

Hudson Q&A about his personal life bio history – Ancient Origins' promo

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from about 8 min to 16 min

I'm a 5, and as a kid, I was interested in science, chemistry, biology, natural history. I was raised in a Christian family but my family wasn't particularly religious. ... I felt there was something to this religious angle but I wasn't sure how it fit with science. As I got older I got more interested in the deeper spiritual journey. I came of age in the 1970s when there was an explosion in these things. ... and people were looking at the spiritual journey in a new way. In the mist of all of that, I encountered the teachings of George **Gurdjieff** who is the guy who brought the enneagram symbol to the modern world. You couldn't just waltz into a Gurdjieff Center. The Gurdjieff world was kind of underground and secretive, and I found the main core of the teaching. I met a teacher and worked with him and then met the big teacher of the tradition, Madam **Salzman** who actually lived with Gurdjieff for many years in Russia and later in France, and then she came to the United States.

It was through them that I learned practices and the Center and presence. I learned what it means to be centered, and most importantly in regard to the enneagram, I learned the symbol but I also learned about the very important idea that when we're identified with our personality, we're not fully here. We're not really here and in our heart and in our mind. So there's a difference between just going through my life on autopilot, and when I come back to myself.

The Gurdjieff work used the symbol but they didn't teach about 9 types, nor did Gurdjieff teach about that. That came from Oscar **Ichazo** in South America. He was a real mystic and explorer of consciousness. He also was a tremendous scholar of the spiritual traditions. He was looking at a number practices from the Western traditions that aligned with the ancient symbol of the enneagram. I was never directly involved with his school or him.

Later I came upon the work of Don Richard **Riso** who had studied Oscar's work and the work of Claudio **Naranjo**, and then produced one of the first books on typology, *Personality Types*. When I met Don, I had already been in the Gurdjieff work for over a decade so my orientation towards the enneagram was not about finding type right away. My orientation was about it being a tool to help us to come back to ourselves, to wake up to our true nature, to embody our spiritual consciousness, and then I saw the enneagram as a cool way to assist that. I think Oscar

would have agreed with that view, certainly Gurdjieff would have agreed with that view. There was a way that it was a tool to help us wake up to who and what we really are, and that's how I've always held it.

When I met Don, he was very interested in this and got interested in the Gurdjieff work. We later both worked with our friend and teacher A.H. **Almaas**. Through the whole thing, it began to weave it back to a growing curiosity and love for the Western spiritual traditions. I actually have a degree in Buddhist Studies from Columbia University, so I learned a lot about the Eastern traditions. But I was drawn again to re-examine what are Judaism and Christianity and Islam really telling us. What do they add to the whole spiritual picture? So I became interested in studying those things and working with people who were really experienced in practice in those traditions.