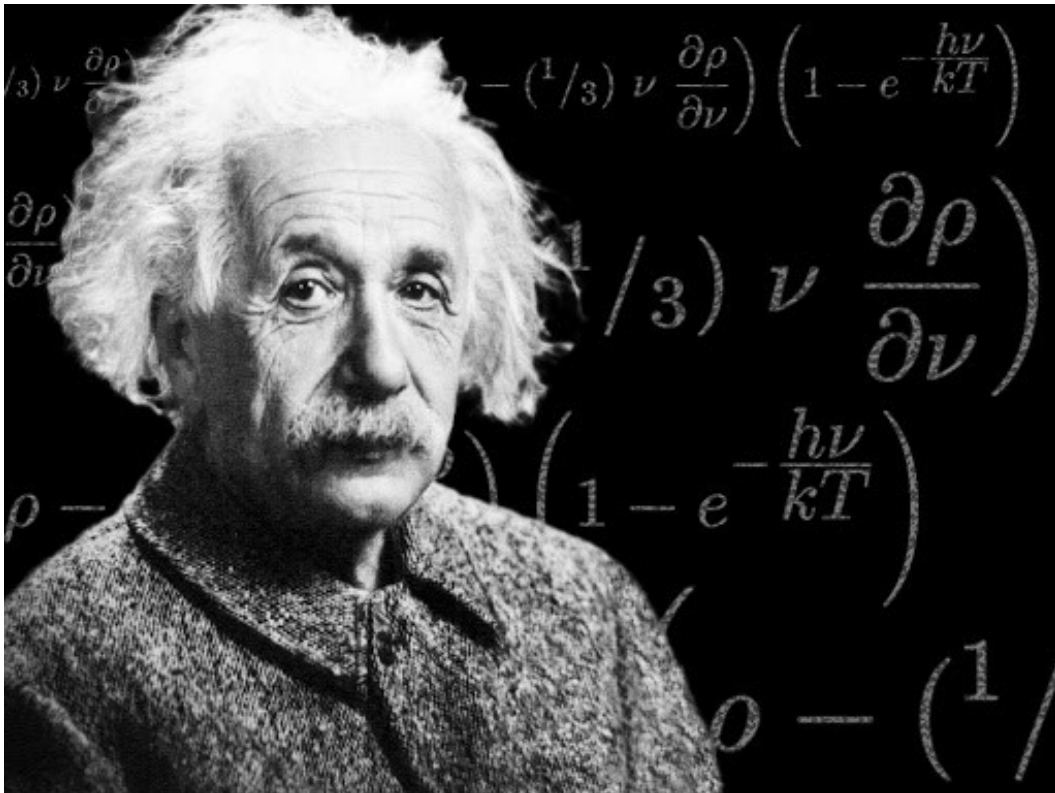


# Learning To Think Like Einstein!



Infinity-Valued Logic might at first sound a rather uninteresting backwater of knowledge; just a mathematical curiosity; maybe found in a dusty old book on the shelves of some obscure academic library.

But that's not so. In fact, the concept is both fascinating and of profound importance to everyday life, which in my opinion any worthwhile philosophical idea should be. Data is only as valuable as its applicability.

Approaching values and judgments the way I'm going to describe to you will revolutionize your grasp of reality and experience. This very different way of looking at things, making decisions and avoiding unnecessary destructive judgments gives us a brilliant tool for living.

Let's take a stroll through the concept and you will see how it really changes your view of the world. First, we'll build up from ground-level...

## Single-Valued Logic

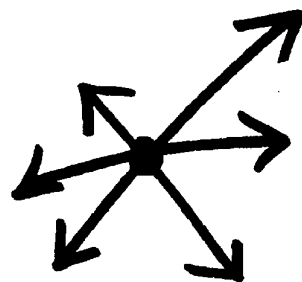
Step one is single-valued logic. This is the simplest judgmental logic possible, which probably characterized the thinking of primitive Man and may even apply to animals, so far as we know.

This is an apparently absolute standard. Things are that way, because that is the way they are! Within this framework, everything is the "Will of the gods" or "Fate".

Such doomful or fatalistic beliefs went unchallenged, because nobody supposed there was any alternative. It was assumed that nothing could be done to turn aside the course of events. At best, you could try to persuade the forces that governed the world to treat you better, by making sacrifices or carrying out penances.

But if the gods didn't listen, you got what was coming to you and that was that... so everybody supposed.

It was a very passive and undemanding view of Life, possibly suited to the hunter or early farmer, but not to a thinking being such as evolving Homo sapiens. Nevertheless, this single valued logic does survive to a degree, in dogmatic monotheistic religions, of which Christianity and Islam come to mind as examples.



### **SINGLE-VALUE LOGIC** **“Will of God”**

Possibly Aristotle's Prime Mover Unmoved belongs to this class of logic, though he was concerned with a much deeper issue: if everything in existence was brought about by some initiating force (the Prime Mover), where did that force originate from? If some force or act caused things to start, what caused that force?

A good question! It is a testament to Aristotle's stupendous powers of reasoning that he even asked it and it shows how the Ancient Greeks were pushing forward the boundaries of the human mind. They asked all the BIG questions over two thousand years ago.

Many of these questions are unanswerable still today.

#### **Weak Logic**

The trouble with the one-value logic is that it is pretty weak and often leads to contradictions. For example “God is love, God creates everything, Bad things happen, Therefore God causes bad things.” It doesn’t add up. This can cause doubt and confusion among believers.

Good things cannot cause bad things; it’s logically untenable! If you want God to be the cause of everything, as many do, then you have to get rid of the idea of bad. Even the devil was created by God, according to the scriptures.

It's the same with New Agers trying to make everything fit into "Spirit" or the Cosmos or whatever: "Everything is as it should be; everything has its place," kind of fluffy thinking. This leads to what I call "obsessive toleration", which is not true tolerance but a willingness to put up with vile realities, rather than face the challenge of improving matters. In fact it's a rather lazy philosophy at times, as well as unfulfilling.

### **Kismet and Karma**

Karma or "Fate" (Kismet) is another one-step-logic: everything is karma or fatalism. Well, it too can lead to idle inaction. It is either very strong or very weak thinking, according to how you view it. As I have written elsewhere, if karma rules all, then should we treat sick people or help the starving? Probably not.

This leads to rather the brutal attitude prevalent in Victorian times that poor people are weak-minded and lazy, so they should be left to suffer: that is their lot in life. It's "Fate".

### **The Dollar**

Money in some cultures can also become a kind of one-value logic. Anything and everything is measured against the dollar: peoples' worth, behavioral standards, plans, emotions—almost any judgment you can think of.

It's bad because a money standard is very false and hollow. The power invested in money leads to criminal and insane destructive behaviors. Greed is just a short-range emotion and very far from intelligent. You get the US President George W. Bush refusing to sign the Kyoto treaty of accord to prevent global warming, despite his predecessor having made the commitment to do so. His justification was that it will hurt the US dollar. Well, not as much as his foreign policy has hurt the dollar. But more importantly, what is the dollar going to be worth, when our planet is uninhabitable?

You can almost sympathize with crude greed, but not when it destroys the future for all. That's just plain madness.

Once again, single-value logic just doesn't add up.

### **No Cause And Effect**

One of the biggest problems with one-valued logic is that it denies history. If God created the universe once and for all, with all individuals, good or bad, within it, then there is no real concept of cause and effect.

This means there is no basis for science. We can't study processes or how things happened, if they didn't happen but are just "put there". The implacable arguments of intelligent design vs. evolution and other aspects of science cannot be resolved. The one thinks that a process led to change; the other denies there is any change or any process.

Karma, I suppose, allows history. Indeed Karma is built on history. But the same fundamental weaknesses in this logic too are troublesome. For example, it would

deny you can heal your karma; you would be stuck with it. That's not a comfortable thought and not what I believe at all.

I think karma is very redeemable! Supernoetics® is all about cleaning up your karma!

## Childhood Development

It is probable that we all go through a stage of single valued logic in our growth and development. Child psychologist Margaret Donaldson, in her book *Human Minds* (Viking Penguin, 1993), identifies four separate stages in psychology as we move through infancy to childhood.

It is not a book you are likely to ever want to read yourself, so I will summarize for you what she says:

According to Donaldson, babies all begin in what she calls *Point Mode* thinking, which lasts until about 8 months old. To the infant's viewpoint everything is here and now. This is clearly a single-valued thinking.

It then goes on to develop what she calls *Line Mode*. The budding mind's viewpoint begins to appreciate that events extend backwards and forwards in time. There is memory and future.

What follows she calls *Construct Mode*, which is the first effort to construct data and concepts that exist off the line; in other words are not necessarily real but related to real events. This is the beginning of imagination.

Finally, we get what she calls the Intellectual *Transcendent Mode*, where it is possible to conceptualize in the abstract, away from tangible reality.

She cites as an example mathematics. This is a highly abstract concept.

## Two-Valued Logic

Slightly more evolved is Two-Valued Logic. Here there are opposites: right and wrong, high and low, good and bad, true and false.

The Ancient Greeks came to grips with this too, in their debates about the natural world and ethics. This is the kind of logic most associated with Aristotle and it came to dominate thinking for over two thousand years.

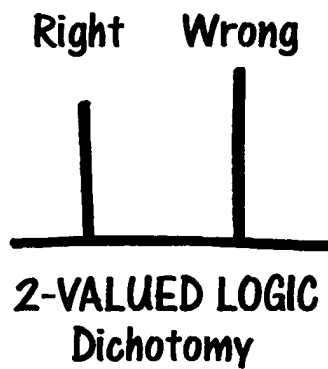
In fact "Aristotelean logic" is the term Korzybski coined for the foundation of his theory of *General Semantics*.

You could say it was the logic of the material universe. Or more exactly, Newton's universe, as opposed to Einstein's. It is a world of dualities or dichotomies.

Definition: *dichotomy*, a pair of opposites.

Division into two usually contradictory parts or opinions (FreeOnlineDictionary.com); a division into two especially mutually exclusive or contradictory groups or entities (Merriam-Webster's).

It can be represented diagrammatically as follows:



In religion, the two values manifest as the God and Devil dichotomy or goodness and evil, locked forever in a conflicting duality. The Bible story of the expulsion from the Garden of Eden is an interesting parable on this theme and most people, I think, miss the point. It's not just a story about behaving badly.

It represents an enormous leap of the faculties to switch from a one-sided "will of God" view of life to the more liberal idea of choice. Stealing from the Tree of Knowledge was indeed a theft of enormous magnitude, when it was learned that there was more than one possible view of Life.

It was a dangerous discovery and one full of potential stress and intellectual disharmony. Once admitted, no longer could matters of living be entirely simple or the human mind ever fully at ease again. For every system of values, there would from now on always be the contrasting view tugging at our consciousness.

Beauty presupposes ugliness; rich defines poor; and "politically correct" gives at once the parameters for a pariah. It seemed to be a more expansive and enlightened view of existence but was inconvenient, to say the least.

You could no longer think a saintly thought, without *creating* the concept of evil in the same instant. If you defined a good man, you put onto the face of our Earth a bad man, where previously none had existed. Abel created Cain, as surely as Cain slew Abel, to continue the metaphors of the Bible.

**TIME OUT:** Why don't you take a moment for a simple exercise and try jotting down a couple of opposites you can think of. Note how the perception of one rests on recognition of the opposite. Each defines the other!

## **Science**

This duality applies to science too, not just religion and philosophy. One cannot have a positive electrode without a negative one; energy either exists or does not; a force field is either strong or weak (though this can be relative); a nerve fibre either has an electrical potential or has discharged and lost it.

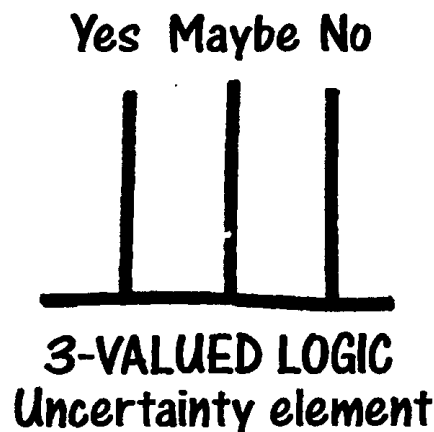
Two-valued logic seems rather trivial to us today and thus we are inclined to undervalue its significance. We have lived with it so long, it seems obvious; even childish in its simplicity.

In other words we take it for granted, as an elementary truth. And here we get careless, because duality is not the truth.

Well, at least not quite!

### **Yes No Maybe**

There is a more subtle version of reality, which one might describe as Yes No Maybe.



Engineers have given us this sort of value estimation. The bridge is either long enough or it isn't... but it might be too long in hot weather, so rolling bearings are devised, to allow the metal to expand.

This three-tiered logic surfaces with a vengeance in the realm of quantum physics, where the only certainty about one or other alternative is that there is no certainty.

In fact the principle of MAYBE is so firmly enshrined in this new view of the universe that it is called The Uncertainty Principle, attributed to Werner Heisenberg: it states you can't know with certainty where a particle is, or what's it's doing (velocity), at the same time.

It seems a small technical detail but actually it's HUGE. Science is built of certainties (or pretends to be). Once certainty is lost, scientists get very nervous and try to pretend it's all nonsense.

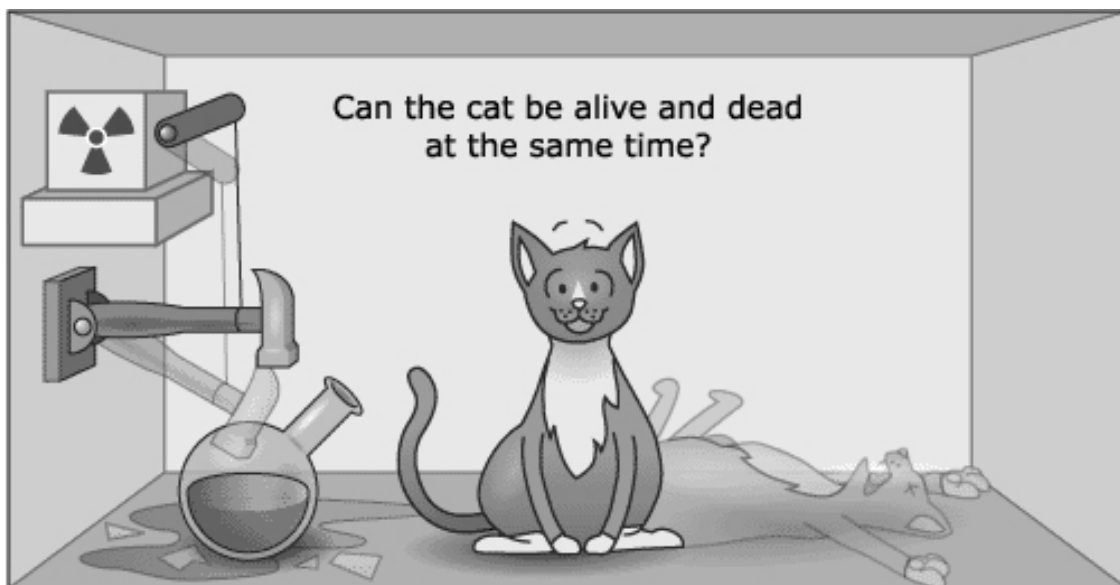
### **Poor Moggie**

This is best illustrated by reference to Erwin Schrödinger's famous cat experiment. He supposed a box which contained a cat and a glass phial of prussic acid (cyanide), which could be broken by a special mechanism, which may or may not be triggered by the cat.

The point of the experiment was that, after the cat had been in the box a finite time, it was equally likely that the animal was alive or dead (uncertainty).

The only way of knowing was to open the box. But, says this classic "thought experiment" (I don't think it was ever done in real life), the act of opening the box

artificially collapses reality into one of two equally valid pathways and that conditions in the box have been violated or lost, rather than what we would term resolved.



We have interfered with the truth by trying to inspect it.

Lest you doubt this uncritical and "hung" version of truth and feel it cannot in fact work, then you had better know that it has helped us progress in science to the point of developing computers and CD players.

In other words, it has an applicability which means, within our everyday experience, that it must be "correct".

### **The Middle Way**

You know, our ingrained acceptance of the Aristotelean dualistic logic makes us rather blind and arrogant. We think it is "right" and would not accept the views of somebody who didn't use dualistic logic, at least some of the time.

But in the East, dualism is thought of as the weak-minded logic. They don't understand our view. For them, everything is combined in one. Opposites fuse, not out of primitive simplicity but as a very sophisticated psychology that transcends dualism.

In the religious arena, a three-tier logic can be identified in the Buddhist concept of the "Higher third".

In this liberal and gentle view of life there is no right and wrong, no reason to fight wars, but the Real Truth is above all things, beyond duality, conflict and striving. The best part of the road to travel is in the middle, avoiding either extreme.

It is opposites, said Buddha, which bring about tension, and all the desires of the earthly self which so torment man with unsatisfied longings.

The "Middle Way", as Buddhism became known, is a whole religious creed based on this third standard of logic. Is it any coincidence that the Buddhists are a loving

and free people, who want nothing, never seek to dominate others, never immolate themselves in the pursuit of happiness (such a paradox!) and have never fought a war in the name of their faith?

If you read eastern writings, especially Zen Buddhism, you will come across stuff like this from the sage Lao Tzu:

To be bent is to become straight.  
To be empty is to be full.  
To be worn out is to be renewed.  
To have little is to possess.

Doesn't seem much connected with Western logic and "science" at all, does it? Aristotle's classic A and not-A are the embodiment of the classification and separateness ideas. To an oriental A can equal not-A. No problem!

But interestingly, this logic mode has surfaced in Western thought too.

### **Complementarity**

From the earliest days, several of the founder figures of quantum mechanics realized they were treading in new territory with their discoveries.

The world was no longer simply to be divided into opposites or dichotomies, along Aristotelean lines but certain paired properties, though apparently the reverse of each other, actually defined each other.

In physics, these related pairs are called "conjugates" or "complements". The two linked were much more hazy around the edges than the hard and fast boundaries of what were once seen as independent variables, unrelated to the opposite variable in character or function.

The conjugate effect is just another version of the "higher third"; the two become a one; become a third element.

The classic example which forced all this home was the dual nature of light: it was a wave, it was a particle. It couldn't be both because they were opposites. But light does act both as a wave and a particle beam. It's a "both".

Similarly, analysis and synthesis, supposedly opposites, were conjugates; so were logic and intuition; and self and not-self. The latter is particularly sweet to us, as consciousness devotees. Nothing in the Cosmos is not touched by and imbued with human consciousness. Whatever we connect with is part of us and we connect with everything, in one way or another.

Neils Bohr called this blend of physical and spirit "complementarity".

Werner Heisenberg, discoverer of the "uncertainty principle" and Wolfgang Pauli, discoverer of the "exclusion principle" and one-time collaborator with Carl Jung on the subject of synchronicity also had a view on this mix of temporal and spiritual processes.

### **Fuzzy Logic**



You may have heard of so-called “fuzzy logic”, more or less invented by whizz kid Bart Kosko. He’s now professor of electrical engineering at the University of Southern California (USC) and holds degrees in philosophy, economics, mathematics, electrical engineering, and law.

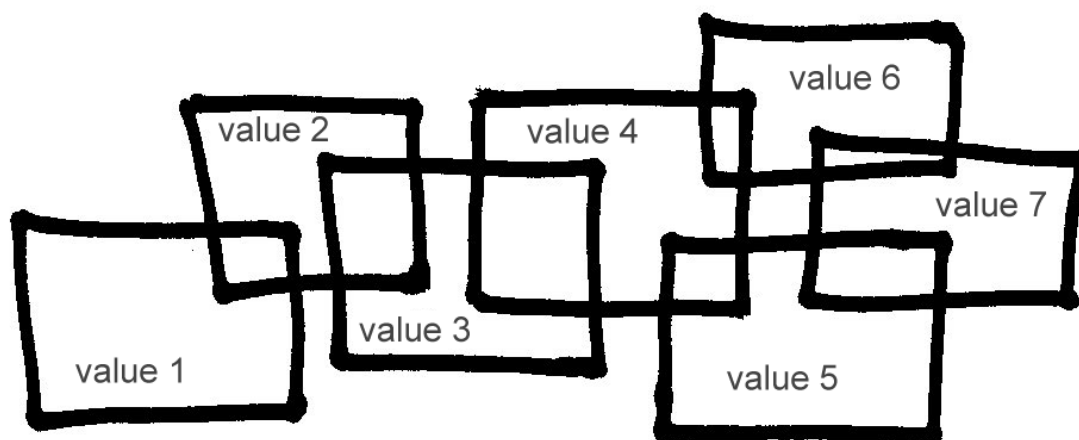
His best-selling book *Fuzzy Logic* explains the power of “maybe” as a plus adjunct, not a problematic slayer of certainty.

It’s very controversial. But his opponents can’t get round the fact that the Tokyo subway system runs flawlessly on a fuzzy logic system, developed by Kosko.

Fuzzy logic recognizes more than simple true and false values. With fuzzy logic, propositions can be represented with degrees of truthfulness and falsehood. For example, the statement, today is sunny, might be 100% true if there are no clouds, 80% true if there are a few clouds, 50% true if it's hazy and 0% true if it rains all day.

Fuzzy logic has proved to be particularly useful in expert systems (a computer application that performs a task that would otherwise be performed by a human expert, such as medical diagnosis software) and other artificial intelligence applications. It is also used in some spell checkers to suggest a list of probable words to replace a misspelled one.

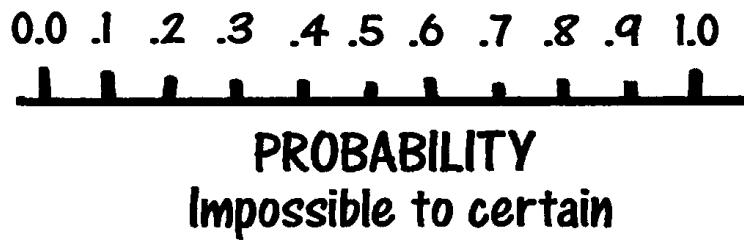
Here’s a depiction of the multiple values of so-called fuzzy logic:



## Probability

Then comes the science of probability, where there is a scale of values, ranging from 0 (not possible) to 1.0 (total certainty).

If a coin is equally likely to come down on one side or the other, we can say the probability is 0.5.



Probability was invented by Girolamo Cardano (1501- 1576), a true “Renaissance Man” or polymath, a doctor, mathematician, astrologer and inveterate gambler.

He wanted to manage the odds in gambling, to work in his favor. The best use of Cardano’s system so far is not in the cards but in the very foundation of quantum physics. Random chance examined via probability is at the core of our modern view of the universe.

We sometimes use this system of logic in our everyday lives, when we say "on a scale of one to ten, how do you feel?" Or we can ask a person to assess their pain on a scale of 1 - 10.

This decimal scale of values is much wider than yes-no-maybe but nevertheless, is limited because it is finite. There are cut off points at each end. However the steps along the way can be almost infinitely finely shaded.

But we can go further and get much more, as you will see...

### **Infinity-Valued Logic**

You may have noticed that a scale of logic is developing, with several discreet points already identified.

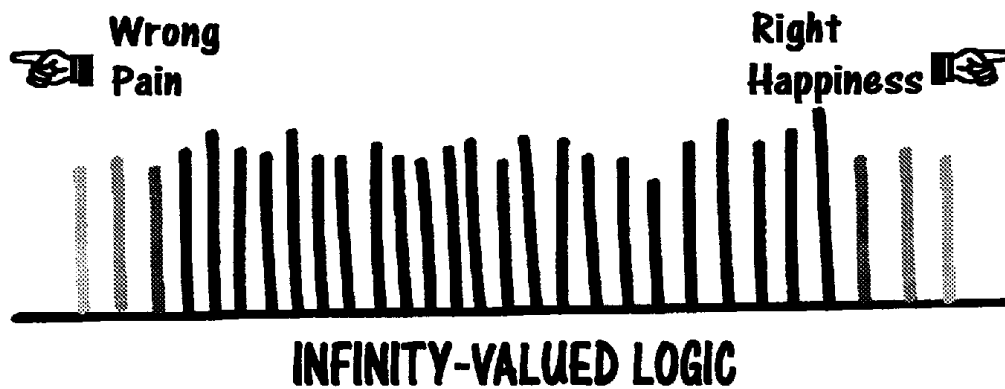
How many potential points are there? What if you postulated the idea of an infinite number of steps or degrees, progressing from very yes at one end, through maybe, to very no at the other?

In other words there could be many stages of untrue, partly untrue, less and less untrue, maybe but probably untrue, just maybe (50/50), maybe and probably true, certainly true, even more true, to completely true!

Interestingly, as you see, the words simply do not exist to cover this innovative and exciting concept. I had to make them up.

Thus a powerful incremental scale of logic is born (increments: increasing or changing by small degrees or stages). It is a sophisticated and widely applicable reasoning, that can be applied to almost anything: beautiful - ugly, honest-dishonest, sexy - sexless, good - evil and so on.

It can be represented like this, with wrongness shading off to the left and rightness shading off to the right.



## Non-Judgmental

Inherent in the scheme is the fact that a judgment of either extreme of the scale is relatively meaningless. Everything in life is part of a spectrum. What matters is to understand the whole range of values and not to pick out and argue about what are, after all, only certain stages on a journey through that spectrum.

It is at once a kindly and enlightening philosophical tool. With it, it is now up to each of us to take responsibility for where we are in that scale and try to progress towards the good (survival) end.

A crook who has reformed, ever so slightly, perhaps still robbing people but no longer hurting them, has made just as valid a step towards good as a church leader, who never broke a law in his life, does when fasting for a charity cause.

A church leader who stole from the collection tray in fact would be going in the wrong direction and not doing as well as the crook!

## Absolutes Are Unattainable

Intrinsic in the incremental scale is a very important corollary, which is that the scale has no limits.

No matter how far you push in one particular direction, it is always possible (though increasingly difficult) to go just that little bit further.

In other words: *absolutes are unattainable* (law).

This is what makes the infinity logic scale such an important key to philosophy and why you will find it referred to in many forms in Supernoetics® writings.

No matter how good something is, it is always possible to improve; no matter how bad, it could always be worse. If there are no limits, then it follows that it isn't possible to be totally bad.

## Infinity Concept

New ideas from physics and the nature of the universe leads us to the conclusion that this so called "Einsteinian" universe (after Albert Einstein, who changed our

appreciation of the nature of the Cosmos with his theories of Relativity) is based instead on what Count Alfred Korzybski dubbed Infinity-Valued Logic ("*Science and Sanity*", 1933).

Korzybski pointed out the semantic difficulties with a concept such as infinity and made it clear that, apart from the specialized application of mathematics, it is really a psychologically incomprehensible term.

You read that right.

Mathematical infinity was first put on record by the Roman poet Titius Lucretius in the first century BC. But it wasn't until the late 19th century that mathematicians rediscovered infinity and formulated it rigorously, without the poetry.

Today we understand it as little as ever but hopefully, by the end of this piece, you will find a clearer everyday use for it.

### **Redeeming**

This infinite shading has its redeeming aspect too: there is always a germ of goodness remaining in anyone, no matter how corrupt. Similarly, of course, the opposite is also true: that it isn't possible to be wholly good. And here we see again an echo of the dichotomy logic but in a much more subtle and integrative form.

Incidentally, natural science has come to accept the speed of light as an absolute, according to Einstein's theory of relativity. Certain of the validity our philosophic principle, we can predict that sooner or later this barrier will come a cropper.

And sure enough, there are already murmurings that the speed of light can—and must be—transcended.

Time Out: Try another little exercise. Jot down something, just one tiny thing maybe, that is very, very good about your life.

Now work out a way that attribute could be just a little bit better. Do you begin to understand what I mean about absolutes being beyond practical reach?

### **Incremental Change**

Interesting, but what use is the incremental concept? Actually, it is the key to everything you are searching for! If you want to lead a happier life, the answer lies right there in front of you; any tiny improvement in your condition or prospects means you are happier! You don't have to be absolutely or "really" happy!

Progress towards the pleasure end of the scale, no matter how small or faltering, means increased happiness. Any step in the opposite direction of pain, any slow or reversal in progress, no matter how insignificant, is a step towards unhappiness and, ultimately, failure and death.

You don't need to find yourself at the predominantly happy end to be "happier"; you just have to move towards it. If life is awful but suddenly improves, you got happier. Do you see?

## **Really Bad Can Still Get Better**

So if life is pretty bad you've lost your job, the bank has foreclosed, the wife has walked away with your best friend, your kids won't speak to you and you've just been told the tumor is malignant, you would be pretty unhappy.

But you could be happier by moving, even a tiny degree, towards that pleasant end of the scale. Say you wrote to the kids and one of them replied; or you decided to fix the leaking shed roof while no-one was there to distract you; or you took off for a driving weekend in France... all these acts might make you feel better and, of course, this is a common experience.

The trick is to know and use this datum, not wait for uncontrolled events in life to bring you something that will make you feel better; it may never happen!

Instead, go out and do something that will improve your standing on the scale of goodness and happiness. Then do something else, then something else, and so on, until you gradually edge towards a much happier state.

Be positive. Think "upwards" not "downwards", more importantly DO the things that will better your state, and things will inevitably improve.

Life will back you in the end; she loves a winner who won't quit!

## **Feeling Overwhelmed?**

Most people, faced with overwhelming set backs, just give up. They don't feel there is any possibility of getting back to where they were. This could be true. But the important point is that though it may be impossible to bounce back in one leap, it may be quite feasible to get there by slow, simple steps.

Even if not, that is no reason to freeze like a deer in the headlights. The drunk on skid row may never get his wife or job back; but if he could give up drinking, to that degree he takes control of his life and will be rewarded by an increase in happiness.

This will measure as "less awful" or getting up from "total failure" to "less than total failure". You couldn't call it happiness but you could call it progress towards happiness.

Maybe other people won't see any real outward improvement; to them he is still a dirty, indigent bum: but inside, something will have bettered.

## **Debts**

This gradation approach is particularly useful when it comes to confronting debts.

Individuals deeply in debt often find their situation so overwhelming, they can't face it. A solution begins to seem so far out of reach, that the desire to achieve freedom from this financial prison disappears over time. Inertia takes over. Matters drift. Often more bills pile up and the situation just gets worse and worse. The individual is stuck.

The incremental approach is not just helpful but is the crucial factor in success. It starts with the knowledge that even one step—to reduce the debt even a tiny amount—is a step towards freedom. It can be repeated over and over, until the mountain begins to visibly reduce. You may not know how many years down the line it will be before your debts are gone but you must persuade yourself that recovery is simply a matter of continuous tiny steps towards your goal.

The temptation is to argue that, “things are so bad anyway, that a few dollars more or less won’t make any difference,” or “The total debt is so huge that just to pay off a few dollars here and there won’t make any impact.”

Not true.

You can climb the biggest mountain in the world, if only you take it one small step at a time. The nice thing about this metaphor is the fact that the view, the scenery, continues to improve as you steadily ascend towards your goal!

Travel hopefully. One day you will arrive.

## **Business**

The Japanese economic miracle is no mere accident. There is no one factor to attribute it to, but one theme is central to this massive success story: they call it "Kaizen".

We don't even have any Western equivalent word, which is significant. Linguistic psychologists tell us that the metaphor of language defines our lives; which means simply, if there is no word, we don't experience it.

Probably the nearest equivalent we have is the idiosyncratic phrase, "Every day, in every way, I am getting better all the time!"

We laugh at this hackneyed expression but if it can turn a war torn nation into a super power, it must be worth revisiting.

### **Little By Little, Then... Bang!**

Kaizen is simply the idea of incremental progress at work. Find a little piece of the job, the product or the service that you can improve and then do it. Find another piece and improve that...

Day by day, notch by notch, getting nearer to perfection in quality. It brings enormous satisfaction to the Japanese worker, indeed it is an entire philosophy for them. To shirk it would be as alien to them as working overtime without pay seems to be in Britain.

The results for the Japanese economy and the international prestige of that small island nation are very evident.

We call it an economic miracle but in fact it is relentless progress and not, as a miracle, something transforming that happened in a flash.

It took them forty years; if we were willing to invest forty years in patient incremental improvements, we would get there too. The trouble is, everyone is looking for that instant effect and seems unwilling to go the slow sure route.

The suddenness is an apparenacy. It occurs in many circumstances where someone is working away at a problem. Long periods may pass without any apparent improvement. An individual may become disheartened and even give up, feeling that success is impossible. But by continuing on a course, there will eventually be a sudden and startling change, a major advance we would describe as a breakthrough.

It may appear that this came all at once but almost invariably it was prepared for by many small increments, which made the sudden surge possible. There is even a scientific term for this sudden shift phenomenon, which is "punctuated equilibrium". For example, millions of years may pass with no real change in an animal population then, suddenly, in a very short time, a whole new species emerges!

Factually, the vast majority of people quit just before their "punctuation" or breakthrough moment. They simply don't go on long enough.

Never forget this important point when the going gets tough and you feel like quitting.

### **The Rocket Ship Analogy**

Let's use another analogy, the rocket ship. Did you know that 85% of the rocket's fuel is used up in the first few seconds, just getting off the ground and into space? Once there, it can coast to the moon and back, and land again safely, on just 15% of its fuel load.

When a rocket is taking off, it is not travelling at thousands of miles an hour. Remember the scenes you have seen on TV of the giant Saturn V slowly, slowly, slowly edging upwards past the metal tower? It hardly seems to be moving at all for the first couple of seconds. Gradually it goes faster and faster. It accelerates. Leaving the atmosphere (60 miles deep) is a tiny part of the half million miles to the moon and back. Yet that is where its biggest effort comes.

It's the same for us launching ourselves. Getting started is the biggest problem of all. But we also have to accept things move slowly at first. Keep up the pressure and they gradually get faster and faster. Patience is one of the greatest keys to success. So many, ever so many, poor individuals have given up just before their rewards came.

Now remember also that when the rocket is moving, when it gets past the initial resistance, out of the atmosphere, then nothing will hold it back. Once on target, it will arrive no matter what. Only minor effort at course correction is needed. Success and wealth can be like that too. You try and try and work and work; then suddenly, something starts to happen. It grows. It accelerates faster and faster. Pretty soon you may find the wealth, fame and satisfaction pouring in, ten-fold, then a hundred-fold, a thousand-fold!

It's worth waiting for. Unfortunately, this culture has no patience. It demands instant gratification and results. This is exaggerated by the media obsession with celebrities and people who have "made it" overnight. Stories abound, without the counter-balance of the fact that this is most unusual. Moreover, many (most) instant successes carry the seeds of their own destruction. There are plenty of those stories.

I ask you, if you wanted a million dollars and it took all your life to get it, would that be a failure? If you were an actor or actress and played bit parts for decades and then suddenly got your big break, would that be failure?

Not in my book! Only quitting is failure in my book.