

P R I O R U N I T Y

The Foundation of Everything

A Summary from Not-Two Is Peace

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PARAPHRASED AND SYNTHESISED FOR EDUCATIONAL USE

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What Prior Unity Means

The term “prior unity” does not refer to some past golden age when humanity was united. It is not pointing backward in time. Rather, it describes the inherent, irreducible condition of existence itself – the primal state of being in which the world and all things continually arise and pass away. This original condition is, by its very nature, one and indivisible, regardless of the apparently separate events that occur within it.

Think of the ocean. It is a single body of water. Waves appear on its surface – distinct, individual, sometimes crashing into each other – but they are never separate from the ocean itself. The waves do not need to “achieve” unity with the ocean. They are already the ocean. They have never been anything else.

Prior unity works the same way. It is not something to be created, negotiated, or built through a long process of compromise and agreement. It is the pre-existing condition of all reality. It simply needs to be recognised and acted upon.



The Evidence Is Everywhere

This unity is not a mystical abstraction. It is confirmed at every level of observable reality.

For over a century, physicists have been demonstrating in increasingly sophisticated ways that what we call “matter” is actually a unified continuum of energy – not merely an assembly of separate particles. Particles are connected nonlocally across the entirety of space. Their unity is never broken.

Biologists have shown that the genetic structure of human beings is almost exactly identical across the entire species. The apparent differences between the world’s races are extremely superficial. At the biological level, humanity is already one family.

Living systems of all kinds are connected in ways that are real but subtle – connections that are only now being discovered by science. Indigenous peoples have long recognised these connections intuitively. They did not suppress their awareness of prior unity. Modern civilisation did suppress this awareness – and we are now living with the consequences.



The Obstacle: The Presumption of Separateness

If prior unity is already the case, why doesn't the world reflect it?

The answer lies in what can be called "ego" – not in the colloquial sense of arrogance, but in the deeper sense of the false assumption that separateness is the fundamental condition of existence, and the habit of acting on that basis.

Ego creates "two-ness" – the sense of "self" versus "other," "us" versus "them," "mine" versus "yours." This presumption of separateness, while constantly acted upon, has no real foundation. It is a habit of perception, not a truth of existence.

Human society is built on this presumption of "two" – on the assumption that the world is composed of fundamentally separate entities in competition with one another. Prior unity is "not-two." And "not-two" is peace.

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Prior Unity as a Working-Presumption

The critical insight is that prior unity is not a goal to be worked toward – it is a starting point to be worked from.

Most attempts to create peace, cooperation, and order in the world begin from the assumption that humanity is fundamentally fragmented and must be persuaded, negotiated, or forced into unity. This approach treats unity as an end result – something that might be achieved if enough effort is applied.

This has the whole thing backward.

When you start from the working-presumption that prior unity is already the case, everything changes. Instead of seeking solutions, you enable solutions to emerge. Instead of trying to construct unity out of fragments, you stop obstructing the unity that is already there. Instead of struggling to overcome differences, you allow the deeper reality of shared existence to reassert itself.

It is not a matter of injecting this principle into isolated situations. The chronically dysfunctional global system will not be fixed by patching it up in scattered places. For the working-presumption of prior unity to be truly effective, it

must become the governing principle of global affairs as a whole.



Prior Unity and Self-Management

Every kind of problem in the human domain can be understood in terms of two paired principles: prior unity and self-management.

When any system — whether a corporation, a government, a community, or the entire global order — operates on the basis of prior unity, it naturally tends toward self-correction and self-organisation. Systems have an inherent capacity to restore their own balance, but only when they are allowed to function as unified wholes.

The current global crisis exists because the natural self-correcting capacity of systems has been overridden. Competitive forces, acting from the presumption of separateness, have inserted themselves into the functioning of the whole like a stick jammed into the spokes of a turning wheel. The system cannot correct itself when its integrity is constantly being disrupted by forces that deny its unity.

Remove the obstructions, and the system begins to heal itself. This is not idealistic thinking — it is how systems actually work. The Earth-world, which is intrinsically a unity, has an inherent capability to restore its own balance when the inputs that create chaos and disunity are eliminated through responsible choices by the human collective.

The right understanding of how to live in accordance with prior unity, enacted through self-management at every level, is the essence and the practical application of wisdom. This is precisely what is absent in the current world — people are being conditioned to presume competitiveness, mutual opposition, and fundamental difference as the natural order of things.

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Prior Unity Is Not a Union of Many

A crucial distinction must be understood: prior unity is not a union of separate parts that have been joined together. It is not a coalition, not a merger, not an alliance of independent entities agreeing to cooperate.

Prior unity is an intrinsic oneness in which there is no inherent separateness, no fundamental “difference,” no irreducible otherness, no primary opposition, no essential duality. It is one.

This means that the working-presumption of prior unity can address anything – and self-organise it, correct it, make it right, and simply get on with it. There is no situation, no conflict, no crisis that falls outside the scope of this principle, because prior unity is the condition of all reality without exception.

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Competition in the Context of Prior Unity

Competition is not inherently destructive. In certain contexts – sporting events, creative endeavours, pushing beyond personal limits – competition has a legitimate and even beneficial place.

But the only right competition is one that occurs within a context of prior unity. Currently, all competition is happening within a presumption of fundamental disunity. This is the difference between athletes competing within agreed-upon

rules that serve the well-being of all participants, and warring factions competing for dominance with no overarching framework of shared interest.

Consumerism is the society of systems-in-competition. Rulers consume; the defeated live in poverty. Everyone aspires to be a super-consumer, but the Earth cannot sustain it. Governments are afraid to limit economic activity to prevent environmental destruction. Corporations operate largely independent of accountability for the damage they cause.

All of this is the inevitable result of competition without prior unity – of separate forces pursuing separate interests with no governing principle that speaks for the whole.

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Truth Is Recognised at the Heart, Not Argued in the Mind

Prior unity cannot be established through argument, persuasion, or debate. You cannot argue nearly eight billion people into accepting it. If it depended on winning an intellectual argument, it would never begin.

Instead, prior unity must be presented as something that is self-evidently true – something the heart recognises

immediately, the way one recognises love. Truth is not a proposition to be weighed against other propositions. Truth is self-evident, because the heart authenticates it in the moment of reception.

One responds to truth as one responds to love – simply through recognising it. It is not about argument, not about the domain of the mind, not about the play of opposites. It is simply so.

This is how genuine transformation happens. Not through the slow accumulation of intellectual converts, but through the immediate recognition of what is already and obviously true. The Global Cooperative Forum begins in the very instant it is communicated to the human population – because everybody-all-at-once has the immediate ability to recognise the self-evident truth of prior unity and to act from it.



Non-Cooperation With What Is Wrong

The principle of prior unity has a practical edge. It is not merely a philosophy of acceptance – it includes the power of collective non-cooperation with what is clearly wrong.

If the totality of humankind understood the issues and organised itself to refuse to cooperate with – refuse to buy from, refuse to consume from, refuse to participate in – systems and patterns that are intrinsically harmful, that refusal would constitute an irresistible force for change.

This is not revolutionary in any violent or negative sense. It is simply the human totality taking responsibility for its own affairs. As fragmented groups, human beings do not have the power to change the global situation. But as a unified totality, humankind has all the power it needs – and it must assume the power that is intrinsic to itself.

The method of collective non-cooperation is most effective when applied by the totality. When applied only by certain groups in certain areas, it creates an opposing side, which leads to divisiveness and potentially to violence. But when everybody-all-at-once applies the principle, there is effectively no “other side.” The whole system is simply restoring itself to its natural integrity.

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Prior Unity and the Law of Existence

At its deepest level, prior unity is not merely a political or social principle. It is the nature of reality itself.

There is a universal, indivisible force in which everything arises. Everything that exists is part of this prior unity. It is not merely that things are connected to one another in some unified way – everything is arising within that which is inherently indivisible.

This is a spiritual matter, not a religious matter. It transcends all religions, all traditions, all cultural differences. It is not itself “different” from anything. And because it is the nature of reality itself, it is all-pervading – the real picture everywhere, at every scale, in every domain.

The fundamental process of human existence is not survival – not the aggressive maintenance of the separate self against all threats. The fundamental process is the transcendence of separateness itself – the consistent going-beyond of all contraction upon the isolated ego, and the realisation that what we truly are is not separate from the unified whole.

The truly mature human being lives from this understanding. And a world of truly mature human beings – living from

prior unity rather than from the presumption of separateness – would create an entirely different civilisation. Not through ideology or enforcement, but through the natural expression of what is already and always the case.

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Summary

Prior unity is not a theory, not a hope, and not a goal. It is the pre-existing condition of all reality – confirmed by physics, confirmed by biology, confirmed by the deepest human intuition, and available to be recognised by anyone at any moment.

The entire human crisis stems from the denial of this unity – from the habit of presuming separateness and acting on that basis. Every war, every exploitation, every ecological destruction, every form of human suffering rooted in competition and division flows from this single error.

The resolution is not to create unity where there is none. The resolution is to stop obstructing the unity that already exists. To adopt prior unity as the working-presumption of all human activity – personally, locally, nationally, and globally

– and to allow the inherent self-organising energy of that unity to restore the world to its natural integrity.

“Not-two” is prior unity. And “not-two” is peace.

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This summary is a paraphrased synthesis of concepts
presented

in Prior Unity by

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