

Ecumenical Ministries of Oregon Collins' Lecture

'Pathways and Bridges to an Ecological and Social Consciousness'

Lisa Rome & Milt Markewitz — November 2, 2017

Ilarion Mercurieff's *Asking the Right Questions*

- 1. When solving a problem, are we addressing the consciousness that created the problem?**
- 2. What are some intellectual bridges and spiritual pathways to an appropriate consciousness?**
- 3. How might we reach inspired people who will**
 - Listen and learn from those Peoples who have lived sustainably for millennia?**
 - Reflect and inquire deeply into their own beliefs, actions & adverse behaviors?**
 - Discover their own truth and path to pursue? and**
 - Pull together to re-achieve ecological and social balance and harmony?**

The Global Climate Crisis

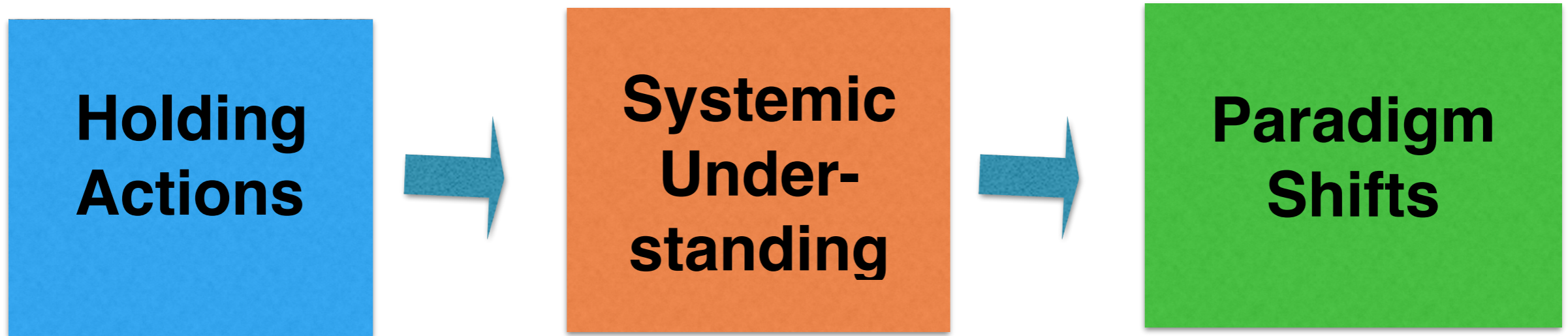


Chart is adapted from Joanna Macy's work

The Global Climate Crisis is devastating:

- **Atmospheric CO2 continues to rise;**
- **Weather conditions are noticeably more severe;**
- **Coastline habitats are inundated with rising water;**
- **Water quality and food production are diminished;**
- **Species are rapidly being extinguished; and**
- **Peace on Earth is ever more elusive.**

Discerning the Earth as Alive

"In these prophetic times, where human beings are pushing the Earth Mother's life support systems to the brink, it is imperative to do whatever is possible to elevate human consciousness. We must heal separation from self, from other and Mother Earth. This separation is the root cause for all the human dysfunctions that are destroying Mother Earth and ourselves."

Ilarion Merculieff

Mechanical -Living System Comparison

	<u>Structure</u>	<u>Organization</u>
<u>Mechanical</u>	Fixed	Variable
<u>Living</u>	In Constant Flux	Fixed Life Processes

- **“In Constant Flux” —**
 - **Living Systems are self organizing that continuously:**
 - * **Cleanse**
 - * **Heal**
 - * **Restructure so that they might flourish**
 - * **They are Autopoietic**
- **“Fixed Life Processes” — These were clarified for me when studying ancient languages. They are gifts endowed to all life at Creation.**

Living Languages

: Adapted from Carlo Suares',
Cipher of Genesis: The
Original Code of the Qabala
as Applied to the Scriptures.

Ancient Hebrew as a Living Language

Graphic Created by: Milt
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www.natureslanguage.com

Processes Necessary to Create and Sustain Life?	Life-Death-Life-Contium	Nature's Order & Structure	Organic Life	Birth with Resistance	Universal Life	Fertilization	Possibility	Energy	Attraction: Sensuality & Beauty
<u>Archetypal</u>	א 1	ב 2	ג 3	ד 4	ה 5	ו 6	ז 7	ח 8	ט 9
<u>Existential</u>	י 10	כ 20	ל 30	מ 40	נ 50	ס 60	ע 70	פ 80	צ 90
<u>Cosmological</u>	ק 100	ר 200	ש 300	ת 400	ך 500	ם 600	ן 700	ף 800	ץ 900

- Each of the above columns contains the energy of a Life-Process that is Bestowed to every Living System
- Every Utterance expresses a Life Energy
- Every 'word' is a Story
- Speaking such a language connects both the Speaker and the Listener with an 'Already Knowing'
- Cultures who speak such languages develop an Intuitive Understanding of all that's Necessary to Create & Sustain Life

Historical Perspective

When did we shift from Nature as our primary teacher?

- Indigenous Elders believe it was 4-6 thousand years ago
 - Abrahamic traditions are in the year 5778
 - The shift to male dominance and empires

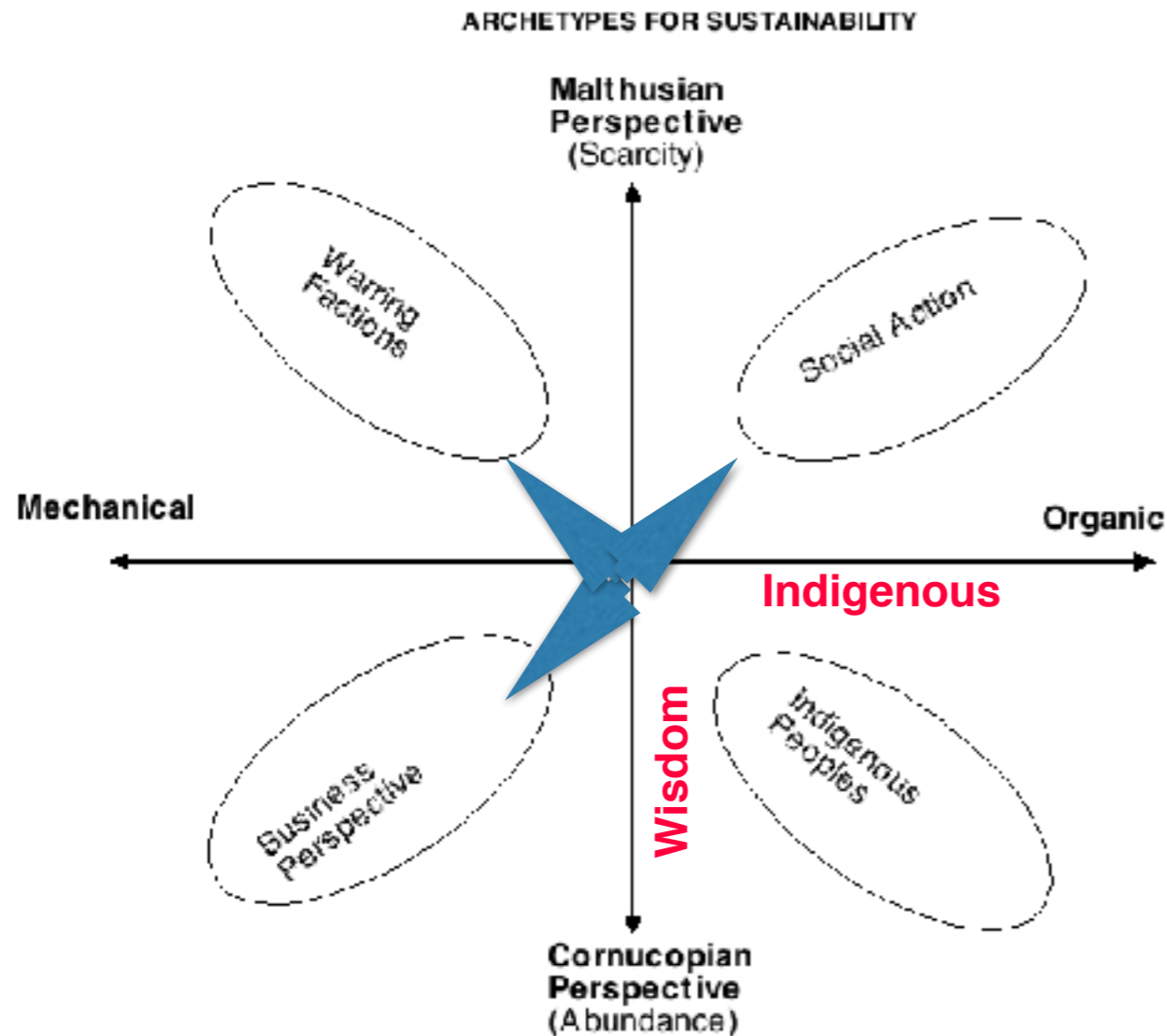
Milestones in Jewish mythology

- Ancient Hebrew lost in slavery in Egypt
- Hierarchical leadership in the desert
- Receiving of the 10 Commandments
 - A hierarchical relationship with God
 - A social contract
 - But who are we for the Earth (Belief in dominion prevails)?
 - And who are we for future generations?
- Creation Story shifted from '1st Seven Days' to 'Adam & Eve'
- Mystical traditions from each Abrahamic Faith are significantly diminished

Significant, often devastating, social and ecological impacts

- Humans ravage and devour the Earth -- We are fouling our own nest
- We've institutionalized not being sustainable -- Virtually all our institutions are primarily hierarchical & secondarily relational
- Decisions are primarily made based on economic considerations

Consciousness Differences



- Cultural differences defined by the Axis
- 3 Western & the Indigenous Constructs
- What Consciousness are we applying –
 - *Social Action*, or
 - *Indigenous Wisdom*?
- What is the Causal Consciousness?
- Isn't *Social Action* based on Judeo-Christian Ethic?
- Isn't the *Tao* the Ethic we're Seeking?
- Aren't the *Tao* and *Red Road* Equivalent?

Spiral Dynamics

1 BEIGE	survival; biogenic needs satisfaction; reproduction
2 PURPLE	safety/security; protection from harm; family bonds
3 RED	power/action; asserting self to dominate others; control
4 BLUE	stability/order; obedience to earn later reward; meaning
5 ORANGE	opportunity/success; competing to achieve results; influence
6 GREEN	harmony/love; joining together for mutual growth; awareness
7 YELLOW	independence/self-worth; fitting a living system; knowing
8 TURQUOISE	global community/life force; survival of Earth; consciousness

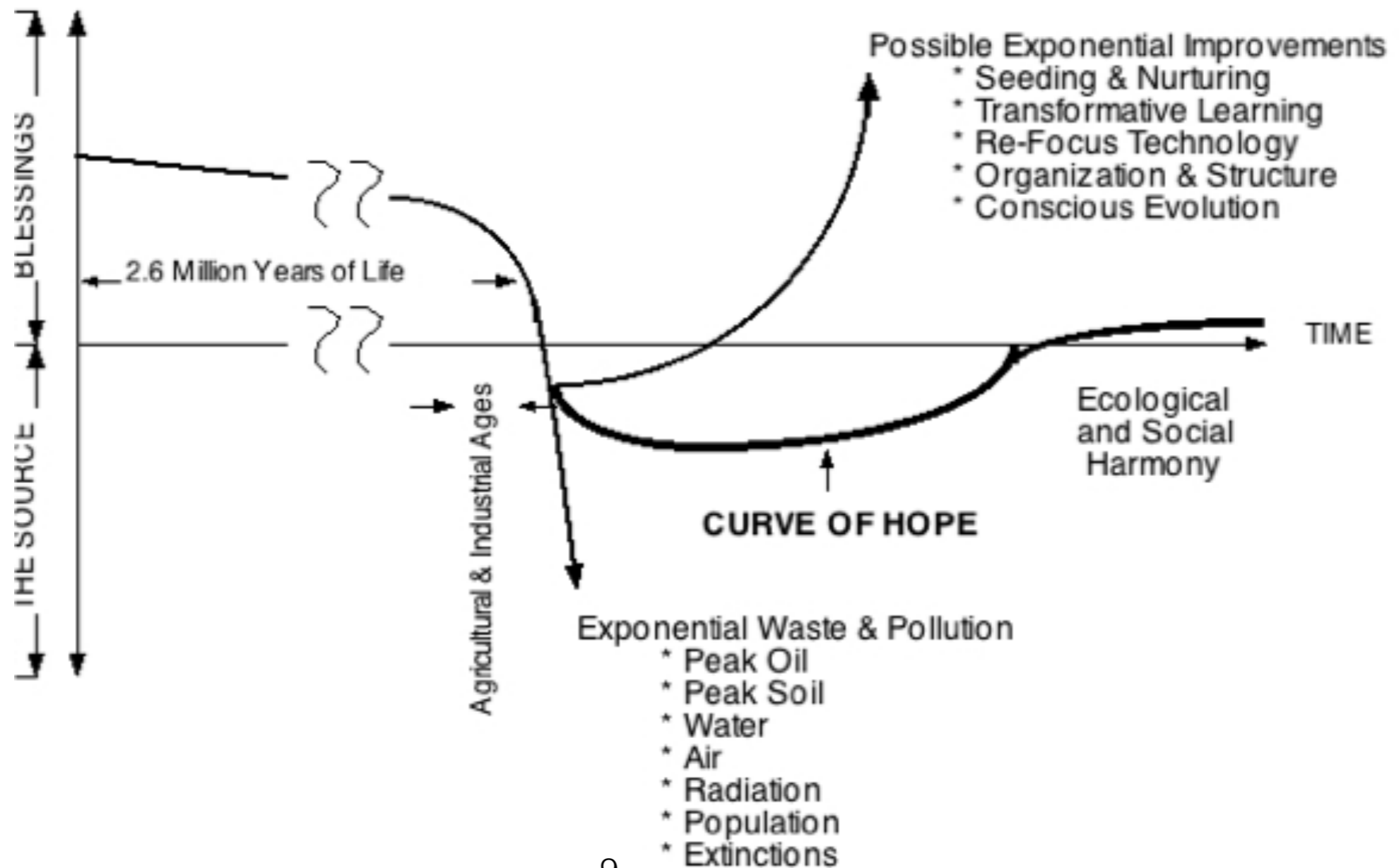
Extracted from, <http://www.spiraldynamics.org/Graves/colors.htm>

Cultural Memes

- Western Cultures operate in the Red, Blue, Orange and Green spheres
- The Idealistic way of Indigenous Cultures is Turquoise

Goals & Guiding Principles

'THE CURVE OF HOPE'
Milt Markewitz -- April 2011

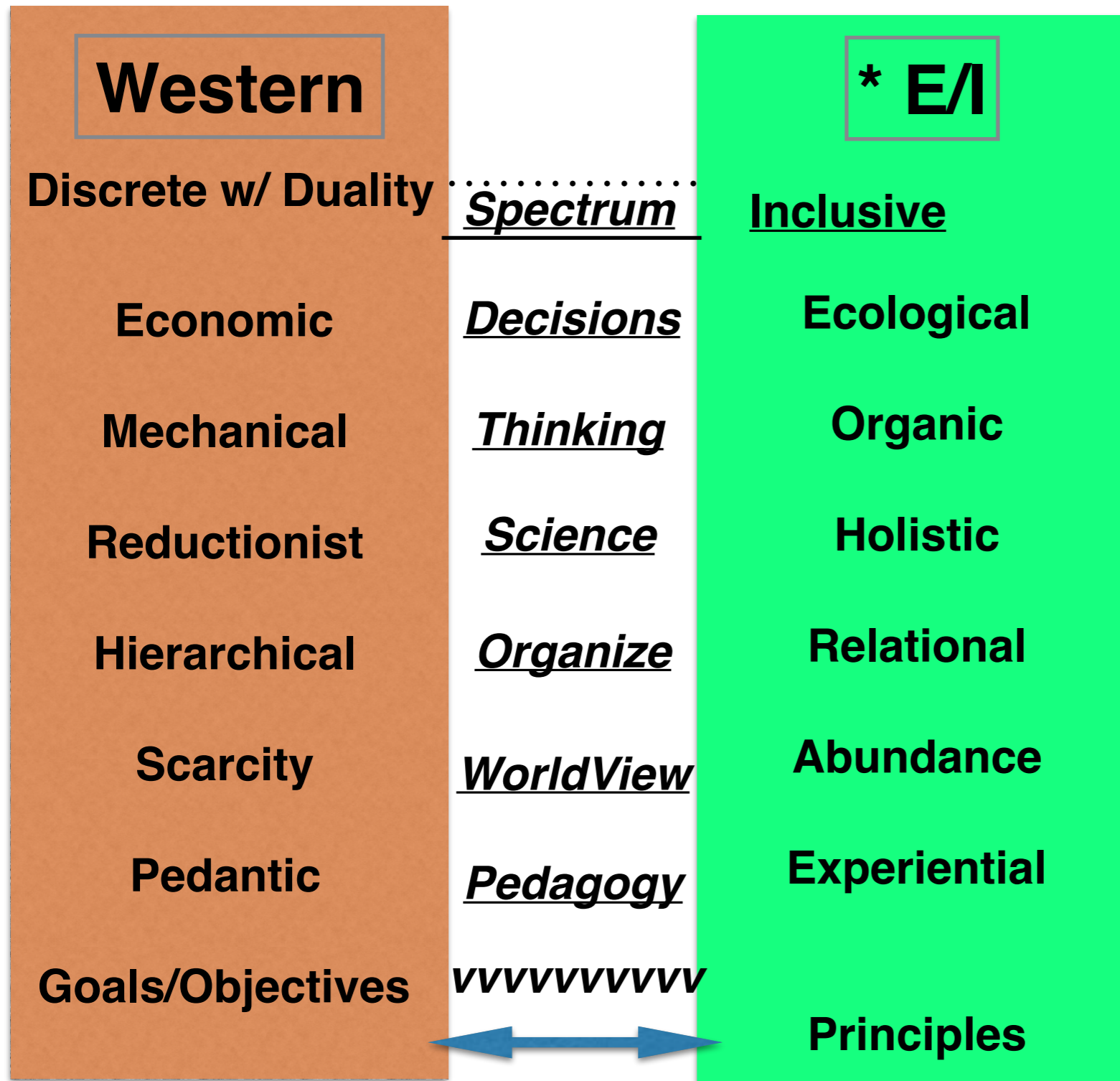


The 'Games of Life'

Interpreted from James Carse's, 'Finite & Infinite Games'

- We all play a myriad of games, and all are 1 of 2 types:
 - Finite Games are Rule based, always a Winner & Loser
 - Infinite Games are Principle Based, always Win/Win
 - Finite Games should always be played within the domain of a Principled based Infinite Game
 - e.g. Athletic Events within Sportsmanship; Litigation with a sense of Justice; Training within the purview of Learning, etc.
- Indigenous Peoples adhere closely to the Infinite Game based on Guiding Principles associated with Ecology and Community
 - When a Guiding Principle is violated by a Rule based decision, then the Rule must be changed
- Western cultures primarily play Rules based games with winners and losers, and in an Individually based society, winning can become paramount
 - Win/Lose becomes Lose/Lose when Guiding Principles are violated – another perspective for understanding Global Climate Crisis

Blending Consciousness



Western has 'n' right ways
E/I Values the entire Spectrum

Given our choice, which paradigm do we wish to have prevail?

I believe it is the E/I paradigm which must serve as the framework, and the Western blended into it -- always honoring the inclusivity and maintaining un-compromised principles.

Goals create Limits
Principles spur
Generativeness

* Eastern/Indigenous

Conclusions

- Bridges Summary
 - Living Systems & Guiding Principles
 - Listen & Learn from those who have lived in balance & harmony for millennia
 1. Blend 'Western' ways into Indigenous/Eastern paradigms
 2. It is essential to structure relationally rather than hierarchically
 3. Understand the world as sufficiently abundant
- Seek a collective Pathway
 - The Presbyterians refuted the 'Doctrine of Discovery' -- found problems in theology & structure
 - Perhaps build on the 2015 Collins Lecture
 - Possibly work with the Natives to replicate 'Dakota 38'
- Call to Action
 - Shift from the mind to the heart
 - There's mutuality with healing oneself and healing the Earth
 - Everyone's truth is essential for generative solutions to emerge
 - Homework suggestions