

Contemplative Outreach

Spiritual Journey with Thomas Keating

Part 2 Tape 7(a)



The First Glimmer of Rational Consciousness

Differentiation of the self is limited at the **Uroboric Stage** (Reptilian Stage).
At the **Typhonic Stage** (Half animal – Half human) the process begins.
With language development (**Mythic Membership**) it really gets under way.

Uroboric Stage – images not differentiated from reality.

Typhonic Stage – mid-brain development with emotional likes and dislikes.

Mythic Membership - new brain or human brain development furthers differentiation but is sadly used to re-enforce lower brain functions

The Self-Centered Motivation

So, instead of developing our unlimited potential for personhood, relatedness and service, the energy of the new brain is turned to destruction, control and pleasure.

Integration of the lower into the higher value system is the work of the self-centered intelligence (**Mental Egoic Stage**)

The Infant in Its First Year

Uroboric Stage – the baby is immersed in matter and pleasurable experience.
The heartbeat of the mother as the child is nursed reminds it of the womb.

You Must Not Pick This Child Up

If the child is neglected though it cannot think at this stage it does intuit a dull, pervasive rage. Child can even detect if it was not wanted before birth.

The damage done at this very early stage may be nobody's fault.

If the security system is established at the **Uroboric Stage** we can move forward.

Typhonic Stage follows with emotions and with emotional likes and dislikes.
Moods change very rapidly.

There's No Problem About Elephants Flying

This stage has a magical quality – elephants can fly, a block is a car.

The dream and fantasy world of the child is not distinguished from reality.

Child (2) is said to dream about animals.

Child begins to talk and socialization begins.

Child (4) new brain begins to function with operational logic.

Child (7) reason begins to develop and a capacity for abstract thinking.

Negative experiences also see the development of defense mechanisms.

Child (15) process completes with spiritual potentiality as the left hemisphere of the brain develops.

