

**Eye of the Heart – A Spiritual Journey into the Imaginal Realm**  
Cynthia Bourgeault

|   |  |
|---|--|
| World 1 <sup>1</sup>                          | <b>The Holy Absolute – Godhead</b><br>Inaccessible, impenetrable, unknowable.  |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Shock Point<sup>2</sup></b> | Energy provided by the will of the Holy Absolute.<br>(Shock points introduce new energy in order <b>to keep the Ray of Creation flowing</b> ; shock point is where progression is most vulnerable and most permeable.)   |
| World 3                                       | <b>Consciousness</b> – ‘primordial ternary’ whereby God manifests and brings itself into perceptivity and divisibility; consciousness is the first manifestation of perceptivity and divisibility.<br>“The impressure [birth] of <b>nothing into something</b> ,” Jacob Boehme<br><b>Law of Three</b> – resolves dualities; eg, (i) light and (ii) darkness and (iii) God is the third force (Torah); All the stars and galaxies and infinite possibilities.   |
| World 6<br><i>Eros</i>                        | <b>Eros</b> – pure life force; actual energy stream; consciousness condenses into psychic force [versus physical energy/force]. Bridges the gap between manifest and unmanifest. Pure spirit; pure causality; pure generativity from which the entire created order emerges. Our universe story begins. Big Bang.<br>East as “causal”; West as “logoic.”<br>The highest realm touchable while still in human form.<br>Our Milky Way Galaxy – the place where it is all creatively unfolding for us.  |
| World 12<br><i>Agape</i>                      | <b>Embodied Love</b> – Christic<br>Overlapping middle zone between Divine Jesus (World 6) and the human Jesus (World 24).<br>Fully incarnate and embodied love – Bodhisattva consciousness (Buddhism).<br>Endpoint of the personal realms.<br>Teilhard’s Omega Point where all things are summed up in Christ.<br>Rich and luminous love emerging from the fires of <b>Eros</b> (World 6) to its transfigured fullness in <b>Agape</b> . (p35)<br>Sun – the center of our solar system; warmth, light, cosmic ordering.  |
| World 24                                      | <b>Imaginal<sup>3</sup></b> – direct perception by the eye of the <b>heart</b> ; connectivity; collective and evolutionary; purpose of cosmic assistance, to guide, shape, nourish and offer course corrections.<br>The Kingdom of Heaven.<br>Sufism – the <b>heart</b> is the true organ of spiritual perception and seat of imaginal selfhood.<br><b>Law of Three</b> – the <i>higher</i> blends with the <i>lower</i> in order to activate the <i>middle</i> ; both directions and the interplay of movement is equally essential to overall equilibrium.<br><b>Presence</b> – where the outer forms of physical materiality are illuminated from within by the light that pours from World 12.<br>Beginning of <b>conscious man and woman</b> – awake, 3-centered [body, heart, mind], having passed the first Shock Point in order to fully inhabit the physical world, and taking instructions reliably from the higher realms and participating fully in the required cosmic exchange; conscience as core behavioral motivator; capacity to move against entropy and generate energy rather than dissipate it; the threshold into conscious participation; the witnessing self.<br>Synchronous causality; radial/circular time; nonduality; fluid and permeable boundaries; nonlocalized action; holographic sense of self.<br>My body is subtle-body, inner-body, the quality of inner aliveness, with theological virtues (ie streams of radial energy changing the outcomes in the physical world) and finer, quicker, diffusive, more intense and purposive energy; the <b>true vehicle</b> for continuous communication between the realms/worlds.<br>Tempering ground for the force of <b>Eros</b> flowing from World 6 so it can ultimately transfigure into <b>Agape</b> .<br>The role of a conscious human is to provide the earth world with energies for transformation and integration into the fruits of the spirit: love, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, joy, kindness, faithfulness, forbearance, and self-control. From the fountain of our <b>surrendered</b> being they flow.<br>It’s not about saving the world or our souls or attaining enlightenment; <b>we are transformers</b> , of molecules and of meaning. If we do it a certain way, something happens to us and to the planet.<br>Our solar system; all planets. |

<sup>1</sup> Gurdjieff calls the realms of being “Worlds.”

<sup>2</sup> Shock Points between Worlds are needed to keep our processes going; to move up the vertical axis [this chart]. They can be very small or very large [eg Covid]. In all processes, when we hit a plateau and feel stuck, we need something else to enter the process to keep it going. Our horizontal perspective is only at eye level (p67).

<sup>3</sup> The word *imaginal* has its immediate provenance in Islamic mysticism, where it denotes a subtle and fluid ‘intermediate’ realm suspended midway between form and formlessness; sitting on the dividing line between the visible and invisible worlds. It is invisible to the physical eye, and clearly perceptible through the eye of the heart, which is in fact what the word *imagination* specifically implies in its original Islamic contact. Page 5.

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <p><i>1<sup>st</sup> Shock Point</i></p> <p><b>Love is the fruit of a long transformative journey from World 48 and this first shock point</b></p> <p><b>Agape (love for everyone) = eros (creative love) &amp; a surrendered heart (see World 6)</b></p> | <p>Infusion of a different kind of energy, a psychic force, associated with prayer, which concentrates force rather than dissipates it. It calls us to a path of transformation that does not lead us away from materiality but leads us to fully occupy it, straight into it and through it. (pp 54-6)</p> <p><b>Faith</b> is operative. It actually acts in the world, changing not only the outcome but the subtle physical composition of materiality. <b>Trust</b> – belief in the reliance upon and confidence in something/someone. (p49)</p> <p>How?</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conscious labor – intentional effort against autopilot; summoning <b>Conscious Awareness</b>; to be present with every breath and increase our capacity to stay present; mindfulness; presence</li> <li>2. Intentional suffering – increases heartfulness of that presence; invites us to willingly carry a piece of the universal suffering. It is conscious, clear, impartial, pure and free of personal gain or self-interest; spacious, nonurgent, unattached to outcome; and generous, offered on behalf of the larger whole; “hitting bottom”; <b>Surrender</b></li> </ol> <p>Conscious <b>attention</b> increases our capacity to stay present, and <b>surrender</b> radically increases the heartfulness of that presence.</p> <p>When the time is right, the heart’s own speaking will be clear.</p> <p><i>Intentional suffering emanates from World 12</i> where it bears the energy of Christic and Bodhisattva consciousness, the fully awakened heart that knows we are all in this together and that there is no “other.” It begins to resonate with the energy of World 6, where universal suffering metamorphizes into a cause principle – “<b>Pain is the ground of motion</b>,” as Jacob Boehme bluntly put it – the sufferings of the created order meet their uncreated prototype (Holy Absolute) in the suffering of God. Suffering is in the end a kind of primordial cosmic constant, the necessary cost of the “<b>birth of nothing into something</b>,” which is borne directly in the marrow of the divine heart as the Godhead (World 1), allowing itself to be drawn and quartered so that all other worlds may come into being.</p> <p>Intentional suffering is quintessentially <i>surrendering</i>. It is to lighten as much as possible the sorrow of our Common Father. When you catch the deep love and cosmic sadness flowing through these words, there is no other response than tears.</p> <p>We gradually develop the willingness and capacity to sacrifice our self-actualization under the laws of the lower 48 in order that the raw materials of our surrendered will and personal drama can instead be transformed into something of imperishably finer substantiality.</p> <p>According to Gurdjieff, we do not arrive with a soul. <b>Soul</b> is rather the supreme fruit of our earthly sojourn, forged in the refiner’s fire of our conscious labor and intentional suffering. ...What is left after the sculptor removes the outer layer to reveal the work of art. (Page 58)</p> |
| <p>World 48</p>   | <p><b>The world as we know it</b>, transmitted through the best of human culture.</p> <p>The first fruits of civilization – philosophy, ethics, religion, intellectual striving, cleverness, industry, curiosity, science, technology, the arts.</p> <p><b>Egoic</b> functioning and self-reflective consciousness; pre-conscious and still asleep; psychic.</p> <p>Our own distracted and not-yet-truly conscious earth plane; linear time, sequential causality; corporeal density; core behavioral motivator of attraction/aversion; sense of scarcity and <b>either/or</b>, ie duality.</p> <p>My body is flesh and blood, subject to physical laws, with vices and virtues.</p> <p>Sense of the authentic worth and purpose of this earth realm in the cosmic scheme of things in order to fathom the excruciating care exerted on our behalf and tap into the deeper motivations of the heart. The coarse material is our own organic existence and contributes a vital part in the homeostasis that allows anything to be in the first place. Everything has its unique role to play. Each cosmos (“ornament”) is beautifully artficed to bring forth some specific aspect of the divine longing to be known.</p> <p>Visible world; Earth; The Garden of Eden</p>   |
| <p>World 96</p>   | <p><b>Personality</b> – autopilot, conditioned, habitual, boring, stuck.</p> <p>Artificially acquired and obscuring our real essence.</p> <p>Moon; geosphere; not able to support organic life; unstable</p>   |
| <p>World 192</p>  | <p><b>Hell</b> realms – deeply disordered, anguished; ground of evil where consciousness has lost all spaciousness and congeals toward unbearable density.</p> <p>Craving, wrath, pride, envy, desire (Buddhism); obsessive fixation.</p> <p>Self-reflective consciousness turns on itself like a rabid dog biting its master [self-denigration; cynical, distrustful].</p> <p>The final outpost before consciousness collapses into outer darkness.</p> <p>The collective pain body of humanity and the planet itself.</p>  |
| <p>↓ World 12,288</p>   | <p>No longer conscious; inorganic chemistry; many laws and very dense realm</p>  |