

STAGES IN HUMAN EVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT

The human evolutionary development project has been in progress for many epochs. Natural calamities, which usually marked the end of an epoch, were survived in safe niches by remnants of humanity, and their progeny lives on. Inevitably, then, human beings, living on the planet today, represent different levels and branches of evolutionary development in consciousness.

Human evolution is usually understood in terms of language, science, arts and the level of technology development. Most scientists today would agree that in terms of the physical body development, men have achieved the apex. From the perspective of spiritual sciences, the rest of man's development is shaped by the expanding powers of the mind, an important play of emotions and the degree of spiritual development.

Physical needs group

The majority of people on Earth today live in a framework of thinking shaped by the physical necessities of life. For people who have no shelter, live in poverty, are hungry or malnourished, the main focus is and will remain on securing the physical necessities of life. Regrettably, more than a half of the planet's population can be counted in this group. Most of their ordeal in life could have been prevented if people elsewhere understood their duties as global citizens and worked together toward annihilation of poverty on our planet.

Not only the impoverished are those, whose thinking revolves around the survival themes. Some people in the developed world, who are living in comfort, also belong to this group. Many people and even nations are still at the psychological level of admiring strong, physical endeavours, encounters and ways of life. These people strongly believe in the survival of the fittest; no apologies are being made for thinking that the weaker loses naturally. So, it is not surprising that often the strongest (physically) and the weakest (poorest) on Earth are the people who belong to this group of a basic level of human functioning.

Emotional needs group

Second, a more evolved group of people, who happen to be living in relatively easy conditions, are those who have come to the realisation that bread is not the only food in life. They know that cultivating their emotional needs can make their

life worth living. These people operate on a level of securing the quality of life in an emotional comfort sense. We should not mistake this for the securing of physical needs, such as luxury houses, cars, boats and holidays on the Pacific islands, etc. These are still the 'physical needs' pursued mainly to improve the feeling of self-worth and to gain a status within community.

People in the emotional needs category know when they are not at ease on an emotional level and will look for ways to bring comfort to that level. It is easy for people in this category to fall in love and to live life passionately. People who have been infected with the 'virus' of love at some stage of their life, will not cease looking for it. They know how much living in this heightened emotional state is superior to the mundane, 'bread and butter' existence. The artists, writers, poets, inventors and lovers of any kind know how beautiful and inspiring life can be if touched by the magic of love. All involvements in cultural events, musical concerts, theatre, as well as pursuing interests in painting or other forms of art, are driven by the interests in the emotional fulfilment. People at this developmental level have already embraced (in their ancestral experience) the physical survival mentality; they have now been progressed to another level (or spiral) of human development.

The proportion of people living in the emotional needs group is much smaller than in the first group. We only need to reflect on the outer reality and the life of this civilisation to know that this is the case. Both groups, living on level one and level two, are represented by individual people as well as, in some cases, by the nation states. The latter happens when the majority of citizens of a country represent this prevailing paradigm of understanding and affecting the life experience, whether they choose the physical or emotional comforts for their 'peace of mind'.

Individuation needs group

A small proportion of people have progressed from the level where the emotional needs are the ruling power. This next higher level of functioning is very much ordered by the ***individualistic*** mind. This next stage in the evolutionary development of the human psyche is what Jung called '***individuation***'. At that time the individual person, capitalising on all past successes (ancestral and his/her own) and the psychological strength they have gained until that moment in life, is ready to embark on a journey of self-discovery. In both previous levels of development the individuals were psychologically not strong enough to do that. Their lives were simply not leading them to such experiences and ways of thinking.

When people find themselves in this third group of development they often become restless and unhappy with the common life pursuits. They have an inner knowing that there is more to life than what they have just found so far. In some

real terms they are being nudged by their conscience and they have a great yearning to find out more about life. And this is why they embark upon the path of individuation, because the next step in development of a human person is to liberate oneself from the group consciousness and to become individually conscious and responsible for one's own actions.

A very small proportion of people living on Earth today operate at this evolutionary level. Many more are almost there, almost ready to cross to that stage, but at the end they will abandon their desire for search and promptings of their conscience. They are founding themselves at the edge of the abyss, in a sense of a great unknown, and only those really ripe for a change will cross. Accepting the challenges of the unknown requires an enormous amount of courage. What they would be leaving behind is the comfort of knowing everything about life, society and relationships, implanted in them by the family, education, work situations and all life experience up to date. Additional basic difficulty in crossing the threshold to this next level of evolutionary development is that knowledge about it has not been popularised. People in general are simply not aware of such matters. If they are not aware, they do not expect the existence of such possibilities, and they will not recognise the 'flashing' signs in their own inner experiences.

Crossing safely over the abyss to the next level of being is a difficult task. No individual can accomplish it in total isolation. He or she needs to become conscious of the process, decide himself or herself to undertake it and undergo certain initiatory trials to confirm the readiness to take this next step. In this process the individuals consciously look for information and guidance. And ***when the student is ready the teacher appears.***

During the evolutionary phase of individuation, the person inevitably starts asking questions of spiritual nature: Why is this happening to me? What is the purpose of life? Why am I here? During this phase, along with all other important life matters, the individuals start to examine spiritual issues by themselves, outside the influences of religious doctrines. The acknowledgement of the existence of spiritual dimension constitutes a fundamental breakthrough in this phase of human evolution. The attitude toward the spiritual dimension of life becomes ***personal*** unlike during the first two levels of evolutionary development, where spirituality existed by default, was institutionalised by the church authorities, and was implanted and accepted automatically.

Spiritual progression group

The processes of individuation and spiritual awakening are only the initial phases in the further development of human consciousness. Spiritual quest or spiritual development path is the next step in the human progression to a higher level of being. No developmental level can be skipped, but when understood correctly,

Stages in human evolutionary development

the process of development and progression to a higher spiritual level is always immensely interesting and satisfying. This is exactly what is missing from the lives of so many dissatisfied people, people who, while looking for a meaning of life, acquire more: physical goods, positions of power, lovers, etc. The acquisition of increasing amounts of physical goods or any of the above listed items will not change the level of being of a person. Only the inner development can do that, and when this happens, such a progression brings a great benefit to the individual and to the entire humanity.