

MODES OF CONSCIOUSNESS

(Paul Von Ward - 4M2C/ Copyright 4/22/2006)

Two Aspects. Human consciousness, based on our experience of it, may be considered to have two aspects, labeled in Taoism as its Yin and Yang manifestations. In English they might be called the passive form "assuming" and the active form "thinking." Some call the former "knowing" and the latter "interpreting," or respectively, "perceiving" and "projecting."

Moods. In the model of human consciousness posited here, the two aspects are called Yin and Yang moods. The underlying substrate of the mind shaped by genetics and deep conditioning can be seen as the Yin mood. It establishes the implicit lens through which we perceive reality and determines how each person "experiences" life. The Yang mood consists of assumptions, culturally- based a priori beliefs, about the nature of the universe. These tightly-held, unquestioned assumptions comprise each person's particular mode of consciousness. Each person's mode is unique; labeled in different ways they reflect the manner in which humans subconsciously think about reality. Over time, changes in these modes (involving the Yang mood) reshape the reflective Yin mood. The modes represent a spectrum of definitions (4M2C), not unlike the way we use degrees on a thermometer to label varying levels of heat or cold.

Modes. I have chosen to use four descriptive terms for different modes that are somewhat self-evident: Material, Supernatural, Mystical, and Natural (sometimes referred to as Integral Thinking). (These modes of consciousness can be understood as actually "living in different worlds" or "different states of reality." They are just that important for behavior.)

Most of us have some of all four modes. The scoring system was designed to profile the relative strengths of the respective modes (basic paradigms that shape thoughts, emotions, and actions) in terms of importance to the person.

I: MATERIAL: Focuses on material reality and depends on the five senses and human technology to confirm one's beliefs. Ignores value of inner experience.

II: SUPERNATURAL: Assumes a separate, divine realm from which a god rules daily events. Favors revelations from "accepted" human interpreters of this truth.

III: MYSTICAL: Believes unseen and spiritual energies control events. Sees humans as beings with ability to control external reality solely through belief.

IV: NATURAL: Accepts various ways of gaining knowledge, but subjects them to counter arguments by non-believers. Seeks connections among all events.

The 4M2C questionnaire covers basic categories of human experience and reveals the modes that frame the respondent's thinking about them. Each mode activates a unique, hormonally-based reaction or behavioral response.