

# Coda

## **Seven aspects of knowing**

I picture my mind, which is my life, as a thousand-faceted diamond. I imagine that every facet is sparkling, but I'm content that most of them sparkle with mystery. There are just seven facets I wanted to try to describe.

They imply a continuum from knowing to not knowing, across which my conscious human mind plays its part in some larger scheme. Then, these seven aspects seem to form another shape that is something like a circle; the end is also the beginning. So I offer them here as a seven-pointed star.

I consider us all to be autopoietic (autonomous, connected and operationally closed), proactively perceiving, emotionally framed, accepting, knowing beings, belonging to a larger unknown whole by virtue of our imagination.

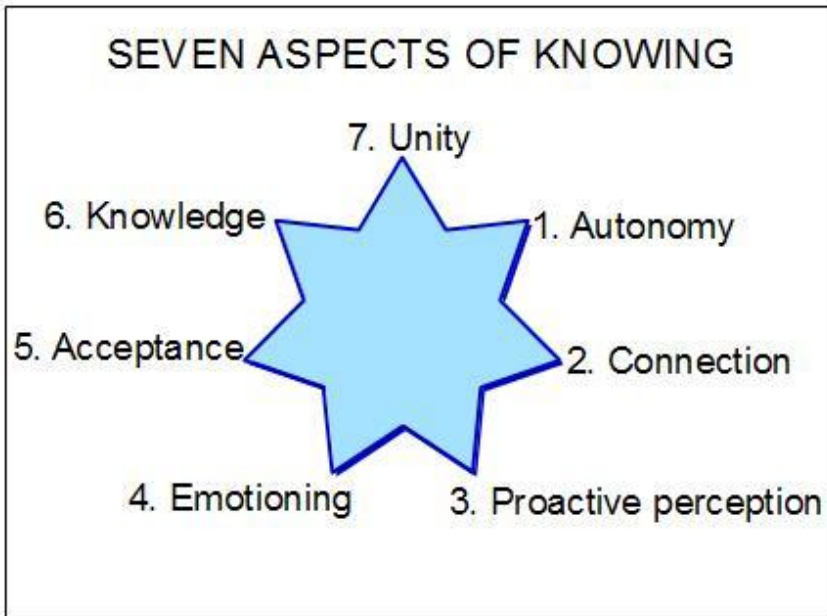


Figure 14. Seven aspects of knowing.

## ***The seven blind spots***

1. Not recognising our AUTONOMY (which implies connectedness), we think of ourselves as steered by outside influences, look outside ourselves for security, notice aloneness and fragmentation and promote a monoculture - a false togetherness - rather than respecting diversity and connectedness.

2. Unaware of the CONNECTEDNESS that arises directly from our operational CLOSURE, we connect casually rather than sincerely, mistakenly assume that meaning is transferable, often experience misunderstanding and worship objective information above relationship.

3. Misunderstanding the proactive and personal nature of our PERCEPTION, we blame the world for how we see it, waste ourselves arguing about an external reality, value objectivity instead of our connectedness, and strive, unrewardingly, to obtain more information.

4. Denying the EMOTIONAL mind and the primacy of emotional interconnectedness, we disconnect ourselves by privileging rationality, mismanage our relational space, misrepresent knowledge, undervalue aesthetics and demean our imagination.

5. Avoiding ACCEPTANCE and the freedom of SURRENDER, we deny the validity of our present moments as the true product of our history of connections, create machinations based on cause and effect, sabotage trust and thus meet resistance in much of what we do.

6. Misrepresenting KNOWLEDGE, we overestimate expertise underestimate the effect of everyday CONVERSING, not realising how it creates our changing culture, and therefore we neglect opportunities to promote respectful conversation.

7. Fearing and forsaking the unknown, we forget SPIRITUALITY by not acknowledging UNITY, thus shutting out the glory that our IMAGINATION gives us, settle for petty worship of false idols, go on trying to solve problems (which are emotional and spiritual) by technological means and deny our own perfection.

## ***Conclusions***

- Meaning is emotional-visceral before it is conceptual-propositional
- Meaning can't be transferred from one person to another.
- Meaning can be shared by means of emotional congruence.
- Decision-making is not simply due to conscious awareness.
- Free will exists only as we experience present moments in the context of a larger whole.
- Knowledge and intelligence are reified and misconstrued, to our social detriment.
- Not knowing is as important as knowing; our quality of life depends on how we relate to the unknown.
- Self-transcendence leads to the greatest self-satisfaction.