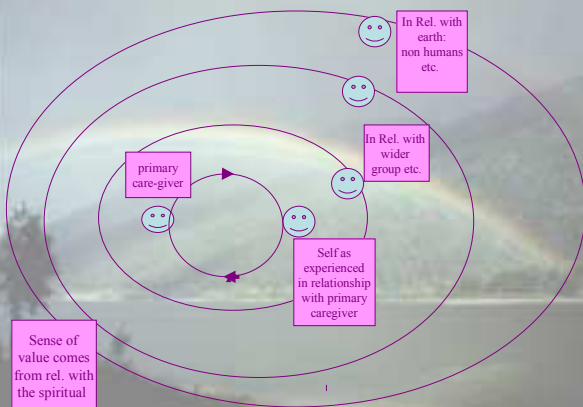


The Relational Mind

- Developmentally, we make sense of ourselves only in relation to others.
- We grow, and our moulded, through relationship – all relationship.
- The “billiard ball” mind is an illusion
- Our verbal, propositional ss. sets a limit on what we can know precisely
- We can reach out in relationship beyond that limit.



Web of Relationships



What is man without the beasts? If all the beasts were gone, man would die from a great loneliness of the spirit. For whatever happens to the beasts, soon happens to man.
All things are connected.

(Ted Perry's version of Chief Seattle's speech).

Beyond the Person

- We are defined by relationships that go beyond our current human bonds
- These include relationship with our ancestors and those who will come after us
- Moving out to relationship with our group, nation, other peoples, humanity
- Our relationship with the non human creatures is deep and significant for us

Further dimensions of relationship

- Relationship with place, with the land
- Relationship with the earth, our planet
- Relationship with that which is deepest and furthest – which is beyond our naming capacity, but is sometimes called God, Goddess, Spirit etc.
- Relationship is something we experience – so it can be beyond propositional knowledge – we can feel more than we know.



Openness/Vulnerability - 2 sides of the coin!

- Making ourselves open in relationship, in empathy is the way to live fully, in the moment
- But – it opens the way to pain as well as joy
- Love means taking responsibility for the beloved
 - for the earth and other non human creatures



The Trap of Addiction!

- Addiction is about shutting off, limiting and narrowing down, as a defence against feeling; against really living.
- Spirituality is about opening out; allowing oneself to be vulnerable.
- Receptive to wonder and beauty



Out of the tunnel – into the light

- Despair, depression paralysed
- Waking up to the wonder of creation
- Encountering the pain
- Letting go
- Contacting our creativity
- Joining in justice action



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