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## **The Physical Basis of Spirituality: Common Ground for Dialogue**

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### **Extended Abstract**

Human epistemology has followed a steady evolution from superstition through logical reason to the current state of empiricism. Now another Galilean class revolution completing epistemology by integrating Science and Theology (S&T) seems immanent. S&T represent opposite ends of a long continuum rather than mutually exclusive disciplines. An integrative noetic science must include an understanding of Transcendence to unite S&T. Here Transcendence is defined in terms of Plato's concept of noetic insight: *No matter how great ones intelligence or knowledge, noetic insight is a cosmic insight beyond the self.*

All scientific theory formation has a low level metaphysical component. The high level addition of Transcendence as a tool of science in theory formation would accelerate progress by optimizing avenues for empirical research. Currently all the standard models of science are Darwinian or naturalistic which excludes any place for God or Spirit. For example Biological Mechanism, the basis for allopathic or scientific medicine and psychology states: *The laws of chemistry and physics are sufficient to describe all life; no additional life principle is required!* The founding fathers of quantum theory stated it could not describe biological systems; therefore something must be missing in physical theory.

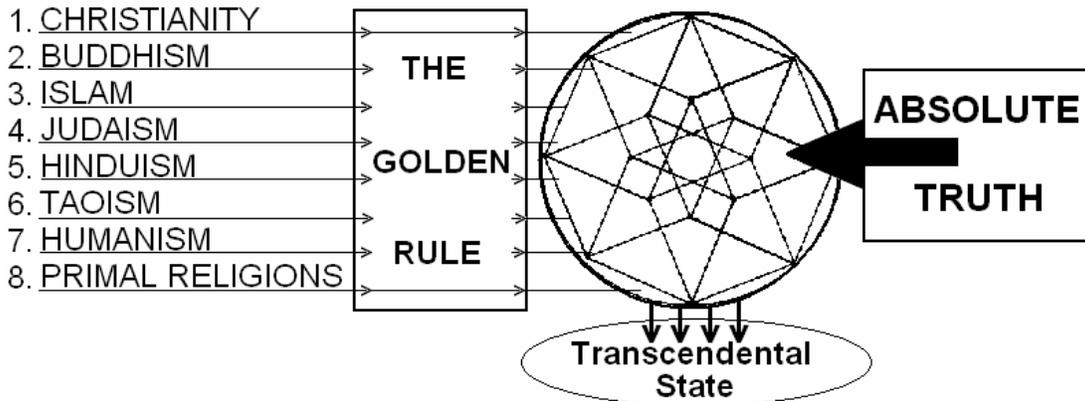
According to the Perennial Philosophy: *God exists and has revealed a path to find him.* The perennial philosophy is not only universal to all theology but ultimately to all truth whether theological or scientific. In this paper an extension of Einstein's Static Universe model called a Continuous State Conscious Universe (CSCU) is shown to naturally include a new action principle governing complex self-organized living systems. This CSCU elucidates the physical basis of spirituality. All legitimate religions or life paths in principle provide avenues to transcendence. Achieving transcendence is not based on the

superficial icons of the world's theologies. Artifacts like phylacteries or rosaries or rituals like bowing east or genuflecting are not relevant.

Because humanity has an inherent spiritual component, transcendence is achieved universally by practicing principles of love, service and charity; or adhering *perfectly* to what is called the *Golden Rule - Do unto others, as you would have them do unto you*. One may further clarify the requirements for transcendence in terms of a 3-level pyramid. The base represents crimes or sins of action like murder, theft or adultery. The middle of the hierarchy is represented by sins of word like lies or insults, which under extreme conditions could lead to another's harm or death. The top of the pyramid represents sins of thought. Thought by nature is fleeting. As long as an *evil* thought is not dwelt on; it can be forgiven as quickly as contemplated. At this level of living the limitations of being human come into play.

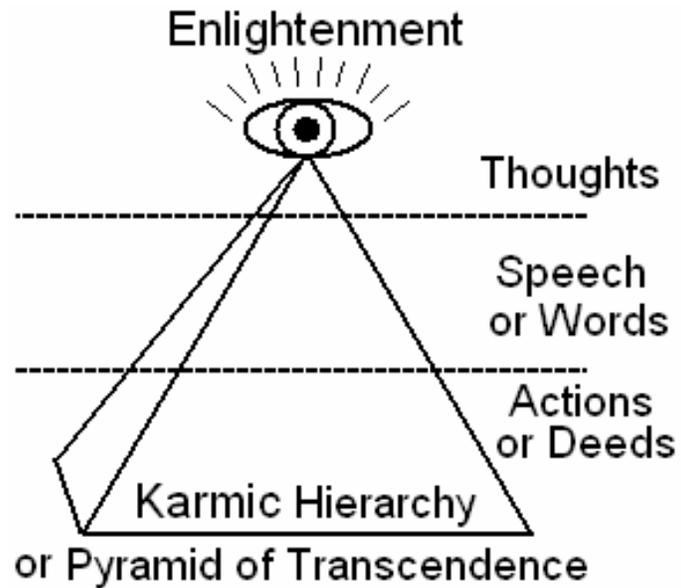
## THE PATH TO TRANSCENDENCE

Through the Perennial Philosophy and Filter of the Golden Rule



**Figure 1.** Because of the inherent spiritual nature of mankind and the existence of ‘Absolute Truth’ in regard to spiritual matters, the Golden Rule as a universal principle of the Perennial Philosophy provides a path to find God or develop transcendence.

The author postulates that by routinely living at this apex a universal Principle of Transcendence comes into play whereby anyone maintaining this mode will spontaneously achieve a state of transcendence. If this noetic Principle of Transcendence is correct, any team of scientists whether comprised of any combination of Jew, Christian or Shinto for example will be able to utilize Transcendence as a tool in scientific theory formation. Likewise any dialogue between scientists and theologians could achieve the same fruition. Fruitful dialogue between S&T must take place in an arena of commonality.



**Figure 2.** Pyramid of Transcendence. “Living” at the top of this ‘karmic pyramid’ spontaneously produces transcendent abilities.

Empiricism has been an impossible challenge for theology; and scientists have historically denigrated any dialogue utilizing religious dogma based on logical put forth by theologians as merely a product of pre-Galilean imagination. Therefore only by developing a common basis for utilizing transcendence as a universal epistemological tool can any dialogue between S&T produce ripened fruit for general interdisciplinary use. Producing a universal framework for such dialogue seems of grave import because such a completion of human epistemology could have broad impact ultimately leading to world peace.