

Wisdom and Future Consciousness
Keys to Self-Evolution using the S2 Model
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Wisdom and Future Consciousness might seem like strange bed-fellows. Yet, there is a deep connection between the two, almost a causative order, which we will examine in this article. The epic backdrop for this discussion is a human race that is poised at the brink of self-evolution, with the ability to guide not only our own cosmic destiny, but also the future of the planetary ecosystem we find ourselves in. Like all great opportunities, it cuts both ways! Hence, it is essential for us to understand the deep relationship between wisdom and future consciousness, and how they together form the bridge leading to self-evolution. First let's start with an examination of the word "Wisdom."

Looking at the definition of Wisdom from Merriam Webster (online):

- a. knowledge that is gained by having many experiences in life
- b. the natural ability to understand things that most other people cannot understand
- c. knowledge of what is proper or reasonable: good sense or judgment

We can distill three words that reflect the central idea: experience, understanding and judgment. Wisdom is the accumulated experience of the world we are in, resulting in a deep understanding of what is functional and desirable, vs. irrelevant and disabling. The third aspect of common sense and good judgment is then built on a solid platform of experience and understanding of the world around us.

Wisdom also represents an understanding of who we are as humans, and the paradoxes that we represent -- our convictions and our insecurities, our loves and our hatreds, our methods and our madness, our coming together and our falling apart. It is no longer sufficient to just study history to prevent it from repeating itself. We also need to study economics, psychology, technology, resource management, change management and a host of other multi-dimensional topics to glean the driving forces behind self-evolution.

Some people are naturally gifted at such holistic thinking, and can draw upon a wide range of experience to come up with a novel and desirable path forward. The foundational experience does not have to be purely personal – with empathy we can learn just as well from other people's experience. Yet, the holistic thinking does not come easily in today's world, as the natural tendency when faced with a big ugly problem is usually to break it up into tiny disjoint pieces – and create a monstrous bureaucracy akin to the tower of Babel.

For people that are not naturally gifted holistic thinkers, this skill must be nurtured. This is why we focus on Wisdom, and bring to you topics that are wide ranging and transformational in content. Perhaps more important even than the transformational content is the transformative framework, and later in this paper we will introduce the four segment S2 model for self-evolution, with Wisdom representing the key output of the third (Social Consciousness) segment.

Next let's examine the true meaning of Future Consciousness. Is the young squirrel that stashes away acorns really conscious of the oncoming winter? Or is this imitation of other older squirrels that are also saving up for winter? Is this a hoarding instinct at work, or are they really conscious of the oncoming change?

Similarly, when monarch butterflies make their multi-generational migration across vast expanses, is this instinct or a greater consciousness at work? When termites build their nests with high technical sophistication, including internal air-conditioning, are they conscious of the overall architecture and function?

What we will find in such cases, and also for humans, is that there appears to be a higher plane of existence, a civilizational brain, where individuals can tap into for inspiration. For the strict constructionist, such logic seems counter-intuitive; but when we study information theory based on quantum mechanics, it becomes clear that the information capacity of the whole is greater than that of the sum of the parts. Thus, in any collective situation involving multiple individuals, there would be some new or 'Emergent' capabilities. Just as an individual neuron in our brain does not fully know what it means to be human, but the collection of all the cells in the body does – we as humans are inherently part of our collective consciousness, often without realizing that we are so endowed.

An amazing realization happens when we feel ourselves as part of our collective civilizational consciousness. Life and death loses some of its meaning. Just as the individual cells in our body live and die, and pass on their nutrients for a new cycle, our temporal lives are now part of a greater civilizational existence. The true student of Universality does not need to stop at civilizational consciousness, they could sense greater and greater orders of existence, and ultimately feel one with the Universe (the Buddhist Nirvana concept). To go that far is not necessary for our self-evolution as humans, but provides a path for spiritual development.

Till now Future Consciousness was mainly the ability to discern the emerging patterns of the future. With self-evolution, we would now become a creative participant in this future-crafting. Before we go farther, let us define the four main aspects of Future Consciousness:

1. Ability to discern emerging patterns
2. Intuiting how to deal with the oncoming changes

3. Visualizing desirable futures, and
4. Crafting desirable futures by putting in place key & timely ingredients

Of course there is the corollary to 3 and 4 above, where we discern dysfunctional outcomes and chart a course to avoid them. Items 3 and 4 together with their corollaries constitute the field of Future Crafting which is the key enabler for self-evolution.

So why it is that Wisdom and Social Consciousness must precede Future Consciousness? The answer comes down to – what's glorious for the individual is not necessarily glorious for the collective. The tragedy is, what's glorious for the individual may not even be survivable for the collective. Take the case of an individual pre-cancerous cell – it could go one of two ways. One, it could detect that things are not working properly and self-destruct (process called apoptosis), or two, it could determine that it could perpetually reproduce (become malignant). This un-constrained reproduction is also known as cancer, and is often not 'survivable' for the collective entity (i.e. for humans).

This is the reason that Wisdom and Social Consciousness is a foundational need for productive Future Consciousness, especially Future Crafting. Wisdom casts its nets far and wide to collect its gems, the brilliant ideas and constructs with wide applicability and benefit. The context of Social Consciousness is to think about the wholeness of being, which progresses as follows:

Individual → Family → Tribe → Nation → Civilization → Humanity → All Life

The wider the context of future progress, the better the chances that all stakeholders would buy-in to the emerging vision, or at least not oppose it. The concept of inclusiveness taken to its natural limits is called Universality in the S2 model.

The S2 Model

The S2 model gets its name from the double oscillation of the Tao – represented here by the S curve. The two S curves on the clock face, one vertical and one horizontal, divide the self-evolution life cycle into 4 quadrants (Q1 – Q4).



The first quadrant, Q1 is when we build our individuality. We figure out who we are as an individual, and develop the skills to be successful in life. This four quadrant model is derived from the ancient Indian 'Ashrama' model. The first quadrant is one of seeking and learning, which we will refer to as Individual Consciousness. We know that in humans, the 'Theory of Mind' takes hold during this phase – which is almost a condition for us to develop our individuality.

Looking forward, in a self-evolution context, this would be where our newly evolved global civilization answers the key questions: Who am I? What is my key purpose(s)? What are the capabilities I represent? Who are my constituents? How do I maintain good health and harmony, and improve my skills as an emerging entity?

The second quadrant, Q2, is one of Tribal Consciousness. The word 'Tribal' is used in its general meaning, which includes families and economic entities (e.g. companies) which behave in a manner to improve their own economic, political and social standing. Who is (or isn't) included under this tribal umbrella is very clear, and all members work for the general good of the tribal entity. The vast economic output of this world comes from this segment, those that are counted in the GDP (e.g. factory production), and those that are not (e.g. home-making, raising children). This quadrant moves us from Individuality to Materiality, and accounts for most of our civilizational material output.

In the self-evolution context, this is where the emergent entity etches its civilizational footprint – determining its economic, social, technological, literary, artistic... output as

the new entity. If there are similar other entities that form (e.g. on Mars, Moon etc.) this is where the tribal identity is generated.

The third quadrant, Q3, as we discussed earlier is Social Consciousness. Here we expand out our Inclusiveness towards Universality, and envision ourselves in the grand cosmic context. We gather our Wisdom and get ready to forward it onto the next segment, where the next generation of our cosmic destiny would be envisioned.

In the fourth and final Quadrant, Q4, we move now towards Potentiality and try to bring into existence the ideas and constructs whose 'time has come.' This is the time to take all that is aspirational and functional and to piece it together as the DNA for our next level of being. Following a careful gestational process, the new entity is born.

With the creation of the new entity, we start off again with Individual Consciousness, now for the newly evolved entity, and so the cycle goes on.

Center for Wisdom and Future Consciousness

In this context, The Wisdom Page and the Center for Future Consciousness are dedicated to accumulating the gems of Wisdom from a wide range of backgrounds, and then using the best of these gems to promote Future Consciousness. We hope to be the facilitators in a discourse about the aspirations of all human beings, and put forward to you desirable visions as to what the next level of our self-directed evolution might look like. If you have nuggets of wisdom to share, or visions of future civilizational success that you would like to put up for discourse, please contact us.