

MODES of CONSCIOUSNESS

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

Human thinking is shaped by a few basic assumptions about the nature of reality, and its origins, functioning, and meaning. These assumptions comprise a coherent framework through which the individual interprets specific events and forms hypotheses about possible cause-and-effect relationships. The four-part taxonomy below illustrates how world views or *modes* predispose one's analysis and interpretation of all experience.

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|---|---|
| SUPERNATURAL (II) | (III) MYSTICAL |
| Dualist notion of reality with separate divine realm. | Assumes spiritual realm infuses and controls 4-D reality. |
| MATERIAL (I) | (IV) NATURAL |
| Singular notion of universe that may include energetic dimension. | Hypothesizes reciprocal interaction of various forces/energies. |

The top-down axis of the four quadrants represents several continua:

- A. From extreme dualism, where a separate divine or mystical realm cannot be accessed directly by human intellect, to a monism that can be reduced to a fundamental unifying $E=mc^2$ singularity or a multidimensional model.
- B. From a dependence on revelation to a requirement for tangible evidence. The latter is based in cross-validation, while the former is based on faith.
- C. From subjective experience to objective evidence, from magical to practical, and from belief-oriented assumptions to required testing.

The left-to-right axis also represents several spectra of *modes* of thinking:

- A. From a sense of certainty about truth to a stance of open questioning. From beliefs and actions based on dogma to continually evolving theories.
- B. From conformity toward individuality, from structured to unstructured.
- C. From a simplicity approach to complexity and nuanced analysis.

Most people incorporate varying levels of each *mode* in their personal profile. The relative strength of each can be plotted in the respective quadrants. The farther the score from the center the stronger the *mode* of thinking.