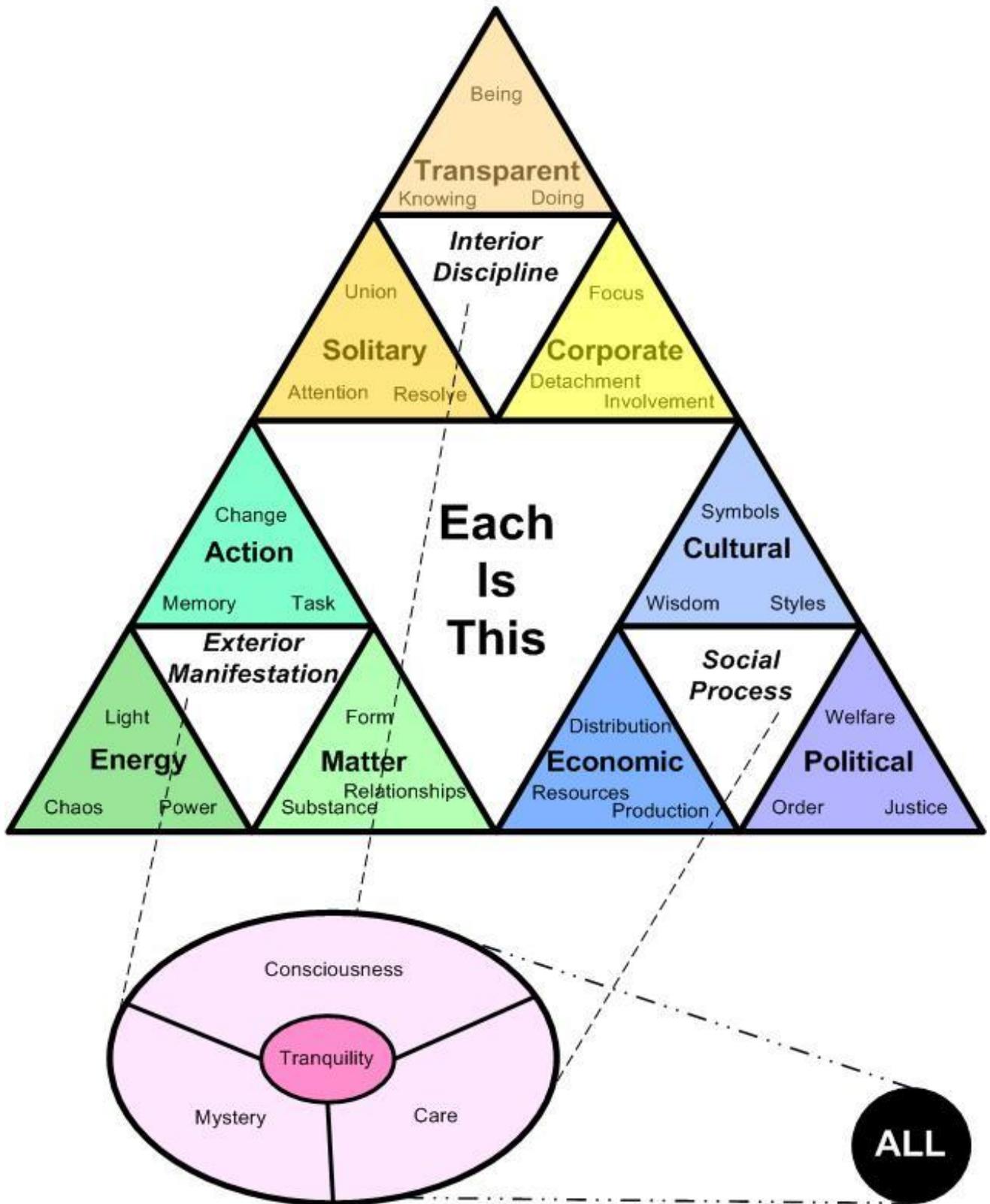


All That Is



Each Is This

A Comprehensive Map Of the Elements of Our Emerging Universe

When Elaine and I returned to Greensboro in the early 1990's, we began thinking about sustainable development for a bio-region and a family. We were wrestling with the fresh intellectual perspectives of Thomas Berry and Ken Wilbur as they informed wisdom we had gained during our work in grassroots community development. These considerations combined to foster an integration, readjustment and expansion of the mental models that had carried us through the previous two decades. The 13-triangle array at the top of the diagram on the opposite side shows that all facets of reality have three dimensions – *Exterior Manifestations*, *Social Processes* and *Interior Disciplines*. Each of these dimensions can be described in a fractal manner, that is, each dimension has three facets, each of which has three facets. This fractal approach to reality provides an intellectual framework, a comprehensive map, for understanding all aspects of reality from the smallest rock and bug to the macrocosmic scale of galaxies and clusters of galaxies, from individuals and families to states and international associations, from the crass and mundane to the exquisite and the holy. At all levels, the same dynamics intertwine, appearing in various strengths, creating all manner of different and wonder-filled manifestations.

Looked at from top to bottom, the diagram shows that while each aspect of reality has three dimensions, beneath the surface of existence in our cosmogenic reality lies a realm of meaning. This Circle of Significance contains four aspects, *Mystery*, *Consciousness*, *Care* and *Tranquility*. While these aspects are categorically distinct from the Exterior, Interior and Social dimensions, they are nonetheless integrally related and are exposed in the process of seeing through the surface of daily existence. This realm requires the use of metaphorical language to convey the experiences and wisdom one encounters.

Finally, as represented by the core at the lower right of the page, **ALL** of reality itself remains an integral and indivisible whole. As a cosmogenic reality, the Universe is in a constant process of becoming. Each tomorrow results from the cumulative energies, decisions and intentions of the presences of today moving into the uncharted waters of a time that is not yet.

This overall map provided the inspiration for *Through Three Portals: Helping Tomorrow Unfold* – the three portals are the three aspects of the larger triangle. Beyond this book, the conceptualization has guided my thinking since we put it together. In montage form, the chart has graced the wall of my office since 1999.

F. Nelson Stover

This chart was originally published in this format in *Through Three Portals: Helping Tomorrow Unfold*, by F. Nelson Stover (Morgan Deniz Press, 2014) which is available at: EmergingEcology.org/books.html. The Social Process triangles and the Circle of Significance with four states of being were developed by the Institute of Cultural Affairs during the 1970's. The Interior Discipline triangles are based on the prior work of the Ecumenical Institute. The Exterior Manifestations triangle and the overall *All That Is* system were constructed by Elaine and Nelson Stover in 1999.

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