

Unifying Religions, as Well as Science and Religion, by Understanding the Four-Position-Foundation

Peter Dean Nordquist¹

¹ World Research Institute for Science and Technology (W.R.I.S.T.) member since 1986

(NordaVinci@gmail.com)

Abstract:

What is a symbol of the Four-Position-Foundation? Are there different ways to represent the Four-Position-Foundation? This study presents some major symbols of Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity, Islam and Unification Thought as very similar expressions of the Four-Position-Foundation. Although they are somewhat different in their focus, the most common features of the Four-Position-Foundation are shown to be present, allowing us to have a common denominator or language for sharing experiences across cultures. Atheists sometimes wonder, "If there is a God, then why are the major religions so different." This study shows that they are not so different, due to the common dynamic of the Four-Position-Foundation present in their most holy symbols and descriptions of ultimate reality. Finally, a hypothesis is made linking the Four-Position-Foundation to an Internal Periodic Table, that if true, helps unify science and religion, possibly resulting in reduced time and expense for developing materials with special properties.

Keywords: Unification of Religions, Science and Religion, Four-Position-Foundation, Internal Periodic Table

I . Introduction

To look for the common denominator of the four-position-foundation in religions, let us investigate inter-religious mysticism. To accomplish this, we need to know people's experiences; we need to read their sacred books, if they are available, and talk to them with an open mind. We must be ready to learn their languages, terms and symbols. What did they experience? How are they expressing their experience? Can I relate to that through having had similar experiences? Do they have a method of teaching other people how to experience the same thing and thus carry on their tradition? The major religions of Judaism, Hinduism, Taoism, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam all began and continued with experiences that they were able to talk or write about and to share successfully. Science also began with experiences and developed a system to share them successfully. Recall that the first step in the scientific method is observation. Experiences are the observations of religious and mystical traditions. To the degree that a religion is true, it is also logical, orderly, experienceable, observable, repeatable, principled, real and thus scientific.

Rev. Sun Myung Moon probably was the first person to use the term "four-position-foundation." He used it, for example, to describe mind/body unity and often asked his audience, "Have you united your mind and body?" What are the mind and the body? Are they two aspects of the same thing? Is there a psychological aspect of matter? Is this question related to the wave/particle duality of quantum mechanics, or to the equivalence of energy and matter of Einstein's $E = mc^2$? These are important questions that both science and religion have proposed answers to in various Big TOEs (Theories of Everything – world views) arising from experiences and observations. There is a lot of work remaining to be done to clarify the relationship between the mind and the body, which represent the spirit world and the physical world, also known as heaven and earth. This study juxtaposes diagrams with necessarily brief explanations from the above-mentioned religious traditions.

Rev. Moon speaks here with characteristic determination from his world view about the need to "observe and digest" in order to unify:

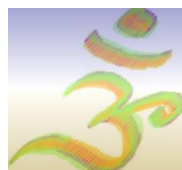
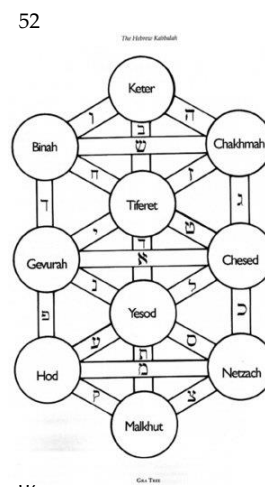
"We must know clearly that it is our mission to unify; before we can do so we must observe and digest. This is reasonable, like all the laws of creation; it applies on every level of family, society, nation and world . . . There is nothing else I can teach you; there are a limited number of important principles. This is a simple principle, but it applies to every level and in applying it you will do your mission." (The Way of Prosperity and Defeat, March 11, 1979, Belvedere, Tarrytown, NY)

Let us observe and digest in order to unify.

II. Judaism's Tree of Life is an alternative representation of the 3-stage development of the four-position-foundation.

There are various versions of the Jewish Tree of Life of Kabbalah, which is the oral tradition of Judaism. The Tree represented here was preferred by the Gaon of Vilna who was the greatest rabbi in 600 years and so was given the title Gaon, meaning "genius." The Tree of Life in Judaism represents a pursuit of righteous happiness, as indicated by Proverbs 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life . . ." and Proverbs 13:12 "A hope deferred makes the heart sick, but a desire fulfilled is a Tree of Life."

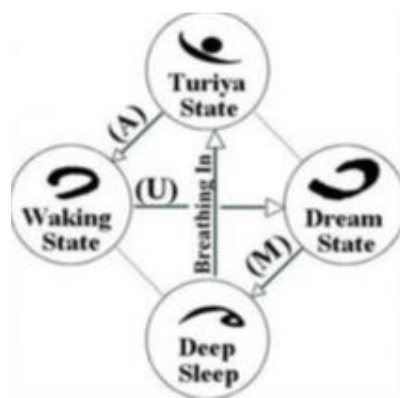
The Tree of Life represents three levels of soul, namely, the neshamah (divine soul), the ruach (eternal soul) and the nefesh (the level of soul that is in the blood). These correspond quite well to love, life and lineage of Rev. Moon's diagram (discussed in section VIII) May 1, 1998 (44th anniversary of HSA-UWC, Belvedere, Tarrytown, NY) The ten commandments, the seven days of creation and the 22 letters of the Hebrew alphabet all map to this graphic symbol. The three horizontal lines are the three mother letters: the mem, the aleph and the shin, which represent water, air and fire, respectively, and as well, circumcision of the flesh (the sign of the covenant between God and Abraham), circumcision of the heart, and circumcision of the tongue. Recall James 3:6 "The tongue is a flame." The three bigger circles in the diagrams below are there to show the process that the output of stage one becomes the input to stage two, and similarly, the output of stage two becomes the input to stage three. The tenth position then returns a result to the origin in position one, completing a circle.



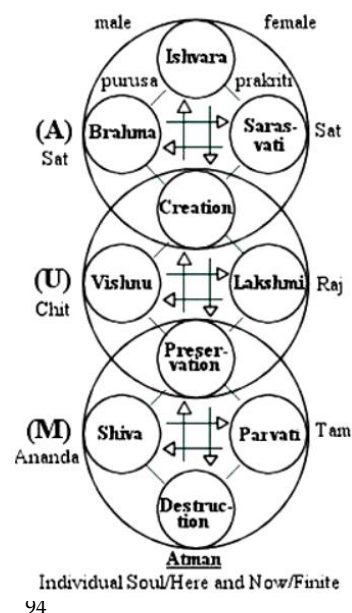
III. The AUM (OM) of Hinduism maps to the four-position-foundation and to Judaism's Tree of Life.

The AUM of Hinduism is explained as a theory of everything in the Mandukya Upanishad, the shortest of the Upanishads with only 12 verses on a single page. The first verse announces itself with excitement to share an important truth:

"OM. This eternal Word is all: what was, what is and what shall be, and what beyond is in eternity. All is OM."



The written symbol for AUM (OM) and the sound itself represent the 4 states of consciousness and the process of breathing in and breathing out. The A is the waking state; the U is the dream state; the M is the deep sleep with no dreams; the silence while breathing in represents returning to one body with God in the transcendent state of consciousness, transcending time and space. The 4 states map to the 4 positions of the four-position-foundation as well as to its expansion in the Hindu Natural Array Tree of Life structure. The top of the feminine column is Sarasvati, goddess of understanding, which corresponds in the Jewish Tree of Life to Binah at the top of the fire column representing the feminine aspect of fire, that led the Israelites through the desert at night. Binah means understanding.

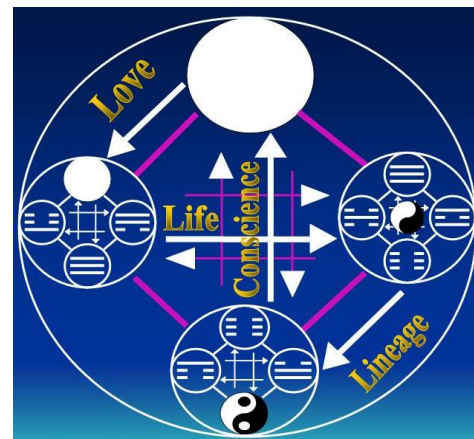


IV. Taoism's wu chi, wang chi, tai chi (variations of terms exist) and cosmic family of 8 trigrams map to the Tree of Life.



Wu-chi is nothingness, void or emptiness. It represents the origin stage of the four-position-foundation that is beyond time and space. Next the yin and yang symbol which together are the way, can represent the division stage of the four-position-foundation. The union stage is the symbol of the yin and yang with two dots added, representing old yang and old yin, followed by the children who are the young yang and young yin. The eight trigrams are the cosmic family of the father and mother with three sons and three daughters.

It is interesting that the middle section of this Taoist Tree has the same contents as the Taegukgi, the flag of South Korea. It is also interesting that it corresponds very closely to the middle section of the Jewish Tree of Life which has the masculine water column and the feminine fire column on either side with the parents in the middle column. The middle son of the Taoist Tree also represents water and the middle daughter also represents fire. How did that happen that it matches the Jewish Tree to a certain extent? It could be because the same root source inspired both as slightly different expressions of the dynamics of the four-position-foundation.

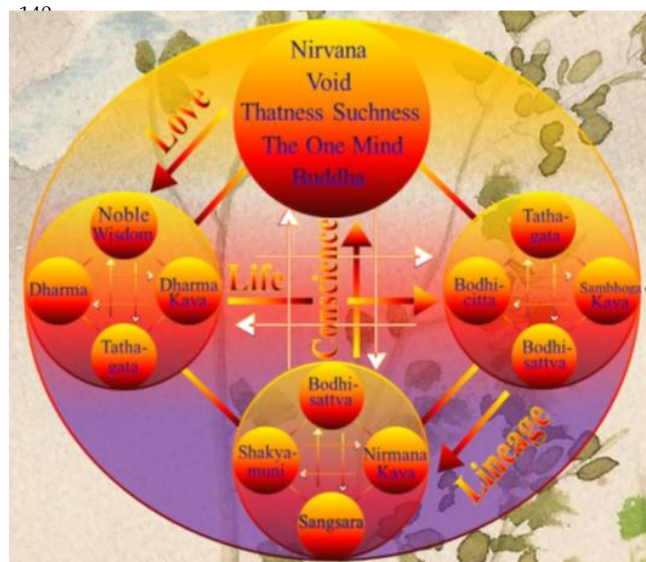


V. The Tri-kaya concept of Mahayana Buddhism maps to the Tree of Life.



Buddha skipped the Judeo/Christian God experienced by Moses and Jesus and went to the root of God, which is the identity maintaining four-position-foundation centered on heart. Rev. Moon characterizes it as the highest realm of heart that never develops or changes, because it is already the highest. After his enlightenment, Buddha asked people to refer to him as the Tathagata, or "the passed away one."

The three aspects of body (kaya) have corresponding internal aspects. The Dharma has the Dharma Kaya; the Bodhicitta is the mind of the Bodhisattva who remains behind to save all sentient beings. The Sambhoga Kaya is the body of the Bodhisattva. The physical body of Shakyamuni Buddha is the Nirmana Kaya. The colorful picture to the right adds the lines for Love, Life, Lineage and Conscience suggested by Rev. Moon's diagram discussed in section VIII.

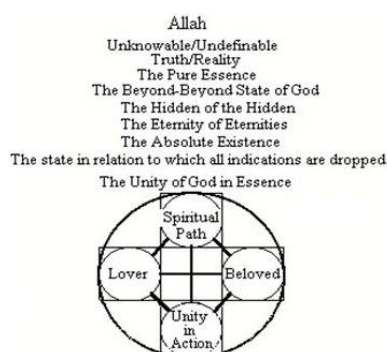


VI. Statements of Jesus and the Tree of Life



Jesus said in Matthew 6:33 in the Sermon on the Mount, "Seek first God's kingdom and His righteousness and all these will be added to you as well." God's kingdom and His righteousness refer to the lower two holy emanations in the Jewish Tree of Life in the middle column. Specifically, righteousness represents "the foundation of the world" (yesod olam). It is represented by Joseph (the son of Jacob) who refused to commit adultery with Potiphar's wife and consequently was thrown into prison. This is the number seven position from the top and thus represents the 7th Commandment, "Don't commit adultery." Gershom Scholem explained that this is the oldest and most natural numbering of this holy emanation (Sephira).

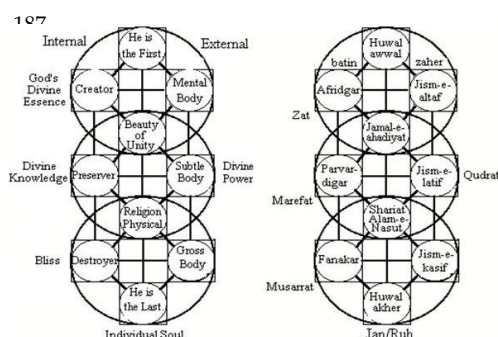
In John 14:6 Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father but by me." Mary Baker Eddy, founder of Christian Science in her book, *Science and Health with Key to the Scriptures* explains that the Way is Love and that God's nature consists of Love, Truth and Life. In agreement with Mary Baker Eddy, Rev. Moon also explained that the Way is Love, then put Life and Truth. In this order, he explained that Love, Life and Truth represent the Holy Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit; Love, Life and Truth always travel together like three perpendicular lines, forming the basic structure of existence, again in basic agreement with Mary Baker Eddy. In John 14:6 Jesus explained to Thomas that he needed to continue to connect to Jesus, even after Jesus departed, because Jesus was on the Way to God's kingdom and His righteousness, and one day, he, Jesus, would return in pursuit of them. The words of Jesus represent the pursuit of the family of God and the kingdom of God through the process of the four-position-foundation.



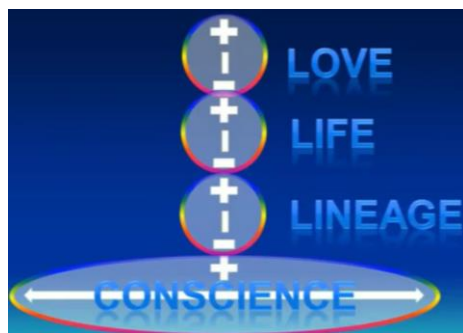
were taken from his book, "God Speaks," in which he drew many charts and diagrams. The Om Point figures into his explanation as the Creation Point, similar to the Christian Logos.

VII. Meher Baba's expression of Sufi Islam in his major work "God Speaks" maps to the Tree of Life.

Meher Baba was a world religious figure whose teaching was also for the purpose of unifying religions. He is a representative of Sufi Islam. He had deep mystical experiences and realized similarly to Rev. Moon, that before God created, he was growing up. God asked the question, "Who am I?" and after 7 stages of development he answered his own question by saying, "I am God." The terms in this Sufi four-position-foundation and Tree of Life were



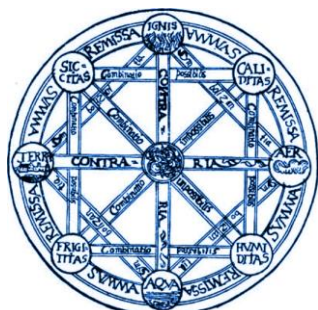
VIII. Rev. Moon's Love/Life/Lineage/Conscience diagram maps to the Tree of Life.



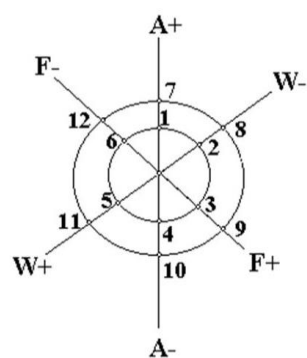
perpendicular lines on the board and explained that their point of intersection is the "sa ui guidae" – the four-position-foundation point. He proceeded to draw in the air with his hand, the same diagram that he had drawn at the beginning. This is another way to talk about the dynamics of the four-position-foundation referencing love, life, lineage and conscience.

Since "the Way, the Life and the Truth" can represent the Holy Trinity, we can see that the Baptist Doctrine of Conscience has a similar form and meaning to Rev. Moon's "doctrine" (diagram) of Love, Life, Lineage and Conscience. The Baptist Doctrine of Conscience proclaims that kings and popes cannot answer for me in front of the throne of God on judgement day, and that my only lord that I will bow to is therefore my own conscience as it is inspired by the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This view of conscience as inspired by God came to America with the pilgrims in 1620 and helped inspire Thomas Jefferson in his writing of the Declaration of Independence (1776) and the Virginia Act for Establishing Religious Freedom (1777) during the American Revolution, directly leading to freedom of religion in America.

IX. Conjecture: The periodic table of elements can map to the Tree of Life. But is it correct to do so?

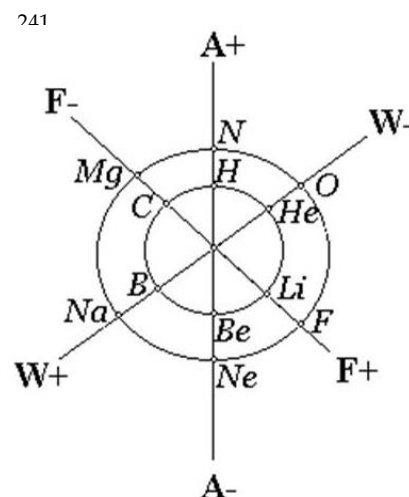


Array Tree of Life to the periodic table based on the atomic number of each element. The simple pattern is as illustrated in the following diagrams:



Notice that carbon, hydrogen and oxygen are on the fire, air and water columns respectively. They combine to form carbohydrates, which might correspond to earth. Carbon, lithium, fluorine and magnesium are all on the fire line, either on the plus or minus half of the line. Do they have anything to do with the masculine or feminine aspects of fire as characterized by the Jewish Tree of Life?

Does this make any sense from a modern chemistry or physics point of view? Does it allow us to predict anything useful? The rest of the table follows by making larger and larger circles. Titanium, for example, is element 22 and is on the air minus line. The central air column of the Tree of Life represents Will. Titanium is strong and used in aircraft and memory metal. This might be pre-Socratic superstition, but then again, if the invisible blueprint in the mind of God was used to create the visible, physical world, then why would this conjecture not be correct? If it works, it might allow us to better formulate materials with special properties.



X. Conclusion

The traditions briefly discussed above each have symbols and processes that map to the four-position-foundation and its expansion as the ten-position Natural Array Tree of Life structure of Judaism and Hinduism, in particular. Every give and receive process also represents the four-position-foundation. The four-position-foundation is inside us and all around us. Some might make the critique that it is so simple that it can be easily trivialized. Nevertheless, when probed more deeply, it can explain everything, even answers to questions that we haven't thought of asking.

I didn't have space to give Unification Thought its own section. However, as I was studying the material over the last 30 years, I wondered around 1998, how exactly the Tree of Life of Judaism relates to Unification Thought. Shortly thereafter a big vision of old Dr. Lee's bright, smiling face appeared in front of my computer monitor and remained there for about 5 minutes. Three days later I drew a diagram that I think shows how the Unification Thought two-stage process of creation relates to the Jewish Tree of Life.

For further inspiration to investigate, consider Rev. Moon's words from "God's and Our Decision", Feb. 1, 1987.

"When you read my book of sermons, God's Will and the World, you can see that I have spoken the truth plainly and boldly. There are no more symbols or parables. I have set everything before you. The truth has emerged; this is real knowledge, the knowledge that you need. Who decided the heavenly four-position foundation? This is God's original principle. No human being devised it. Without going this route no one enters the Kingdom of Heaven."

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