

Value

An essay by Ian Weinberg

My approach to making sense of complicated concepts has always been to break things down into their most simplified forms and then develop them in the context of a broad integration.

For me the most fundamental entity is **value**. Value represents a measure of our contribution to ourselves, to those closest to us or dependant upon us, to our environments and those within them and most importantly, to the collective evolution of knowledge and awareness. If the latter dynamic is subject to the process of integration, then the collective consciousness is enhanced. Integration may be defined as a process in which multiple concepts are applied across multiple environments/situations thereby contributing to a unified continuum.

In practical terms, value reflects the energy or work expended in the creation of something meaningful or purposeful:

At the personal level – value enhances self-worth, personal meaning and purpose.

At the inter-personal level – value inspires, mentors, guides and protects.

In the workplace – value conceptualizes, strategizes, manages and produces

In the extended environment – value sustains and maintains

In the collective consciousness – value enhances integration.

Each one of us is imbued with intrinsic value as a result of our respective heritages. We and only we are able to realize our individual potentials. In fact the Universe is dependant upon each one of us contributing our unique value to the collective. If we disregard this imperative, then we, our personal environments and indeed the entire collective, is diminished.

Money has no intrinsic value. Money's worth is the value given to it (Ayn Rand). Greed and self-interest diminish any value that money purchases – the system hemorrhages energy. Worse than greed, those that have never been prepared to work and expend meaningful energy, parasitize individuals and the collective and dissipate value.

Value is respect – all that diminishes value is shameful.