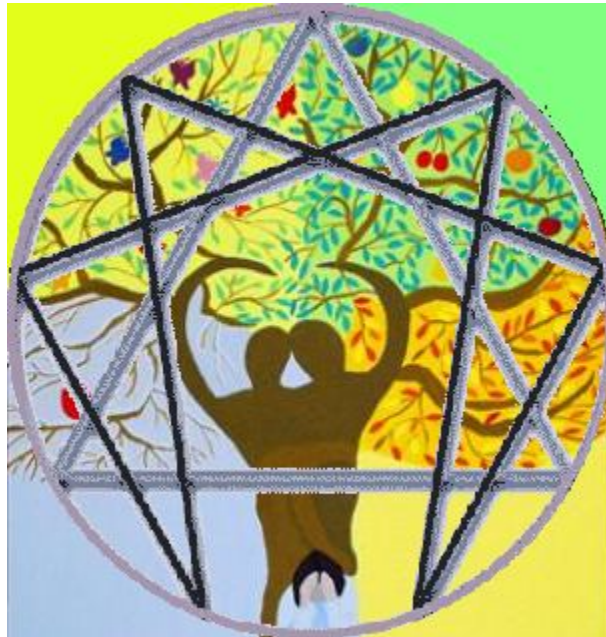


We Were Different Then



**Radical Views of Our Society caught
in Light of the Enneagram**

Don McDozer

Introduction

The human race at the onset of the 21st century: Our technological advances seem to confirm the paradigm that has ruled and framed our understanding throughout the 21st Century of evolution, that we must have advanced indeed to a higher level of development than our ancestors who did not have the luxuries of remote controls and steering wheels, along with a host of other gimmicks doing much of our once common chores for us. And yet something seems to be missing and painfully lacking from our self-image of the conquerors of the zenith of evolution, mankind at its best. We certainly don't seem to be that much happier - not judging by the suicide rate in some of our most "developed" countries.

While it certainly seems that our knowledge has increased - just as was prophesied two and a half millennia ago by the Jewish prophet Daniel - and we have indeed increased our skills in certain areas, especially that of blowing ourselves and each other to bits, in other areas we seem to be sadly regressing.

The amount of information we are receiving has certainly increased. But has its quality?

Is the gist of all we're learning teaching us to actually become happier and better human beings? Or is some obscure, sinister force behind the scenes manipulating our "knowledge" to be only thus that it will cause us to silently comply with its wishes, to act as tools and cogs in its machine and seemingly perpetual scheme of "the survival of the fittest," a theme that is being played out with such ardent devotion by stockbrokers, politicians and the masters of war?

Well, regardless of political and world views, it strikes me that one thing we know and are being taught very little about in all our learning how to make a buck and become better off than the Joneses, is ourselves and each other. We have become as skilled as ever in the art of eliminating our own kind, but as far as understanding them, we are not very far past the stage of first graders. Not that the vast majority seems to care, since we are drilled to primarily fend for our own survival, assured that this is our "natural" instinct, endowed upon us by the invisible guiding, though somewhat mystical force of evolution. Some rotten force, if you ask me, if that's what causes us to kill and fight each other off by the millions, instead of equipping us with the understanding to even remotely grasp what's going on inside the brains of even the people closest to us: our spouses, our children, let alone our parents - that mysterious relic of a stone age past that happened to have survived to haunt us...

Of course, we have our "specialists," analyzing us to pieces Freudian style, fueled by concoctions and musings of people who might easily find themselves locked away by their modern day disciples, if they still happened to be around, fathers and founders of some of our basic "knowledge" on psychology, always ardent supporters themselves of that very same dark "dog eat dog" ideology that rules our every move and thought; men like Nietzsche, who have assured us that Mother Evolution's great and ancient Rival, God, is dead, and each of our acts is merely an outgrowth of our animal instincts, because - as the basis of all our knowledge and science clearly states: there is no such difference between mankind and the animal world, as once falsely claimed by that ancient Book of "fairy tales" called the Bible, that would ever have given us the right to claim lordship over any other species. We simply happened to "evolve" (i. e. "mutate," since it's trillions of benevolent mutations that are said to have caused us to "evolve") a little faster than they, giving us every right to kill each other, but not *them*.

Well, even though the theory of evolution has "evolved" a little on its own, we might want to add, since it was strongly believed up until the end of WWII that certain other variations of the human race than the white Caucasian version, were also "less evolved" and were game, along with the animal world.

But we have learned from that atrocious and embarrassing part of our history enough to adapt and know that it is *not* okay to kill animals. Nor is it okay to kill other humans on grounds of their different race or color. It *is* okay, though, in the 21st Century, the Zenith of Evolution (thus far - Lord have mercy on us the farther it gets...) to kill people on grounds of their faith.

We have indeed advanced in terms of having stopped labeling entire races "terrorists" or menaces to our advanced society, and instead eliminate others on the grounds of their religious, less developed world views. The plan for the advancement of the human race of the 21st centuries is to eliminate "primitive" patterns of thinking. The primary target: Islam. The secondary: Christianity and all other fallacies presently termed "religion," soon to be abolished by an enlightened, universal credo of the much appraised New World Order, advertised by Presidents, World Leaders, Michael Moore, and a host of other opinion shapers.

But this book (should these paragraphs ever evolve into one) is not supposed to become another rant against the oppressing forces that make the world a more depressing world to live in for the less evolved or advanced. It's supposed to offer a solution.

If you happen to be one of those oddballs that doesn't seem to fit in with the "dog eat dog" game and the "survival of the fittest," and if the meaning of life as presented to you by the media and much of secular education, namely the acquisition of little colored papers, does not cut the cake, as far as you're concerned, and if life as meaningless as an existence dedicated to the pursuit of happiness by accumulating things and pleasures little colored papers can buy simply bores you to death, if not downright disgusts you, here's a suggestion for you:

Why not get into people?

I mean, not in order to exploit, analyze or use them to your own ends - although I guarantee there *will* be something in it for you, if you do it right - but just for a change and for the fun of it? Why not learn something about the one thing that they never teach you anything about? - People.

Let's just assume for a minute that this whole Evolution hype is just a bunch of hogwash - purely hypothetically, of course - and that there might actually be a Higher Being, something Ricky Gervais referred to as "The Man in the Sky" in his movie "The Invention of Lying," and that He's actually a loving, fatherly, kind Dude Who created us for the purpose of loving each other. Then instead of chasing little colored papers for the rest of your life, it would actually stand to reason that the purpose you're down here on this alleged insignificant "spec of dust" called Earth, in order to learn something about the one thing they never ever teach you anything substantial about - not in school, and certainly not in business: people.

Oh, they might teach you how to beat them, exploit them, cheat them, manipulate them and try to get them to behave the way you want in order to give you their colored papers, but that's not what I'm talking about.

Let's assume that instead of living all your life for the sole purpose of acquiring little colored papers in order to be able to pay taxes so that your President can send more of your friends to kill off men with turbans and "un-evolved" beliefs, the actual and original intent of your existence was *loving* your fellowman, just like that one Fella - you know the Dude with the cross - was supposed to have said...

Okay, Dudes with crosses aren't always exactly popular these days, and ghetto blasters do have their advantages, and certainly look cooler to carry around.

But the point is: PEOPLE.

This book is going to be about PEOPLE.

How they work. How they function. What makes them tic.

And how they are *not* machines. That's why it's a little more complicated to figure them out sometimes than a machine, and you can't have them always fixed as easily as a car or a crashed

computer you just put in the shop when they malfunction. Nor are they as easily replaced. If your stereo, your car or your ipod breaks, you can get a new one. But if you've got a friend or a relative and they give up the ghost, that's it.

You won't see them again, unless "The Man in the Sky" wasn't a lie, after all...

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CHAPTER 1

Why People Change

People are different. They're driven by different ambitions, aspirations and motivations. Not everybody pursues the same goals. Some would like to change and improve the world. Others would like to become indispensable for the ones they love. Others strive for financial and professional success. It is the goal of yet others to make sure to stand apart from the rest of us. Then there are those who try to get out of life the most they can in material terms and make sure they hang on to it. Many simply seek to ensure their own survival – a task that's hard enough these days for many of us. Then there are those whose foremost goal in life is to enjoy it and seek pleasure. Others seek power and to exert some sort of authority over the rest of us. Finally, there are those who would want nothing more from this world than to find peace and harmony...

The art of living consists in bringing up sufficient tolerance, understanding accepting of the other kind to let them pursue their goals, however different they may be from our own.

What complicates matters slightly is that not only are we different from each other, but that we ourselves change some of our personal traits within our lifetime.

When I was a teenager, folks used to tell me, "Stay as you are," and I thought, "Well, if you say so..." but unfortunately – or perhaps unbeknownst to us, rather fortunately – we *do* change. We can't help it.

The person you married in your twenties is very unlikely to remain exactly the same person throughout their thirties, and sometimes, when those changes in a person's personality take place, it hits their partner completely unprepared, and the whole thing ends in a disaster, usually spelling separation and/or divorce.

When people take their wedding vows, they don't include any phrase promising fidelity "regardless of whatever type of person you're going to turn out to be or might possibly change into...."

We wind up feeling cheated. "I was fooled. I gave them the best years of my life, and they just used me."

Well, maybe so. But maybe something happened. - Something that most people aren't aware of because nobody ever told them. People change. It's a natural thing. And you can learn to deal with it in a similar way as you just have to cope with other changes in life, too.

I have it on good authority that changes are good for us. They help us to put our confidence in something other than just our routine and the good, old familiar way things have always been.

They make us flexible, adaptable, and those are desirable qualities.

Perhaps we owe it to our fellowmen to allow them some room to change.

A couple of years ago I was given a book by a friend that helped me to understand people better. It helped me to acquire a better understanding of myself, in fact, that there existed a special kind of people like myself, I just hadn't known it before. It taught me that I was not the only weirdo and oddball around who didn't fit into the game people play that reminded me so much of "Monopoly." Monopoly may be fun to play a few times, but not for life. Not for a "NINE." Because that's what I found out I was. I was a NINE.

The book I had been given was about something called the "Enneagram." "Ennea" is Greek for the number nine, and it was all about a system that divides the different types of human personalities into nine groups, from ONE to NINE.

But I also found out that a NINE wasn't necessarily always a NINE.

I had been different before. The game of success and the call of fame and fortune had also

haunted me in my youth, and I was very much more like a THREE back in those days.

I found out that those who are THREES, namely seekers of success, in the early part of their lives, grow up and mature into NINES, folks who get fed up with that game and want to dedicate their lives to different things. Things like *people. Living* things. NINES usually like people better than money.

Unfortunately, because so many people like money better than people, the NINES don't always find a lot of other people they really jibe with, and they are not always liked by an awful lot of people.

If you want to be a "winner," you don't hang out with "losers" like NINES who sing hippy songs about peace and love and want to make a better world. But a lot of people want to be winners, because the winners tell them that that's what they should strive for and try to become.

The winners are the types of people who have all the necessary energy to climb the ladder of success all the way to the top. They don't get tired of it, like NINES do.

The winner types are types like the THREES. THREES, however, were a lot more like SIXes in their earlier years. That means, they were very much like the average type of person: more of a good *follower* than a leader... The kind of people the winner types, like the THREES look down on as "losers." Not as bad as the kind of losers the NINES are, because they're really hopeless cases, but, you know - the kind of losers they can lord it out over, or rather step over on their way to the top.

Not that all THREES are that type of people. There are many "good" THREES, too, but I don't have to write too many complimentary things about them in this book, because the chances that many THREES will ever read this book are rather faint and dim.

THREES are more inclined to read books that will teach them how to be successful (= earn money). But this book is not about how to get a lot of colored papers, but it's about living things: people.

By the time I realized that I was a NINE, my wife was quite disappointed, because the guy she had married had been much more like a THREE, and had been promising to make a successful career.

I found out that people change.

I had changed.

My wife had changed.

She had been a potential leader (= an EIGHT) in a quite radical Christian youth movement, but had developed into her actual personality type in her adult years. She had become a FIVE. FIVES like things. Like the THREES, they like to have money, but not so much in order to be "successful" and show everybody how high they climbed the ladder of success, but just because they like their things, and they just want to keep them for themselves inside their house. For themselves and maybe five other people in the world (which is why they're called "FIVES" – hehe).

No, seriously. That's just the way they are: don't bother them, because they'll be perfectly happy with their things, as long as you leave them in peace and don't drag in a lot of friends that make their life miserable.

But I was a NINE. I mean, I had *become* a NINE. I *liked* people. I mean, not just in order to get money out of them, but for being friends and stuff. Friends were nice to have.

FIVES like people, too, but preferably on the phone or on a computer or TV screen, but not so much inside their own four walls. "My home is my castle" is the slogan of the FIVES and they will defend that castle with all the energy of an EIGHT they may have left.

I liked people, so I moved out.

I soon met a TWO, who also like people. Not that she had always been a TWO, in fact, when we first met, she was still a lot more like a FOUR, and I had not really noticed yet how much she liked people. But when she became a real grown up – around her mid thirties – she turned out to be a TWO, and boy, did she like people.

It turns out, she not only likes people, but animals, too. TWOs like living things. TWOs like it when they can give things to people, help people and be kind and nice to people – or animals – because they know they will get a lot of love in return.

FIVEs like to *take* things. TWOs like to *give* things. – Hoping that eventually they'll be *given* things in return, of course, which can make them quite difficult sometimes, since that's not always the case: not everybody likes to give as much as the TWO, so the TWO can get disappointed, upset and angry sometimes.

FIVEs can be easier in that aspect, because they are ore distanced and don't make such a fuss, unless, of course, you try to change things around in their castle, or invade it with your friends. But generally, if you like people, TWOs are more fun to be with, because they like people, too.

And so I began to learn about the folks around me, and why and how it was that people change.

I had changed. My ex-wife had changed. And my new wife changed.

People change. They grow. They mature. They develop from being one way – one personality type or “style” into another. Almost like evolution, just without all the mutation business.

It's okay to change.

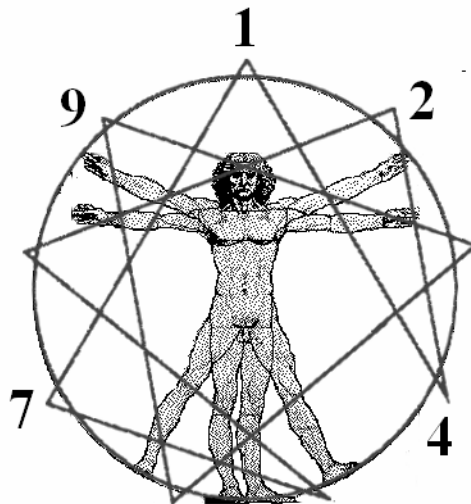
Just sometimes people aren't prepared for it, and you may not be prepared for *their* change.

That's why I'm writing this book. So that maybe you can learn and begin to understand why and how it is that people change – and *you* change, or *have* changed, if you're past your mid thirties...

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CHAPTER 2

Of ONE Who Went out to Seek Perfection



As time went on I began to learn about the other types, too, and one thing you must know about the following chapters (pretty much as the previous) is that everything I'm about to write is based on my own personal experiences and observations with people in reference to the Enneagram over little more than a decade.

You may consider some of them to be dead wrong or even appalling. Be not alarmed by that. You would probably find many of my views on other categories of life even worse.

I'm sharing my observations and experiences according to the best of my knowledge, and if you have made different ones, I would like to encourage you to share them, too, and maybe I can learn something from them, too.

I don't claim exclusive rights on insight, much less do I have titles or attended seminars as credentials. Just that clod of mass between my ears, two relatively healthy eyes and ears, and a worldview differing enough from the mainstream to make this read at least an interesting one – so I would hope.

There are many books and websites already in existing about the Enneagram which will give you a complete rundown of the qualities of each type, so I will just narrow my observations to some outstanding and perhaps different points which may not have been emphasized as much elsewhere, and which you may or may not agree with.

If you have any suggestions or comments to make, feel free to contact me and inform me of the error of my ways or perhaps confirm some of my observations. Communication – as far as I'm concerned – is what life is all about.

There are ONEs, who can be pioneers, innovators and visionaries; but unfailingly nearly always are perfectionists of sorts who bust their own previous limitations by ever striving for a way out of this loathsomely imperfect world and reality.

They can get pretty angry, too, about the imperfect state of the world, including their own...

But they usually eventually swallow their anger and can sure work hard in order to improve things.

Sometimes they actually do. But since a lot of belief systems we base our lives and realities on

have in some cases neither been tried nor proven, but often applied as though they were, the ONE can sometimes become pretty self-righteous toward those who don't adhere to his or her own standard of "perfection."

He may be the doctor telling you sternly to modify your life-style, or the preacher who may be telling you the same just as sternly, if not more so, or your teacher, guru, or a scientist telling you to stop whatever you're doing that's hindering his world as perfect as he would like it...

ONEs were not always like that, but used to enjoy life a lot more, much like the SEVENs who basically live for pleasure. But somewhere along the line they became more serious about life and decided to punch in, in order to attain those high ONEish goals...

Each type has a "Wing" on its right and on its left, and just like one arm is nearly always stronger than the other, so it is that one "wing" will have a stronger influence on your personality type than the other.

The "wings" are the types of the left and the right of each personality type in the Enneagram.

A ONE's wings are types NINE and TWO.

I have found that ONEs with a stronger wing in type NINE can be great lovers of nature. Maybe they can even become a Greenpeace activist, or pursue some sort of career involved in the preservation of the environment. They can also tend toward philosophy and a more verbal approach to things, since the negative trait of the NINE is laziness, and that wing can slow down the ONE's usual drive and spunk and activeness.

If their stronger wing is TWO, they can be more prone to become doctors, especially the kind that go to Third World countries to help the underprivileged, or engaged in some other socially oriented career geared toward the improvement of human life.

Apart from a type's "wings" or "arms," each one also has what I like to refer to – for simplicity's sake – as "legs," which in Enneagram jargon are referred to as "stress point" and "comfort point." They are the personality types that are opposite from the type that you are.

The comfort point may be seen as the leg you stand on when you're strong, or your "strong leg," and the stress point the type you run or fall into when you're weak, when you stand on your "weaker leg," so to speak.

The comfort point of the ONE is the SEVEN, and the stress point is the FOUR. Both are important, but the "comfort point" is usually the stronger or better leg to "lean on."

It is interesting to note that each type "comes" from its comfort point: A ONE will more likely resemble the traits of a SEVEN in their childhood or youth, and often only fully develop its qualities as ONE recognizably in their adulthood.

This is one factor why many people who read about the Enneagram during the earlier years of their lives will identify themselves as a different type than they actually will mature into later.

I've met many folks who had, for instance, identified themselves as a NINE in their younger years, but were clearly showing all the traits of a SIX – the NINE's stress point – now that they had reached full adulthood.

One can really only safely determine their type once they have reached their mid thirties; sometimes a bit earlier, sometimes a bit later, depending on the individual maturity and levels of responsibility they will have learned to take on.

The fact that each type comes from the direction of their comfort point somehow reinforces Jesus' admonition for folks to "become like children." If our comfort point resembles more of the traits of

our childhood and youth and equally our stronger points and more desirable qualities, it behooves us to remember the way we were as children, and sometimes run back to that freedom.

For a ONE this means seeking comfort in the happy-go-lucky way of the SEVEN, its hedonistic, but usually happier comfort point or “stronger leg.”

A One will inevitably slip into its stress point at times, though, when he or she will become ritualistic, or perhaps downright “strange or weird,” as many “Crazy Professor” or “Crazy Prophet” type of ONEs may have found out.

Of course, another big influence of our personality types, apart from our “wings” and our “stress–“ and “comfort-points” is our environment and the society we live and grew up in.

Some societies tend towards being ore strongly influenced by a certain personality type, and such cultures or countries can become symbolic for a personality type.

Japan an Switzerland are considered to be ONE-cultures, for example. Germany is considered the symbolic country of the SIX, which are the follower-types, (as drawn out from the history of Germany, which can show the sad side-effects of such unquestioned loyalty).

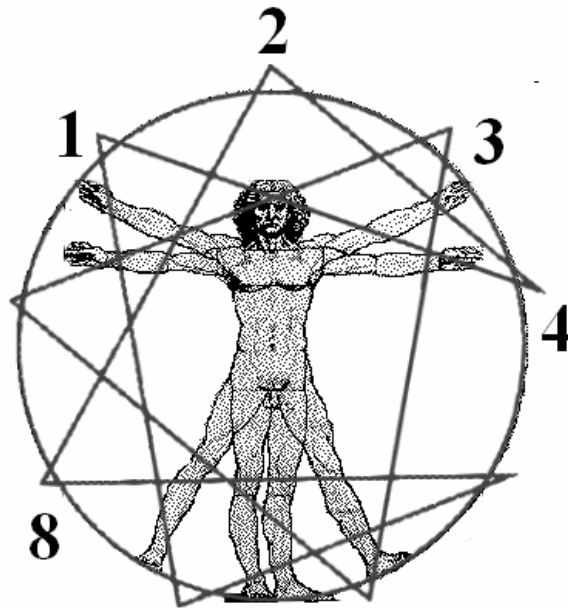
A ONE growing up or living in a SIX-culture such as Germany will always be prone to adapt more than it might under different circumstances, since peer pressure is one of those great influences on our society, even on the level of its smallest unit, the individual.

On the other hand, a ONE, the more mature and “ripe” they become, may eventually pay less dues to conformity, and develop stronger convictions over time, since its stress-point is the FOUR, the personality type that strives to be different and stand apart.

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CHAPTER 3

TWO Hearts That Beat as One (Or, A Tale of TWOs)



The Anonymous groups as originally founded by Bill "W." Wilson have cured millions of addicts around the world by the simple principle of finding people of like "passions," or rather, addictions to talk with about their problem. Just sharing one's own experience with a sin, a weakness, an addiction, has proven to be an invaluable healing factor.

Well, we are all junkies of some kind. ONEs are addicted to perfection in a sense, and it's helpful in a relationship with a ONE to relate somehow to one's own longing for perfection and unfulfilled dreams.

The "addiction" of type TWO is the need to be *needed*. TWOs fight to make themselves indispensable. They struggle to be wanted, cherished, appreciated.

If you know that, you can "play along" in their game and let them know just how much you need them and why, and how you couldn't possibly make it without them (which is usually really true).

But if you don't, and you just assume that he or she ticks the same way you do, who couldn't care less who gets the credit for your labors of love and efforts, a TWO may just drive you bananas.

The tiny bit of knowledge of what the other person needs can, especially in the case of the TWO, actually salvage a relationship that may otherwise be well headed for disaster, and the epitome of what the Australian Rock Band AC/DC referred to as "Highway to Hell," only that nobody would be singing about that road as cheerfully...

Once you've been down a road as painful as a misunderstood relationship with a TWO, you don't care much about roaring such nonsense anymore. Let all those other idiots scream on. They don't have a clue what hell is like, but *you* do.

Well, welcome to the club!

There's nothing to get you faster on your road to Heaven than a few days, months, or years (depending on your own thick-headedness) in hell...

And once you've been there, instead of AC/DC, you feel much more like singing along with Donna Summer's 80s song "I Believe In Jesus," "...And I'm going to Heaven by and by, 'cause I've already been through hell."

Having just read the previous passage to my better half, who *is* a TWO, I realize that not *everyone* might enjoy my particular sense of humor. But perhaps I can make up for it to the TWOs by adding her thought here, that the preceding paragraphs may also easily apply to *any* misunderstood relationship between any other personality types, in which a partner simply does not care enough to really find out about the other, and to really get to know them.

The Enneagram may be considered as a neat shortcut to understanding the human psyche, and an enjoyable alternative to Nietzsche. The Enneagram, unlike Nietzsche, may very well teach you that God is anything but dead.

As a "former THREE" with a TWO wing I can very much relate to how TWOs tic. You live for relationship. For some people the Hollywood cliché of romance can become some sort of golden calf they literally worship. And success, to them is defined either by how many relationships you can have, or how well you're doing with the one you have.

Love – the *wrong* kind of love – can become a form of drug or addiction, too.

Real love is something else. It's something so different, so otherworldly, and nearly the opposite of what we have come to accept as the idea and emotion of love that has been implanted in us by the media, that it's like having to learn a whole different ball game.

Learning how to give with no expectations to receive in return, no strings attached, it's something that simply doesn't jibe with our universal state religion of "survival of the fittest." In other words, if you're a TWO, and the theory of Evolution is true, then you're sunk.

Your only hope is a God Who loves you more than you know, who can teach you to love in a way you have never loved before.

The TWO's wings, ONE and THREE influence the "Helper Type," which is what TWO is often being referred to, in ways that can make her/him ambitious in their endeavors to help, heal or love, but also can cause dissatisfaction or downright frustration over lack of "progress" in a relationship.

A TWO with a strong ONE wing may not cease until she/he has successfully changed you into what they think you ought to become. One clue for the TWO, though: part of the secret of life is just learning to truly love and accept and embrace others just the way they are.

Selfish (false) love is the type that will only accept another on our own terms, "providing you become like me or the way I want you." True love will be ready to leave that safe harbor of what's known and comfortable ourselves and set sail into the arms of the totally other and accept them for what they are.

If there *is* a God, one reason why He's so dreadfully unpopular with a large part of the planet's population is that He's so totally different than we are. For one, we can't even see Him. Being invisible is a quality of God we can hardly forgive Him for, which is why we ceaselessly tend to discriminate against Him and the likes of Him, commonly referred to as "spirits" (See John 4:24, Hebrews 12:9).

But if it was true what Jesus said, that the greatest commandment, in which all the others are fulfilled (Matthew 22:37-40) is to love God and our fellowman, thus making it the main purpose of our lives, then it stands to reason that the mean of life is largely to learn to accept, tolerate and even welcome the other, the unknown, that which is strange to us, humble and ready to learn our peace about and from them, willing to receive what it is *they* have to give to *us* as well.

The darker side of the influence of a stronger THREE wing (in contrast of the positive side, which will be their endeavor to strive for a successful relationship) is, according to my observations, that TWOs are the most liable candidates for fulfilling the old proverb, "love is blind."

While it is true that true love simply sees the good qualities in others in spite of the bad, I'm afraid there is ore to it than just this optimistic approach.

I have seen many a TWO parent vehemently refusing to deal with the negative traits of their offspring, and thus unwittingly sometimes creating a monster that will ruthlessly take advantage of such an unconditionally loving parent and learn early on how to perfectly terrorize their environment.

While the TWO will never admit this to anyone, much less themselves, they utterly discriminate anyone who will refuse to subscribe of their personal view of their darling, in fact, openly combat them as their enemy.

While such loyalty may be deemed heroic and commendable when appropriate, being the case that all of us are sinners, including our most precious little darlings, what really ensues from the personal little pink TWOish reality is untold havoc, not only in their own life, but also that of their loved ones.

Love without truth can hardly be deemed truth at all. Unfortunately, the love and sincere desire for truth is a lot more scarce than the habit to create golden calves and other (mental) "images" of our beloved little gods, as deceptively close as they may be to the Real Thing.

TWO comes from a youth and childhood in his/her "comfort point" (or "strong leg"), FOUR, the personality type which identifies itself by its need to be different. And certainly the FOUR is different from TWO, which is why a young FOUR having matured to its ripened type TWO is hardly the same person you used to know.

The "stress point" or "weaker leg" of the TWO is type EIGHT, the bossy, leader type, and every TWO will periodically go there, perhaps in order to remind their partner that this world is not our home, since life can become quite uncomfortable in the presence of a TWO allowing her or his little tyrant to hang out.

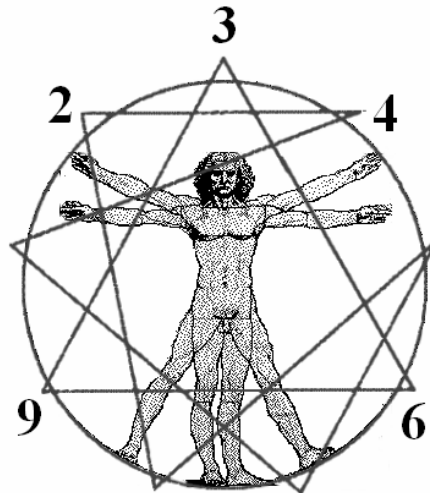
It's extremely helpful then, to know what you're dealing with in such a case, as a TWO's partner, and that after every storm the sun will shine again. You can even help make the storms shorter and less fierce by showing understanding and support.

Life can actually be fun if you know what it's all about.

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CHAPTER 4

A THREEish Kind of Life



I already spilled some of the goods about THREEs in the introduction. They're the winner types. The ones who will always have to check their agenda before they're going to make an appointment or date with you. They're busy, often in a hurry rushing down the highway of life, frantically trying to attain that elusive goal of success: the top of the ladder, the chief's office, or a certain amount of digits constituting the amount of their bank account, a certain title or degree, whatever it is a THREE considers success, they've got to *have* it.

As in any type of competitive sport or game, some people *keep* the rules, others don't. THREEs see the folks sitting on top of the world, and they instinctively know that they must have gotten there by at least bending the rules, if not ignoring them altogether, so they feel justified to do the same in order to get their piece of the pie, too.

They know that the "normal" way, of just toeing the line and faithfully fulfilling your duties as a "normal" employee won't get them to their goal, so they often fall for the temptation to stretch the truth a little bit, flatter themselves a little in their RVs, maybe exaggerate a few highlights, and use whatever tricks necessary to attain.

As an "ex-THREE" who was able to lie a blue streak without blushing, I know that some people are capable of believing the concoction of their own imagination. They lie to an extent, and with such apparent sincerity, that none would dare believe it.

If spirits were subject to the traits of the Enneagram, the Devil would be a most likely candidate for a THREE, since, according to Jesus, that's what he's best at (John 8:44).

Perhaps some day the whole world will stand mouths gaping wide open when "all that is covered shall be revealed" and the amount of lies we were told during the course of history, especially throughout the latter century, and how gullible we were to believe them.

Every personality type has at least one country that stands symbolic for it, and the country that stands symbolic for type THREE is the United States.

Everybody initially *loves* America and Americans. They're friendly, cheery people, and offer us a whole new world of opportunities. Unfortunately, after a while that enthusiasm dies down as the rest of the world slowly realizes that not everything a THREE culture advertises actually will live

up to the glorious promises.

Likewise, many a THREE, having reached their golden goal of plenty, fame and fortune will find the same sort of disappointment they may have presented to others when they find out that the things and positions they strove for all their lives do not really fulfill that aching void inside their souls that simply can't be filled with colored papers, recognition or applause.

That's when a THREE may finally consider showing interest in things that didn't catch much of their attention previously, such as truth, love and relationship...

A biblical prototype of the THREE is the Hebrew patriarch Jacob (= "Deceiver"), who, after wrestling with a mysterious man many believe to have been an angel or even the Son of God, was struck lame, but was henceforth called Israel the name that his nation would bear from then on.

Another is Judas, whose primary interests were evidently more of a financial nature than the deep spiritual and moral ambitions which Jesus conveyed. Obviously he had been following Jesus in hopes that this miracle worker was going to get him somewhere, but when He disappointed him and turned out not to be interested in power, position and worldly success at all, he sought to get out of his bad choice whatever he could, only leading him to the awful realization of truth that blood money does not satisfy...

We already expounded on the fact that the TWO wing of the THREE can lead them to seek success in terms of relationship, or perhaps in some sort of medical career, or even in a religious vocation. There are many THREEish religious movements, most of them originating from America, and the whole American aspect and way of living and portraying religion, and especially Christianity almost has something "commercial" about it.

American religion is often big business. A fact that can come across as quite repulsive to other nations and personality types with less commercial and financial ambitions.

Jesus Himself made it quite clear that the pursuit of finances was not what He would condone as the ultimate goal in life, and yet many Christians simply don't seem to get that point.

Perhaps it's just that commercialized brand of religion that has made it so unattractive in many people's minds, especially back in the "Old World" where folks seem to have preserved a greater love for "realness" and are less ready to settle for any new and shiny fake coming along that's being advertised as "the ultimate truth" or the "glorious path to enlightenment."

The other wing of the THREE is type FOUR, and this "arm" of the THREE has enabled many success seekers to shine and excel in the fields of the arts or acting.

Types TWO, THREE and FOUR are the three heart types of the Enneagram, also known social types. They like to deal and interact with people and often find themselves in their own reception of their "audience."

They live for the way they are seen and perceived by others, which nowadays is also referred to as one's "image." An ancient word for "image," however, is "idol," and those types need to remember that there is Something grander and greater worthy of our utmost dedication, love, devotion and worship than those images we strive to create of ourselves.

To just be who you really are is an art the heart types can often acquire and learn from their interaction with personality types that are quite different from their own.

While we may blindly trust our own hearts or even those of our fellowmen, it's always wiser to keep in mind that only if a quest for truth is one's priority, and the ugly truth, as far as our hearts are concerned, a wise sage once wrote: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jeremiah 17:9)

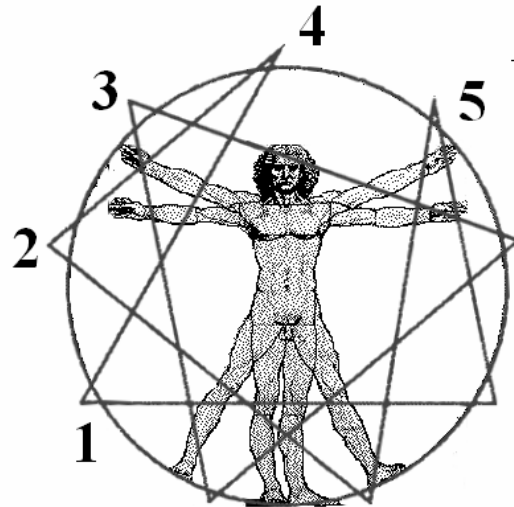
That may be very unpopular doctrine in the 21st century, but never was there anything less popular in the

21st century than the truth.

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CHAPTER 5

A FOURish Way to Do IT



The Enneagram is not a tool by which to put people in boxes or drawers, although some will inevitably do so. This is equivalent to the paradox of people allegedly being followers or "disciples" of the Man Who taught, "Love your enemies" are often known as the greatest warmongers.

Instead of using the Enneagram selfishly to judge and dissect people, we ought to use it as a tool to help us deal better with them, to be able to know what their needs are, what they strive for in life (if anything at all), and from what angle we can best approach them. Making friends of people (as in "loving our enemies") is going to be beneficial to us, too. Love is the greatest force on earth, and if anything at all, the Enneagram should be seen as a tool to help us to love others better.

Anyone can criticize, tear apart, label folks and put them in boxes, but the essence of life does not seem to be "thou shalt criticize and dissect," as much as rather "Thou shalt love!"

Nearly every person sooner or later in life winds up with certain feelings of lack of self-worth, and each personality type tries to make up for that lack in their own way.

Some strive to make themselves feel better about themselves by working harder. It feels so good, they don't ever want to stop. They become workaholics.

Other feel better about themselves by making themselves indispensable for others. They need people to need them.

Others seek to patch up their inefficiency with the amount of success they achieve in their work, their careers, some medal or plaque to decorate them, or large numbers on their bank accounts... Then there are those who define their worth by their own creativity and uniqueness. They feel they are different than others, therefore they are someone.

Then there are those who define their worth and make up for any potential feelings of inadequacy by means of the acquisition of material belongings or even mental values, such as knowledge, or even collecting relatively worthless items, such as stamps or baseball cards or nice memories from trips they've taken...

Yet others prove their worth to society by how well they can adapt, blend in and obediently and efficiently fulfill their duties.

Some folks stuff the aching void they feel about themselves with satisfaction and pleasure, be it via opulent meals, sweets, or addictive substances or physical love.

The leader types among us try to make up for those feelings of lack of self-worth by assuming positions in society that make them powerful, important and indispensable. And then there are those who feel worst of all about themselves because they see this whole array of games as rather futile and can't bring up the necessary energy to partake in them for the life of them...

All these types of people influence each other in various way and make up the gist of humanity. Learning to understand each other and where each is coming from opens doors to true friendships without needing to pretend and actual liberation from some of our fears, phobias and addictions. If we would pause long enough in our attempts to outwit and outplay each other in order to communicate and share with each other, who knows what we all might learn, and how different a place this planet might be.

I'm not as naive to believe that mankind is going to get there voluntarily. If Evolution is true and man did actually come from nothing, he might as well disappear back into the nothingness he came from.

But if our unexceptional observation that information cannot be derived without an author leads to the conclusion that behind the immense amount of genetic information contained and exchanged in every living cell there must have likewise been an Author, and there is indeed an Author to this Book of Life being written, that we call history (His Story?), then, I believe we're going to get there, despite ourselves, one way or another.

If you've paid any attention so far, you will have recognized the FOUR's strategy to cope with feelings of inefficiency among the listed above as that of applying creativity and originality in order to make sure they can look at themselves in the mirror.

If you know that that's where a FOUR is at, you can take them from there. You don't have to wonder, "Huh? Why is this guy/chick so weird? Gimme a break!"

You just know: They need to be different, that's all.

Ordinary's okay for ordinary people, but not for them.

And so they set out to do things differently.

Sometimes they succeed at it. (- Especially if the stronger of their wings is THREE).

Sometimes they prefer to keep their "otherness" a secret between them and any other inhabitants of their own four walls... (- Especially if their stronger wing is FIVE).

While their appearance and whole way of coming across may strike you as somewhat shrill, perhaps appalling or even downright sickening, relax, you'll survive, and remember that variety is the spice of life.

Fact is, without FOURs life would potentially be a lot more boring.

When one looks at creation and the immense variety and opulence there in species, kinds and sheer colorfulness, it should strike us as "Who are we to demand that everyone should walk around and act exactly the same way we do?" Apparently neither our Creator nor the phantom of Evolution were as dull in that aspect as some of us seem to be when we preach our gospels of conformity.

FOURS remind us that life was not meant to be a piece of cake, but a challenge. You actually have to use your brain in order to deal and cope with some of them, much less relate to them, understand them and comprehend where they're coming from.

Of course, you can also get lost adrift on an endless sea of vain and empty babble if you allow yourself to sail too far along on the FOURish way of life without ever finding or availing yourself of some sort of anchor to reality.

The FOUR's hope is their hunger for authenticity. It can preserve them from inviting too many

phantoms that may come blowing their way from the direction of the THREE neighborhood, nor insist on the reclusiveness their FIVEr wing would invite them to.

A FOUR at its best shares what it has got to give to the world, perhaps somewhat giving in to its stress point TWO and refraining from fighting to cling to its uniqueness selfishly. Sometimes our stress points can be good for us, just like any old second leg...

The comfort point of FOUR is ONE, and perhaps a factor that helps keep many a FOUR halfway sane. The ONEish ability to focus clearly can come in handy when you're threatening to drown in a sea of nostalgia and wild, FOURish emotions.

The FOUR is a reminder of the vast variety our Creator, the Great Magic Painter has thrown out into the four corners of the wind, and you hear the sound thereof and know not from where it comes or where it goes... That He is anything but a dull bore.

- A reminder that we don't all have to be the wearing, doing or opining the same.
- A reminder to try to accept, tolerate and love each other as different as we may be from each other.

The symbolic country of type FOUR has traditionally been France. But if you've been to France in recent years you may have noticed that its image as an artistic or even "different" nation that once distinguished itself through individual qualities and liberties is becoming not much more than a leftover cliché from better times.

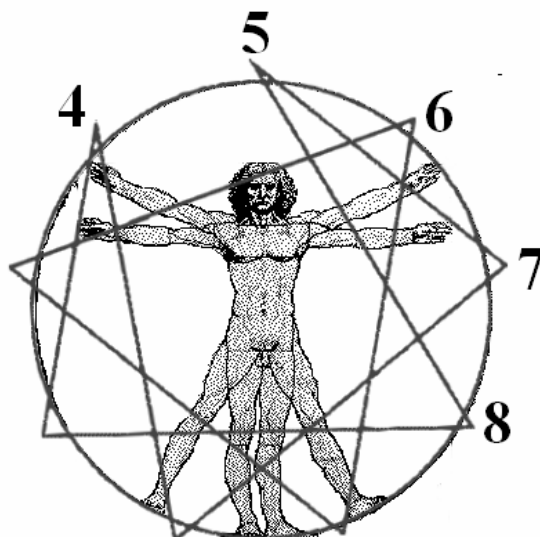
If the Creator is a God of Variety, His opponent must be the god of monotony, and his people are busily at work using their seemingly noble slogans of "equality" to mold is all into a uniform herd of conformists and adapted cogs in the machine.

If you happen to meet a FOUR, don't resent her/him for their weirdness, but see them as a relic from a time when individuality was really still welcome in this world, a testimony of one of the qualities of our forgotten Creator...

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CHAPTER 6

FIVE Things You Ought to Know About



FIVES come from their comfort point EIGHT. In their youth they had the spunk and drive and call to be leaders and great potential, it seemed, for them to “become someone.”

This may come as a shock to you, but there are people on this earth right now who have ceased being impressed by “someones.” Let’s be honest and face it: people can be quite a drag sometimes, and even Jesus, one of greatest leaders in my opinion, sometimes lost His patience with His gang.

So, many former, young EIGHTs (in reality on their way to FIVE, but that was something only God knows – and a few people who happen to know this wee secret of life) become disillusioned after a while of leading people.

Just like a NINE can get fed up with the success game they played in their earlier, “THREEish” years of life, so a FIVE has gotten fed up with the games people play in the game of “We’re following the leader.”

The person who won me to Christ at the age of 13 had always been a leader since his teens, and I was somewhat shocked when I heard that he had dropped out of our missionary movement a few years ago, when he must have been in his early fifties.

He bought a house somewhere in the boonies and asked his closest friends and relatives not to disclose his address to anyone unnecessarily.

He’s not a single case. I’ve seen a few former “revolutionaries” turning out to want nothing but their peace in later years. They simply ran out of steam. They had given, they had bled, they had let their light shine, and now they figured, it was time they were up for a treat and retreat and treat themselves the way they felt they deserved.

Of course, you never hear from them again, but they don’t care. They’ve done their bit of shining, and that was enough for them.

Perhaps not every adult FIVE’s life has had as adventurous episodes as those I’ve witnessed, perhaps you’re a FIVE who simply liked to boss around your little sister in your younger years.

Whatever led you where you are, right now, what you specially like is to have your peace, your

nice, cozy home, and there indulge in what is yours: your family, your possessions, perhaps your books, or an occupation you find some sort of satisfaction in...

FIVES are head types, along with the following types, SIX and SEVEN, so FIVES like to accumulate data along with some of their material collection items.

Some FIVES are geniuses, others are plainly dumb, greedy and selfish, but either are usually not the warm, huggy types.

They actually tend to shun physical contact, and I know of one FIVE in particular who enjoys her relationships with her partners largely over the Internet, by making sure they live thousands of miles across the Atlantic, with no intentions in sight of joining them there, but perfectly happy with reducing their relationship to chats, calls and 3 or 4 visits a year.

Perhaps it will not always stay that way. Perhaps at some later time it will turn out convenient to nestle together. But for now, "Let's keep it at a distance."

The biblical prototypes of FIVE are Mary, the mother of Jesus, who gave the classic example of the benefits of receiving the divine without any reservations or conditions, along with Thomas, the doubter, whom Jesus invited to touch His wounds after His resurrection (even though He had forbidden the TWO, Mary Magdalene, to touch Him, earlier) to see whether He was real or not).

This shows that the Creator goes out of His way in order to give each type of person the kind of treatment they need. He doesn't just randomly toss us all into drawers labeled "Heaven," "Hell" or "Purgatory" but comes up with a lot more originality and innovation than some of His alleged followers seem willing to give Him credit for.

The stress point or "weaker leg" of the FIVE is type SEVEN, the hedonist, which shows that even a FIVE can enjoy life and party sometimes, even though they usually prefer to do so on a smaller scale than a real party tiger.

They confine their pleasures to the coziness of their own four walls and indulge there in their secret little sins and pleasures of whatever gives them a kick, and as long as they get what they need in order to keep their little world intact, they'll be fine.

If they don't, they might come crawling out of their hole, however, and their comfort point EIGHT will help them to become quite vocal in fending for their rights and demand their dues.

They can be fairly hard workers for the things they want, since wanting things can also be quite an effective incentive for work...

A strong FOUR wing can either result in an artistic streak or your FIVE being somewhat of a weird hermit.

Most FIVES I know will rather avail themselves of their other wing, SIX, though, and be useful members of society you may hardly ever see or hear, unless they invite you for family gatherings, after which they will be very happy to be left in peace again by you and the rest of the world, if they can help it

Every personality type has a weakness that can be defined as their principle fault, quirk, or, traditionally, "root sin."

The ONE's big work-on is traditionally anger, the TWO's is pride (also manifested in sensitivity and jealousy), a THREE's is deceitfulness toward themselves and or others, a FOUR's is envy, and the FIVE's is avarice, aka stinginess.

If a TWO likes to give, a FIVE prefers taking. You see they're the head types, since that seems to be a lot smarter in most people's eyes.

Big Chief in the Sky don't seem to agree, though, since His philosophy says, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" and it is said of Him that He loves a cheerful giver. So, if you find yourself to be a penny pinching FIVE, you might yet discover thrills you never thought you'd experience by overcoming your tendency and opening the vaults of your life to others in need...

If you ever wonder why those TWOish people seem to have so much more fun than you, even though they're dead poor and don't have a fraction of what you've accumulated, try some of their magic and give to someone. You'll see it won't even hurt at all, but actually eventually grow into some warm feeling in the chest area that some folks experience regularly, called joy.

Next time your stress point SEVEN calls you for a refill, try to experience some genuine joy by making someone else happy. It will beat any other artificial kick you may be giving yourself, and certainly beats the Ebenezer Scrooge role you may have been playing unconsciously for a while...

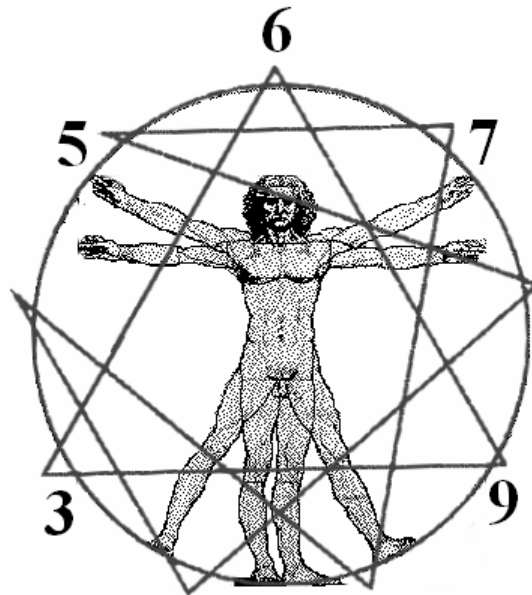
Give yourself a break and give someone else a good time and see what joys are there to discover beyond the confines of your own sacred private four walls...

"Freedom's just another word for nothing left to lose" (Kris Kristofferson, "Bobby McGee")

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CHAPTER 7

SIX Clues to Life



They say the most common personality type of the Enneagram is the SIX. They're the kind of people you see everywhere and nowhere, the ones who keep the whole show possible for the big shots in the limelight, the little folks behind the scenes who make it all possible.

Of course, history has taught us that there are downsides to the quiet blind and unquestioned obedience of the average SIX, when there are evil forces at work trying to manipulate the masses.

The problem is that the only thing we learn from history is that we never learn from history.

Today, in the 21st century we believe ourselves to have advanced light years away from the comparatively Neanderthal-like state of our grandparents in Europe 70 years ago. We think it could never happen again. Never.

Unfortunately, the Devil is not on vacation, and he hasn't been asleep for the past 7 decades, either. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, one of the few Christians during the 3rd Reich who apparently had enough discernment to be able to tell that Hitler was *not* the sort of Christian he claimed to be wrote from his prison cell, about a year before his execution that stupidity is a greater enemy of good than downright evil.

The real nasty thing about stupidity is that it is often camouflaged by some sort of pseudo-knowledge, and most devastatingly befalls those who believe themselves to be the bright gift of God to mankind. Just as crazy people don't think they're insane, the dilemma with stupid people is that they believe to be rather intelligent... the cream of the crop.

I'm not talking about making a mistake every now and then, or a wrong assumption that happens to all of us. I'm talking about the attitude of "we have arrived," and "we won't get fooled again – just because we're smart. Our ancestors may have been dumb, but not us... no way. See, we have *evolved*."

And so it would never dawn on the average loyal citizen that similar atrocities to those that happened during the 3rd Reich are happening again right now in front of their noses. But because

they obediently swallow what the media tell them – just as former generations swallowed the Nazi propaganda back then - or the propaganda of Communist China or Stalin's Russia for that matter, they can't even see it.

They see 3 tall buildings collapse on TV at almost free fall speed and obediently believe the fairy tale of 19 bearded evil men armed with nothing but carpet knives that did it, "So, let's all go to war and kill the evil men!" The same way they swallowed the story about the poor retard who was supposed to have set fire to the Reichstag in order to give Hitler the excuse to declare war on his enemies...

You see the Dilemma of the SIXes: they don't ask a lot of questions. Or at least they lack the courage to do so openly. Only to be giving the excuse later on, "But we didn't know." Sometimes we don't know certain things simply because we don't want to know them. We look away. We don't want to get into the same sort of trouble as the poor bastard they hauled away and sent to Treblinka...

It's not that SIXes aren't wonderful, faithful, responsible and reliable people.

And, after all, the belief that we're all just hyper-mutated monkeys frees us from any responsibility for our actions. Never was compliance with massive crimes against humanity easier. If Charlie Darwin was right, there won't be nothing left of us after we die that could be held responsible by any Supreme Being waving some big club... "The Man in the Sky won't hurt us, because He's just a lie anyway. Just one more lie among all the ones they already told us. Who cares about one more? And who in the world can tell the difference, anyway?"

Well, if we're honest, we *all* can. Because the one thing that sets us apart from monkeys is our conscience, that which someone once termed God's Presence in the human soul. Deep down in our hearts we all know that we're just settling for less than mediocre by just trudging along with the masses on that broad way that leads where we don't really want to go.

"But," we figure, "if God were really as powerful as some claim, then He could send us a *good* leader that would lead us in the right direction."

The problem is that we *crucify* our good leaders, reject them and send them to hell, and we always scream our heads off in Euphoria over the Cesars, the Napoleons, the Hitlers. We don't really want a good guy to come and tell us to repent of our evil ways. In reality, we just want to keep going the way we've been taught to go. We don't want to follow no crazy guy walking across the landscape telling us to become "fishers of men." That sort of nonsense never put any bread on our table – except for those 3000 and 5000 lucky ones in the Bible stories maybe. But God wouldn't do that sort of thing again. Besides, last I've heard, He's gone on vacation. After all, He hasn't spoken a single word since 2000 years. At least that's what the preachers says. And we believe Him.

The Dilemma of the SIX, ladies and gentlemen, and thus, a large part of mankind, is a lack of faith. We're very gullible when it comes to anything those will tell us who hold positions of authority, but we don't have a lot of faith in that far-away Creator, if any at all, and we haven't traded the bit of faith we might have once had for Darwin's universal solution.

The biggest problem of SIXes is their fear, and the best remedy against it is faith. Even if nowadays it already takes some outstanding courage to embrace some faith other than the official dogma we're being brainwashed with from all sides...

The wings of SIX are FIVE and SEVEN, either causing SIXes to tend to hide in the safety of their own four walls or to drown any potential sorrows in pleasures such as alcohol or the manifold

ways we can numb ourselves against any potential pain and serious thought these days: soccer, TV, computer games, the disco...

Stress- and comfort point THREE and NINE can either cause SIX to tend to believe the lie of the easy way out or to resign altogether in the face of too powerful opposition for any hope to stand up for the truth.

Since SIX is coming from its comfort point NINE, he/she may have tended toward laziness in their youth, leading to the recognition in later years that this would get them nowhere and accordingly adapt their behavior to a more responsible one.

It will also have to be mentioned that SIXes are divided into two separate kinds: phobic and counter phobic. - In other words, those who are ruled by their fears, and those who openly rebel against them by some daredevil type of behavior (the former being the more common type according to my observations). The counter phobic types are usually the more aggressive types; the kind who get into fights during soccer games or rot together in right-wing groups, since the ideology of the 3rd Reich still has a lot of appeal for those people.

In either case, faith would be the healing balm that would soothe and eliminate the SIXes' fears, whether admitted or suppressed, the large dilemma of our times being that society and its present educational and media system often won't let them find just that.

Someone once said that some of the Devil's greatest power lies in fear, so its not in his interest, nor in that of the people he uses, to allow people to be delivered from his greatest and most powerful scourge and weapon against mankind, which were, after all, created in the image of his Arch Enemy.

One strong quality of SIXes is that they usually can get along with people. SIXes are people's kind of people. They like to hang out and chat and be social.

And every now and then they bring up the spunk to do something really extraordinary for their fellowman who may need their help that surprises everyone, most of all themselves...

Sometimes a bit of grace gets ahold of us and manages to do in us and through of us and in spite of us something we wouldn't have thought we were capable of...

Somehow we overcome our fears and for a brief flash of time we light up the landscape on the battle field of life and become somebody's personal hero and savior.

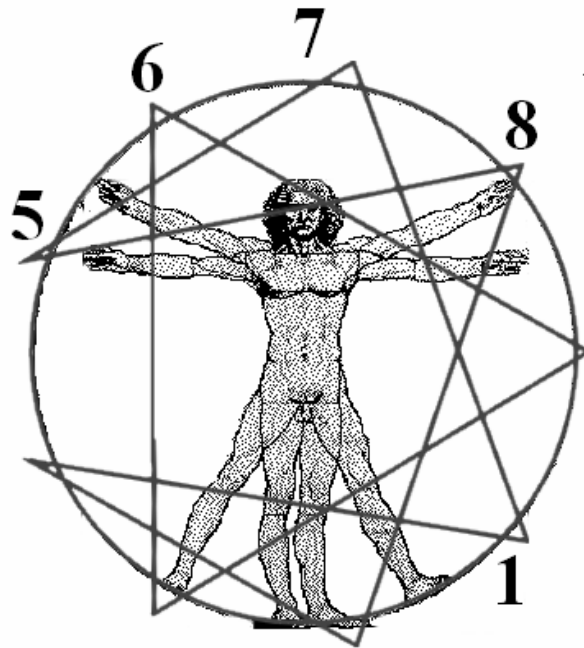
As long as the SIX stays open for that moment to happen when he/she will just refuse to be intimidated by the bullies that usually lord it out over all of us, there's hope for all of us.

The important thing is to pay attention who we will give our loyalty to, and that we don't sell out our hearts for cheap excuses.

Our tendency may be to just want to sink into the morass of society where nobody seemingly will ever be able to be held responsible, but our conscience tells us that's just an illusion. We cannot hide from the right thing to do. Sooner or later the truth is going to catch up with us, and we're all going to wish that we made some right decisions in our lives...

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CHAPTER 8
SEVEN Ways



SEVENs are easy. They're nice and fun to be and have around, and if we could have chosen what type we were going to become in life, most of us would probably have chosen to become a SEVEN. Of all the types they seem to be the happiest.

They don't cling to the illusion of the THREE so much that true satisfaction and happiness can ever come through success, nor the FIVEish philosophy of acquisition of things... Somehow they know that this life is just a game, after all, so they might as well play and enjoy it.

SEVENs are probably the ideal consumers, and the type of people that marketing strategists are targeting with their publicity campaigns. SEVENs don't have to be talked into or tediously persuaded into buying something as long as it promises to be fun or delicious or a kick...

Coming from the comfort point FIVE they know that it doesn't pay to be stingy. You can't take all that money you're hoarding into the grave with you, anyway, so you might as well spend it.

Without the SEVENs to entertain and cheer us up, we'd probably all have died in our own misery and depressions a long time ago.

I can flatter them since I know they won't be wasting their precious time on reading a book on some sort of self-improvement or worse, self-recognition... Their motto is "Let's have fun" and "Show me no sorrow!"

And in a way they're right. There is, in the grand scope of things more to be cheerful about than some of us pessimists are able to see, even if they may not spend much time thinking about any higher powers guaranteeing a good outcome of it all. They just hope for the best and go for it... Somehow it's going to be okay.

On their life journey of avoiding pain they will choose the good and pleasant things, and leave the unpleasant things aside, if they can.

The problem with only keeping your focus on the sunny side of life is that you never learn much, if

anything, about the unpleasant and yet inevitable reality of adversity. While too much focus on the bad and a too pessimistic world view may be worse, choosing to ignore the pitfalls of life and the reality of evil altogether can sometimes have us wind up at the end of life's road not much more than a fool who may have laughed his way through life but failed to really grow by daring to confront some tears and suffering as well.

Like FIVE and SIX, the SEVENs are head people, so their fun-seeking life-style and "happiness" is more a matter of attitude and result of a conscious choice they made in their minds long ago, when they decided to quit thinking too much about serious stuff that gave them headaches, and seek happier thoughts and moments instead, and of course, anyone who will devote their life to this endeavor will find them, since people will always be willing to spend time with those who will distract them from their own humdrum.

Everybody likes a SEVEN, unless, perhaps, they have grown a little too cynical, but since just about everyone enjoys humor and part of the meaning of life ingrained in us Westerners is to make the most of the time we're giving on earth, we usually comply in giving a SEVEN just what they're after.

Since they don't present any serious competition for the success seekers nor leadership types, the SEVENs are always accepted as the clowns and jesters that cheer up the rest of the world, and often get away with telling the king some blunt truths to his face in a jestful manner or song that no other would have dared...

Perhaps it's because some of the substance they're after – pleasure - is rubbing off on their nature that makes most SEVENs pleasant people to have around.

However, if you're a truth seeker in search of enlightenment, alas, your time with a SEVEN shall be ill-spent...

You usually wouldn't hire a clown as a rabbi or spiritual teacher... although in today's showbiz type of religion, even that has become possible.

When a SEVEN dares to look past its clichés and fears of the things he/she tries so hard to avoid, they may actually find even greater kicks in a place where they might have least expected them.

If God is the Ogre in the Sky that some make Him out to be, then of course, no SEVEN in their right mind would waste a second thought on Him. Fortunately for all of us, the Man in the Sky is an awesomely friendly fellow, and what's more, He's *real*.

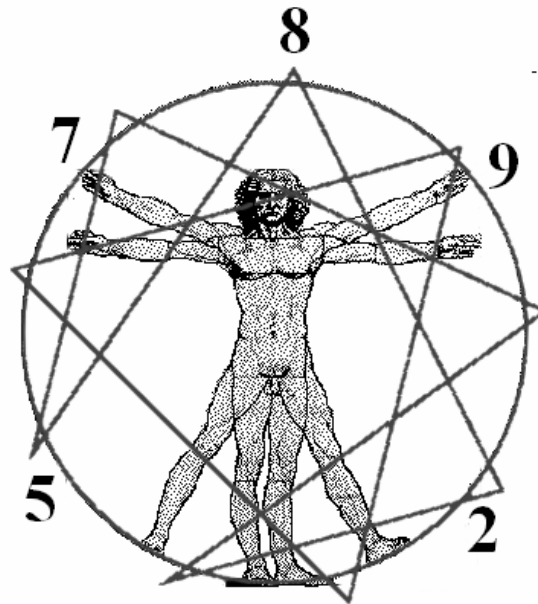
Stress point of type SEVEN is ONE, perhaps the one factor that keeps a SEVEN on the serious side of things at least some of the time, even if just in order to pursue their role as either public or someone's personal comedian seriously and to the degree of perfection.

The perfectionist streak of a "gourmet" can be manifested in their odd little preferences regarding their eating habits and regulations concerning the things they enjoy, such as setting an alarm clock for the precise amount of time for their tea to steep for it to be *just right*, etc.

Thankfully, though, life is a lot less complicated for and with an average SEVEN, as long as there is something to enjoy...

CHAPTER 9

EIGHT Rules



It's quite obvious by now that this mini-book isn't going to be another of those pat-on-the-back, make-you-feel-good-about-yourself potential New York Times list bestsellers.

The Enneagram, after all, isn't about building up or feeding the ego, but ideally, about recognizing it, dismantling it and allowing God to construct something (or rather, *someone*) new and better from the rubble.

If anyone would like to read all about the wonderful, positive character traits of the different types, they will find input aplenty in the commercially available books on the topics, along with dozens of websites.

I'm not interested in repeating what others have already stated.

I'm sure that eventually I will make more happy and positive observations regarding the Enneatypes, some of which perhaps have not been published previously, but I'm afraid that for now I only have a few observations to share about some of the more sinister sides of our egos in those – after all – sinister times we're living in.

Type EIGHT is all about power. It's "root sin" has traditionally been defined as "lust," and sexuality does play a significant role in the lives of many an EIGHT, but compared to the degree that power and power plays are relevant to the EIGHT life, sexuality pales and fades to nearly insignificant dimensions.

The problem is, the human spirit is a lot more cunning and subtle than many of us would give ourselves credit for (if, after all, we're all not much more than a bunch of overly mutated apes), and some of the ways in which we exert power over each other can be so cleverly disguised, in fact sometimes as sheer powerlessness, that it wouldn't occur to us in a life-time that what we're witnessing is some "evolved" form of power-play (although some of our species have instinctively learned those traits quite early on in our history, I'm sure).

My intention is by no means to make anyone feel bad about their type or put them in boxes. But being able to discover even the best camouflaged of our weaknesses is a great and effective tool in making definite progress in our character development and spiritual growth.

One of the most common type of power-play – not exclusively used by type EIGHT, but probably more common to all types "related" to EIGHT (primarily NINE, TWO, FIVE, and in some cases, SEVEN), is the tactic of playing the victim.

This world is run by EIGHTs (along with a few THREEs perhaps) and a young EIGHT is bound to have at least one parent with stronger "EIGHTish" traits than themselves, meaning that sooner or later such a person is going to realize that they're not going to win every battle by availing themselves of the conventional method of open combat and confrontation.

New tactics are required, and the slogan that often comes to aid is, "If you can't lick'em, *join'em*" adding, "and have them believe they won."

People can be manipulated and influenced a lot more easily as long as they think you're on their side and their friend. And the EIGHT isn't really a traitor, either, nor is the "victim tactic" the common one for each EIGHT.

But in our day and age authority is being combated, resisted and undermined in a variety of "evolved," or perhaps more appropriately, "mutated" ways, and playing the victim is probably the most popular.

There are entire countries getting away with ignoring laws and agreements the rest of the world is made to obey, but they get around it by cleverly availing themselves of the "victim tactic."

The ultimate form of this game, of course, is suicide. When the enemy just can't be licked, and one's goals simply cannot be reached any other way, the last and final way to deal your stronger enemy a blow that is going to make them sorry and the rest of the world shaking their heads at them is suicide.

While suicide is definitely not something that type EIGHT people usually or typically, much less exclusively resort to, it still remains the ultimate manifestation of the "victim tactic."

Type EIGHT – along with contraphobic SIXes – is probably the type most prone to violence, and such violence can also be manifested against themselves, sometimes as the final culmination of a series of other acts of violence.

It's probably the ultimate way of expressing one's frustration over the perceived superiority of others and an attempt to deal with and rebel against their own powerlessness in a way that they figure will deal their opponent the blow that will cause the greatest damage.

For many EIGHTs, life is a continual battle, and some have even been heard to have compared the sexual acts to an act of war, or some private manifestation of such.

Thankfully, not all EIGHTs have such a sinister outlook on life, and many are wonderfully idealistic, but in the light of the evolutionary paradigm having shaped our thinking to the extent that it has, "the survival of the fittest" is like saying "sic'em!" to a dog, and if anyone is prone to prove to you their worthiness of survival by proving to be the fittest, it will be an EIGHT (although many a THREE will subtly steal their birthright as such by some less than heroic, deceitful means).

Sadly, though – on the other side of the scale – our modern society has developed some weird cocktails of sexuality and power play, such as every man will know who has ever had to "sleep on the couch" whenever he didn't "behave."

The "Victim Game" has had an impact on society as a whole, reversing some of its classical roles. While men still have the image of the "oppressors" (and I'm not denying the reality of their role as such in many cases), by and large, though, it seems to be more the case that what we are witnessing in our present Western societies (along with some Westernized Eastern cultures), that a strange ancient prophecy before our eyes: "*As for My people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them*" (Isaiah 3:12).

As in all power plays and games people play that involved struggle over positions of power being exerted over another party, these new tactics can take on a life of their own and backfire just as the ancient "clubs and sticks" tactics, since the affected will eventually turn away from the source of their pain and looking for new sources of fulfillment, often creating a chain reaction of a trail of shattered families behind them: Welcome to the battlefield of the 21st century!

Of course, I'm perfectly aware of the political incorrectness of such statements, but such are the liberties of an author of free ebooks who won't have to compromise in order to land a "bestseller."

A young EIGHT is on their way to FIVE, meaning that they won't be the most affectionate person you've ever met. They will often constantly talk about themselves and make you wonder how on earth a person can be so self-absorbed. Their little world revolves around themselves, and it's seldom that a young EIGHT will ever be a genuine idealist, unlike a *real* EIGHT, such as those mature ones coming from their comfort point TWO, of which we have many examples in history, from Mother Teresa to Che Guevara.

TWO is definitely the "*stronger leg*" of EIGHT, since it will draw them toward higher and nobler aspirations, and more idealistic and selfless causes than the homey little world of FIVE will offer.

An EIGHT with a stronger SEVEN wing will or can be quite a jolly fellow, and they'll be the type of leaders that are more likely to make you enjoy following them (if they don't happen to be the kind that ruthlessly take advantage of their position to get all the fun they want), whereas one with a stronger NINE wing – as idealistic as they may be – will usually be more prone to letting you do any amount of work they can get you to do instead of them.

The worst thing that can happen to them (which, unfortunately I have happened to observe more often than I would have wanted) is a TWO parent (or even worse, both parents being a TWO – although fate will hardly ever be *that* cruel), who will make it easy for such an EIGHT to be lazy and bad...

And ever more so in a society in which correction has become virtually taboo.

One can almost be thankful that our pampered little tyrant will someday become a homey FIVE, restraining themselves to exerting their authority over a very small and private kingdom only.

One – in most cases – more positive aspect of the NINEr wing's influence on EIGHT is that it will cause them to be less confrontational than usual, which is great when it comes to preserving peace and unity within families and communities, but also puts a dimmer on many potential activist's convictions or efforts to share them with others, a factor which makes many an EIGHT a lot harder to recognize than some of their more prominent (and dominant) counterparts.

While ONEs can often be forces and fighters for innovation, according to my personal observation, EIGHT tends to be more prone to fight for the cause of preserving already established domains, in other words, to be more conservative in their endeavors,

Biblical "heroes" of EIGHT are both King Saul and King David, the former being the perfect example of the type of "king" or EIGHT you wouldn't want to become, and the latter a shining ray of hope that there are still winners to be made out of some of us, though, even in the most brilliant of cases, never perfect or without flaws.

For even the most "perfect" king God's (previously) chosen people ever had gave in to the temptation to abuse his power for his own ends once in a while, such as the classic example of David's sending Uriah to his death in battle in order to obtain his wife Bathsheba, will show.

EIGHTs are traditionally *strong* people, and there's an old saying that goes, "Men of force are men of faults."

The best thing an EIGHT can do is to focus on and learn from the King of kings how to truly reign, rule and lead others justly, Who said, "Whoever will be the greatest among you, let him be servant of all." An hard saying for the average EIGHT, but as evident from such exceptional leaders as the above mentioned Mother Teresa, not entirely impossible to put into practice.

What Jesus said about the difficulties of rich people to enter into the Kingdom of God (namely being comparable to that of a camel having to crawl on its knees through a tiny gate in the ancient Jerusalem city wall, nicknamed "The Eye of the Needle," can be applied to an average

EIGHT in regards to discipleship.

EIGHTs are nearly always better leaders than followers. The only problem is that in order to become a good leader, one first has to be a good follower, and that's where the system God obviously installed by making one type "mature" into another, comes in handy.

A young TWO will often make a formidable and loyal follower, and will thus often turn into a likewise formidable leader (providing, of course, the person they followed and learned from had some formidable lessons to pass on to them, or at least taught them unmistakably which values and traits *not* to embrace once they would obtain the crown).

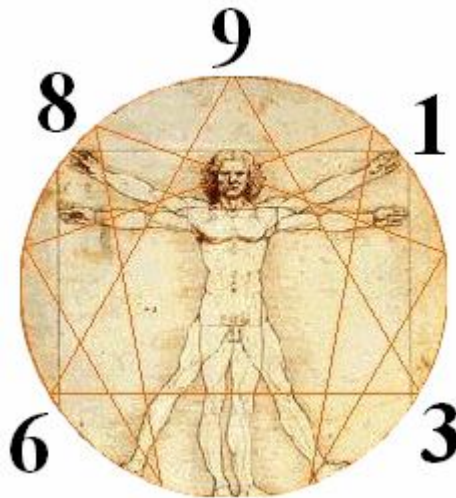
Of course, EIGHTs are not merely restricted to thrones and seats of governments, but we'll find them in every strata of society: on the football field, in the executive's office, or simply in any household where we quickly realize who's got the say and dictates the rules.

And sometimes even among those "victims" nobody understood, nor was able to comprehend why they did what they did...

Whenever someone says "Power to the people," an EIGHT will be the first to rush forward to grab it. EIGHTs, in the truest sense of the word, *rule!*

CHAPTER 10

NINE Lives



EIGHTs, NINEs and ONEs are the belly types, and with NINEs, you can often tell. While FIVEs and SEVENs can also be prone to show their love for indulgence in food by a little excess weight around the hips, it is usually the NINEs who are most prone to lack the ambition to do much about it.

While laziness seems to be the most “harmless” or “cute” of the root sins, it can reach the point beyond “funny” or “cute.”

While NINEs have been described as the potentially most idealistic types of the Enneagram, they’re also the ones who are least prone to put their ideals into action.

NINEs have usually had their active phase in their youth when they tried to “fit in” and perhaps even make it “to the top” in their earlier years, largely residing in their comfort point, THREE, although a NINE in the making will seldom ever pass as a real THREE.

They may be lying a blue streak and invent stories and retell them with such sincerity that they will even believe them themselves, but there will often be something about a NINE that will expose them as being not quite of this world.

They’re often the hare from Aesop’s fable that never made it, because he got tired, while the tortoise outran him and won the race through perseverance.

Just as FIVEs are quasi EIGHTs having run out of steam, NINEs are THREEs that got tired of the game or climbing the ladder of success.

One of the early pioneers of the Enneagram once defined one type of NINEs (since there are three subtypes to each type, which we’ll briefly discuss in the following chapter) as “nobodies,” and perhaps rightly so.

Not many NINEs are being chased by Papparazzi or asked for autographs in restaurants.

They usually just don’t have the zest or ambition to make it “to the top,” even though they may well have had the talents to potentially make it there.

Some NINEs can be so secluded they can come across like an extreme FIVE, and this is where the background knowledge comes in handy, about the wings and the comfort point of your type, which is so often indicative of your youth.

If you were bossy in your childhood, or a bully, then it’s more likely that you were and EIGHT and are now a FIVE. But if you had tendencies to “make it” in life with tactics slightly less than honest

at times, but always felt kind of bad about it afterwards, then it's quite likely you have matured from the THREEish traits of your "comfort point" or "stronger leg" as I almost prefer to call it, into a NINE.

While many flattering qualities have been ascribed to type NINE – since they're not the kind that get in anyone's way, due to the fact that competition is not really their thing – some people also can lose patience with NINES.

In a world in which we all seem to follow much more closely the pattern of the diligent ant (symbolic animal for type ONE), there isn't much use for whales (symbolic animal of NINE) in our society, who just float around lazily all day, not good for much more than being hunted and exterminated.

Of course, NINES *do* get aggressive, too. Their type ONE wing will often unwillingly have them better acquainted with the roots sin of their neighbor than most ONES, and the dreams of a perfect world can leave them in a state bemoaning their own fate that a ONE will work themselves out of in nothing flat.

While NINES with a stronger wing in EIGHT can develop leadership traits, it is often more likely that the sexual traits of that wing affect them more than EIGHT's ambition for power.

Ironically, it's NINE's "*weaker leg*" or "stress point," SIX, that will often keep them fulfilling at least their minimum duties that stop them from winding up as outcasts of society, although I would reckon that many of those are probably NINES.

Sometimes the magic – of fear – works, but every now and then it doesn't and fails to do its job of intimidating a NINE into the "proper" attitude of obedience and obeisance to the System.

Rendering one's dues to the machine can be extremely exhausting for a NINE, and while SIXes won't mind quite as much to be living a life to pay bills, NINES are much more prone to rebel in their particular, passive way against that rut, that will make the rest of the world shake their heads at them in disgust.

Perhaps one of the main purposes of NINES in life is to encourage SIXes that things could be worse. If many a SIX may consider themselves a loser, a NINE will often be able to show forth an even way more disastrous life (as evident from unpaid bills, debts, or simply no signs of any "uphill progress" in their "career" – a word which could virtually be described as an "anti-NINE-word"), which will make a SIX feel half as bad about themselves.

The NINE will only care half as much about it, although he or she may harbor a deep anger about it all within themselves: the seeming lack of rhyme and reason of it all, the heartbreaking absence of love and true justice in the world... things that the average person will laugh off and say, "Get over it, dude!", but can be devastating for a NINE.

While they may have been more popular in their youth and may have had more friends then, since there is not much to "get" out of a NINE, they can often turn out to be loners, perhaps also due to the cynicism they sometimes avail themselves of in order to vent their angry frustration with a world that is so unlike the one they would build, if they had any say in it.

Another "twist" in the SIX/NINE connection I've observed is the fact that our society is creating – literally *breeding* many "young NINES," today, children who can get away with being as lazy as at no other previous point in mankind's history, with the perfect excuse of public education rendering them largely useless when it comes to helping around the house (if your family's an exception to that, I sincerely congratulate you), all of whom are destined to become obedient and responsible SIXes, the ideal type to rule for any government.

Call me a conspiracy freak, but esoteric weirdoes and antiquated hippies aren't the only ones aware of the secrets of the Enneagram.

The biblical patron of the NINE, it must be mentioned, is Jonah, the disobedient prophet who ran in the opposite direction when God told him to preach to the ancient capital of the Assyrian empire. A whale had to swallow him in order to change his mind, and when he finally did get around to preach to the Ninevites of their destruction, of all the terrible things to add to his luck, they actually *repented* and God spared them, resulting in a rage of fury against the Almighty that most NINEs, I can imagine, are only too familiar with – if they are anything similar to a NINE like myself.

CHAPTER 11

Subtypes and Final Notes

"Why make it easy, if you can make it complicated?" seems to be the motto of modern, evolved mankind of the 21st century, and Enneagram specialists don't want to make an exception to that unwritten rule, and have thus created 3 subtypes to each of the nine E-types: a sexual, social and self-preserving subtype.

Just as I already noted that no type only has *one* wing, or is *only* influenced by either stress- or comfort point, no E-type is exclusively social, sexual, or self-preserving.

Just as each person will find qualities of virtually any of the nine types within themselves, they will also have each of those three qualities to an extent, but just as with their type, they will eventually discover that one in particular seems to be playing a predominant role in their life.

It may take a while for each type to discover their sub-type, judging not by how they may feel at the moment (since we all may feel more "sexual" or less "social" at some time, than at another), but rather by their general behavior, observed over time.

The lists of traits of each type's sub-type can also be helpful in determining one's own main-type, especially in cases where someone is not quite sure.

If, for example you're not sure whether you're a FIVE or a NINE, it may very well be that you're a self-preserving NINE, who show many FIVEish trademarks.

Generally, I personally don't believe that the Enneagram can be used or applied in a purely rational way, since it is largely intuitive, if not to say, a *spiritual* tool, which has been given, after all, to help us in our skills at something that was originally one of the nine gifts of the Spirit of God poured out upon believers after the ascension of Christ, the use of which, unfortunately, seems to be considered just as outdated as the life-style and conviction of the Early Christians who availed themselves of such for three centuries, before Christianity became officially recognized.

If we want to know more about our fellowmen, we must listen to their hearts, and also to what our hearts tell us about them, and not merely to our heads. If the term "listen to your heart" sounds corny or naive to you, I can only assume that there won't be much you will be agreeing with in this booklet.

If Darwin was right, then his rational followers will have their way of "survival of the fittest" with our planet regardless of whatever types like myself could ever say or do.

If, however, he was wrong, and there *is* in fact a Creator who conceived us all to some extent in His Own Image, and equipped us with our personalities as He saw fit (as opposed to "evolved animal instincts"), then I'm afraid He will retain the final word on the issue, and the dreadful (for the rationalists) pronouncement that "knowledge and prophecies shall cease," will leave all of us only with this one, most irrational of all comforts, "but love shall never cease."

We must return to the matters of the heart in order to rediscover the one true heart of the matter in this thing called life, and I would wish for any potential reader of these thoughts to find greater tools and senses to grope and grapple whatever lessons the school of life offers us than mere physical ones.

If worst comes to worst and you may find yourself short of clues and answers, you can always ask. After all, that's what fathers are for. - Especially heavenly ones.