

WHAT DOES “NEW” MEAN?

Extract from unfinished notes (c.1965)
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The word *New* has a large range of meanings and it is used in various ways. We must discriminate to understand them clearly and use them appropriately.

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New can be and is employed to indicate eight different attitudes:

To experiment once more individually with something which is well known to others.

This could be called the *new existential*.

Existential meaning any experience which is subjectively new and unique.

- ***New forms and new symbols used to express in a new form an idea, a principle, a value, previously expressed.***

Many people do not make a distinction between the idea and its expression, between a truth and how it is expressed. The lack of discrimination, of acknowledgment of a truth or principle *apart* from its expression can have very damaging results. Often the rejection of a certain form can lead to the rejection of the eternal idea and the eternal principle which underlies them.

- A less accentuated type of newness is that of ***a more or less large change in existing forms; adaptation or renewal. This is the truly constructive meaning of re-form.***
- The ***new emphasis or importance*** given to specific qualities or aspects, contained in different areas but with fundamentally the same meaning.
This can be observed for example in the religious

field. All the major religions proclaim the same fundamental principles and values. The differences of emphasis have given rise to different doctrines, to different forms and ways of religious life, and are therefore in a certain sense, *new*.

- ***New applications of a known principle or law.***
This always happens, especially today [year 1965 approximately], in science and in technical inventions.
- ***New combinations*** of existing elements, to produce new substances.
- ***New procedures*** and new techniques to produce the same benefits, or energies, in more practical and economic ways.
- ***What is new in an intrinsic and complete sense is the appearance of something original, which has never existed and is sometimes opposed to what exists.***
This takes place in nature and in human activities. In nature, it has been defined as emergent evolution and manifests itself in biological mutations, in the appearance of new plant and animal species. In humanity it is the result of creative activities that give rise to new styles in art, to new literary productions, new discoveries, new theories and “models” in science.

All these types of “New” are present and active in the manifestation of the New Age and it is good to recognize them when they manifest.