

HEAD, HAND, AND HEART--2/05/03

My simple mind needs to clarify its speculations about the nature of things by hanging on to clear separations of categories where possible. In searching for these categories, I have found that they often fit together conveniently in groups of *threes*.

For my purpose here, I will begin with the largest category possible: the Universe (everything that is). Due to the inscrutable ordering of the Universe into electromagnetic radiation, atoms, and molecules, the Universe has the capability of developing (under the special circumstances on planets such as our Earth) life in the form of plants and the animals that feed upon them. Thus we have the basis of the child's game: Animal, Mineral, Vegetable.

Humans are a species of animal with special characteristics that set it apart from the other animals. The combination of a large brain with hands with opposable thumbs and the ability to make highly differentiated vocal sounds gave rise to our abilities to make tools, form and communicate abstract ideas, and achieve a sense of our own unique individuality separate from others of our kind and the Universe that constitutes our environment. Due to the differentiated functions of structural integrity (bone and muscle) ruled by mechanical physics, energy processing (blood and guts) ruled by chemical reactions, and information processing (neural and mental functions) ruled by electron flow, our organism may be usefully conceptualized as divided into the functions alliteratively coded as *head, hand, and heart*. These functions are, however, integrated down to the sub-cellular level.

Working backward, now, from the standpoint of the individual human consciousness, we find ourselves incarnated in an experience in which we, as individuals, have the capacity to "write our autobiographies" as we go along around the themes of purpose, pleasure, and understanding. These "autobiographies" are atomic constituents of a fundamentally different "story", the history of our species as a whole up to the present moment, and—since we are human—the projection of our goals, hopes (and fears), and predictions into the future. The story of human-to-human relations is fundamentally different, not only from the internal human dialogue, but from the ongoing evolution of the proximate Universe that constitutes our environment.