

## I-6. An Ancient View of Being

There is a deeply felt need to reduce apparent disorder from perceptions.

**I**f the human desire is for going from the darkness towards the light, one way is to do so by reducing the disorder of random acts and chaotic actions to evolve a trajectory of rational consistency. The idea of rationality based on consistency is not idealization, nor an ad hoc assumption. Empirical search for consistency validated by practice is the basis for shared knowledge. Enhanced awareness of consistency from the practice provides restraints against random acts, and directs actions that make the world manageable.

**Matrix for thought.** Shared knowledge requires tools for representation of reality and also for abstraction. Common properties and features of entities (#A3-5) form the basis of representation. It facilitates abstraction or generalization through evaluation of the represented features (Chapter A) in terms of defined criteria. Seven such criteria form the basis of the next seven (B through H) chapters. In each of the chapters the relationship of the properties to a particular criterion is explored in relation to the quality of perception.

On the whole, the text of Jeevatthan constitutes a three-dimensional matrix of 14 properties evaluated in terms of eight criteria, and each of these is evaluated in relation to animate beings in the 14 states of perception. Thus the matrix has a total of  $14 \times 8 \times 14 = 1568$  elements, which is not too far from about 1800 steps in the eight chapters.

An effective use of mathematical analogs is apparent throughout this text. A tradition of systematic thought in dealing

with the unknown, and of creating an order through defined criteria, seems to follow from the idea of rational numbers. In the Ganga valley such ideas were in widespread use well before 1500 BCE (Volume II). Order evolves from the ability to systematically manipulate the disorder into a pattern as the way to usable perception. For example a representation of the number of entities as their count can be carried out with the help of rational numbers based on the ten digits from 0 to 9. With these ten represented symbols one begins to count, and with that count one takes a measure and account for the realities of the universe with which one has interacted. As pointed out elsewhere in this volume (I-2, I-3, I-10), mathematical technique of coordinates and matrices are useful for the representation of orthogonal reality and the imaginary worlds.

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