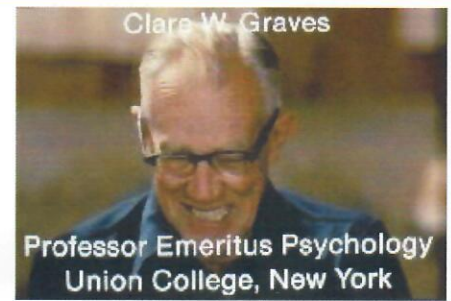


Human Nature Prepares for a Momentous Leap

By Clare W. Graves

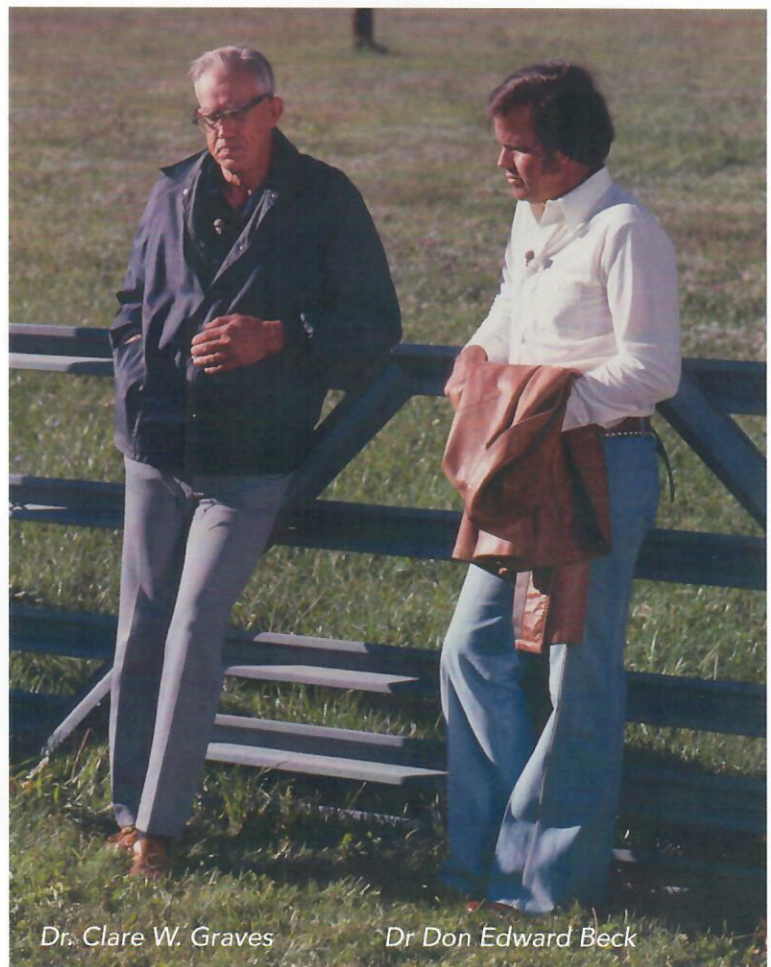


A new psychological theory holds that human beings exist at different “levels of existence.” At any given level, an individual exhibits the behavior and values characteristic of people at that level; a person who is centralized at a lower level cannot even understand people who are at a higher level. In the following article, psychologist Clare Graves outlines his theory and what it suggests regarding man’s future. Through history, says Graves, most people have been confined to the lower levels of existence where they were motivated by needs shared with other animals. Now, Western man appears ready to move up to a higher level of existence, a distinctly human level. When this happens there will likely be a dramatic transformation of human institutions.

In April, 1974, Clare W. Graves declared that “Human Nature Prepares for a Momentous Leap.” At that time, few took him seriously. No one in evolutionary psychology and related fields expressed such a viewpoint. And now, four decades later, we have clear evidence that such a major shift or transformation is in process. Almost everybody in our business knows about it and talks about it. Fear is spreading widely as alarms are sounded in the media all during our 24/7 news cycles. Chicken Little is convinced the sky is falling. Maybe it is.

I first met Professor Graves in 1975, when he invited me to fly to Rexford, New York and Union College to explore ways to work together. What I discovered back then was that he had a mature, fully-developed, and well-researched framework for preparing for just such a “leap” – for individuals, organizations and entire societies. It was a massive tome of work that continues to amaze me.

There was nothing like it in the evolutionary literature, in academic journals, in public training programs, or most certainly in the yet-to-form Integral world decades later. While Graves’ health was bad, I just insisted that he stay around for at least ten more years. I provided financial and emotional support to keep his mind and memory vibrant, focused, and relevant. By that time we were naming his “emergent, cyclical, double-helix, bio-psycho-social model” *Spiral Dynamics*. You know why. At his insistence, I began to expand the point of view, find difficult places to field-test its validity and effectiveness, and generated a number of new assessment systems and user-friendly presentations in multiple cultures and disciplines. Let’s dive in deeper...



Dr. Clare W. Graves

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