mean the capacity to use the fruits of past labors and experiences as intellectual or spiritual capital for developments in the present; I mean the capacity to employ as instruments of increasing power the accumulated achievements of the all-previous lives of the past generations spent in trial and error, trial and success; I mean the capacity of human beings to conduct their lives in the ever increasing light of inherited wisdom; I mean the capacity in virtue of which man is at once the **inheritor** of the bygone ages and the **trustee** of posterity. And because humanity is just this magnificent natural agency by which the past lives in the present and the present for the future, I define **humanity**, in the universal tongue of mathematics and mechanics, to be the **time-binding class of life**.”<sup>2</sup>

We humans bind time and are bound together in time. The record of our time-binding is everywhere. It is in all that activity that we so innocently call **progress**. It is the very motor of obsolescence. It is embedded in just about everything associated with humans and yet most humans are unaware of the very power that makes them human. We humans catalogue and store our various knowings in libraries, universities, colleges, data banks, and information services. We store our knowing in many formats – books, tapes, films, movies, newspapers, magazines, video, microfilm, photos, computer files, etc., etc., etc..



We are **time-binders** and the mark of our human power is everywhere.

But, humans are **more** than just time-binders with the power to **understand**. We also have the power of **space-binding – mobility** and the ability to think **wholistically**, and the power of **energy-binding – conversion** of plant and animal tissue to organic chemical energy, **growth** and **organization** of energy.

Human success depends not just on understanding, but also on knowing when, where and how to be mobile. And also on the ability to control the energy which we will need to power our movement. We must have adequate energy stored so that we can release it at the proper moment to adapt to our environment.

## Synergy – the natural law of humans

The **synergic** relationship originates in the **human** world. As Korzybski foresaw:

“The human class of life is a part and a product of nature, therefore, there must be fundamental laws which are natural for this class of life. A stone obeys the natural laws of stones; a liquid conforms to the natural law of liquids; a plant, to the natural laws of plants; an animal, to the natural laws of animals; it follows inevitably that there must be natural laws for humans.”<sup>3</sup>

Universe provides **unlimited time** for humans. This is in the sense of time-binding. Human lives are finite, but human ‘knowing’ is not. Humans discovered control of fire ~1.5 million years ago, and it has been in daily use since then.

Humans invented the wheel ~5500 years ago and its use is everywhere today. Because humans pass their knowing to their descendants, in a sense, collective human life is not limited. Understanding is not limited. Knowing is not limited. Technology is not limited. Quality of human life based on knowing and technology is not limited.



We first discover synergic relationship in the microscopic universe. It is the basis of human cellular organization. Each of us has approximately 40 trillion cells organized within our bodies. These cells are related synergically, each acting in a highly co-Operative way.

Synergic relationship becomes available to human individuals because of time-binding. Our ability to invent and to understand new ways of doing things creates a new possibility for **co-Operation** which does not exist in the world of the plants and animals.

**Co-OPERATION –def→ Operating together to insure that both parties win, and that neither party loses. The negotiation to insure that both parties are helped, and that neither party is hurt.**

Cooperation is an old word with lots of different meanings and feelings attached to it. Similar words are uniting, banding, combining, concurring, conjoining, and leaguings. Individuals who cooperate are affiliates, allies, associates, or confederates.

To some “cooperation” seems a losing word associated with socialism and communism. This is not what I mean. **Co-Operation** in synergic relationship means **operating together** to insure a **win-win** outcome.

**Co-Operation** is the mechanism of action necessary whenever an individual desires to accomplish a task beyond his individual abilities.

Imagine, you and a friend are moving a heavy piece of furniture. Neither of you are strong enough to move the furniture by yourself. You decide to **co-operate**. You decide to **operate together** during the lifting. You would negotiate to insure that both of you win – to insure that both of you are helped.





The conversation might go like this, “**Are you ready?**” “**OK.**” “**Ready, 1.. 2.. 3.. lift!**”, and if things are going well you continue the lift, but if one end gets too heavy then synergic co-Operation requires that you also protect each other from loss. “**Whoops! Set it down.**”

This is the **synergic veto**. This is the true meaning of **co-Operation**. The **negotiation** to **insure** that **both** parties **win**, and the **synergic veto** to **stop** the action if **either** party is **losing**.

A very limited form of cooperation exists among some animals. We see it the hunting pride of lions and within the hyena pack. Human **co-Operation** is a much more powerful mechanism. Animals have no **voice** with which to **negotiate** an action in which they **win**. They have no voice to **veto** an action in which they **lose**. Their primitive cooperation is guided by instinct, and it is quick to breakdown into the fighting and flighting of the adversary way.

We humans share the animal body, to survive we must also eat. We are omnivores. We meet our basic needs and survive by eating both plants and animals. Physiologically, we humans are also a **dependent** class of life. So adversary behavior comes to humans legitimately. But we humans are much more intelligent than the animals and that intelligence gives us the synergic option to avoid fighting or flighting.

True co-Operation – working together, teamwork, joint effort, alliances – these are only possible to a life form with symbolic intelligence – to a life form with a **voice** and with **language** – to a life form able to **negotiate** and **veto**. On earth, synergic relationships are only available only to humans.

Synergic relationship means sometimes I depend on **other** and sometimes **other** depends on me. Synergic relationship makes humans the **interdependent** class of life – **interdependent** on each **other**. Today, synergic relationship exists only within small groups of humans.



Today, we find synergic relationships within families, occasionally within small businesses. But, there are no examples of institutionalized Synergy. There are **no** synergic governments.

**Co-Operation** results when there are **no losers** and **no one is ignored**. When humans behave synergically, they seek their goals and needs as **allies** rather than as competitors. Human intelligence is most useful when we humans think of ways where all parties can win and where there is no need for losers. Synergic relationships can produce **all-win scenarios**. And when humans begin to co-Operate wonderful things can happen. When we analyze synergic relationships, we find that  $(1+1) > 2$ , frequently it's much greater  $(1+1) >>> 2$ .

Synergic mechanism is basic to Life. Synergy is present in the energy-binders. If we examine the plants microscopically, we find that every cell within a plant is organized to work together, each contributing to the integrity of the whole plant. The whole plant is more than an accumulation of vegetable cells. However at the macroscopic level the plant is neutral. It has no relationship with other plants.

Synergy is present in the space-binders as well. If we examine the animals we will find that **microscopically they are synergically organized**. Their organelles are synergized into cells, their cells are synergized into tissues, their tissues are synergized into organs, their organs are synergized into the organism-as-a-whole. Every cell interacting synergistically with every other cell. But for space-binders this is where synergy stops. The space-binder is behaviorally an adversary – the very opposite of synergy.

The intelligence of space-binding is inadequate to allow space-binders to organize themselves into a synergic community. The lion kills the zebra with no thought of the effect on the community of animals. The space-binder is not irresponsible he is aresponsible. His adversary behavior is the result of innocence. He sees himself as the only “whole”.



In the adversary world, there is only **good space** or **bad space**. The animal lives the life of **true dependence**. If he is to eat, he must kill **other**.

We humans are also microscopic synergies. However, on the macroscopic or behavioral level we have a choice as how to behave. We can choose Adversity, Neutrality or Synergy. Today<sup>1999</sup> most of us choose Adversity and Neutrality, and most of our relationships are adversary and neutral.

However, we humans do have the synergic option denied to the plants and animals. In synergic relationship,  $(1+1) > 2$ ,  $(1+1)$  can be 25. In synergic relationship  $(1+1+1+1)$  can equal 100,000,000.

### The Beatles – an example of synergy

Four young musicians named, John, Paul, George, and Ringo form a group in England in the 1960's.

If we add up their separate individual musical abilities,  $(1+1+1+1)$ , we would expect it would equal 4. But when **The Beatles** perform in synergy they break the rules of Newtonian logic with their joining, for **The Beatles**  $(1+1+1+1)$  equaled hundreds of **MILLION\$**.

**Synergy** is in the “**whole**”. When the synergic relationship was broken, when **The Beatles** stopped performing together as a group in 1979, and began performing as individuals, their earnings dropped off dramatically despite high separate activity.

Forbes Magazine ranked **The Beatles** #5 on its list of the 40 top earners in the field of entertainment for period 1996-1997. The Beatles music royalties for this period totaled \$98,000,000.00 eighteen years after they had disbanded.

What made the Beatles so very special cannot be found by analyzing John, Paul, George, or Ringo as separate musicians.



Synergy then is that something extra that exists in the whole that cannot be discovered by analyzing and summing the parts.

In **summary** then, Alfred Korzybski defined the three classes of life as **energy-binders**, **space-binders**, & **time-binders**.

**Plants** adapt through their **awareness** and **control** of **energy**.

**Animals** adapt through their **awareness** and **control** of **space**, and.

**Humans** adapt through their **awareness** and **control** of **time**.

Plants possess the **power** of **energy-binding** which is **growth** and **organization**. Animals possess the **power** of **space-binding** which is **mobility** and some of the power of energy-binding. Humans possess the **power** of **time-binding** which is **understanding**, and some of the power of space-binding, and some of the power of energy-binding.

The natural law of **plants** is **Neutrality** – they **ignore** other.

The natural law of **animals** is **Adversity** – they **hurt** other.

The natural law of **humans** is **Synergy** – they **help** other.

Plants have **no relationship** with other. They are the **independent** class of life.

Animals **depend** on others as a source of food. They are the **dependent** class of life. Their lives are filled with **conflict** – the **struggle to avoid being hurt**.

Humans share the animal body and **physiologically** we **depend** on others as a source of food. However, psychologically and socially, **sometimes** we **depend on others** and **sometimes others depend on us**. We are the **interdependent** class of life.

**Interdependence** gives us humans the option for **co-Operation**.

We can choose to **operate together** to insure that both parties win, and neither party loses. We can **negotiate** to **insure** that **both** parties are **helped**, and that **neither** party is **hurt**.



We can **veto** any action that would cause either party to **lose**. We can **veto** any action that would cause **either** party to be **hurt**.

## 3 Ways

### Key Terms and Concepts

- **Energy-binding – Growth & Organization – Neutrality –  $(1+1)=2$**
- **Space-binding – Mobility – Adversity –  $(1+1) < 2$**
- **CONFLICT –def→ The struggle to avoid loss – the struggle to avoid being hurt.**
- **Time-binding – Understanding – Synergy –  $(1+1) >> 2$**
- **Co-OPERATION –def→ Operating together to insure that both parties win, and neither party loses. The negotiation to insure that both parties are helped, and neither party is hurt.**
- **SYNERGIC VETO – The veto of any action that would hurt either party during co-Operation.**

<sup>1</sup> **Alfred Korzybski**, The Manhood of Humanity, E.P. Dutton & Co., New York, 1921

<sup>2</sup> **Alfred Korzybski**, The Manhood of Humanity, ibid

<sup>3</sup> **Alfred Korzybski**, The Manhood of Humanity, ibid





# Human Neutrality

## Avoiding Loss

Today human life is not synergic. Most of humanity is ignorant of the natural law of Synergy. Most humans ignore or hurt each other. Most humans ignore or hurt the environment. This is the source of nearly all our current problems.

In the free world, we have created a system of human Neutrality as a mechanism to **avoid the loss of Adversity**.

Remember that the **neutral relationship** originates in the **plant** world. Sunlight provides **unlimited energy** for the plants. And so each individual plant needs **only** the sun, and adequate water and minerals to survive. Plants are solar energy collectors. They use the sun's radiant energy in photosynthesis to manufacture glucose, carbohydrates and other plant cells. Individual plants do not relate to each other. They relate only to the earth and the sun.

No plant will deliberately hurt another plant, its success or failure depends solely on its own efforts. Individual plants have **no relationship** with each other. Plants have no awareness of each other, they ignore each other. To survive as a plant, you must be **self-sufficient**. Plants are the truly **independent**. They need no other life form to survive. Each plant lives or dies on its own. If it sits luckily in the Sun with an abundance of solar energy, it does not assist its brother in the shade. The motto of plants could be **to live and let live**.

The values of **human Neutrality** parallel the laws of **plant neutrality**. Free and independent citizens relate to each other as equals. They are prohibited from hurting another free and independent citizen, but that are not required to help another citizen.



The mechanism of relationship is conducted through a free and fair market with the honest exchange of merchandise of good value at a fair price.

**FAIR TRADE –def→ The bartering to insure that the exchange is fair – to insure that the price is not too high or too low – to insure that neither party loses.**

Human Neutrality is about **fairness**. The market place is a fair and safe place to exchange goods and services. Neither seller nor buyer should be injured in the exchange. Products should represent a **good value** and be sold at a **fair price**. All citizens are guaranteed **freedom from loss**.

In the free market of Neutrality, our identities and personal relationships are unimportant. We purchase products anonymously, usually without knowing the seller's name, or he ours. When I enter McDonalds to purchase my lunch, I see only the product, the hamburger stacked in the warmer. I ignore the clerk. I don't know her name or her story. I see the hamburger, that's what I want. The clerk behind the counter ignores me. She doesn't know my name or my story. She sees my five dollars, that's what she wants.

The store is clean and I feel safe. I expect the kitchen is clean and I will get a good product for a fair price. We will trade. We will speak the neutral words of the trading ritual. I never knowing her name, she never knowing mine. "May I help you?" "Thank you and have a nice day." We **trade**.

## Fair Trade

Now our trade is **fair**. By definition, the lunch McDonalds is selling has a fair market value of \$5.00. My five dollars has a **fair** market value of \$5.00. We trade **fairly**. Economically nothing much has changed for me. I had five dollars in cash when I entered McDonalds, and I left with five dollars worth of lunch. My net worth is the same.



While I obviously got some utility from the exchange, I preferred the lunch to my cash. In a strict economic sense, I am little changed by this exchange. In fair exchanges, \$5.00 in cash equals \$5.00 in food. In fact, McDonalds created the lunch for less than \$5.00, the fair market price contains some profit for the seller. But, when I earned my \$5.00, I did it by I selling some product or service that cost me a little less. I'm entitled to a profit when I sell products or services. That's the **neutral way**.

If we analyze neutral relationships, we discover that in a neutral exchange  $(1+1) = 2$ . Humans institute Neutrality to escape Adversity – to protect themselves from loss.

**The first principle of human Neutrality is to AVOID LOSS.**

In the language of games, where you can win, lose, or draw, we are obtaining a **draw**. We, like the plants, will be **ignored** by the experience. We will be the **same** after the experience as before. The advantage of changing from Adversity to Neutrality is not that we will **win**, but rather that we will **avoid losing**.

Neutrality offers a safe haven for humans. With Neutrality it is possible for us humans to avoid playing the adversary game. We are free to work without fear that others will hurt us. We are free and independent citizens. We are free to create products or provide services and sell those in the great market for a fair price.

The capitalistic economics of Neutrality produces a major advance over the economics of Adversity. Humans using neutral organization are much more successful than those using adversarial organization. Because human needs and wants are many and complex and there is no way any individual can meet these needs, we have evolved the great market. We operate as independent producers and consumers. Each neutral citizen is responsible for purchasing their own needs and wants.

Neutral government is committed to fairness for all its citizens.



The government's only legitimate purpose is to insure economic independence and protect individual freedom. To insure a safe and stable environment that allows the free market to work best. Today's free world is dominated by Neutrality in the form of neutral government, neutral nations, neutral organizations, and neutral value systems.

The unchallenged success of human Neutrality in the United States and within the rest of the Free World has established that most modern values and beliefs are **neutral** ones. Modern humans are strongly convinced that they are self sufficient and independent, or at least that they **should be** self sufficient and independent. They believe in their right to own property and to freely and independently control their property. These beliefs are so strong in our present culture, that it is almost impossible to imagine things any other way.

## Trouble in paradise

But, is neutrality really the best way for humanity?

With careful analysis of the neutral relationship, we discover that the best one can get is only **equal** value. The **best result** of a neutral relationship is a **draw**. We are **ignored** by the experience. We are the same after the experience as before. At worst, the price is less than fair, we get cheated. We lose. Or the product is not good, we get ripped off. We are less after the experience than before. At best within a neutral exchange  $(1+1) = 2$ , at worst  $(1+1) < 2$ .

And while today's beliefs in freedom and independence may be our most highly prized values, many of our neutral values are not very humanitarian.

While **hurting** others is highly discouraged, **helping** others is rarely encouraged. We are focused on products, and **help** is just another product. Generally, we ignore each other. The free market is a neutral, anonymous and completely impersonal place.



You don't know the person serving you at McDonalds. You don't know their name and they don't know yours. There is nothing special about the relationship. You may eat your lunch there every day for a year, but go in once without your wallet, and you won't eat. They will ignore you. If you don't have the admission price. You don't get in. In a world where the highest value is independence, why should I help anyone. Everyone **should be** independent and not require any help. In the world of human Neutrality only products and their fair prices really matter. If you can't pay your way you don't exist.

Despite all our pride in being free and independent, we humans are blind to the true nature of our neutral relationships. Being truly independent means you are alone. You are all by yourself. There is no one to help you if you get in trouble. The casualties of human Neutrality are numerous. Because we are independent, because we are self sufficient, we are encouraged to ignore the problems and difficulties of others.

It's always someone else's job to help others not ours. If my coworker gets fired it's not my problem. If there are hungry children in my community, it's not my problem. Neutral humans are indifferent. Neutral humans ignore.

Today we have enormous and evergrowing levels of human poverty and suffering and starvation effecting hundreds of millions of humans worldwide. Millions of children die needlessly every year.

Today, homelessness is an institution found in every city and town in America. Large numbers of humans live out their short lives completely ignored. Hundreds of children disappear every day from the streets of our cities and towns – many without notice. Neutral governments are indifferent. Neutral governments ignore.

Neutrality only works well when there are unlimited resources. Remember the plants have an unlimited supply of sunlight.





As solar collectors, they are the truly **independent** form of life. Their **independence** requires **unlimited resources**.

We humans share the animal body of the space-binder. And good space is limited. This is why Adversity dominated human life until the 17th century. As Hazel Henderson in conversation with Fritjof Capra explained in 1988:

“Until the sixteenth century the notion of purely economic phenomena, isolated from the fabric of life, did not exist. Nor was there a national system of markets. That, too, is a relatively recent phenomena which originated in seventeenth century England.

“Of course markets have existed since the Stone Age, but they were based on barter, not cash, and so they were bound to be local. The motive of individual gain from economic activities was generally absent. The very idea of profit, let alone interest, was either inconceivable or banned.”<sup>1</sup>

Human Neutrality emerged in the old world with the creation of national markets, but it was a partial Neutrality strongly dominated by the adversary systems still in place, and constrained by limited resources.

For Neutrality to work, there must be **unlimited resources**. A more complete and purer form of human Neutrality was institutionalized by the American Revolution that founded the United States of America. The early colonists were in the right place at the right time.

The right place was the empty continent of North America. Millions of acres of arable land and forests, filled with abundant water in millions of streams, rivers, and lakes and stocked with uncountable numbers of wildlife. This was further enriched with enormous reserves of iron, coal, copper, aluminum, zinc, lead, gold, silver, oil, and much more – all available for the taking.



The right time was 1776, by then the collective power of humanity's time-binding had discovered, invented, and developed the tools and knowhow that created the mechanism of the Agricultural, Industrial, and Transportational Revolutions. The level of knowledge and technology available to the American colonists coupled with enormous North American reserves, provided them with cheap food, cheap power, and cheap transportation. Thus, conditions were **perfect** for the success of human Neutrality. America would have the equivalent of **unlimited resources** for the next 150 years.

The North American continent was nearly empty when human Neutrality began, today it is getting full. We no longer have a limitless abundance of natural resources available for the taking. Our world of plenty is being reduced to a world of scarcity. In 1776, there were less than a billion humans on the planet, today we approach 6 billion.

As things start to get scarce, the humans lose their option for Neutrality. Soon they have to learn to do without. They go without owning their own homes. They go without higher education for their children. They go without free time for recreation as they are forced to get a second job. Or, they sidestep back into the adversary world – they steal, embezzle, or defraud.

Today, within the United States, the very center of human Neutrality, we see declining quality of life, declining compensation for all workers, deteriorating nuclear families, and declining numbers of humans able to own their own homes. We see increasing mental illness and child abuse; ever escalating health care costs, and more humans without access to medical care. Examining today's youth, we see declining numbers of college graduates, mixed with increasing drug and alcohol use; increasing suicide; casual sexuality and unwanted pregnancy.

And there are even bigger problems facing Americans and the rest of humanity.



Acid rain, ozone depletion, water and air pollution, toxic buildup, strip mining, deforestation, erosion & topsoil depletion; greenhouse effect, ice age, nuclear winter, el nino, and even asteroids threatening the planet. These big problems are invisible to **indifferent** governments and **ignoring** citizens. Whose problems are these anyway? In Neutrality, they belong to no one. They are certainly not mine.

### Something is wrong in Paradise

When we humans institutionalized Neutrality over two hundred years ago, it was a great advance over Adversity, it dramatically reduced the pain and suffering for humanity. In the 18th century, Neutrality was a major advance for humankind. The neutral system gave individuals opportunities for great economic success. The birth of capitalistic economics greatly enriched the human condition. Neutral organization was more powerful than adversary organization. Neutrality did work well in the free world for many humans who inhabited it two hundred years ago. This will all be explained in **The Past** section of this book.

Human **independence** is an illusion. We humans bought into this illusion in the 'free' world that was created in 1776, and many of us have lived by the rules of Neutrality ever since. But things have changed, today, Institutional Neutrality no longer works for humanity – not even for those 'living' in free world.

We humans are not **independent**, we are **interdependent**.

In **summary** then, **Neutrality** was **instituted** by humans to **avoid the loss** of Adversity. It is a mechanism most suited for independent organisms which humans are not. Its great benefit over adversity is as a mechanism to avoid loss. Neutrality is dominated by fair trade – the bartering to insure that the price is fair – that neither party loses in a fair exchange. The market is everything.

Neutrality avoids losing, but at best only gets you a draw.



You are ignored by the exchange.  $(X + Y) = 1$ . Neutrality only works when there are unlimited resources. The plants – a naturally independent form of life – have unlimited sunlight.

Earlier in our human history, we had relatively unlimited resources especially in the new world of America. Things have changed. Our human population has grown from less than one billion in 1776 to nearly six billion. Neutrality is no longer an option.

## Human Neutrality

### Key Terms and Concepts

- **FAIR TRADE** –def–> The bartering to insure that the exchange is fair – to insure that the price is not too high or too low – to insure that neither party loses.
- The first principle of human Neutrality is to **AVOID LOSS**.
- Neutrality –  $(1+1) = 2$
- For Neutrality to work, there must be unlimited resources. Human independence is an illusion. We humans are not independent, we are interdependent.

<sup>1</sup> **Hazel Henderson**, Quoted by Fritjof Capra, Uncommon Wisdom—Conversations with Remarkable People, Bantam New Age Books, New York, 1989



# Interdependence

## The Human Condition

Alfred Korzybski<sup>1921</sup> explains:

“To discover the nature of Man and the laws of that nature, marks the summit of human enterprises. For to solve this problem is to open the way to everything which can be of importance to humanity – to human welfare and happiness.

“The great problem has been felt as a powerful impulse through out the ages of human striving, for in all times it has been evident to thinkers that upon the right solution of the problem must forever depend the welfare of mankind. Many “solutions” have been offered; and, though they have differed widely, they agree in one respect – they have had a common fate – the fate of being false. What has been the trouble? The trouble has been, in every instance, a radical misconception of what a human being really is. The problem is to discover the natural laws of the human class of life. All the “solutions” offered in the course of history and those which are current today are of two and only two kinds – **zoological** and **mythological**. The zoological solutions are those which grow out of the false conception according to which human beings are animals; if humans are animals, the laws of human nature are the laws of animal nature. The mythological “solutions” are those which start with the conception to which humans are mixtures of natural and supernatural – unions or combinations of animality and divinity. Mythological “solutions” contain no conception of natural law; scientifically judged, they are absurdities, well meaning no doubt, but silly and deadly in their effects upon the interest of mankind.”<sup>1</sup>

## Known to the wise

Abraham, Buddha, Confucius, and Jesus understood the underlying connectedness of all humanity. Their admonitions to us contain high awareness of our human **interdependence**. This is why they taught us not to kill, not to steal, not to molest, not to fraud, not to coerce.





They understood that the **conflict** of **Adversity** was not for humankind. They understood that the **indifference** of **Neutrality** was not for humankind. They taught us to be our brother's keeper. As Gandhi explains:

“**Inter**dependence is and ought to be as much the ideal of man as self-sufficiency. Man is a social being. Without interrelation with society he cannot realize his oneness with the universe or suppress his egotism. His social **inter**dependence enables him to test his faith and to prove himself on the touchstone of reality. If man were so placed or could so place himself as to be absolutely above all dependence on his fellow beings he would become so proud and arrogant as to be a veritable burden and nuisance to the world. Dependence on society teaches him the lesson of humanity. That a man ought to be able to satisfy most of his essential needs himself is obvious; but it is no less obvious to me that when self-sufficiency is carried to the length of isolating oneself from society it almost amounts to sin. A man cannot become self-sufficient even in respect of all the various operations from the growing of cotton to the spinning of the yarn. He has at some stage or other to take the aid of the members of his family. And if one may take help from one's own family, why not from one's neighbors? Or otherwise what is the significance of the great saying, “The world is my family?””<sup>2</sup>

In 1932, at the bottom of the Great Depression, the American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt spoke:

“The basic thought that guides these specific means of national recovery is not narrowly nationalistic. It is the insistence, as a first consideration, upon the **inter**dependence of the various elements in and parts of the United States – a recognition of the old and permanently important manifestation of the American spirit of the pioneer. It is the way to recovery. It is the immediate way. It is the strongest assurance that the recovery will endure.

“In the field of world policy I would dedicate this Nation to the policy of the good neighbor – the neighbor who resolutely respects himself and, because he does so, respects the rights of others.



The neighbor who respects his obligations and respects the sanctity of his agreements in and with a world of neighbors.

“If I read the temper of our people correctly, we now realize as we have never realized before our interdependence on each other; that we cannot merely take but we must give as well; that if we are to go forward, we must move as a trained and loyal army willing to sacrifice for the good of a common discipline, because without such discipline no progress is made, no leadership becomes effective. We are, I know, ready and willing to submit our lives and property to such discipline, because it makes possible a leadership which aims at a larger good. This I propose to offer, pledging that the larger purposes will bind upon us all as a sacred obligation with a unity of duty hitherto evoked only in time of armed strife.

“With this pledge taken, I assume unhesitatingly the leadership of this great army of our people dedicated to a disciplined attack upon our common problems.”<sup>3</sup>

## Why interdependence

When a task is larger than the abilities of a single individual it requires co-Operation. If you want to lift a thousand pound sofa you will need help. Two individuals working together can accomplish more than one individual working alone. One thousand individuals working together can accomplish much more than any individual working alone.

**Interdependent** systems are much more **powerful** than **independent** systems. Humans are the most complex form of life in known universe, and we spin a web of complex relationships to meet our needs and wants. They allow for division of labor. It is by dividing labor, and becoming specialized, that we humans are able to increase our standard of living almost without limit. If each of us had to provide all our own needs and wants, we would have to be the jack of all trades, and the master of none.



We humans joined together to gain the advantage of the **division of labor**. When we divide labor, each individual can become master of one trade. The individual can then produce a single product much more efficiently than he could produce hundreds of different products. We humans have created complex webs of **interdependence** based on our division of labor. Division of labor can be quite simple, as when the husband agrees to carry out the trash, while his wife cooks supper. Or it can be very complex, as in a large company, where the tasks are divided among hundreds of thousands of employees.

For humanity, our choice was simple. Become **interdependent** or retain the quality of life of the plants and animals. Our mothers and fathers, our grandmothers and grandfathers, our great grandmothers and great grandfathers – they have already made the choice for us.

We modern humans are bound together in total **interdependence** – this means we are totally dependent on each other. Whether we like it now or not, really doesn't matter. Look in your pockets, we can't go back 10,000 years now. We don't know how to live in a true world of **independence**. We could not survive without the tools of our **interdependence**. The animals live their lives without the tools of **interdependence**. They live life naked with no possessions. They catch their food with tooth and claw – killing and consuming plants and animals to survive. They are **dependent** on plant and animal tissue for survival. We humans share the animal body and are no less dependent on animal and plant tissue for our survival. However, our intelligence and our **interdependence** allows us to cultivate the plant and animal tissue we need in our gardens, farms, ranches, nurseries, and hatcheries.

## Fair market interdependence

The "fair market" of institutional Neutrality provides humanity a limited form of **interdependence**. When we buy and sell in the fair market, we are depending on each other.



Humans in neutral relationship depend on others to meet their needs. Humans in neutral relationships need help from others.

However in the fair market place of neutrality, the helpers are **anonymous**. This **anonymity** is what allows us to feel **independent**. Our belief systems in the Western 'free' world rest heavily on the core belief in **independence** even while this belief is obviously false.

Humanity was right when we chose Neutrality to move beyond Adversity. But Neutrality is only a short term solution. Human Neutrality does not make us independent, it simply hides our **interdependence** in the anonymity of the fair market.

**Neutral interdependence** is not **synergic interdependence**. Our human culture is evolving, and now it is time now to move beyond Neutrality. It is time to embrace Synergy.

Once, we accept the reality of our human **interdependence**, then we can get on with **winning**. The **secret** of winning then is **to get others to help us**. Let us examine these options through the lens of synergic science.

## Getting help

**Interdependence** is the human condition.

All humans need help unless they wish to live at the level of animal subsistence. **Interdependence** means some times I depend on others and sometimes others depend on me. Once we acknowledge our **interdependence** and accept our dependence on others, then there are only three ways that we can get help.

We can **force** others help us – **adversary help**.

We can **pay** others to help us – **neutral help**.

Or, we can **co-Operate** with others and **attract** them to help us by making sure that they are also helped – **synergic help**.



## Adversary help

This is help obtained with coercion – **force** or fraud. Those providing the help are losing. When you force others to help you, they do the least they possibly can. Because the **helper** is **hurt**, adversary help is **low quality** help.

Adversary relationships are **hurting** and **negative** experiences. The helper experiences a **loss**. He is **less** after helping you than before. When you force others to help you, they do the **least** they possibly can.

Adversary **interdependence** means that sometimes I force others to help me, and sometimes others force me to help them.

Slavery, indentured service, tenant farming, and child labor are examples of adversary help. The criminal makes you help him, when he steals your property. The government makes you help it, when it **forces** you to pay taxes. You are being forced to help others anytime you are given an **ultimatum**.

Adversary relationships are hurtful. The parties in these relationships experience loss. They struggle to avoid the loss – they **conflict**. In an adversary relationship, one individual plus another individual are less after the relationship. In other words  $(1+1) < 2$ , and often much less than two.

When you make others help you, coercing them with force or fraud, the helper loses and will typically give you only the lowest quality help. Adversary relationships are marked by **high conflict**, **low effectiveness** and **poor productivity**.

## Neutral help

This is help **purchased** from others. This is the way most of us get help today. We hire it or we buy it in the market place. When I go to McDonalds, I pay them five dollars to feed me.





The focus in the neutral market place is on a **fair price**. Because the **helper** is **ignored**, neutral help is **average quality** help.

Macys, Sears, Mervyns, Pennys, Costco, K-Mart, Circuit City, etc., etc. – malls, stores, markets, shops, and restaurants – are all examples of neutral help. The yellow pages in the telephone book are lists of places where you can purchase help. Capitalism's fair market is where you purchase neutral help. You buy help in the open market place at a **fair** market exchange price. This is the modern free world where help is sold as products and services. In the fair market, the helper experiences a **draw** and will typically produce **average quality help**. Neutral relationships are **ignoring** and **static** experiences. The helper experiences a **draw**. They are the **same** after helping as before. When you **ignore** those who help you, this is why you will get only **fair** help.

Neutral **interdependence** means that we are both buyers and sellers of help – Sometimes I pay others to help me and sometimes I am paid to help others.

Neutral relationships are **ignoring**. The parties in these relationships experience **no change**. They barter to insure that the exchange is fair – to insure that the price is not too high or too low – to insure that neither party loses. The open market of free enterprise generates a zone of neutrality which markedly reduces adversary relations. Neutral systems gain a marked production advantage over adversary systems. They are significantly more productive. However, this is primarily because they are **not** adversary.

In a neutral relationship, one individual plus another individual are the same after the relationship.  $(1+1) = 2$ . When you pay others to help you, offering them a fair wage in an atmosphere marked by indifference, the helper draws and will typically give you only average quality help.



Neutrality is that place where I work just hard enough to avoid getting fired, and, my employer pays me just enough to keep me from quitting. Neutral relationships are marked by **accidental conflict, moderate effectiveness** and **average productivity**.

### Synergic help

This is help attracted by **co-Operating** with others – **working together** to solve our mutual problems. When other individuals understand that by helping you, they will also be helped, they will automatically help you. When others understand that when you win, they will win, they will support and celebrate your success. This is the power of the **win-win** relationship. Show those who can help you, how they will win by doing so. Show them how they will be helped by helping you. Because the **helper is helped**, synergic help is **high quality** help.

Synergic **interdependence** means that sometimes others help me and sometimes I help others.

Examples of synergic help in today's world are less common. We find them in many families. Also less frequently in small partnerships and business groups. Synergic relationships also exist in many start-up businesses, where the originators work together sharing in the risks and the rewards equally. But most of the developed world is locked into Neutrality.

If you wish to attract synergic help you must insure that when individuals invest their help with yours, they are also helped. Then they will automatically reinvest with you. When others understand that when you win, they win, they will support and celebrate your success.

Synergic relationships are **helping, positive** experiences. The helper experiences a **win**. They are **more** after helping you than before. When you help those who help you, you get the most help. When you help those who help you, you get **excellent** help.



Synergic relationships are **helpful**. The parties in the relationship experience a **gain**. They **operate together** to insure that both parties win, and that neither party loses. They negotiate to insure that both parties are helped, and that neither party is hurt.

In synergic relationships, one individual plus another individual is **more** after their relationship than before: **(1+1) >> 2**. Synergic relationships are marked by **no conflict**, **high effectiveness** and **enormous productivity**.

<sup>1</sup> **Alfred Korzybski**, The Manhood of Humanity, ibid

<sup>2</sup> **Mohandas K. Gandhi**, Young India, March 21, 1929

<sup>3</sup> **Franklin Delano Roosevelt**, Presidential Inaugural Address, March 4, 1933:



## ‘Wealth’

The **collective term** we humans use to describe what we **value** is “wealth”.

The human species emerged in the world of space-binding. Here the rule of survival was fight or flight. The values in this world were adversarial. **Adversary** relationship originates on earth in the **animal** world. Earth supplies **limited space** for the animals. Space is finite. **Good space** is even more finite. This means it is very limited. There is only so much **good** water, so much **good** grazing land, so much **good** shelter, and so much **good** food. There is not enough to go around. The space-binders must **compete** for this limited amount of **good space**. They compete **adversarially**. They compete by **fighting** and **flighting**. They compete by attacking and killing other space-binders. Humans living as space-binders follow the adversarial rule. They compete by fighting and flighting. They compete by attacking and killing their enemies. In this world survival depends on securing good space and avoiding **bad space**. **Bad space** is where the predators live – bad space is where you **lose** – bad space is where you **die**. And, **bad space** has been threatening humans for a very long time. Jared Diamond<sup>1998</sup> explains:

“ For most of the time since the ancestors of modern humans diverged from the ancestors of the living great apes, around 7 million years ago, all humans on Earth fed themselves exclusively by hunting wild animals and gathering wild plants, as the Blackfeet still did in the 19th century. It was only within the last 11,000 years that some peoples turned to what is termed food production: that is, domesticating wild animals and plants and eating the resulting livestock and crops.”<sup>1</sup>

Jared Diamond makes the point, that for 99.9% of the seven-million-years that our species has existed, we have been **hunter-gatherers**. And, for that same period, our species has been **dominated** by the adversary way, and, **all** human values have been **adversarial** values.



## Adversarial wealth – physical force

Physical force is what adversarial humans value most. The force to **physically control** other humans. Adversarial wealth is **weapons**, fighting men, horses, fortresses, that which gives me the adversarial advantage.

In our modern world, adversarial wealth is B2 bombers, F15 fighter aircraft, aircraft carriers, tanks, military satellites, explosives of all types from hand grenades to nuclear weapons, trained soldiers and last but not least **guns**.

The **adversary** world is a game of with **losers** and **winners**. This is a world of **fighting** and **flighting** – of **pain** and **dying**. Survival depends on securing good space and avoiding bad space. To win in this game someone must lose. Winning is always at the cost of another. All humans living in the adversarial world **are struggling to avoid losing – struggling to avoid being hurt**. Recall our definition:

**CONFLICT –def→ The struggle to avoid loss – the struggle to avoid being hurt.**

Here humans must fight and flee to stay alive, and they do. Always ready at a moments notice to go tooth and nail to avoid losing – to avoid death. Losers/ winners is the harshest of games. Winning is always at the cost of another's life. The loser tends to resist with all of his might occasionally prevailing by killing or wounding his attacker. So both parties can lose, turning the game – losers/ winners into losers/losers.

If we analyze adversary relationships, we discover that individuals are less after the relationship.  $(1+1) < 2$ .

In the adversarial world where the loser forfeits his life.  $(1+1) = 1$ . Or, in the end game of losers/losers, both adversaries may die in battle.  $(1+1) = 0$ .





The adversarial value system is much intact in our present world. Much of today's wealth is **weapons**. Nearly all of today's nations maintain large armies, navies, and airforces. They also maintain equally large national, state, and local police forces. The number of weapons in private hands in the United States is equally enormous – estimated at over 200,000,000 in 1999. Adversary wealth is **physical force** – adversary wealth is **firepower**.

Adversarial humanity uses **force** to **seize** their **wants** and **needs**. By **coercing** the actions of others with **force** or **threat** of force, they seek to protect their own lives and well being. They seek to optimize their individual survival and to make their individual lives **meaningful** by **hurting** others.

Adversary humanity sees **self** and **other** as **separate** – as **different** – as distinctly **apart**. Things are **black** or **white** – **good** or **bad**. You are either **for** me or **against** me. You are either my **ally** or my **enemy**.

However, in 1776, a new option for humanity emerged with the institutionalization of Neutrality. And with this new option came a new set of values – **neutral values**.

## Neutral wealth – money

**Neutral** relationships originated in the **plant** world.

Sunlight provides **unlimited energy** for the plants. Each individual plant needs **only** the sun, and adequate water and minerals to survive. Plant survival does not require any relationship with **other**. This fact makes plants the **independent** class of life – **independent** of **other**.

Humans living in the world of institutional Neutrality view themselves as **independent** of others. While they should not deliberately hurt other humans, they are not required to help them. Their success or failure depends solely on their own efforts and talents. Individuals have **no relationship** with each other.



Individuals have no awareness of each other, they ignore each other. To survive in the neutral world, you must be **self-sufficient**. If we analyze neutral relationships, we discover that individuals are unchanged by their relationship. They are neither less nor more after the relationship. They are the same.  $(1+1) = 2$ .

Choices which do not hurt or help are neutral choices. Actions which do not hurt or help are neutral actions. Relationships which do not hurt or help are neutral relationships. The mechanism of relationship is conducted through a free and fair market with the honest exchange of merchandise of good value at a fair price. Recall our definition:

**FAIR TRADE –def→ The bartering to insure that the exchange is fair – to insure that the price is not too high or too low – to insure that neither party loses.**

Institutional Neutrality is about **fairness**. The market place is a fair and safe place to exchange goods and services. Neither seller nor buyer should be injured in the exchange. Products should represent a **good value** and be sold at a **fair price**. All citizens are guaranteed **freedom from loss**.

The medium of exchange in the neutral world is **money**. Money is used as symbolic representation of all real wealth. For all intensive purposes in the Neutral world **money** and **real wealth** are the **same**. Money is what neutral humans most value. The money to purchase help. Neutral wealth is any negotiable security – cash, stocks, bonds, certificates of deposit, that which can be exchanged in the fair market.

Neutral humanity uses **money** to **purchase** their **wants** and **needs**. By **purchasing** the actions of others with **money**, they seek to protect their own lives and well being. They seek to insure their individual survival and make their individual lives **meaningful** by **ignoring** others.



Neutral humanity sees **self** and **other** as **independent** – as **separate** – as **different** – as distinctly **apart** – as **buyers** and **sellers** in the great market.

And, if other is not independent, if other does not have the price of admission to participate in the great market, then neutral humanity cannot see other at all.

In 1999, humanity has the option for synergic relationship. If we choose Synergy we will adopt a new set of values – **synergic values**.

### Synergic wealth – mutual life support

In a synergic culture wealth is defined very differently. Synergic wealth is that which **supports life** for both self and other. It is mutual life support. Synergic wealth by definition **excludes** adversary wealth – physical force that **hurts** other human beings, and neutral wealth – money that **ignores** other human beings.

Synergic humans recognize that **interdependence** is the human condition. They recognize that all humans **need help** unless they wish to live at the level of animal subsistence. They choose to help others and **trust** that others will choose to help them.

They know that adversarial humans use **coercion** to **force** others **help them**. They know that help obtained with force or fraud is the lowest quality help because the helper is **hurt**.

They know that neutral humans use **money** to **buy help** from others in the **fair market**. They know that help purchased in the market place is of average quality because the helper is **ignored**.

They understand that synergic humans use **co-Operation** to **attract help** from others. They help others and trust others to help them. They know that help attracted by helping others is of highest quality because the helper is **helped**.



Recall that when others understand **that by helping you, they will also be helped, they will automatically help you.** That when others understand that when you win, they win, they will support and celebrate your every success. Recall our definition:

**Co-OPERATION –def–> Operating together to insure that both parties win, and that neither party loses. The negotiation to insure that both parties are helped, and that neither party is hurt.**

Synergic relationships are mutually helpful. Both parties in the relationship experience a gain. In Synergic relationships, one individual plus another individual is **more** after their relationship than before.  $(1+1) >> 2$ . Synergic relationships are marked by **low conflict, high effectiveness and enormous productivity**.

Synergic humanity uses **co-Operation** to **attract** their **wants and needs**. By **attracting** the actions of others with **co-Operation**, they are able to protect their lives and well being. They seek to insure their individual survival and make their individual lives **meaningful by helping** others.

Synergic humanity sees **self** and **other** as **components** of the **same whole** – as aspects of the same **unity** – as existing **together** – as a **co-Operative alliance**.

Co-Operation is mutually life affirming. Both self and other join in an **alliance** to seek mutual survival and mutual meaning.

They seek to be more together than they can be apart.

## Life force

Life is the basis for all synergic values. All forms of life are animated by the life force. The life force is not well understood, but it seeks to survive and to extend itself into universe. The life force on planet earth is known to be three and one half billion years old.



It is like a special flame, sort of a living fire, we pass it to our children in the act of procreation. But, we do not know how to rekindle the flame should it go out. The **life force** itself is the very basis of living **action**.

**(Life Force) x (Time) = Living Action**

No life force. No living action. Therefore, the **sanctity of life** itself must be the **highest synergic value**. Therefore, **synergic wealth** is **defined** as life itself – life of both self and other – and **that** which **promotes mutual well being**. That which satisfies the **wants** and **needs** of both self and other. That which promotes mutual survival and makes life mutually meaningful for both self and other. We can now further define our **synergic value** system.

**IMPORTANCE** –def–> The amount of wealth effected by an event compared to the total amount of wealth.

**WEALTH (effected)**

**WEALTH (total)**

**RISK** –def–> What is the amount wealth that could be lost during an event – action, reaction & resultant.

**OPPORTUNITY** –def–> What is the amount of wealth that could be gained during an event – action, reaction & resultant.

**ALLOWED ACTION** –def–> Any action is allowed which does not injure or hurt.

**SYNERGIC ACTION** –def–> Any allowed action which helps.

**DYMAXION ACTION** –def–> The least synergic action that triggers an event that produces the greatest gain in wealth.





## Synergic Trust

Trust is not a new word for humanity. It was coined long ago when the world was dominated by the adversary way. Trust meant that I could **rely** on you **not to hurt** me. In a world of black and white – good or bad – friend or foe – **trust** meant that I was safe to assume that you were not my enemy. Trust meant the ability to **rely** on the **absence** of a **negative**.

**Synergic trust** is much **more** than simply the ability to rely on the absence of a negative. It is **that plus** the ability to **rely** on the **presence** of a **positive**. Synergic trust means that I can rely on **other** not only to not hurt me, but also to **help** me.

In the future, we humans can use co-Operation to attract help from others by insuring that those who help us are also helped.

When we co-Operate, others will seek to invest their action with ours for a share of the **cooperators' surplus**. They will understand that when we win, they will win, and they will support and celebrate our every success.

If we humans choose a **synergic future**, we will **trust** each other. We will **care** about each other. We will **help** each other. Our relationships will be loving positive experiences. We will all **win**. We will be more **together** than we can ever be apart.

We humans can create a future based on **synergic trust**. We can build it by **working together**. We can **heal** ourselves and our world by **co-Operating**. The choice is ours.

<sup>1</sup>**Jared Diamond**, Guns, Germs, and Steel – The Fates of Human Societies, W. W. Norton & Company, New York-London, 1998



Coming

## The Science

The next section of UnCommon Sense is now being readied for publication. It is in the final stages of conversion from print and computer files to Adobe Acrobat.pdf format.

**The Science** section contains advanced synergic science, and presents a number of **new scientific theories** for your consideration. Much of it is written in the voices of the originating scientists themselves. It will begin appearing on this web site in the early months of 2001. Thank you for your interest.

*Timothy K. Wilken*