

Ancient Theory of Everything, The Enneagram

Stephen Hawking claimed 30 years ago that not only would physicists soon find a theory of *everything*, but that it would happen by the year 2000. Hawking argued that the unification of quantum mechanics and general relativity into one theory was inevitable and that the coming age of computers would render physicists obsolete.

Don't worry if you missed the announcement of this momentous discovery in 2000, because it *never happened*. In fact it all got so messy with things like dark matter, most of the universe being 'unaccounted for' and the emergence of things like multiple universe theory, string theory and a whole host of other weird and wonderful untestable ideas, that by 2010 Hawking had to state that physicists may *never* find a theory of everything. Instead he proposed that a "family of interconnected theories" might emerge, each describing a certain reality under specific conditions. Which in plain speak means "Reality is whatever you believe it is maaaaan!" My hippy art teacher never qualified for being the worlds 'smartest man' but he did actually suggest that idea to me way back in the late seventies.

The real problem—and the ancient worlds wisest man would have pointed this out to the modern worlds smartest man—is that as in the story of the three little pigs, if you build a house out of straw the 'wolf' of practical reality will eventually blow it down!

The 'new' mechanistic science crystallised during the industrial revolution had concluded that the universe was simply a giant matter/energy machine without a 'soul' or any kind of purpose or meaning and that the whole thing could be easily explained by a set of fundamental mechanical laws.

Of course if the universe *was* just a lifeless mechanical machine, then that is a reasonable thing to assume, but because it is *not*, explaining it by a purely mechanical model is like trying to explain your mother's kind and caring nature by talking about how her skeletal system works!

Yes mechanistic science has got us to the moon and given us pacemakers and plasma screen TV's but from a deeper point of view why would a human want to go to the moon anyway? Certainly it is not a suitable environment for human life is it?, and what *really* causes our hearts to get 'diseased' in the first place? because ancient wisdom would have said it comes from being disconnected *from* the sacred dimension



Above: Joseph Wright's 1768 painting depicts a natural philosopher, a forerunner of the modern scientist, recreating one of Robert Boyle's air pump experiments before a fascinated audience. At the time these early scientists were part of an enlightened endeavour to discover the 'hidden' forces that were at work behind the natural worlds of Creation.

of life. Is it really so great that we now have fantastic 'giant' plasma TV's, and yet they are still really just home portals for the mass media's daily propaganda?

So sure, modern science has given us some great benefits at the material level of our existence (even though most of them are slowly killing us!) but the mechanical, 'clockwork', gravity based model of the universe has failed to produce a modern cosmology that can explain what life and the universe is really all about. Hence it has simply come to a dead end in the pursuit of a theory of everything because it is a 'straw house' held together by various mathematical 'fudge' factors, that camouflage the fact that the model is *fundamentally* wrong.

THE ANCIENT THEORY OF EVERYTHING The funny thing is that modern science actually began with genuinely curious and inspired people trying to find and understand the laws of nature. This eventually became diverted into other things due to the huge profits that could be made out of the public's ever increasing desire for labour saving devices and technical novelties. Meanwhile the laws of nature and life never went away. Now don't be fooled into thinking that these natural laws are airy fairy and

purely philosophical, they are every bit as real as the proven laws of applied science. In fact they are the exact same laws but expressed differently.

For example science calls the mysterious force that attracts and binds everything to large celestial bodies gravity, but it is really the cosmic law of attraction isn't it? We even use the same word in that context when we say things like "Well I tend to gravitate towards that side of the argument", meaning that particular argument and its proponents attract you more strongly than the other.

Or the idea that ones daily life 'orbits' around the central 'pull' of family, religion, career or even stamp collecting (for some!)

Another law, that, "Electricity always finds the path of least resistance", turns up in human life as people tending to take the easiest option. Like when I go to Subway, point and say, "Can you just give me one like in the picture please?",—trying to avoid the hassle of answering a series of annoying questions—"Certainly, Sir, but what kind of bread?...toasted or plain?...melted cheese?..."

Or entropy, the second law of Thermodynamics—commonly known of as a measure of disorder—, which sharing a home with messy teenagers I call the law of "Constant sh*t and chaos!", "This place looks like a tip, can't you just put things back where you got them from? and would it *kill* you to do some dishes!"

Or when people say things like, "Those who never learn from history are bound to repeat it." Well that is a good example of Newton's first law of motion where "Unless a force acts upon it, a stationary object will remain at rest." However for object insert *'fixed views'* because the reason people keep repeating history is they don't change how they think about things and therefore remain held in place by the same influences, which inevitably lead to the same results, or 'history'.

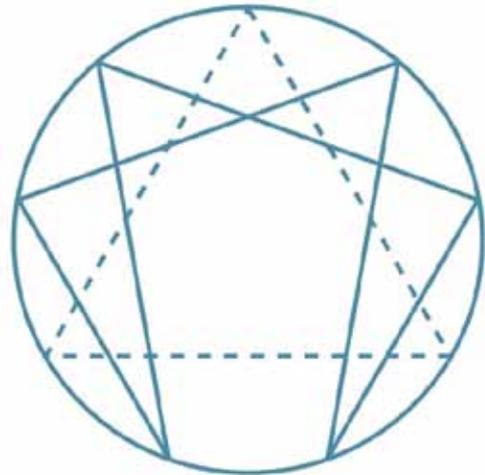
Which of course connects to another law, because the reason personal and collective change is so difficult is that, "Every action has an equal and opposite reaction", or as in the Esoteric expression of that law, "You lean against that which resists you", which means there needs to be a third force to break the deadlock of the force of new initiative (desire to change) being automatically cancelled out by the force of the status quo, better known of as the collective *resistance* to change.

Now sure, at this human/unseen worlds level, these laws aren't as readily obvious or instantly fatal as the effect of gravity upon you if your parachute fails to open, or that of electricity when you try to get a jammed piece of toast out of the toaster with a knife and electricity uses *you* as the path of least resistance into the ground. No they are infinitely more subtle but just as fatal over the long term, if not understood and used correctly. This is in fact one of the key reasons why the ancient symbol of the enneagram was brought into existence in the first place, to function as a symbol or diagram that *could* explain all the fundamental laws

and working principles of the universe and the human system. One could then not only come to learn fully what was possible for human life but also understand how to use that knowledge or sacred science to be successful within it. Hence the enneagram is the visual representation of an ancient *knowledge of everything* rather than just a *'theory'* of everything and certainly, having used it as a 'template' for developing my own life and career over the last 30 years it never ceases to amaze me just what a profound, totally practical 'bible' for living the enneagram actually is.

THE ENNEAGRAM ARRIVES IN THE WEST

The enneagram and the knowledge behind this form of it were first introduced into the West by G.I.Gurdjieff in St Petersburg and Moscow in 1916.

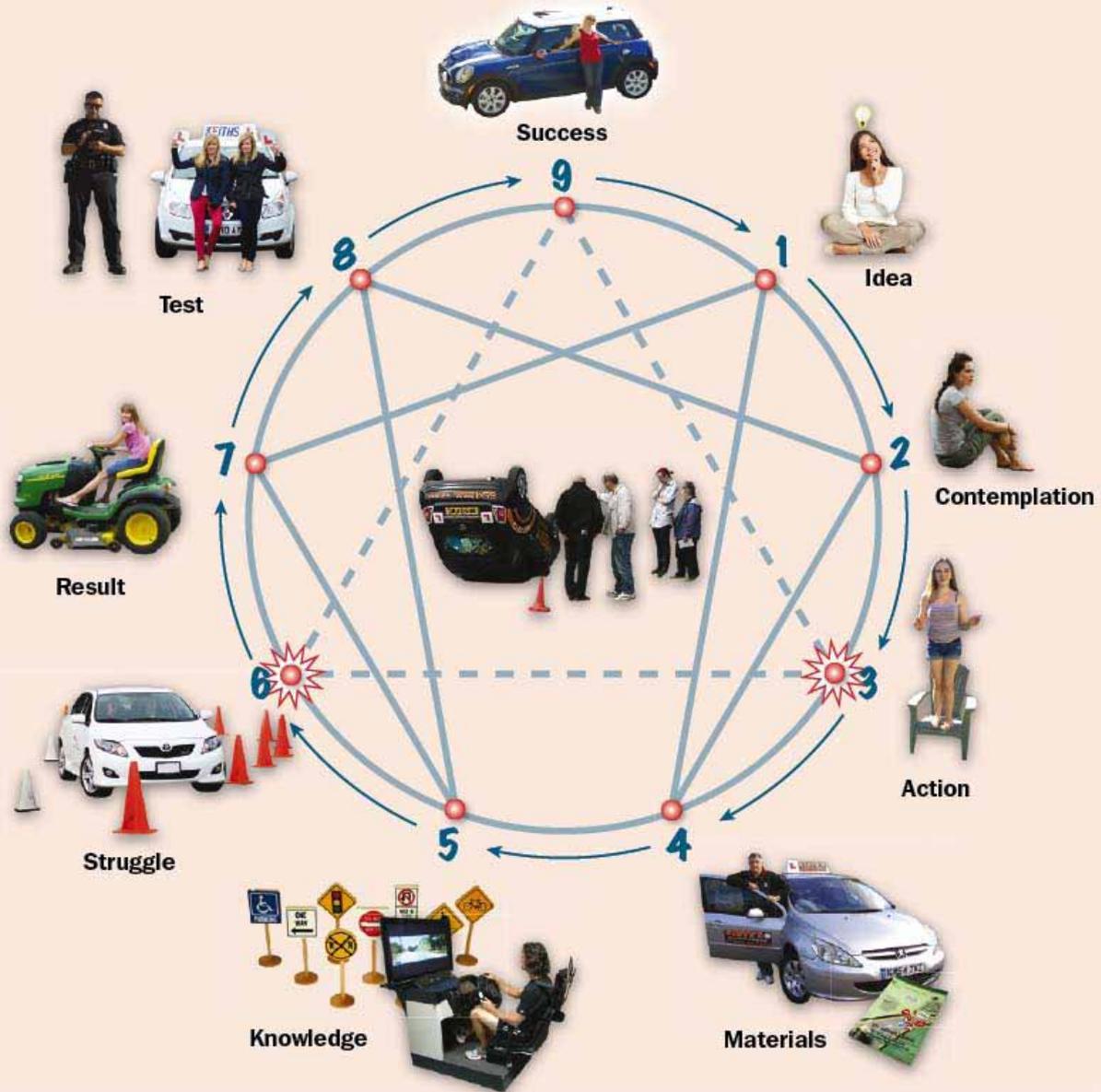


Above: The diagram of the enneagram as it was originally introduced by Gurdjieff to his study groups in St Petersburg and Moscow in 1916.

Although many have *tried* to show the enneagram existed before this time, no one has yet been able to come up with it in this *exact* form and certainly not with the teaching behind it. So perhaps it is best at this stage to quote what Gurdjieff had to say about it from P.D. Ouspensky's famous book "In Search of the Miraculous";

"Speaking in general it must be understood that the enneagram is a universal symbol. All knowledge can be included in the enneagram and with the help of the enneagram it can be interpreted. And in this connection only what a man is able to put into the enneagram does he actually know, that is, understand. What he cannot put into the enneagram he does not understand. For the man who is able to make use of it, the enneagram makes books and libraries entirely unnecessary. Everything can be included and read in the enneagram. A man may be quite alone in the desert and he can trace the enneagram in the sand and in it read the eternal laws of the universe. And every time he can learn something new, something he did not know before...*The enneagram is the fundamental hieroglyph of a universal language which has as many different meanings as there are levels of men.*

The enneagram process of learning to drive



Above: The enneagram used to show all 9 stages that have to be gone through in order to learn to drive a car and gain a drivers licence.

The enneagram is perpetual motion, the same perpetual motion that men have sought since the remotest antiquity and could never find. And it is clear why they could not find perpetual motion. They sought outside themselves that which was within them; and they attempted to construct perpetual motion as a machine is constructed, whereas real perpetual motion is a part of another perpetual motion and cannot be created apart from it...The understanding of this symbol and the ability to make use of it give man very great power. It is perpetual motion and it is also the philosopher's stone of the alchemists..."

UNLOCKING THE ENNEAGRAM FOR USE

I don't know about you, but I prefer my esoteric knowledge in practical form, other wise what's the point if you can't do anything with it? So I thought it

best to introduce the enneagram and how it works by going through it with a real world example.

Gurdjieff did some practical work with his students on the enneagram by marking it out on the floor, placing a person on each of its nine points and introducing a series of movements to be done at each stage. He explained, "It is possible to experience the enneagram by movement. The rhythm itself of these movements would suggest the necessary ideas and maintain the necessary tension; without them it is not possible to *feel* what is most important."

With that in mind lets journey through this with something that we *do* all have practical experience with and that is the processes of learning a new skill. This we have all done, wether it be learning to read, drive, play a musical instrument, learn a new recipe, start a new job or even learn a different language. So

lodge unconsciously in ourselves is a sense of what things like INSPIRATION-CONTEMPLATION-STRUGGLE-ACTION-EXAMINATION-SUCCESS etc.. actually *feel* like, along with the sense of what the different, natures, intensities and rhythms of them are.

So let's look at the enneagramic cycle of what goes into learning to drive and gaining a driver's licence.

1-The Idea The whole process of becoming a qualified driver begins with the *idea* of it. This is the seed that gets into your head to begin a new learning experience. I remember in my case, at the age of 15, a government sponsored driver education unit arrived at our school and it was free. Having not really thought much about it beforehand, the seed was suddenly planted in my head that I *could* learn to drive, and if I decided to take up the opportunity it would happen the very next week! In the reader's case it might have been the fact that your best friend had just gained their licence, or maybe you needed it to get a job, or simply being a teenager you wanted to gain some freedom and independence for yourself.

Now if you don't drive perhaps it was getting the idea to learn to play a musical instrument or learn a new language or even how to cook, but whatever it was just take a moment to think back and re-connect with what it was that *caused* you to get the idea to acquire that new skill in the first place. This is important, because obviously in this context we can't engage in sacred dance work to demonstrate the working of the enneagram, but we *can* connect to the results of real life experience of this enneagramic process working within us to make it more down to earth and tangible.

2-Contemplation The next stage is that having had the idea you then had to *think* about it didn't you? The pros and cons have to be weighed up before you can make a decision. "Do I *really* want to do this? Can I afford it? Can I be bothered, Can I cope with the test?, because I always freak out over tests!"

Here is a set of words that all refer to the number two process; *Think about, meditate on/over, consider, ponder, reflect on/about, mull over, muse on, dwell on, deliberate over, cogitate on/about, ruminate on/about, chew over, brood on/about, puzzle over, turn over in one's mind, weigh up.*

As an interesting point, the current number of words in the English language is 1,025,109 and every single one of them can be placed within one or other of the nine points of the enneagram, (which we will see more clearly as we proceed.)

Take a moment and see if you can reconnect to this stage of the process in your self, because this part can take seconds, minutes, hours, years even, but the process can *not* move past this point until the contemplation has been done and a decision is made. My son is only 8 years old, but being a huge fan of the BBC programme "Top gear" he has already decided that not only will he be learning to drive as soon as his feet can reach the pedals, but it *has* to be a manual, not an automatic.

This 'contemplation' stage is also the very thing that advertisers aim to bypass and cause you to *not* do thoroughly. Because if you thought *too* much about what they are trying to get you to buy you might decide that you don't really need it after all!

3-Action Can you remember that if you *did* decide yes, it was at this point where you really got *enthused* about the whole thing. A surge of energy arrives to enable you to actually do it, and it is going to need plenty of energy to get through it all. This is the POWER arriving, and 3 is all to do with power. If you look at the diagram you will see that stages 1-2-3 are all 'unseen'. Unless you are talking about it no one will have a clue what idea you have, or what you are contemplating. That part of the process is all internal. It's between you and what is *influencing* the process to occur. You can see that point 3 is where the triangle shape touches the outer circle where the linear process of events is occurring. It also touches at 6 and again at 9 where the cycle completes. This triangle, or 'triad' really represents the 3 fold power that energises and drives the whole of creation. All of the ancient cosmologies refer to the original ONE, dividing itself into TWO. Light and Dark, Father and Mother, Sky and Earth, Growth and Decay etc. Even modern physics echoes this in the idea that the universe began in a tiny singular point which expanded out of itself with the appearance of laws and energy. Ancient wisdom held that because the 'TWO' were opposite polarities to one another, that the original generating power of the 'ONE' had to act as a neutralising, binding force so that the 'TWO' wouldn't cancel each other out. Hence there is a natural dynamic tension throughout the universe, as the 'THREE' are locked in eternal interaction with each other, generating the power for the universe and all things as a perpetual energy source. Gurdjieff referred to these three as the Active force, passive force and reconciling force. Anyone who has been married for a long time will know full well how the constant 'tension' between two opposing forces, held in check by the third reconciling force of a common goal and purpose, naturally generates the energy and growth of the relationship!

So 3 is where you *decide* to do it (or not) and you may even think, "Well I'm not ready yet." and then come back to it at a later time. If you decide YES then it's all on, you have *committed yourself to action*. Now 3 is also one of the points that Gurdjieff referred to as a 'shock point' and this is a point where *extra* force is required to continue to the next stage of the process. If you are fully decided about something, this happens naturally, as the human system is designed to add energy to whatever you say yes to, or commit yourself to. You only have to see what happens when you give a listless 'tired' mopey teenager \$50 to go and treat themselves. Watch how the tiredness miraculously and instantaneously converts into a burst of energy, as they leap off the couch and head to the mall!

4–Materials The next thing you are going to need is time, a car, road code manual, an instructor and money. It's curious that money really *is* a physical manifestation of power because the more of it you have the greater means you have to realise your ideas. Maybe if you decided 'no' it was simply because you didn't have enough of it to fund the project.

If learning to play guitar, cook or learn a new language it will be the same process, but of course the materials and equipment will be different accordingly.

5–Knowledge This is the stage which we mostly associate with learning a new skill, but as we can see, it really is only 1/9th of the *full* process. With learning to drive it's finding out about all the rules of the road, what gears and a clutch are for, parallel parking etc. With a guitar it will be how to tune it, some music theory, a few chords, and how to read basic rhythm notation. With a new language it will be some key words and phrases and perhaps a little history about the culture that it comes from.

6–Struggle This is where one has to then *apply* the knowledge and put theory into practice. A certain amount of will power and tenacity is needed here because it *will* be difficult, as you have never done this before. I remember with the school driving class we were arranged in small groups of 3 that went out with each instructor. My team had two other highly competitive teenage boys, so when you didn't let the clutch out properly and 'bunny hopped' they would snigger in the back seat and make an 'L' shape on their forehead with thumb and index finger—talk about pressure! So this stage is awkward, uncomfortable, difficult and requires intense concentration because you are quite literally *forcing* your idea, decision and inspiration into becoming a reality.

This then is also the point where one might feel like giving up and abandoning the project. Thoughts may appear like, "I don't think I can do this!" You can see in the diagram that 6 is the third point where the triad connects with the circle and it is the next 'shock' point where extra energy is required to 'break through' to the next stage in the cycle. Now what is very interesting is that there are 'lines' going across the enneagram connecting up certain points which indicate this is not *just* a linear, cyclic process, but that it is also an interconnected, 'holographic' process as well. When that thought goes through your head, "Oh, this is too tough, I think I should give up", a number of other things will then automatically kick in. For example your mind will flash back to 3 and your enthusiasm and 'vision' of being able to have freedom and independence, which then reminds you *why* you wanted to do this in the first place. It summons that "second wind" and a new burst of energy to push through. Or it might be simply remembering that S.A.S guy on a documentary saying "Pain is just weakness leaving the body! For others it might be flashing back to 4 and remembering that you paid good money for this and don't want to waste it! Or it might be getting home afterwards and sitting down



Above: Great art throughout the ages has been used to express this knowledge of the 'law of 3', and how it is the driving power that keeps the perpetual motion machine of the universe for ever active. Although expressed in different forms and styles by different cultures—being a universal principle—it is always an expression of the same cosmic triad.
Key: 1. Three Gods of Palmyra, 2. The Matres 3. Brahma, Vishnu & Shiva 4. Fuk, Luk & Sau. 5. The three Buddhas, 6. Osiris, Horus & Isis, 7. The Trinity, 8. The three Graces.

quietly with a drink, revisiting stage 2 and then going through all the pros and cons once again to reinforce in yourself that it was the right decision to do this.

Psychology comes in very strongly at 6 because *how* you think about the struggle stage and what your attitude is can swing it either way. After all the principle of effort and struggle is a big part of life isn't it? I met a woman once who had been going to University for 20 years. When she completed one degree she would

then start another, because she loved the gaining knowledge part, or stage 5, but didn't like the difficult practical application part in the real world! So you get this in life don't you? Some people just love to have the 'ideas', others just love 'thinking' about everything. Then you get those 'enthusiastic action people' who love the nature of stage 3. Or those who are entirely focussed on the 4 of material acquisition. There are even those who *love* the nature of 6 and are always finding things to do that are super difficult and challenging (like Bear Grills!)

7-Result At long last the instructor lets you drive solo, that song you have been learning on the guitar actually sounds recognisable, you created a soufflé without any help from Chef Ramsey, or you can speak enough German to catch a bus, buy a beer and find the toilet! There is always a feeling of satisfaction that comes with this stage, a sense of your intention finally being realised and like the 7 notes of the musical scale there is something 'pleasant' and 'harmonious' about it all. In fact when ever you find yourself saying to someone, "You look pleased with yourself" they will most likely be in the 7 of what ever it is they have been doing. Finishing the housework, where everything is clean and restored to how it was meant to be carries that sense as well doesn't it?—provided you can push through the stage 6 of actually making the effort to do it!

It's a curious thing about 6, because the more the consumer society ethos makes things 'easier' for us, the more the world conditions people to think that there is something wrong with having to *struggle* or work hard in ones life, when in fact it is one of the 9 natural principles of the Universe.

8-Test So its all looking good, everything has come together, but its not over yet is it? because you still have to pass the drivers test, first in the theory and then a practical test with a traffic officer. This is another 'shock' point really, because you will have to bring full intensity and concentration to bear once again because the result is not yet guaranteed. The cop failed my friend because he could do everything well enough but he was too 'cocky' about it!

In other areas it is a little more subtle. It might just be playing the song you learned to a friend, or making a meal for your family, or arriving in Germany and trying to tell the taxi driver where you want to go. In the main diagram you can see in the centre of the enneagram a car upside down with some awkward people standing around it. This is an actual picture from a newspaper report of some poor person *rolling* the car while doing their practical driving test!

With the guitar it will be how people react to your playing that will let you know if you 'passed' or not. If the family screw up their faces while eating the meal you just learned to make and your son blurts out, "Oh my god this is disgusting!" that will be a 'fail'. With a new language it will be the simple fact of whether you *can* communicate with others successfully or not.

What is interesting here, is that we call it a test, but

esoterically it's really a filter or gateway of criteria and standard. In the learning to drive example there will be a national standard that has been decided upon—mostly for safety reasons—as a car in unskilled hands is without a doubt a lethal weapon. With guitar playing it's no where near as serious but there is a general consensus as to what people will find acceptable or not. So having passed through the filter imposed by that criteria of acceptance, one at last becomes 'accomplished'.

If you don't pass through the 'gate of 8', then an interesting thing happens and we come back to those internal connecting lines of the enneagram once again. What naturally happens is that you then have to look backwards and across the process to see which stage let you down. For example Was it stage 4 and the car you used? or was it the instructor? Perhaps a professional instructor would work better than your grumpy Dad? Was it the 5? Did you need to swot harder on the information part of it? Perhaps it was 6 and you simply need more practice, or perhaps you didn't really *try* hard enough in the first place? Maybe its the 8 stage itself? and you get so uptight with examinations of any kind that some relaxation technique might help. If it's none of these then its time to look all the way back to 1, 2, and 3. Was it really such a great idea?, did you think it through thoroughly enough?, Is it really that important, or in other words is it what you *really* want to do?

This is where we get to see from another angle how this enneagramic process is inter dimensional rather than simply linear because all of these processes are interconnected and in 'perpetual motion'. When you think about it your C.V. is a summary of all the 1-9 cycles of your work history, which create further opportunities in the line of that process, but also *exclude* others. For example its no use at the age of 50, having been an accountant for 30 years, applying for a job as a Graphic Designer. This is also why the 'mid life' crises' involves much 'flashing' back through 7, 6, 5, 4, 3, 2 and 1 to determine if you are *really* happy about how the 7 of your life is turning out!

9-Accomplishment Having met the criteria and 'passed' we are now accomplished at a beginner level. There is something quite special and deeply satisfying about the 9 stage because in terms of the 7 fold musical scale we have entered a new 'octave'. It is the *completion* of a cycle. It then does a curious thing because your success can inspire someone else to do the same, or seed them with the idea, create a new '1' so to speak. It also adds to the collective experience in the world of all the drivers that have ever been. How many guitar players have been 'inspired' to be so from seeing Hendrix, Clapton, Satarini etc. It adds to the morphic field of 'idea' energy that can then seed others, which is why 9 is at the top of the circle rather than 1, as it represents this 'morphic field' of collective human experience that the ideas come from that get into human minds and 'influence' them to do things in the first place.

Oliver Stone said that he made the movie “Wall Street” to tell the story of the dire consequences of economics driven by greed. However what he learned many years later was that thousands of College students saw his movie and were so inspired by how much ‘easy’ money there was to be made, that they dumped their studies and headed off to Wall Street! The 9 of *his* accomplishment seeded thousands of brains all over the world with the idea of wanting to learn how to become *just like* Gordon Geko!

10–Repetition or Elevation The circle the enneagram is contained in represents 0 or the containment of all processes, so the number 10 represents one complete cycle. After that one of two things can happen. The completed cycle becomes a new ‘wheel’ of process in your life and goes into a repetition where you accrue more experience in what you have already accomplished. Getting a drivers licence doesn’t make you a *good* driver, that takes years of experience or many turns of the ‘wheel’.

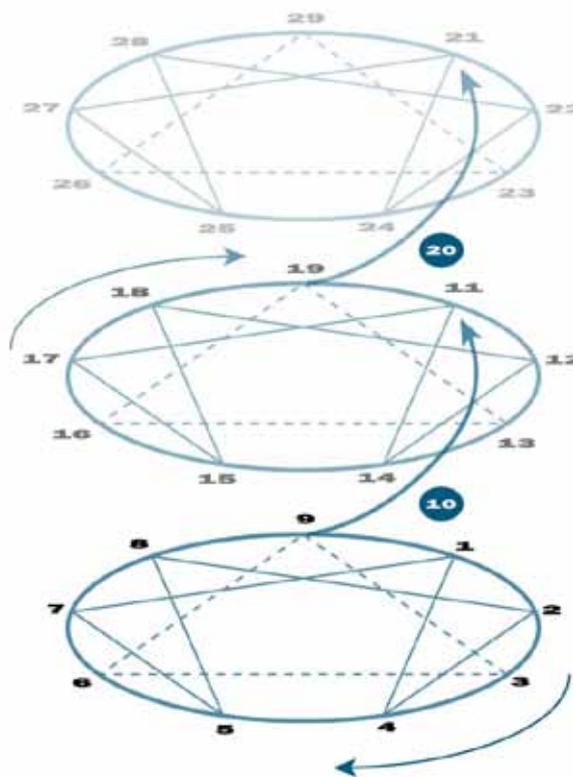
Or you may decide to take that first accomplishment to a whole new level, or *elevate* it, such as becoming a driving instructor yourself, a formula one racing driver, or even a pilot, which is learning to ‘drive’ a far more sophisticated machine. This is where the numbers 11, 12, 13 etc. come in, because numerologically they indicate going through the enneagramic cycle again but at a higher or more advanced level.

LEARNING TO DRIVE THE HUMAN VEHICLE

Using the example of the enneagramic cycle of learning a new skill gives an introductory idea of what the enneagram can reveal about the laws of life, because it is something familiar that enables us to get a sense of how these laws really are at play in everything that we do. However the deeper implication of it all suggests that life itself is a process of acquiring an accomplishment of some kind. Certainly we have to become accomplished in enough skills to be able to earn a living and keep a roof over our heads, but what about life itself, what are we supposed to be learning in *that* enneagramic cycle of the journey from birth to death?

At school it is official policy now to teach our children that the universe and life happened by accident, that it has no meaning and therefore there is *nothing deeper to learn*. However, if these universal laws exist—and laws always indicate reason and purpose—then perhaps we are also meant to learn to drive the organic/spiritual vehicle we have been born into while we are here? If that *is* the case then surely there is also some kind of ‘exam’ to pass, a criteria to meet, a “Gate of 8” to pass through?

It is interesting that the Ancient Egyptians, who were absolute masters of these universal laws—and clearly knew a thing or two about what happened after death—characterised the number 8 stage of life, or death, as the ceremony of ‘The weighing of the heart against the feather of truth’, or what had accrued at the heart of one’s life, measured against what is real and



Above: Having gone through the enneagramic cycle of acquiring a new skill it can either become a ‘wheel’ of repetition that accrues more experience or it can be elevated into a new level of accomplishment.

natural to the originating criteria of that life.

A palliative care nurse who spent her entire career caring for terminally ill patients, discovered that the single most common regret of the dying was, “I wished I had the courage to live a life *true to myself*, and not the life others expected of me”. In other words, being near to the 8 of life and intuitively ‘flashing’ back through the 9 enneagramic stages of it, they could feel quite distinctly that they had not managed to translate and fulfil the meaning of their particular existence and knew it was now too late to change the result or ‘7’ of it all.

Many ancient myths and esoteric traditions talk of the number 11 being to do with a passage or ladder into another dimension or higher realm. The modern world view would have us believe that there is nothing beyond matter and money (4). That this is *all* there is, so just be happy learning (5) and struggling (6), to become successful (9), in getting more of it all (7), and if you seriously challenge that, we will crush you (8).

All physics, chemistry, biology etc. is a study of *only* the enneagramic stages of the 4 through 7 of the manifest world. This is why those Physicists failed in coming up with a theory of everything because their world view won’t let them perceive the truly causative, unseen realms of the 1, 2 and 3. The enneagram however is a natural law encyclopedia of the causes, principles and reasons behind life and how to accomplish immortality, hence it is the ‘Philosophers stone’ and the imperishable gold long sought after by the alchemists, a subject to be expanded upon in future articles. ■ *D.J.Carville* © 2015