

THEOLOGY: THE GOD/WORLD PICTURE, "East" and "West".....Willis E. Elliott

Study the following 6-dimension, 3-plane schematic, then fill out the grid at the bottom.

I am primarily a religious man, A-F-G; as intellectual I am H and (as hypothesis) E. On the "Contemplation" boundary I am "Imago Dei" + C, and this contemplation is with me primary in religious studies (Bible, theology, etc.).

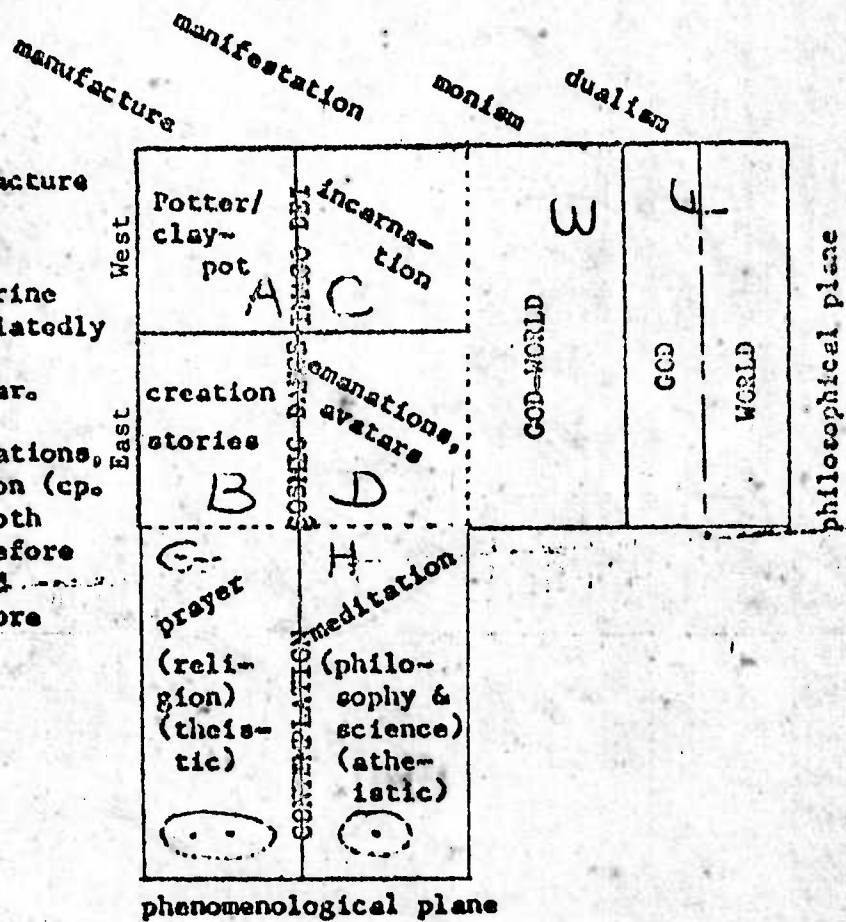
The "philosophical" fold-over can be studied alone in relation to the ground, or with the "phenomenological" fold-over.

A HINT TOWARD EAST/WEST RECONCILIATION:

The manifestation/manufacture opposition is not pure:

—The East has avatars, thus weakening the doctrine that all is undifferentiatedly God-manifestation: avatar denotes non-avatar.

—The West has manifestations, imago dei and incarnation (cp. birthing/parturition as both manifestation (and therefore not really separate) and manufacture (and therefore really separate)).



	East	West
STRENGTHS	Correspondence with "science". Troubled-times intro-tripping; mysticism. Loneliness-anodyne. Deferred theodicy. Body-mind stress-reduction. Nature immediacy (rhythm-rhyme minus reason experiencing). Certain spiritual disciplines, e.g. yoga.	Encouragement of sci. Extroverted attack on external problems. Loneliness as stimulus to community. Sharp encounter with justice-issues. Deferred body-satisfactions, for spirit. Nature-distance, for control. Missionary spirit: sharing one's goodies. Suspicion of ritual-as-magic.
WEAKNESSES	Internalism: inner tripping. Suppression of individuality. Possession-denial. Tendency to deny the natural. Staticism. Indifference to differences.	Externalism. Hyper-individualism. "Grasping": exploitation of nature/neighbor. Tendency to deny the supernat. Active imperialism. Intolerance: monotheism, etc.