

Baha'i Concepts of Capacity
Building
as a Response to
Adverse Climate Change

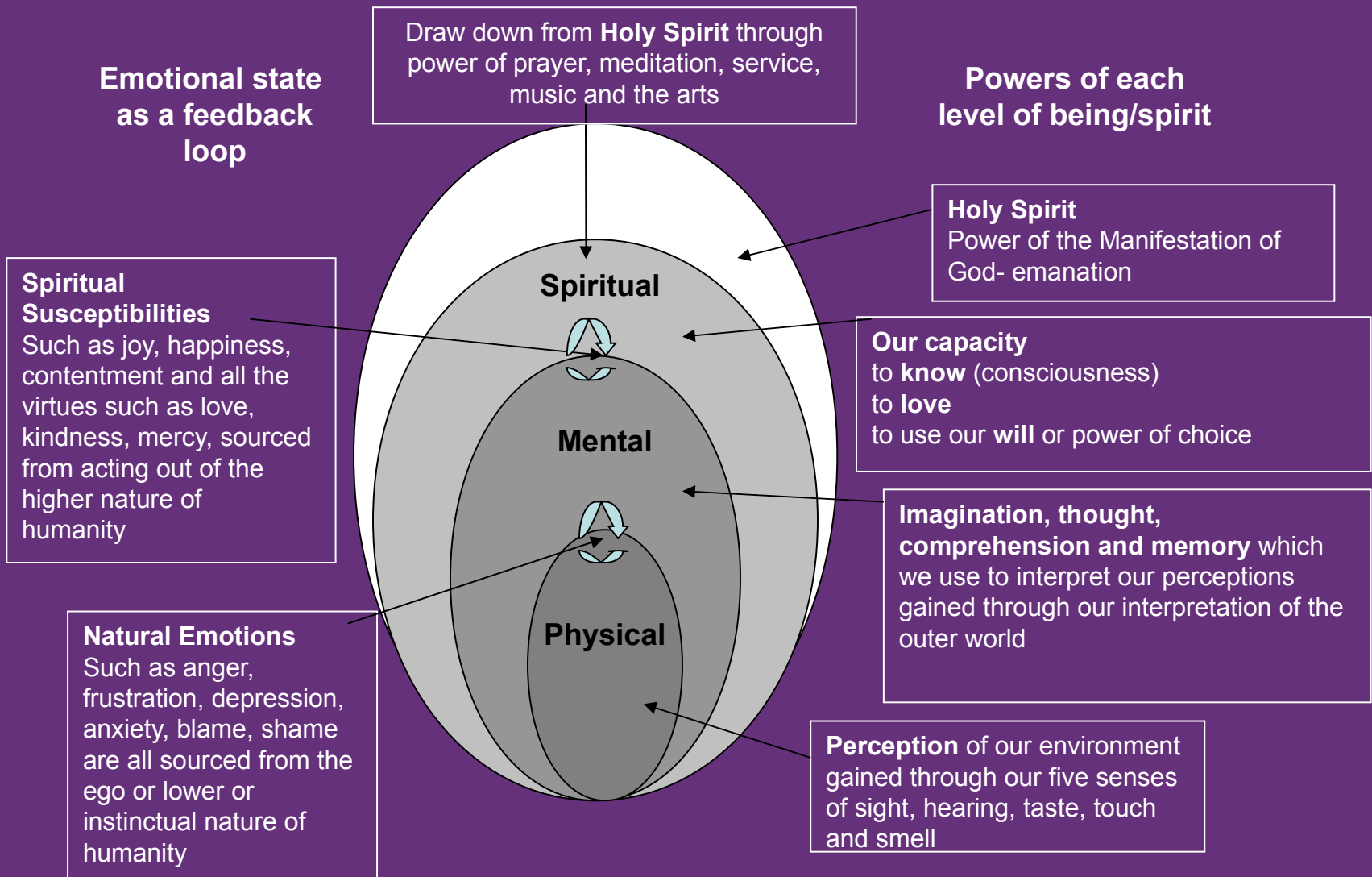
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Who are we?

- Created to be interdependent with the world of nature
- Created with a dual nature
 - Can focus on self interest or
 - Become transcend considering needs of the common good
- Socially evolving beings moving to the collective adulthood of the human race of an interdependent global community
- Possible to educate humanity to achieve its collective maturation

Beings Capable of Transformation

Map of Self



Redefinition - Interdependent Relationship

Sacred purpose - more than rights and responsibilities

- Five levels of Creation Five levels of Spirit
- | Manifest-form | Life force |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. Mineral Kingdom | |
| 2. Vegetable Kingdom | 1. Growth |
| 3. Animal Kingdom | 2. Senses-perception |
| 4. Human Kingdom
(Intellect) | 3. Rational Soul |
| 5. Divine Kingdom
(Great Teachers- Manifestations of God) | 4. Spirit of Faith (Belief) |
| | 5. Holy Spirit |

Three Habits of Thought

- Look at the totality of a situation
- See as paradoxical rather than false dichotomies – decision making based on spiritual principles
- Explore as a systems view

Need for Unified Action

- The Bahá'í approach believes we have the necessary capacity to solve all the problems currently facing humanity.
- The basis of our current issues lies more in a 'paralysis of will' and a need to build unity among nations to achieve a sustainable, just and peaceful interdependent world civilization.
- Can be identified as a need to build ethical and moral capability.

Role of Religion

- More than a political, economic and scientific problem
- Religion can help to inspire grass roots change
- Important for citizen groups and individuals to provide motivation and empowerment at the grass roots level
- To build capacity to rise above self interests to exercise moderation, justice, love, reason, sacrifice and service to the common good.

Systematic and Sustainable Process

- Create safe and caring environments where we learn through trial and error
- Encourage individuals and neighbourhoods to take responsibility for their own social, economic and educational advancement
- Educate children and junior youth to undertake both spiritual education and service activities related to environmental sustainability

Children's Classes



Junior Youth Empowerment Program



staff who make the Festival possible

Building Spiritual Communities



Capacities that contribute to personal transformation

- The capacity to evaluate one's own strengths and weaknesses without involving the ego: self-evaluation.
- The capacity to learn from systematic reflection on action within a consistent, evolving conceptual framework.
- The capacity to take initiative in a creative and disciplined way.
- The capacity to endeavour, persevere, and overcome obstacles in the achievement of goals.
- The capacity to oppose one's lower passions and egocentric tendencies by turning towards higher purposes and capacities: self discipline.
- The capacity to manage one's affairs and responsibilities with rectitude of conduct based on moral and ethical principals.
- The capacity to think systematically in search for solutions.

Capacities that contribute to improved interpersonal relations

- The capacity to imbue one's thoughts and actions with love.
- The capacity to encourage others and to bring joy to their hearts.
- The capacity to be loving and responsible member of a family and community.
- The capacity to create and promote unity-in-diversity.

Capacities that contribute to social transformation

- The capacity to create a vision of a desired future based on shared values and principles, and to articulate it clearly and simply so that it inspires in others a sense of commitment towards its fulfilment.
- The capacity to understand relationships of domination and to contribute towards their transformation into relationships based on reciprocity, sharing and mutual service.
- The capacity to contribute to the establishment of justice.
- The capacity to commit oneself to the process of empowering educational activities.
- The capacity to serve on institutions of society in ways that assist their members to develop and utilize their talents and capacities in service to mankind.
- The capacity to perceive and interpret the meaning of present-day social processes and events in the light of an appropriate historical perspective.