

### Rían Czerwinski

Sept 19, 2020 on **Enneagram Openings** (post on Facebook) [https://www.facebook.com/groups/enneagramopenings/posts/1452854568258447/?comment\\_id=1841493682727865&notif\\_id=1647193160303528&notif\\_t=group\\_comment\\_follow](https://www.facebook.com/groups/enneagramopenings/posts/1452854568258447/?comment_id=1841493682727865&notif_id=1647193160303528&notif_t=group_comment_follow) 3/13/22

**Russ Hudson** – March 13, 2022 (posted reply on Facebook)

Quite a thread here. I can maybe fill in a few parts. Yes, I learned the Enneagram through the **Gurdjieff** Work and was a student of Madame De **Salzmann**, Henri Tracol, and others. I encountered **Ichazo's** Enneagons originally through an article in Charles Tart's book "Transpersonal Psychologies." Because of the legal troubles with **Helen** and Arica, that chapter was removed from the book and can only be found in the first edition copies. It is worth noting that the orthodox Gurdjieffians were less than enthusiastic about **Ichazo**, **Naranjo**, and the Enneagram movement, feeling that without the core of inner work, such maps were just a good way to get lost in intellectual distractions. I remember being curious about the Arica map, but not particularly compelled by the original article. In 1987, Don Richard **Riso's** first book, *Personality Types* came out, and I found it in a metaphysical bookstore here in NYC. (It was the second book on the typology following the book by **Beesing, O'Leary, and Nogosek**.) I was already over a decade into the Gurdjieff Work so anything with an Enneagram on the cover was of interest. I bought the book and found it helpful and interesting, but it was also clear to me that Don had not been exposed to the inner work behind the symbol. We met a few months later and he was fascinated by what I knew about G and the 4th Way, and I was intrigued by his ideas and wanted to learn more about them. For the record, Don did not learn about the Enneagram from **Rohr**, but from the line of Jesuits who came from Bob **Ochs**. But upon meeting me Don joined the Gurdjieff Work here in NY and we studied together there for several years before encountering Hameed Ali (**Almaas**) and joining his Diamond Approach School.

### Russ Hudson

What is confusing for many is that studying the Enneagram is studying two different lineages. One is the typology, which has roots in antiquity and was explicitly part of the teachings of the Desert Fathers and Mothers and shows up in various other guises in a few Sufi schools as well as in Christian mystical practices and Hermetic Doctrine. (**Beatrice Chestnut** has also been studying this lately and I look forward to us having some rich discussions about these topics.) The other line is the symbol itself which is more explicitly **Pythagorean** and was more the aspect that Gurdjieff taught about. Rodney **Collins** learned about the symbol from **Ouspensky** and was sent to teach the Work in Latin America. There he started exploring the idea of various "types" being connected with the Enneagram symbol, although he also related them to planetary energies in alignment with some of the Hermetic teachings. **Ichazo** was in a G group in South America and no doubt was struck by Collin's ideas and took them a lot further. I suspect that in greater antiquity these ideas

were more closely linked but that they were passed along in different lineages and are starting to come together again in our time. I would add that in my experience there IS something to the **Sarmoun Darq**, but it is complex subject and not really the sort of material suitable for a Facebook post. **Hameed** [AH Almaas, *Keys to the Enneagram*] mentions them explicitly in his new book btw, and I wrote a bit about the history in the foreword for that book.

### Sue Brooks

**Russ Hudson** -Howard **Addison's** Cast in God's Image discusses the relationship between E and the Kabbalah. How much does the Kabbalah play into the ancient origins of the Enneagram?

### Russ Hudson

**Sue Brooks** Yes, Howard has been a friend. There is a deep and explicit connection between Kabbalah and the Enneagram. **Ichazo** said quite plainly that it was one of the main inspirations and guides for his finding the sequence of the types on the symbol. I have had conversations with Orthodox rabbis here in NYC who heard me teaching and were amazed at how the content of the teaching was congruent with inner teachings and practices around Kabbalah. In my view, the ancient roots of western spirituality flowered and branched off into different streams--the 3 faiths of Abraham--Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, Greek philosophy, and the Hermetic Doctrine. But if we go far enough back, we see common origins for these traditions which result in parallel ideas and congruent perspectives later on.

### Russ Hudson

Last thing to say, is that my aim was to reconnect the personality map with the original core of practices and teachings behind it. I felt that the correct study of the passion, fixations, virtues, and Holy Ideas was an enormous help to anyone engaged in serious inner work regardless of their chosen path, but especially for people in 4th Way Schools. I also felt that some of those who had been intrigued by the typology would be interested in going on to some of the deeper work that was behind it. I came to the realization that many people who had learned the typology were content to stick with that, and many were doing good and helpful work with it. And that some of those claiming connection with the inner core had fallen into cult-like behaviors and were not necessarily really offering the transmission of the heart of what this was and is about. In the face of all of this, I have endeavored to create a welcoming environment where people can explore this on whatever level suits them, whatever level they feel called to, while doing my best to make sure that at least the components of the original teachings that have been put in my care get carried on--that there are places where serious students can get access to the practices of 4th Way Inner work.