
Direction of Time

1st Degree Paper - *Historia Illius Itineris*

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Introduction

This paper is to serve merely as an introduction to a subject that is explored in depth in the 4 day Level 6 training, "The Time Portal." There are no conclusions in this paper, it serves merely to illustrate some of the factors that can be explored in metaphor, each participant ought to draw their own conclusions with regards to meaning and interpretation and not rely on other people's interpretations.

To develop upon the time themes that are taught in level 2 of MoM we will first revisit the three main categories from the training.

Motion

1. Time can be experienced as either moving or still.
2. We can be either moving through time, or static in relation to time.
3. Thus two people in a prison cell together. One passes the time, the other waits for time to pass. All other things being identical, these two prisoners will have very different experiences with regards to time.
4. Passivity, reactivity and proactivity are also important factors to be considered when it comes to understanding an individuals relationship to time.

Circular/cyclical versus linear time

1. Agricultural communities are more likely to possess a bias towards circular/cyclical time, with strong observation of seasons, lunar and solar cycles, tides, motion of the planets and other rhythms of nature. (**Note:** *you will probably want to explore the differences between circular and cyclical*).
2. Industrial communities are more likely to have a bias towards linear time and measure "progression" against a baseline or historical marker.

Prospective versus retrospective

1. A prospective bias will produce a tendency towards future orientation, technology, advancement and progress. They see themselves as "forward thinking."
2. A retrospective bias is more traditional with respect for tradition with strong family and cultural values, traditional festival celebrations. Forward thinkers see them as "backward" thinking.

Explorations (i):

1. Mix and match from these different categories and list out characteristics that you'd expect to see.

For example: (i) *Time as static, yet cyclical with a retrospective bias*, or (ii) *Moving time, linear, prospective*.

2. Draw these as diagrams, as though to be a template for a metaphor.

For example, *time as static, yet cyclical and retrospective bias* might look like a man facing the rear of a train that is going around a small circular track. He always sees where he has been, but never makes any progress to anywhere different. Every day is the same as every other day. He rarely thinks about tomorrow, and talks a lot about the past.

Work through as many of the variables as possible.

3. From your diary, or using examples from other people, examine metaphors for the time qualities outlined in this paper. What *can* be detected, what *cannot* be detected? Compare your explorations with other people.

Explorations (ii):

For a metaphor that has time as moving

- What direction does the time move?
- What is the effect of moving in the same direction as time?
- What is the effect of moving in the opposite direction to time?
- What about the other directions, what happens when you move in a perpendicular direction?

For a metaphor that has time as static

- What changes in terms of the rate of the passing of time when moving in different directions? For example, does one pass the time quicker thinking about the past or future? Experiment with all the different directions, including the vertical axis.

Explorations (iii):

- What is the relationship between these variables and The Compass directions, i.e. "The Aspiration", "The Discarded", "The Overlooked" etc?