

The Physics of the Übermensch

// Validating Nietzsche & Shifting Our View from Trauma to Potential

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Today's Gazing Activity

- Examining the Concept of the Übermensch
- Understanding Nietzsche's Essential Claim
- Key Insights from Neuroscience, Psychology, Education
 - Education: Circular & Vulnerable Relationship With Environment
 - Dev. Psych: Development Towards Sophistication, Wisdom, Expertise
 - Neuroscience: The Physics of Information Flow in the Brain
- Visualizing the Übermensch (and Untermensch)
- My Scholarly Interest in Nietzsche

Nietzsche's Übermensch

// A Metaphysical Claim, Not a Philosophical Concept

What is the Übermensch?

“Zarathustra first announces the Übermensch as a goal humanity can set for itself. All human life would be given meaning by how it advanced a new generation of human beings. The aspiration of a woman would be to give birth to an Übermensch, for example...” (Wikipedia)

“An overman as described by Zarathustra, the main character in Thus Spoke Zarathustra, is the one who is willing to risk all for the sake of enhancement of humanity. In contrary to the ‘last man’ whose sole desire is his own comfort and is incapable of creating anything beyond oneself in any form. This should suggest that an overman is someone who can establish his own values as the world in which others live their lives...” (Stanford Page)

- A total embrace of life, including all its obstacles
- A commitment to an authentic and unique set of values and desires
- The will to achieve and overcome, known as “will to power”

Nietzsche's Essential Claim (Zarathustra)

“teach you the Superman. Man is something that is to be surpassed. What have ye done to surpass man?...

The hour when we say: "What good is my pity! Is not pity the cross on which he is nailed who loveth man? But my pity is not a crucifixion." Have ye ever spoken thus? Have ye ever cried thus? Ah! would that I had heard you crying thus! ... Lo, I teach you the Superman: he is that lightning, he is that frenzy!

...

I love those that know not how to live except as down-goers, for they are the over-goers.

I love the great despisers, because they are the great adorers, and arrows of longing for the other shore.

I love those who do not first seek a reason beyond the stars for going down and being sacrifices, but sacrifice themselves to the earth, that the earth of the Superman may hereafter arrive.

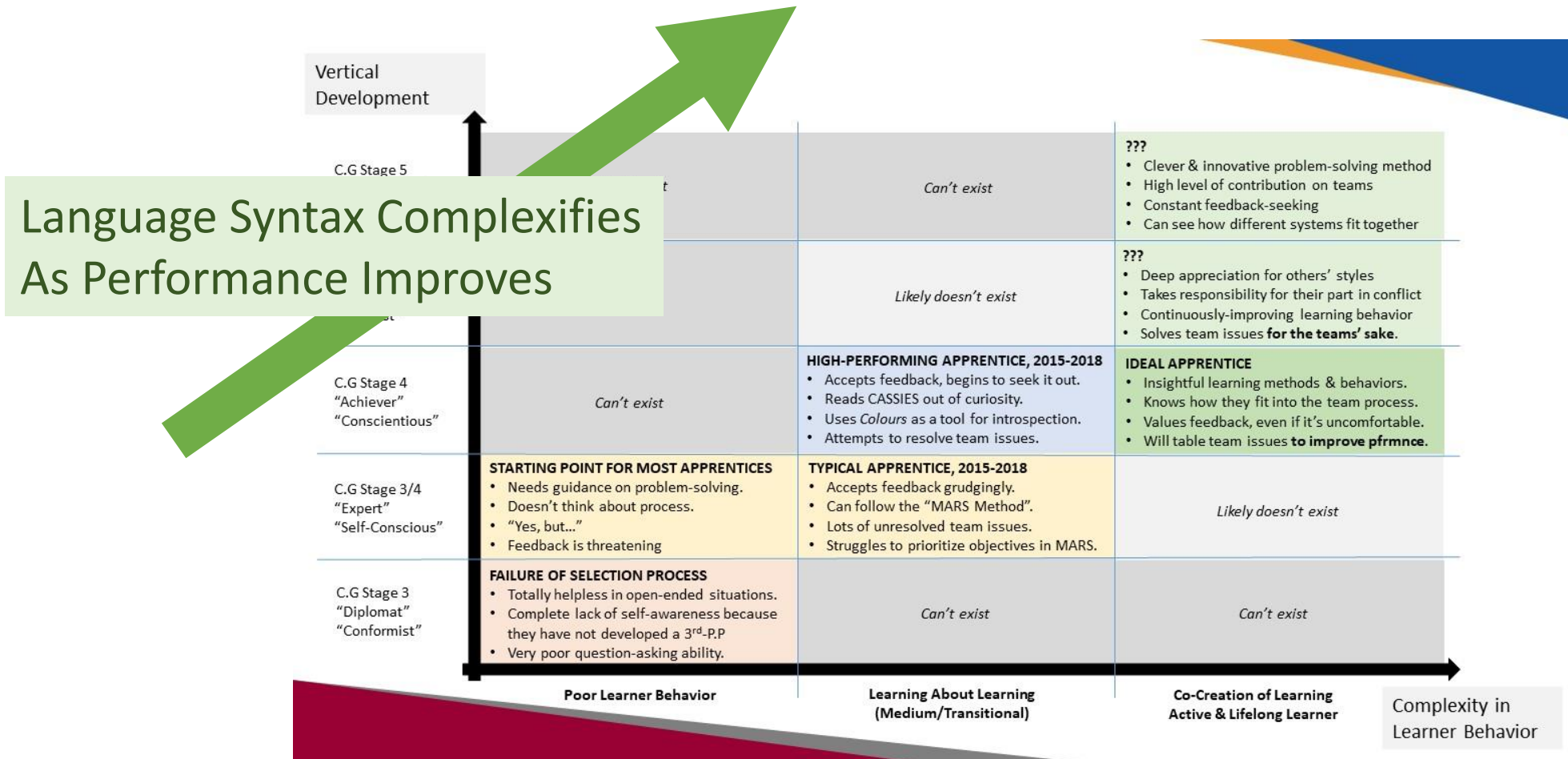
I love him who liveth in order to know, and seeketh to know in order that the Superman may hereafter live. Thus seeketh he his own down-going.”

- **Claim #1: That human nature contains an element of self-transcendence.**
- Claim #2: That the self-transcendence is associated with moments of failure.
- Claim #3: That seeking one's own “down-going” is to seek one's own “over-going”.
- Claim #4: That all of this can be summed up in the concept/word of “Übermensch”.

Collected Insights

// Neuroscience, Developmental Psychology, Education

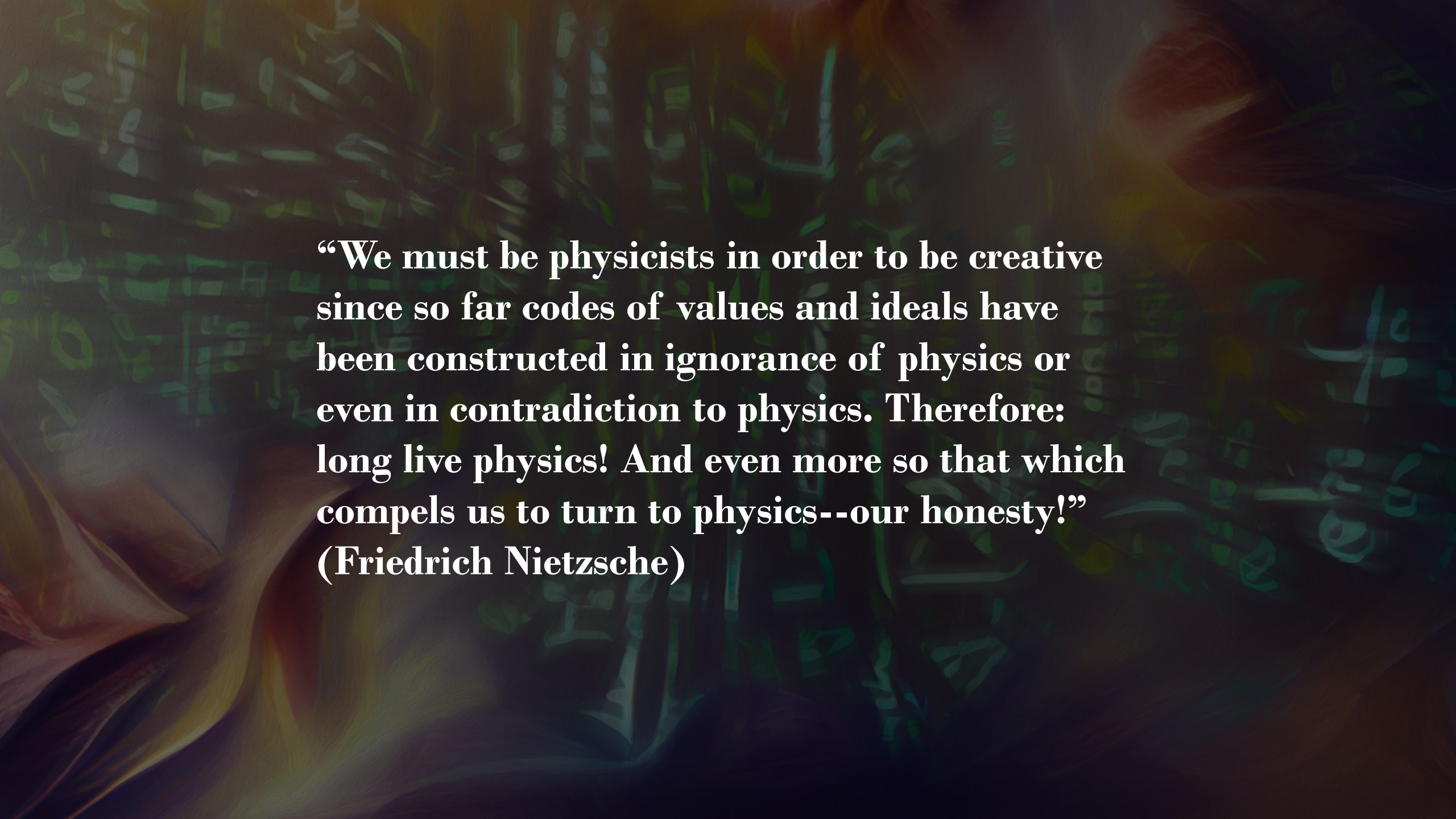
Rabbit Hole: Language Syntax & Problem-Solving



Credit for Initial Exposure to Anomaly



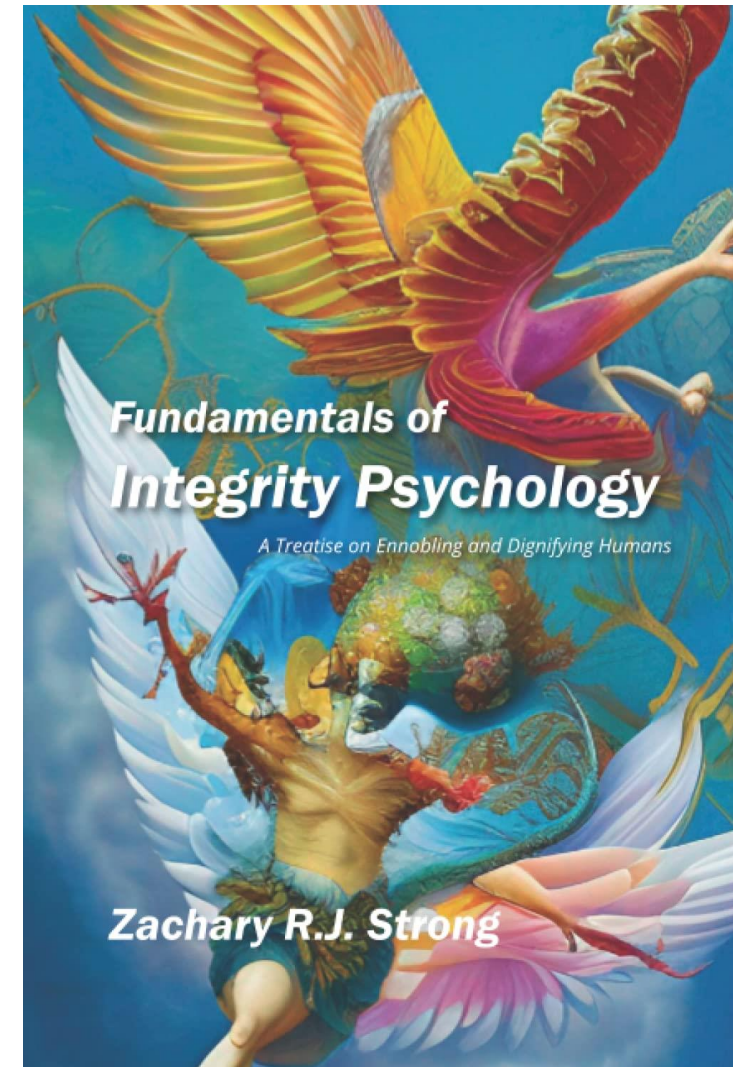
MARS
APPRENTICE
REAL WORLD. REAL REWARDS.

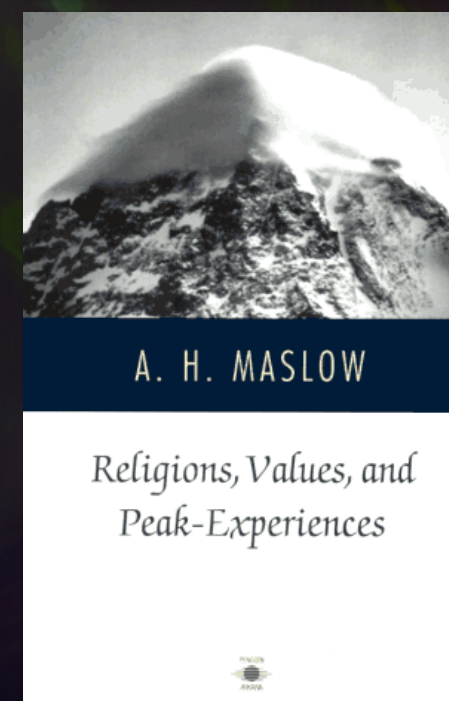
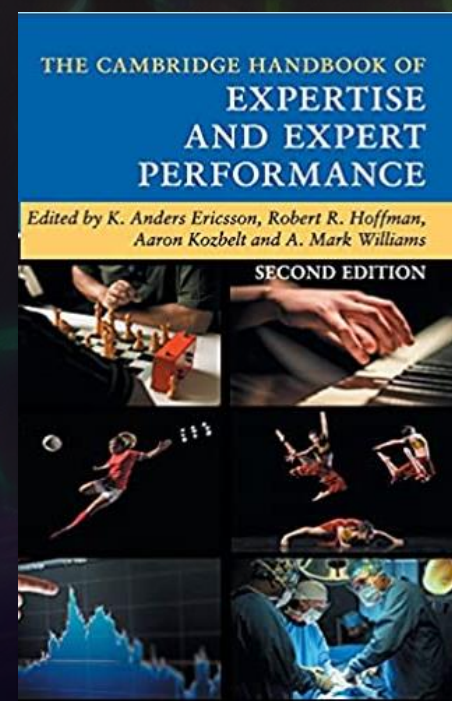
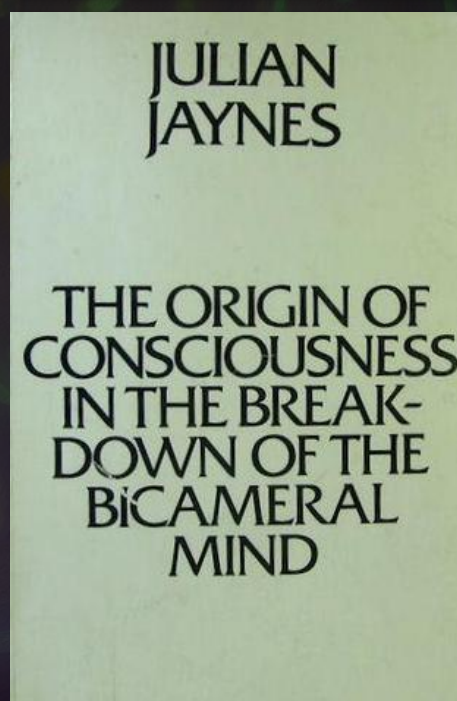
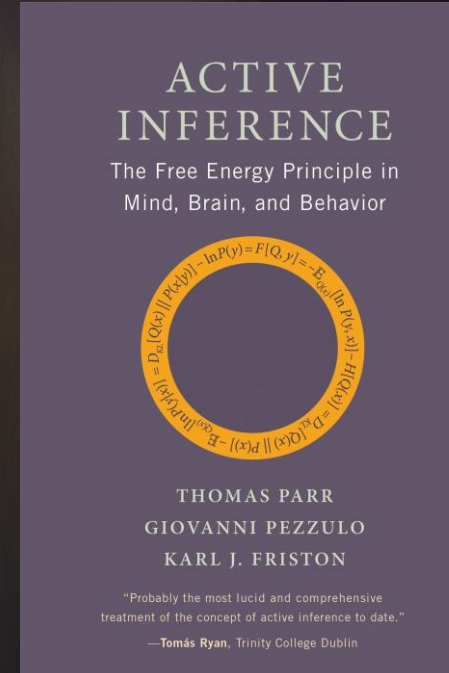
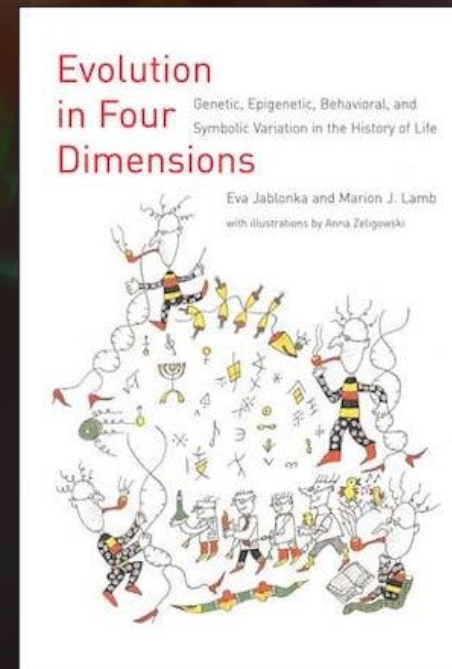
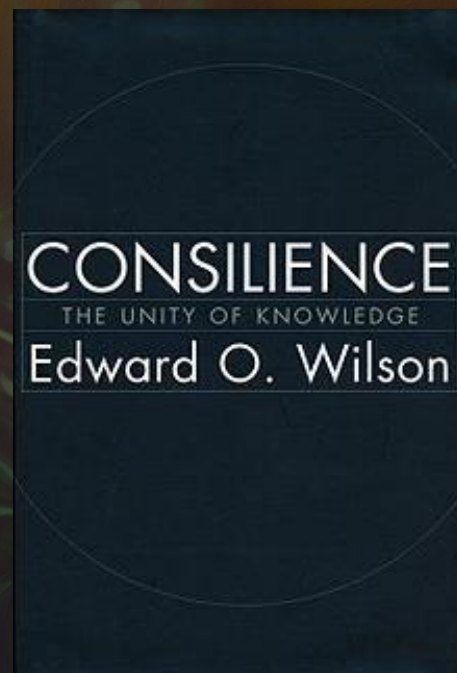
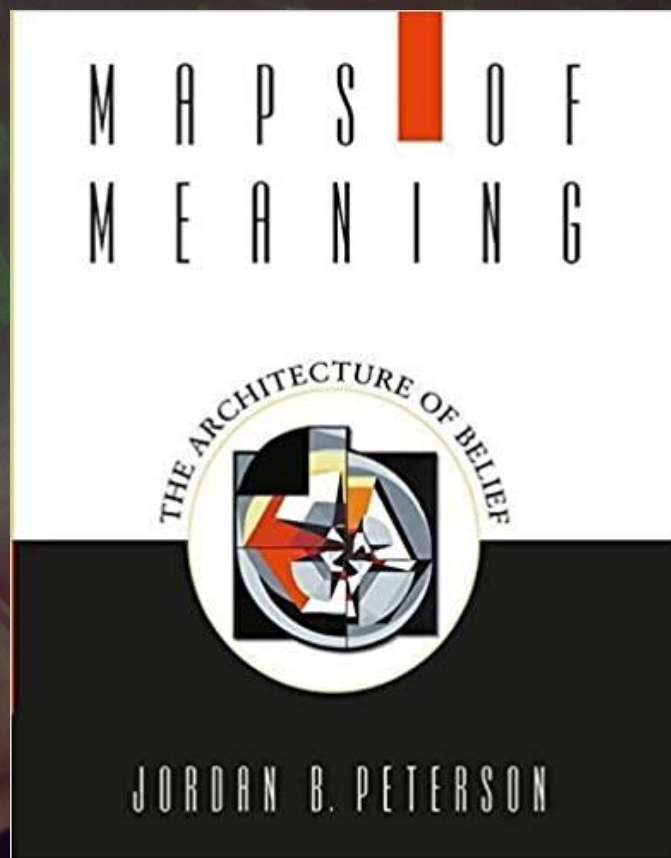


**“We must be physicists in order to be creative
since so far codes of values and ideals have
been constructed in ignorance of physics or
even in contradiction to physics. Therefore:
long live physics! And even more so that which
compels us to turn to physics--our honesty!”
(Friedrich Nietzsche)**

Unresolved Theoretical Issues From an Outsider Perspective

- *Competing Schools... “Multi-Paradigmatic”*
- *Trauma Focus in “Applied Psychology” & Mainstream*
- Consciousness... what/why/how/when/if?
- What is the mind? What is it made of?
- How does the mind relate to the body?
- What is the “self”? Do we even have a “self”?
- What constitutes a healthy human being?
- What is a mental disorder?
- Is there such a thing as human nature?





Solution: Ground Mind-Science in Physics

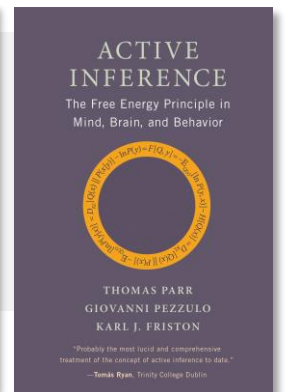
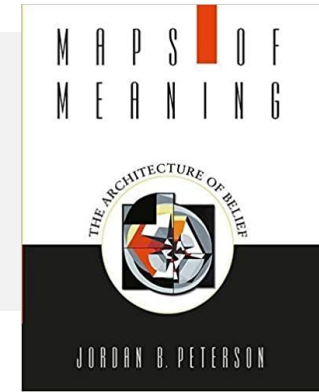
- **My Methodology**

- Step 1: Start with the existence of physics, space, and time as functionally inescapable.
- Step 2: What is “life”, anyway, in the context of physics? **Just information flow.**
- Step 3: What are the fundamental mechanisms of consciousness? **Minimize surprise.**
- Step 4: What drives the growth and sophistication of consciousness? **Universe’s signal.**
- Step 5: What are the implications of this?

- **The Rosetta Stones...**

- Orienting Reflex – The wedge-point of acceptance/growth versus denial/narcissism
- Experiential Learning, Transformative Learning, Hero’s Journey, Varela – Circular growth
- Free Energy Principle – Provides the variables of consideration (surprise minimization)
- Language – Content and syntax indicate *tendency towards sophistication*

Maps of Meaning + Free Energy



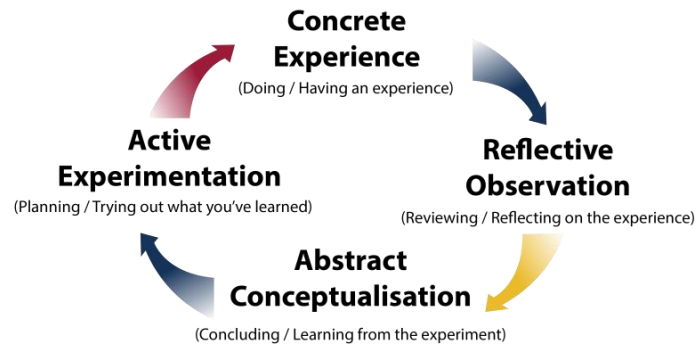
- **Jordan B. Peterson's Accomplishments**

- Identified the wedge-point of *acceptance/growth vs denial/narcissism*
- Brought the knowledge of the Orienting Reflex and anomaly to mainstream audiences...
 - ...and independent scholars of human potential
- Demonstrated some core patterns hold across all levels of analysis, even mythological
- Elaborated on the “downward spiral” of evil and pointed to “hero’s journey” in neuroscience

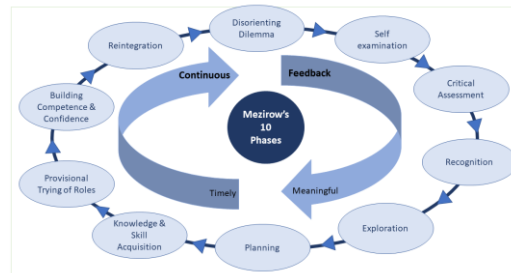
- **Karl J. Friston's Accomplishments**

- Demonstrated that information flow is the primary variable of consideration
- Showed that the brain must minimize surprise (reason behind “Maps” and orienting reflex)
- Allows all brain activity to (potentially) be grounded in thermodynamics
- *The prospect of a unified brain theory provided me with a lens to look at all of “psychology”*

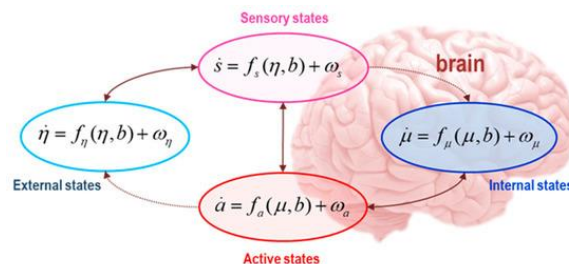
Consilience – All Models of Learning are Cyclical



David A. Kolb, “Experiential Learning” (1980s)



Jack Mezirow, “Transformative Learning” (1990s)



Karl Friston, “Free Energy Principle” (2000s)

New Answers from Statistical Linguistics

- **Starting with Content of Language**

- OCEAN – Used adjectives and self-report to establish personality psychology
- Developed a five-dimensional space for personality (100^5 configurations)
- Fun Corollary – Jung’s twelve archetypes are the top of the human taxonomy

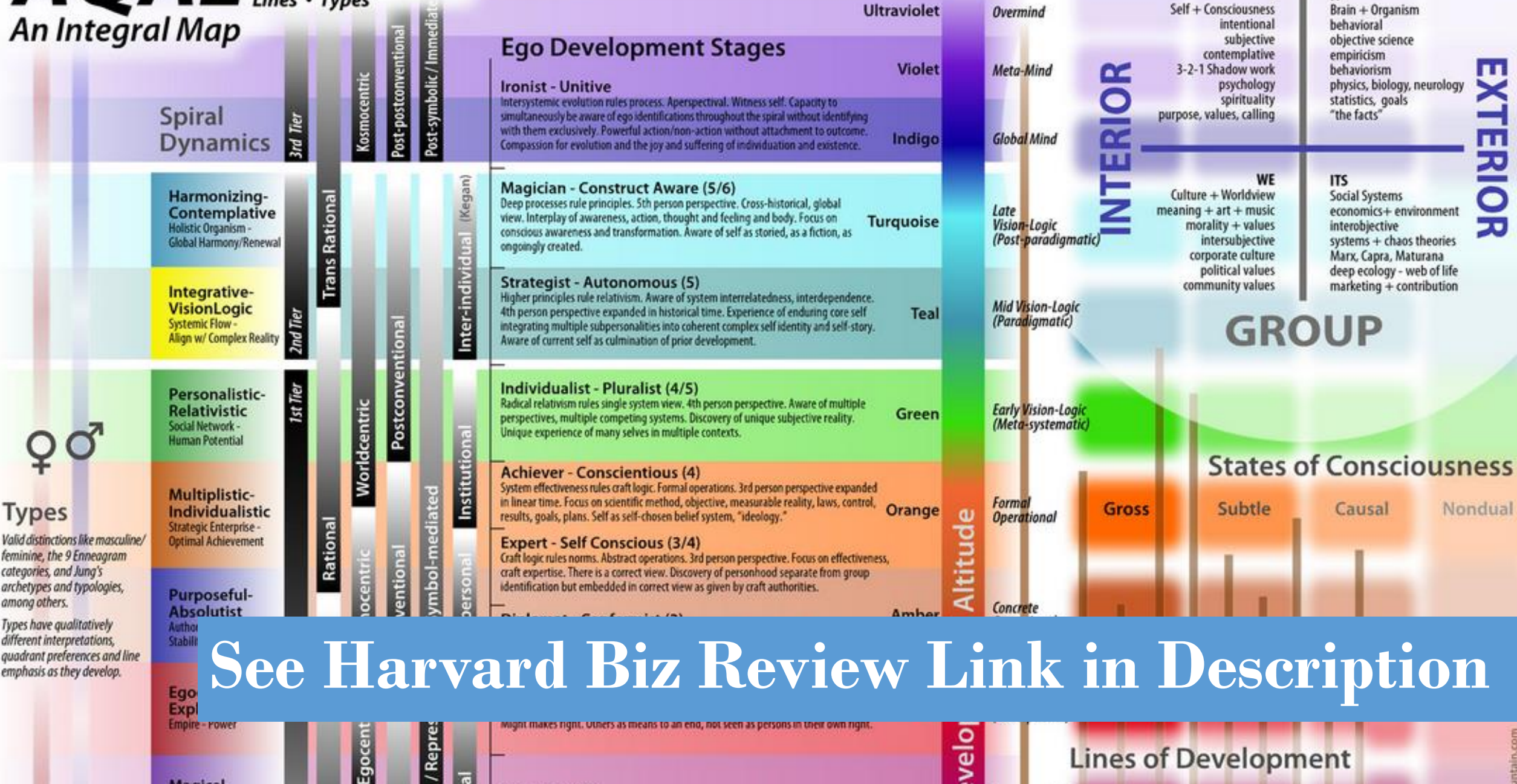
- **Moving to Examination of Syntax**

- Discovered by Jane Loevinger and Susanne R. Cook-Greuter
- Independently “discovered” by me at McMaster with business students
- Short story – structure of syntax provides clues about cognitive sophistication
 - *Sophistication governs relationships with self, others, world, growth process*
 - *Most people operating well below potential*

AQAL

An Integral Map

All Quadrants
Levels/Stages • States
Lines • Types

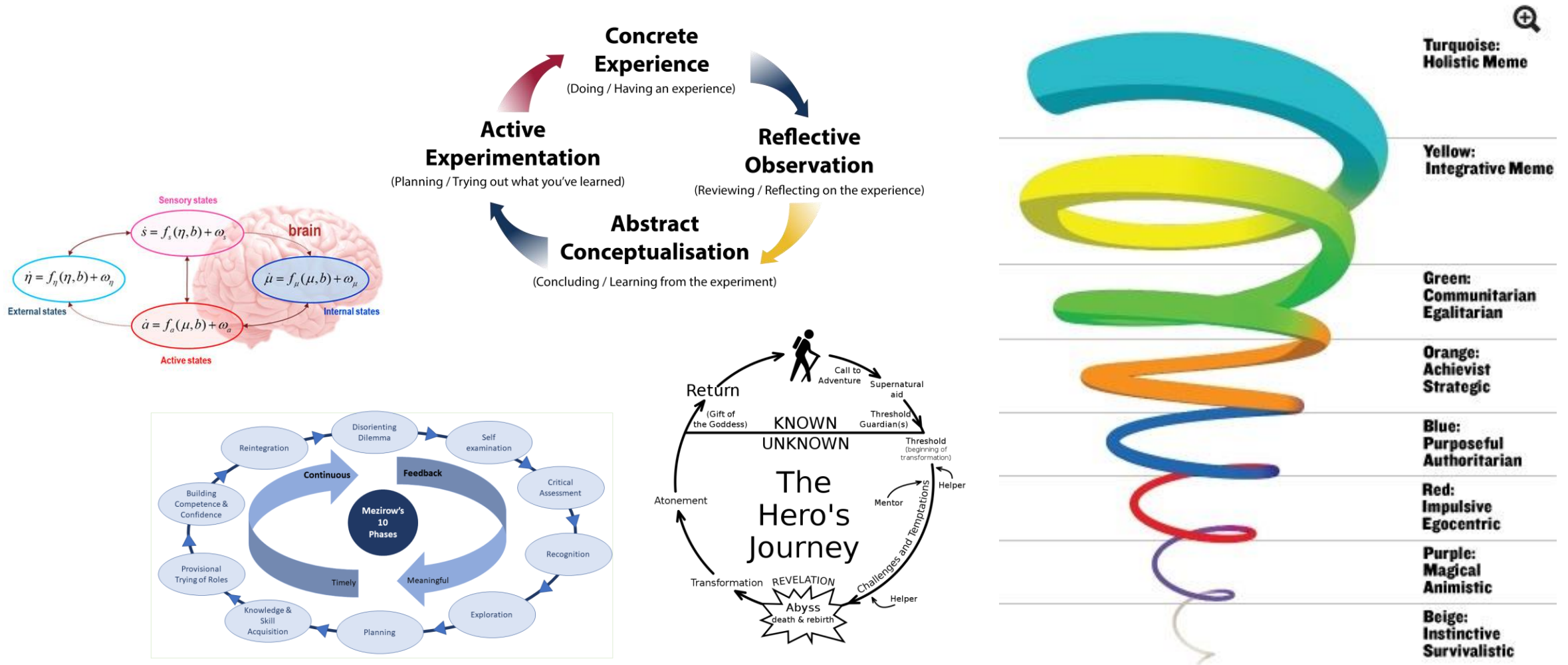


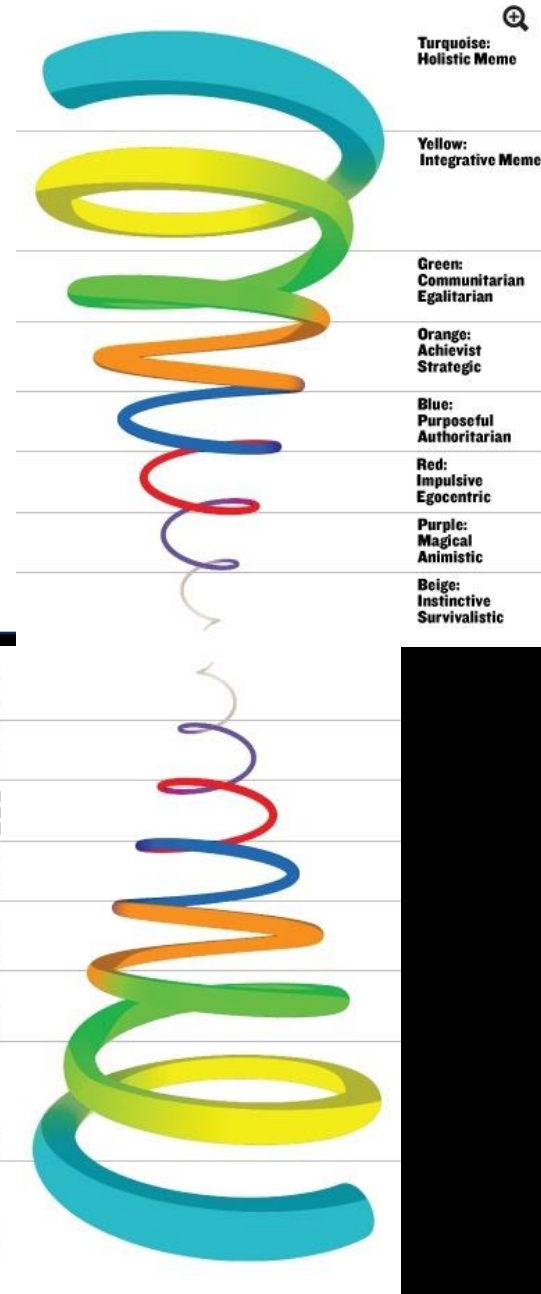
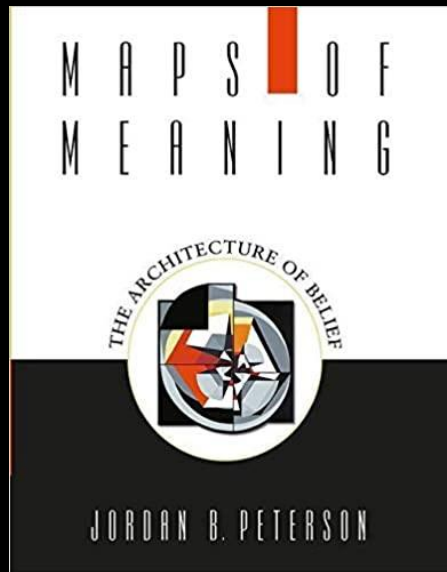
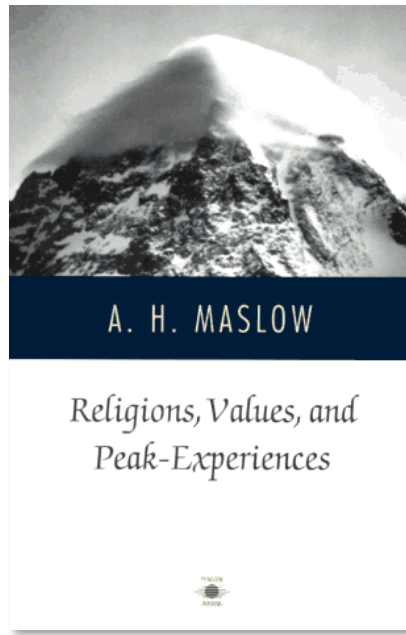
See Harvard Biz Review Link in Description

Visualizing the Übermensch

// And Untermensch

Consilience – Cycles Create Upward Spiral



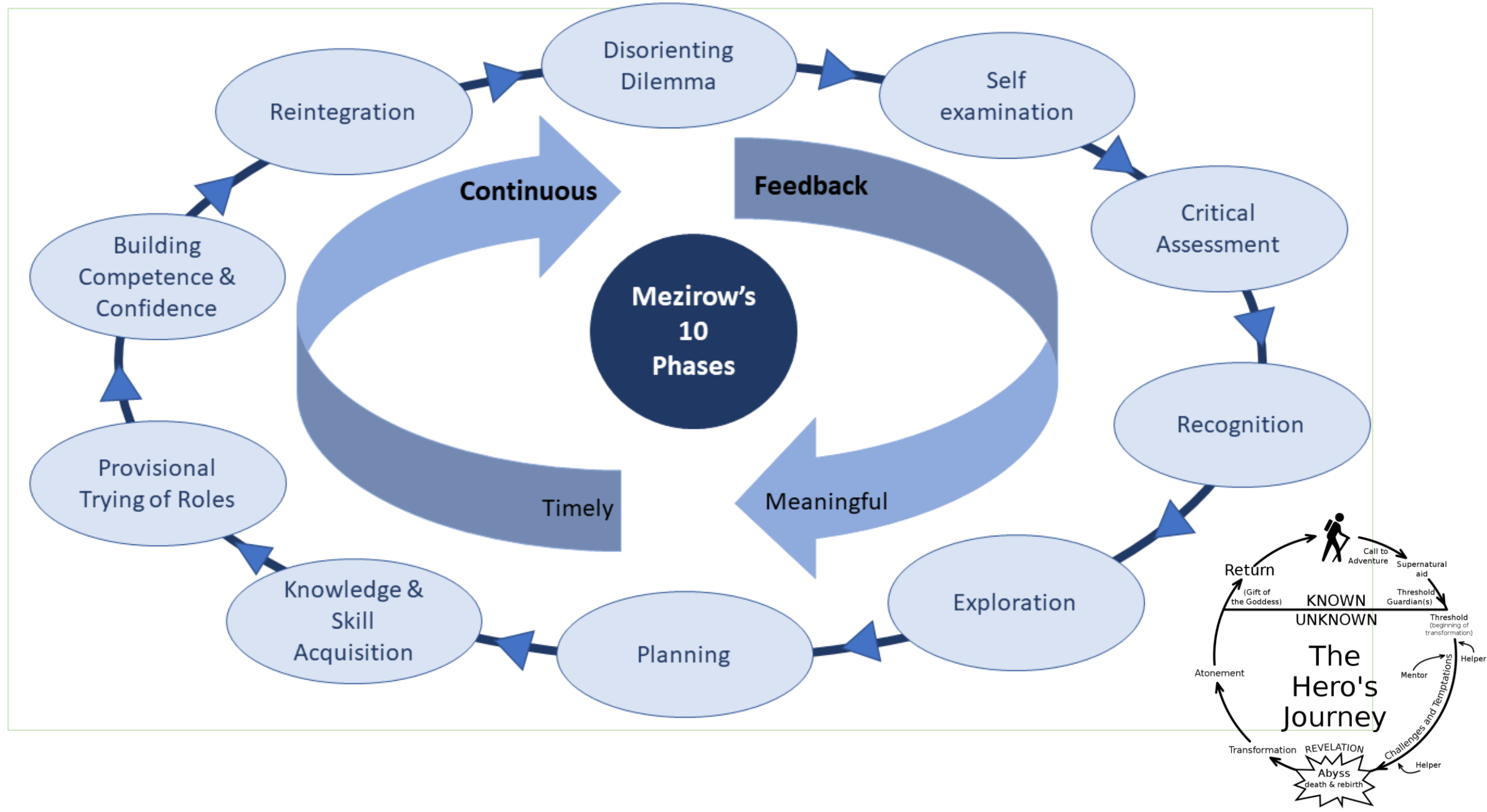


Visionary Leadership

Not Hitting Annoying People

Responding Suboptimally to Insults

Depths of Manifesto Land



Ich lehre euch den Übermenschen...

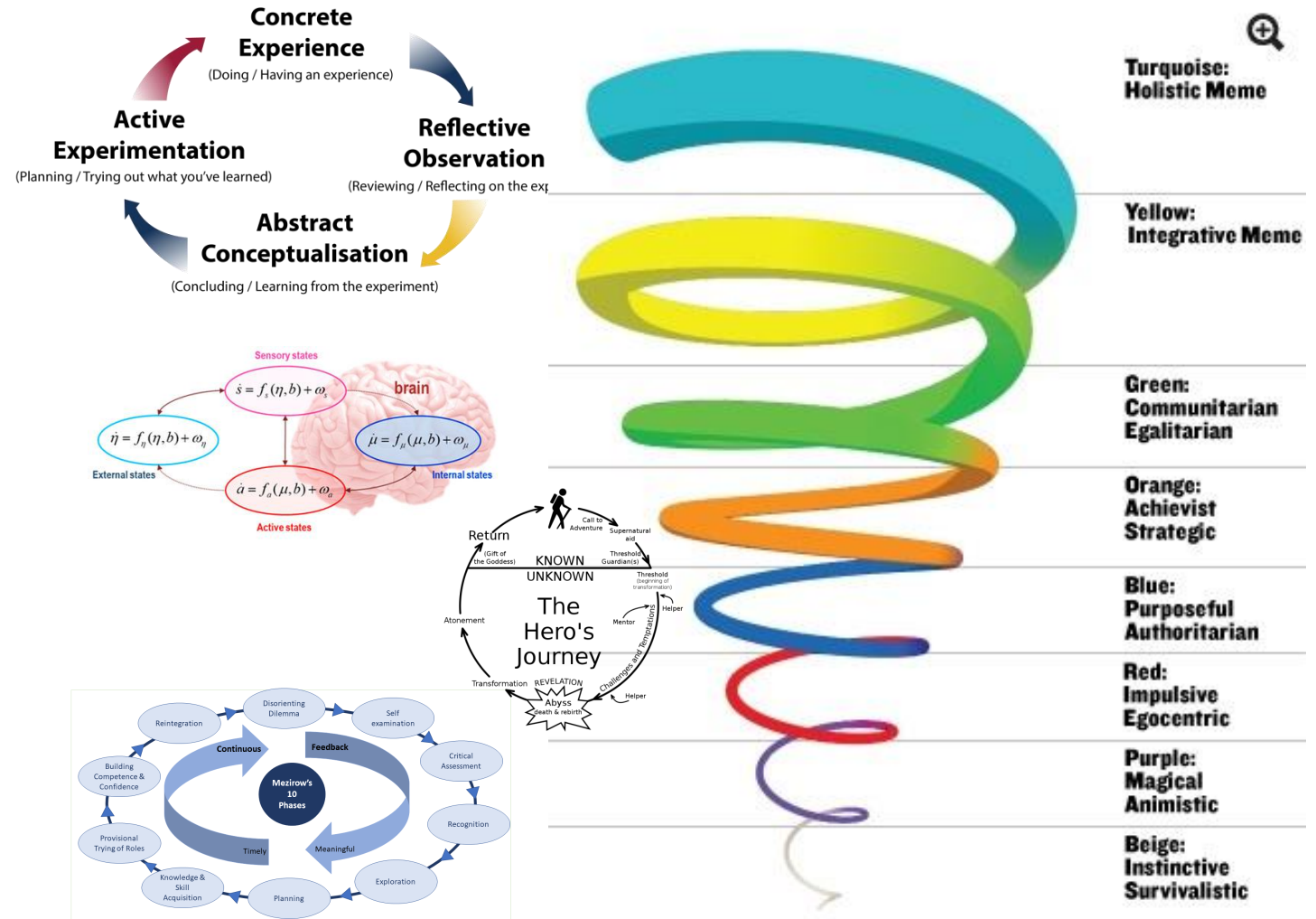
What is great in man is that he is a bridge and not a goal: what is lovable in man is that he is an over-going and a down-going.

I love those that know not how to live except as down-goers, for they are the over-goers.

I love the great despisers, because they are the great adorers, and arrows of longing for the other shore.

I love those who do not first seek a reason beyond the stars for going down and being sacrifices, but sacrifice themselves to the earth, that the earth of the Übermensch may hereafter arrive.

I love him who liveth in order to know, and seeketh to know in order that the Übermensch may hereafter live. Thus seeketh he his own down-going.





I could while away the hours
Conferrin' with the flowers
Consulting with the rain
And my head I'd be a scratchin'
While my thoughts are busy hatchin'
If I only had a brain...

Zachary R.J. Strong

B.Eng.Mgt (Engineering Physics & Commerce, Minor in Mathematics)

- Former University Researcher, Non-Jewish Torah Scholar, Addresser of Antisemitism
- Scholarly interests centered around < human potential >, < utopia >, and < knowledge >
- Have stumbled into some interesting territory; physics of art, Nietzsche, genocide, cults



radio one

THE GLOBE AND MAIL

MACLEAN'S

HAMILTON SPECTATOR



metro
metronews.ca

TEDx

// Selected Writings (7 books, 10 papers so far)

Ticket to Heaven

Towards the Unity of Knowledge, the Destruction of Idols, the Reclamation of Western Thought, the Realization of the American Dream, the Final Answer to the Jewish Question, and Utopia

Philosophizing With a Laser

Curated Works from the Man Waging War with Word-Whips and Thermodynamics

A Commentary For All and None

Explaining Nietzsche's Love of the Down-Going and for His Fellow Man