

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

Understanding and Managing
Existence and Development
From the Ground Up and
From the Inside Out

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

- Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science
- Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

- → Conceptual Context

Conceptual Context

■ Approach

- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions, from the ground up and from the inside out
- ◆ A different approach, focus and direction of development, of understanding and managing existence and development
- ◆ Understanding and managing everything in life we face and we have to deal with in a comprehensive way, in their essence, in depth and detail, in a differentiated, but integrated, connected and related way

Conceptual Context

- ◆ From the ground up, at the level of the natural conditions of existence, common to all human beings, which in the first instance define and govern human existence and development, that lie behind and that are reflected in individual human experience
- ◆ From the inside out, beginning with the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Where we consciously exist and act, where we experience, become aware and must consider the conditions of existence, our own mental and physical existence and development and the world around us, and how to deal with them

Conceptual Context

- ◆ Not, as traditionally is the case, understanding and managing existence and development from the top down and from the outside in
- ◆ In a fragmented, generalized, dissociated and disconnected way in the abstract
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development from the human-created socio-cultural level down to the level of the natural conditions of existence
- ◆ From the social-collective, religious, political, economic, scientific and technological level down to the individual

Conceptual Context

- ◆ Understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us to understand and manage ourselves, the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Dividing and separating existence and development into different issues, subject matters, disciplines, fields of study and areas of human activity, specialization and expertise
- ◆ Each defined and governed by different, competing and conflicting assumptions, objectives, approaches and practices
- ◆ Collectively trying to create the ideal external socio-cultural and physical-material conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance

Conceptual Context

- ◆ Instead, establishing individually the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others and the world around us
- ◆ Establishing and maintaining a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity of mind and understanding, a sense of certainty, security and confidence in everything we do and we engage in
- ◆ Where we are in charge and in control, individually in the mind and mental existence

Conceptual Context

- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions
- ◆ At the level and within the context of understanding and managing, in the first instance, the mind, mental existence and mental development
- ◆ From within the mind and mental existence, as reflected in individual experience

Conceptual Context

- Larger Context
 - ◆ The context, focus and concentration are the human condition
 - ◆ Persisting and growing cultural, religious, political, social, economic-financial, environmental, interpersonal and individual problems, difficulties and crises, conflicts, confrontations and violence
 - ◆ Problems and difficulties we face, we create, and we have to deal with, individually, as societies and as a species, locally and globally around the world today

Conceptual Context

- ◆ Problems and difficulties dealing with the self, understanding and managing, particularly the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Problems and difficulties connecting, communicating, interacting and cooperating with each other
- ◆ Problems and difficulties relating and interacting with the world around us, with nature and the natural environment
- ◆ More specifically, the focus and concentration are the human causes, and what lies behind them
- ◆ What lies behind problematic human behaviour, actions and practices

Conceptual Context

- ◆ The mind and mental existence, the internal mental conditions, how we understand and manage them
- ◆ How we understand and manage what takes place, what we face and have to deal with, what we do and need to do, what we must establish, develop and maintain, individually in the mind and mental existence
- ◆ How in the mind and mental existence we deal with, respond and adjust to demands and challenges, change and changing conditions
- ◆ The understanding, mental faculties, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we develop, on which we rely, how we develop and use them

Conceptual Context

- ◆ The choices and decisions we make, and how we make them, the aims, goals and objectives we pursue, and how we define them
- ◆ The mental behaviour and actions in which we engage, how we plan, organize and manage them
- ◆ The direction of the answers and solutions, the direction we need to take in conceptual and mental development and growth, individually, as society and as a species
- ◆ The understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we need to develop, how to develop and use them

Conceptual Context

- ◆ To sustain an expanding global human population in just and equitable ways on the limited and finite natural material resources base of the earth, within the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature
- ◆ And not contribute further to the premature demise in the long term of the human species at its own hands

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

- Conceptual Context
- → Central Argument

Central Argument

- Essentially, there are two different positions, views and responses, religion and science, regarding the problems and difficulties we face today and how to deal with them
- View and Response of Religion
 - ◆ The problems and difficulties we face are the results and consequences of a breakdown of society, community and family, and the loss of focus, purpose and direction in life
 - ◆ In turn, they are the results of a loss of morals, ethics and values, guides to human behaviour and actions, the consequences of a disconnect from religion

Central Argument

- ◆ The results and consequences of permissive liberal individualism, the loss of collective morals, ethics and values, governing, defining, guiding and directing individual and collective behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives
- ◆ The answers and solutions lie in a return to religion, the morals, ethics, values, guides and prescripts of religion
- ◆ For religious fundamentalists, the answers and solutions lie in the return to a strict interpretation and adherence to religious scripts, dogmas and prescripts
- ◆ For more moderate elements the answers and solutions lie in reconnecting science and religion

Central Argument

- ◆ A science and religion dialogue, with science providing answers to some questions, religion to other issues of life
- View and Response of Science
 - ◆ Problems and difficulties are issues yet to be addressed and resolved, of an otherwise constructive and beneficial path and direction of human development
 - ◆ The answers and solutions lie in advances in science and technology, providing the knowledge, tools, methods and techniques necessary to deal with problems and difficulties

Central Argument

- ◆ Addressing problems and difficulties, and improving existence is a matter of constructing the ideal external, socio-cultural and physical-material conditions
- ◆ The external conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world of easy material abundance, where problems and difficulties no longer occur
- ◆ Managing, controlling and directing irregular, non-uniform and unpredictable forces, processes and developments in nature
- ◆ Improving nature and the natural environment, addressing and correcting imperfections in nature, in human beings and in the world around us

Central Argument

- Limits and Shortcomings
 - ◆ Neither religion nor science touch on deeper-rooted problems, causes and developments that lie behind the problems and difficulties we face and we create locally and globally around the world today
 - ◆ Both religion and science consider and deal only with symptoms and consequences
 - ◆ Deeper-rooted problems, causes and developments include the progressive breaking down of traditional collective authority structures that have governed, defined, guided and directed human behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives

Central Argument

- ◆ The result of constant striving and struggle throughout human history against domination and collective authority structures, for individual freedom and liberty, individual sovereignty and autonomy
- ◆ A striving and struggle rooted in the natural conditions of human existence, existing individually, mentally and physically independent of each other and of any larger organic collective whole
- ◆ The problem is, the breakdown of traditional collective authority structures is not offset/replaced by the development of individual internal mental structures, to govern, define, guide and direct individual behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives

Central Argument

- ◆ The results and consequences of inappropriate and insufficient education and training, conceptual and mental development
- ◆ Development of inappropriate and insufficient understanding, mental faculties, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary and appropriate mental skills and practices
- ◆ In turn, the result of how traditionally we understand and manage existence and development, the understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we develop, on which we rely, how we develop and use them

Central Argument

- ◆ Understanding and managing existence in the collective, not individually, in cooperation with each other
- ◆ Conceptualizing and understanding the conditions of existence in the abstract, beyond our experience of them
- ◆ Trying to establishing externally in the world around us what by nature we must establish individually in the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Establishing a sense of self, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty, security and confidence externally, beyond the mind and mental existence, in socio-cultural and physical-material terms

Central Argument

- ◆ Understanding and managing our existence and development through understanding and managing external conditions and the world around us, not understanding and managing them within existing and changing external conditions
- ◆ Failing to understand and manage in the first instance, the mind, mental existence and mental development, within existing and changing external conditions
- ◆ Failing to understand and manage the role and responsibility in our existence and development that by nature are individually ours to understand and manage, where we are in charge and in control, individually in the mind and mental existence

Central Argument

- ◆ Failing to develop, exercise and practice individually the necessary understanding, our natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary and appropriate mental skills and practices, and engage in the required mental work and effort

Central Argument

- Answers and Solutions
 - ◆ The answers and solutions lie in understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions from the ground up and from the inside out
 - ◆ From the ground up, at the level of the natural conditions of existence, common to all human beings, which in the first instance define and govern existence and development, that lie behind and that are reflected in individual human experience
 - ◆ From the inside out, beginning with the mind and mental existence

Central Argument

- ◆ Understanding and managing them in a comprehensive way, in their essence, in depth and detail, in a differentiated, but integrated, connected and related way
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development at the level and within the context of understanding and managing, in the first instance, the mind and mental existence
- ◆ From within the mind and mental existence, as reflected in individual experience

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

- Conceptual Context
- Central Argument
- → Natural Conditions of Existence

Natural Conditions of Existence

- We exist in and as part of a constantly unfolding, changing and transforming world, both natural and human-created world
 - ◆ We are biological organisms, whose existence and development is defined and governed, in the first instance, by natural forces and processes
 - ◆ But, but nature we have a role to play in our existence and development
 - ◆ We must individually take an active part in managing our existence and development, meeting our needs, and dealing with, responding and adjusting to change and changing conditions

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ We are not naturally-genetically preconditioned to behave and act in necessary and appropriate ways, meeting our needs and responding to change and changing conditions
- ◆ Managing existence requires a sense, an understanding of the nature, conditions, demands and challenges of existence
- ◆ To manage, define, guide and direct our behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives
- We exist mentally and physically independent of each other and of any larger organic collective social whole

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ But, we depend on and must interact with each other and the world around us, with nature and the natural environment to meet our basic needs
- **Consciously, we exist and act in the mind and mental existence**
 - ◆ It is where we experience, become aware and must consider the conditions of existence, our own mental and physical existence and development and the world around us, and how to deal with them
 - ◆ It is where we make choices and decisions, where we define aims, goals and objectives, and where we must consider, plan, organize and manage our behaviour and actions

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ We experience and become aware of the conditions of existence, our own mental and physical existence and development and the world around us through perceptions, sensations and feelings
- ◆ Perceptions, sensations and feelings are the only access of the mind and awareness to external conditions and the world beyond
- ◆ We do not experience all of reality
- ◆ Our experience fragment, divide and separate an integrated, connected, related and interacting world and reality

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ Perceptions, sensations and feelings do not on their own impress themselves fully, in all their details on our awareness
- ◆ They do not order and arrange themselves in meaningful ways in the mind and awareness
- ◆ They do not form clear and detailed images in the mind about the conditions that lie behind them
- Initial mental conditions, or state of mind
 - ◆ Are disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ What comes to mind and we become aware of first appear as vague notions, lacking in clarity, depth and detail
- Managing existence in and as part of a constantly changing world
 - ◆ Requires clarity of mind and detailed understanding, about the conditions, demands and challenges of existence
 - ◆ It requires establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others and the world around us
 - ◆ Considering and making sense of our experience, the conditions that lie behind them, and how to deal with them

Natural Conditions of Existence

- ◆ Dealing with mental disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity
- ◆ Developing the necessary understanding and mental faculties, our natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary mental skills and practices, and engaging in the required mental work and effort

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

- Conceptual Context
- Central Argument
- Natural Conditions of Existence
- → Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions

Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions

- Knowledge and Understanding
 - ◆ Knowledge, or knowing, is being aware of information details and specifics, about the conditions of existence and the world around us
 - ◆ Understanding in contrast, consists of pictures, images and conceptual structures in the mind
 - ◆ It involves connecting the dots, connecting information details and specifics to form clear and detailed images, pictures and conceptual structures in the mind

Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions

- ◆ Developing understanding requires establishing first the necessary experiential information details and specifics
- ◆ It requires going beyond instant awareness and first impressions, making sense of experience, perceptions, sensations and feelings that enter the mind and awareness
- ◆ Considering the conditions that lie behind and that are reflected in them
- ◆ Then, connecting the details and specifics of the experiential information, forming clear and detailed images and pictures in the mind about the conditions of existence and the world around us that lie behind our experience

Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions

- Guides to Behaviour and Actions
 - ◆ In addition to a basic understanding, a conceptual foundation and framework of understanding about the fundamentals and essentials of the conditions of existence, we need to understand the specific conditions, demands and challenges we face daily and how to deal with them
 - ◆ To define, guide and direct our individual behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives
 - ◆ As human beings we share a common nature, common natural conditions, demands and challenges of existence

Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions

- ◆ But we do not experience them at the same time, under the same circumstances
- ◆ Similar conditions, changes and developments pose different demands and challenges for the individual, requiring different answers and solutions, different responses and adjustments, different behaviour and actions
- ◆ Existing mentally and physically independent of each other and of any larger organic social-collective whole, individually we develop and unfold separately and independent of each other, at different times and at a different pace

Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions

- ◆ Individually we always are at different stages in our physical-biological unfolding, and at different levels in our conceptual and mental development and growth than others
- ◆ We are at different levels in the development of our understanding, our mental faculties, our natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary mental skills and practices, mental work and effort
- ◆ Individually we have a different history, background and path of development, being influenced by different experience, situations and conditions

Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions

- ◆ Similar conditions, changes and developments pose different demands and challenges for the individual, requiring different responses and adjustments, behaviour and actions, choices and decisions
- ◆ Requiring individual understanding, or mental scripts, to define, guide and direct the necessary and appropriate behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives
- ◆ To be effective, define, guide and direct individual behaviour and actions, dealing with demands, challenges, change and changing conditions in meaningful, constructive and beneficial ways

Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions

- ◆ Individual mental scripts need to be written, at the level and within the context of the natural conditions of existence, which in the first instance, define and govern human existence and development
- ◆ They need to be considered and written, at the level and within the context of a clear and detailed conceptual foundation and framework of understanding about the fundamentals and essentials of the natural conditions of existence, that lie behind and that are reflected in individual experience

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

- Conceptual Context
- Central Argument
- Natural Conditions of Existence
- Knowledge, Understanding and Guides to Behaviour and Actions
- → Religion, Philosophy and Science, Approach, Focus and Objectives

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

■ Religion

- ◆ The approach of religion of understanding and managing existence and development is rooted in early human responses at the dawn of human consciousness, to the conditions, demands and challenges of the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Human responses to a mysterious self and a reality of hidden forces
- ◆ Conceptually extending themselves, their experience of their mental and physical existence, beyond the human being

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ Viewing everything in nature similar to their experience of their own mental and physical existence and development
- ◆ Moreover, speculating and abstracting from instant awareness and first impressions of their experience of the conditions of existence and the world around them
- ◆ Creating speculative and abstract images in the mind of a supernatural-spiritual world of mysterious forces and hidden spirits
- ◆ At first, randomly creating vague and ambiguous images, lacking in depth and detail
- ◆ Later, creating reasoned and detailed mental images of a supernatural-spiritual world

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ With growing diversity in human activity and rising complexity of human communities, human relations and interactions, images of a supernatural-spiritual world grow more detailed and complex
- ◆ The focus and objectives of religion is to understand the purpose and role of human existence to guide and direct human behaviour and actions
- ◆ Appeals and seeking favours with hidden spirits and supernatural forces are viewed as the way to improve the conditions of existence

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

■ Philosophy

- ◆ Philosophy is rooted in Greek metaphysics
- ◆ Efforts to establish certainty, objective truth and knowledge, about the conditions of existence and the world around us, through thought and reason, beyond subjective human senses
- ◆ Gaining access to the knowledge and understanding of the gods, thought to exist in a metaphysical realm, a realm separate and different from the supernatural-spiritual and natural-material world

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ Mathematical knowledge to Greek thinkers appeared certain, exact and about the real world
- ◆ Thought to exist in the metaphysical realm, to be reached through thought and reason, or philosophy, without appeal to the senses
- ◆ In mental terms, Greek metaphysics and philosophy is the reasoned construction of abstract mental images, pictures and conceptual constructs
- ◆ Arrived at through the use of philosophical, or mental, aids, tools, methods and techniques

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ Aids, tools, methods and techniques such as dialectics, rhetoric, syllogism, deduction, induction, disputation and logic
- ◆ The focus and objectives of philosophy is to establish certainty, objective knowledge and truth, as a way to improve the conditions of existence, in a constantly unfolding, changing and transforming world

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

■ Science

- ◆ Its approach to making sense of human experience, the conditions of existence and the world around us, like religion, has its beginnings at the dawn of human consciousness
- ◆ The approach has its roots in early human responses to the demands and challenges of mental existence
- ◆ The development of science, creating mental images, pictures and conceptual structures of the natural-material world, is driven by the need to interact with nature and the natural environment to meet our physical-material needs

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ The selection, in the Paleolithic period, of edible plants and animals, the discovery of ways of collecting and harvesting them, and the recognition of seasons, are the first steps of science, the constructing images in the mind about the natural-material world
- ◆ Growing interaction with nature and the natural environment in the transition from subsistence to commercial agriculture leads to the development of more detailed awareness, knowledge, and mental images of the natural-material world

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ Surplus production, flood control and irrigation systems, observation of astronomical events, the use of natural materials in the construction of permanent urban settlements, the construction of wheels, wagons and ships, writing and keeping records, lead to more detailed and differentiated images of the natural world
- ◆ Science, the scientific process, in its essence, consists of observing, differentiating, naming, listing and categorizing the self-evident and obvious in human experience of the natural-material world, and speculating, deducing and concluding about underlying natural forces, processes, causes and effects

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ It includes creating lists and dictionaries of names, categories and relationships
- ◆ The development of the scientific approach progresses from random observations to the systematic observing and considering of the self-evident and obvious in human experience of the natural-material world
- ◆ The process is aided by the development of aids, tools, methods, techniques and conventions of observing, differentiating, naming, listing and categorizing, and deducing and concluding about underlying natural forces, processes, causes and effects

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ Aids, tools, methods and techniques such as symbols, language, numbers, writing, weights and measures, time, mathematics and experimental testing
- ◆ With time, the process becomes institutionalized in scientific conventions, methods and practices, institutions and organizations
- ◆ Formulating natural laws, thought to govern the natural world
- ◆ Capturing the workings of nature in symbolic, linguistic and numeric-mathematical theories, formulas and models, to be used and applied to manage, control, direct and improve the external conditions of existence

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ The focus and objectives of science are general and objective knowledge of the natural-material world, nature and natural environment, its structure and workings
- ◆ To improve external conditions and construct an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world around us, of easy material abundance
- ◆ The beginnings of science, the constructing of mental images of the natural-material world, are rooted in images of a supernatural-spiritual world

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ Nature, the natural world, natural elements, phenomena, forces and processes were taken to be magic and mystical, reflections of a supernatural-spiritual world
- ◆ Supernatural-spiritual causes were seen to lie behind everything, natural development, forces and processes, including human activities
- ◆ Observing, naming, listing and categorizing natural elements and phenomena were seen to be magical and spiritual acts

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ The cultivation of crops, raising of animals, the development of urban existence, surplus and commercial agriculture and crafts gradually lead to the discovery of regularities, uniform and recurring patterns and processes in nature
- ◆ It allows for rational planning and the organized use and control of nature, natural environment and natural resources
- ◆ It leads to a recognition and awareness, the world is governed by rational, recognizable and understandable natural forces, processes and relationships, not by mysterious spirits and supernatural forces

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ Leading to a gradual divorce of images of the natural-material world from perceptions of a supernatural-spiritual reality, the separation of science from religion
- ◆ The separation of science from religion, of natural-material from supernatural-spiritual accounts of the conditions of existence and the world around us and guides to human behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, is a gradual process, unfolding over centuries
- ◆ A process of recognition and acceptance of the greater effectiveness of natural-material explanations managing, controlling and using nature, the natural environment and natural resources

Religion, Philosophy and Science Approach, Focus and Objectives

- ◆ It is a process that is still unfolding today, which individually we play out in the mind
- ◆ Anything in our existence and in the world around us that is not self-evident, clear and obvious, we readily attribute to, account for, and explain in supernatural-spiritual, mysterious and mystical terms
- ◆ As soon as we find a more rational explanation and understanding, we abandon and move beyond supernatural-spiritual accounts

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

- → Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

■ Limits and Shortcomings

- ◆ Religion provides general, collective understanding and scripts, or guides, for behaviour and actions of the collective, the community, for everyone to follow
- ◆ Religion does not provide individual scripts, specific guides for individual behaviour and actions
- ◆ The conditions, demands and challenges of individual existence and how to deal with them, are to be derived and extrapolated from the general, collective script
- ◆ Religion does not provide the means, the understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices to write individual mental scripts

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ It offers homilies, analogies and metaphors through which to make sense of individual experience, understand the conditions, demands and challenges of individual existence, how to deal with, respond and adjust to them
- ◆ Religion does not provide a conceptual foundation or framework of understanding rooted in and reflecting individual experience, about the conditions of individual existence that lie behind them
- ◆ It provides speculative and abstract images of a supernatural-spiritual world of hidden spirits and mysterious forces

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ Individual existence and development are to be understood and managed indirectly, in collective terms, within the context of the larger collective supernatural-spiritual whole
- ◆ Philosophy provides aids, tools, methods and techniques for speculative and abstract reasoning
- ◆ It does not provide the means, individual understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices, required to understand and manage individual existence and development, guide and direct individual behaviour and actions

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ It provides the means only for speculative and abstract reasoning about the conditions of existence
- ◆ Philosophy also does not provide a conceptual foundation and framework of understanding rooted in and reflecting individual experience, about the conditions of individual existence that lie behind them
- ◆ The conceptual foundation and framework of understanding within which to consider and make sense of individual experience, understand the conditions of individual existence and development, guide and direct individual behaviour and actions, choices and decisions, goals and objectives

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ Science provides general and objective information about the natural-material universe, nature, the natural environment, natural forces, processes, development and change, how to use and control them
- ◆ Science does not provide a script to guide and direct individual behaviour and actions, choices and decisions
- ◆ It does not provide the means, individual understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices necessary to understand and manage individual existence and development, guide and direct individual behaviour and actions, within the natural parameters, the boundaries and limits of existence set by nature

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ They provide no knowledge or understanding about the mind, mental existence and mental development
- ◆ Where we consciously exist and act, where we experience, become aware and must consider the conditions of existence, and how to deal with them, where individually we are in charge and in control, must actively be and engaged and take responsibility for what takes place and what we do
- ◆ Religion, philosophy and science fail to provide or aid in establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, before we engage and deal with external conditions, others and the world around us

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ They do not aid in establishing and maintaining a sense of the human self, a sense of order and stability, clarity and coherence, certainty, security and confidence in the mind and mental existence
- ◆ Where individually we are in charge and in control, where we must actively be engaged and take responsibility for what takes place and what we do
- ◆ They do not lead or contribute to developing individually the required understanding, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary and appropriate mental skills and practices

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ They do not lead to engaging in a process of continuous, life-long conceptual and mental self-development and growth
- ◆ Constantly reconsidering, updating, correcting, expanding and improving individual understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices, whenever necessary and required, in light of change and changing conditions
- ◆ They only provide fixed and static general beliefs, views and knowledge, in the case of religion and science, and mental aids, tools, methods and techniques in the case of philosophy

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- Results and Consequences
 - ◆ Religion, philosophy and science lead to the development of problematic, inappropriate and insufficient understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices
 - ◆ The results and consequences are persisting and growing cultural, religious, political, social, economic-financial, environmental, interpersonal and individual problems, difficulties and crises, conflicts, confrontations and violence
 - ◆ Problems and difficulties dealing with the individual self, understanding and managing the mind, mental existence and mental development

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ Establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, and developing the required mental faculties, the natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary mental skills and practices
- ◆ Persisting and growing mental disorder and instability, doubt and confusion, uncertainty and insecurity, fear, stress, anxiety and frustration
- ◆ Problems and difficulties connecting, communicating, interacting and cooperating with each other
- ◆ Competition, conflict and confrontation over shared resources and about different, competing and conflicting beliefs, views, values, conventions and practices

Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science

- ◆ Problems and difficulties relating and interacting with nature and the natural environment
- ◆ Exploiting natural material resources beyond actual human material needs
- ◆ Degrading the natural environment and interfering in nature, natural forces and processes beyond what is required to sustain human existence
- ◆ Bringing about changes in natural development and the natural environment which in the long-term will render the natural environment of the earth uninhabitable for the human species

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science

- Limits and Shortcomings, Results and Consequences of Religion, Philosophy and Science
- → Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ The answers and solutions lie beyond religion, philosophy and science
- ◆ They lie in understanding and managing existence and development from the ground up and from the inside out
- ◆ From the ground up, at the level of the natural conditions of existence, common to all human beings, which in the first instance define and govern existence and development, that lie behind and that are reflected in human experience
- ◆ From the inside out, beginning with the mind and mental existence

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Changing the approach, focus and direction in conceptual and mental development and growth
- ◆ Understanding and managing existence and development, demands and challenges, problems and difficulties, change and changing conditions in a comprehensive way, in their essence, in depth and detail, in a differentiated, but integrated, connected and related way
- ◆ Understanding and managing them beyond the collective beliefs and guides of religion, the speculative reasoning of philosophy, and the general and objective knowledge of science

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Beyond speculating, abstracting and extrapolating from first impressions and instant awareness, the self-evident and obvious in human experience
- ◆ Understanding the conditions of existence through making sense of our experience, and considering the conditions that lie behind and that are reflected in them
- ◆ Making sense of individual experience and considering the conditions that lie behind them, at length, in depth and detail

Beyond Religion, Philosophy and Science, Direction of the Answers and Solutions

- ◆ Establishing individually the necessary internal mental conditions, not collectively creating the ideal external conditions of an ordered, stable, secure and predictable world
- ◆ Establishing the necessary internal mental conditions, before engaging and dealing with external conditions, others and the world around us, in everything we do and we engage in
- ◆ Establishing and maintaining a sense of the human self, a sense of order and stability, clarity of mind and understanding, a sense of certainty, security and confidence individually in the mind and mental existence

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- ◆ Establishing individually clear and detailed images and conceptual structures in the mind and mental existence, a conceptual foundation and framework of understanding about the fundamentals and essentials of the natural conditions, demands and challenges of existence and development and the world around us
- ◆ Developing individually the necessary understanding and mental faculties, our natural mental potential, natural mental powers and abilities, necessary mental skills and practices, and engage in the required mental work and effort
- ◆ Engage in a process of continuous, life-long conceptual and mental self-development and growth

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- ◆ Constantly reconsidering, updating, correcting, expanding and improving individual understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices, in light of change and changing conditions
- ◆ Reconsidering, updating, correcting, expanding and improving, whenever necessary and required, the understanding, mental powers and abilities, mental skills and practices we develop, on which we rely, how we develop and use them
- ◆ The choices and decisions we make, and how we make them, the aims, goals and objectives we pursue, and how we define them

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- ◆ The behaviour and actions in which we engage, and how we plan, organize and manage them