

## A Brief Synopsis of Triads

### The Essential Laws of World 6

This is a brief synopsis of the essential laws of World 6, expressed as six triads formed from permutations of the Active force (1), the Passive/Denying force (2) and the Reconciling force (3). In each triad, the order of the forces is important in characterizing the corresponding law. The first force in the permutation is the initiating force of the triad, or to put it another way, the “why” of the triad. The second force in the sequence designated by the triad is the “heart” of the triad, or the “how” of it. The third force in the sequence is the result or outcome or manifestation of the triad.

It is important not to get too attached to the names given to the triad -- they are meant to be indicators or signs to help us, not definitions. These laws are the essential laws of World 6. In World 12, these 6 laws remain, but another 6 are added in which the resultant force is existential, that is, manifests in the existing world.

In order to begin to understand the triads, it is a good practice to notice and examine ordinary, small simple events and relationships, and see to which triad the relationship corresponds.

For a much fuller and more extensive description of these laws, refer to Volume II of the *Dramatic Universe* by J.G. Bennett.

#### 1 – 2 – 3 Involution

This law can also be called **creation** or **expansion**. It is initiated by the active force, which interacts directly with the receptive force, and the result is the reconciling force. This is the “canonical” triad mentioned by Gurdjieff in *Beelzebub*, which he calls the Harnel-Miaznel – “the higher blends with lower and actualizes the middle”. In this triad, the active force and receptive force must “correspond” or be compatible in order to produce a result. For example, in the Sun-Earth-Life triad, the Earth must not be too close or too far away from the Sun. Similarly, in the Father-Mother-Child triad, the active and passive forces must be of the same species.

The heart of this triad is the receptive force. In the case of Father-Mother-Child, for example, the Mother must carry the developing child for a long time in order to produce a result. Artist, inventors, and other creative people know that there is a lot of work after the original idea or impetus is conceived. Thomas Edison said “Genius is 1% inspiration and 99% perspiration”.

A very simple example of this triad is the event of hitting a nail with a hammer. The result is the connection or binding of two pieces of wood. The hammer and nail correspond – using a saw to hit the nail would be ineffective, as would using a hammer to cut wood.

This is the triad that modern civilizations want to use to do everything – “If I can just bring enough force, I can do whatever I want.” This attitude is the cause of many problems in the world, because we are very often using the wrong triad at the wrong time.

## 2 – 1 – 3 Evolution

This law can also be called **concentration** or **transformation**. It is initiated by the denying force, and at first this doesn't seem possible, but if we look, for example, at hunger, one of the most fundamental driving forces in life, we can clearly see how deprivation initiates the striving to find food. For many people, it is the feeling of lack that drives the first search for meaning.

The heart of evolution/transformation is the active force. Evolution does not happen by itself – it requires an active effort to move in the direction of lower to higher, of disorder to order. The 2<sup>nd</sup> law of thermodynamics indicates that systems naturally tend to become more disorganized, more random. The active force is needed to reverse this tendency.

This is an important triad to study for any community involved in the Work. We can't come to transformation from 1-2-3. We have to start from need, from listening, from being receptive.

A simple example from ordinary life: I'm walking along the street and I notice a piece of trash. If I pick it up and place it in a trash can, I have engaged in this triad.

## 1 – 3 – 2 Interaction

The world is filled with interaction – nothing happens without it. Like the first triad, 1-2-3, it is initiated by the active force, but its connection to the receptive force is mediated by the reconciling force, which makes the triad possible. Because we are “third force blind”, we fail to recognize the heart of this triad. A simple example is an ordinary conversation – the air invisibly carries the vibrations of sound from the speaker to the listener. All communication takes place using this triad, and the quality of the interaction depends on the quality of the medium, the reconciling force. Compare the quality of a conversation to the quality of an e-mail interaction, for example. There is richness in a conversation that cannot be attained by an exchange of e-mails.

One of the characteristics of interaction is that active and passive forces can “switch sides”, so to speak. In a conversation, first one person speaks (the other should be listening), and then the listener becomes the speaker. Competitive sports are a simple example of interaction, where one side takes the initiative (offense) and the other defends and later the roles switch. The reconciling force that allows the game to take place are the rules of the game, the playing field, and the equipment needed.

## 2 – 3 – 1 Identity

Everything in the existing world has an identity, which asserts itself on the world. What is difficult to understand is how identity is initiated by the receptive force and why the reconciling force is at its heart. For ourselves, we can go along happily thinking we know who we are until one day the question “Who am I” strikes home. This question and our admission that we don't know the answer can be the start of finding our real identity. Something must enter, from above, so to speak, that makes it possible to assert “I am”.

A simple example is a chair. From one point of view, it is merely a collection of wood, which in a pile on the floor could not assert itself as a chair. But if the wood is arranged by a pattern which we recognize, its identity as a chair is revealed.

### **3 – 1 – 2 Order**

The two triads which are initiated by the reconciling force may be difficult to understand because we are third force blind. In the case of order, 3-1-2, the reconciling force can be conceived as the essential pattern that seeks to manifest in the world. It might also be called determination in the sense of making a choice. In order to bring the pattern into the world, an effort, the active force, must be engaged to separate that which belongs to the pattern from that which does not. As in the 2-1-3 triad, order does not happen by itself, but here the outcome is a structure/organization which can stand by itself.

The simple example of cleaning a room can show this in action. We have an idea of how things must be arranged, tidied, swept and so forth. At some point we recognize that the actual conditions don't match the pattern, and we set ourselves to clean the room. At the end, the room more closely matches our ideal and we're satisfied with the "order".

### **3 – 2 – 1 Freedom**

This triad may be the most difficult to understand. It allows the active force to manifest, but at its heart, freedom depends on the receptive force. Here the reconciling force initiates the triad as an "opening" that makes something possible, but the receptive force must be there to receive the invitation. Through its acceptance, the active force is able to proceed.

Consider how Conscience works in us. Our true Conscience is part of our higher nature. It calls to us, but we must be receptive in order to hear it. If we are able to listen and are able to accept its call, we have the opportunity, the freedom, to act from it, but we are not compelled to do so.

### **End Note**

Understanding the triads requires effort and engagement. Merely thinking about them is not sufficient. We must somehow get ourselves into the attitude or frame of mind to notice ordinary, everyday events in the light of the three forces that are always present. Many events exemplify more than one triad simultaneously, making recognition of the triads more difficult. Indeed, some events contain all six triads. These events have a significance and meaning that we recognize when we are involved in them.

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