



Chapter 2: Postulates



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2.1 Introduction

Hyponoetics postulates three fundamental theses that I will attempt to explain in the following chapters. These postulates are not meant to be understood in absolute terms or as irrefutable axioms. Since Hyponoetics is basically a philosophy about how philosophy or thinking in general is possible, it includes itself in this theory which understands our world and our mind more as something that is shaped continuously and thus does not have any absolute or finalized features.

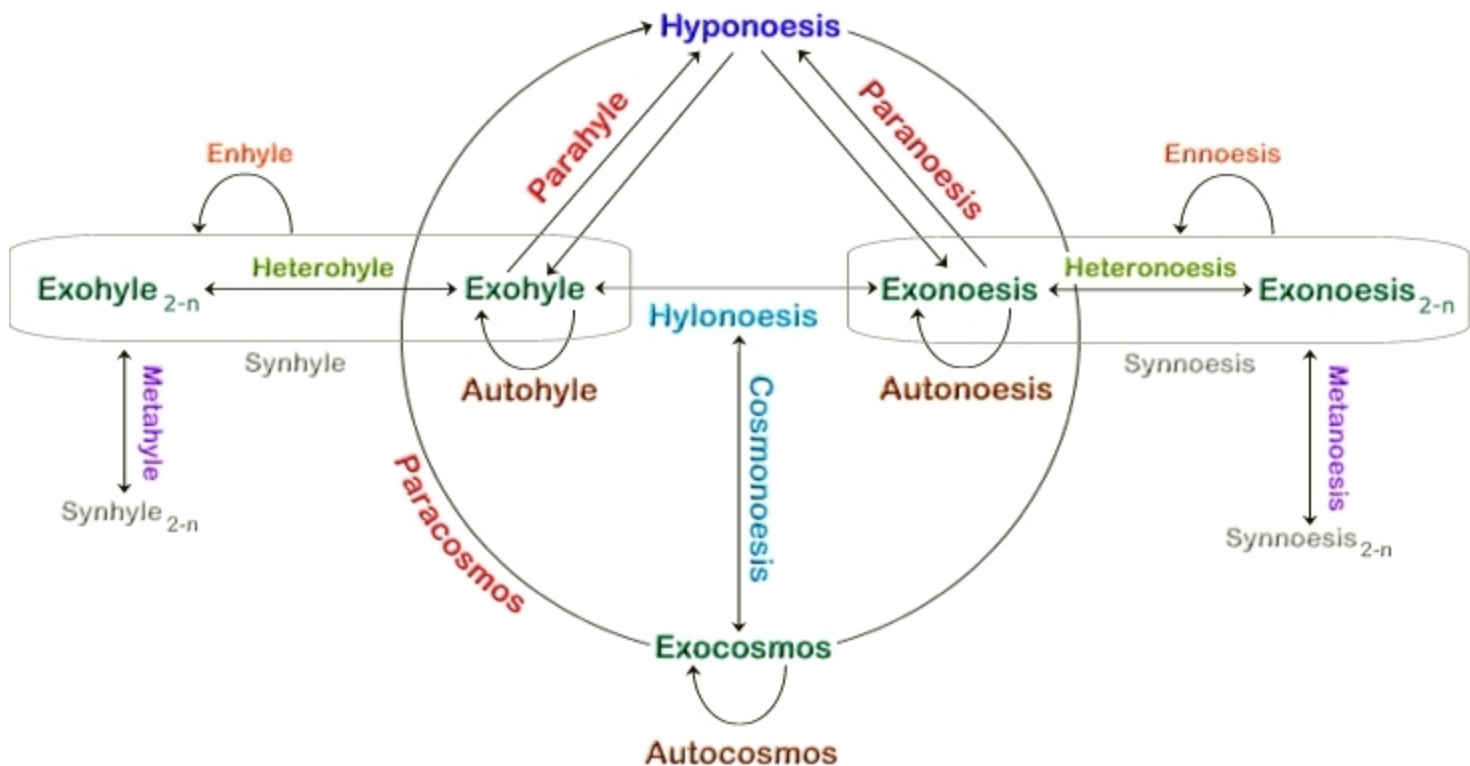
These three basic theses are the logical and natural conclusions of Hyponoetics and represent the essence of my philosophy. Since philosophy only makes sense if certain general principles are postulated or presumed, I'd like to start with those metaphysical principles and develop their underlying logic as we go along.

The three metaphysical postulates of Hyponoetics are:

1. **Postulate:** There is a basic unitary reality (*Hyponoesis*) underlying all existing phenomena and entities. This reality is pure potentiality.
2. **Postulate:** The Individual Mind (*Exonoesis*), Matter (*Exohyle*), and every other aspect (*Noeme*) of this world are **actualized** and **individuated** from *Hyponoesis*.
3. **Postulate:** It is possible by means of Transrational Thinking (*Paranoesis*) to access any information actually existing in our world or potentially residing in *Hyponoesis*.

The following diagram shows all the principles involved in Hyponoetics. All of them will be discussed in later chapters. In this chapter I'm going to set up a first preliminary definition of the main technical terms used in Hyponoetics. As mentioned in the introduction, the reason why I have coined new terms is to differentiate them from existing terms, such as Universal Mind, that are interpreted in many ways and therefore could lead to misunderstanding. There are just no equivalent or adequate words in the English language that accurately convey the meaning of certain metaphysical concepts.

The arrows in the diagram signify the direction of interaction between different manifested principles.



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2.2 Postulate 1 (Hyponoesis)

A. There is a basic unitary reality (*Hyponoesis*) underlying all existing phenomena and entities. This reality is pure potentiality. (view [Diagram](#))



Hyponoesis is derived from the ancient Greek *ὑπο* (hypo = under, below, beneath) and *νόησις* (noesis = intelligence, understanding, mind, processes of thought). It represents the idea of a fundamental and **monistic** principle underlying and being the source of a plurality of distinct, transient and individual forms, such as those of our physical and mental world. Philosophical and esoteric literature also refers to *Hyponoesis* as *Collective*, *Universal* or *Cosmic Mind*, *One Mind*, or *World-Mind*.

To gain a basic understanding of the concepts of *Hyponoesis*, the following analogy may be helpful: When we speak of the ocean we do not think of single drops of water that make up the ocean, but just of water as the primary substance. However, when we look at the surface of the ocean, we can make out an infinite number of constantly changing waves and water drops. If we were only aware of those surface forms and not of the underlying ocean, we would come to think that all these forms exist independently from each other. A wave in the Atlantic Ocean is completely different from a wave in the Pacific Ocean. However, they have something in common, but it's not their distinct shape, it is the substance of water that is the same in both the wave and the ocean. The ocean produces all those waves and water drops – although only for a short, ephemeral moment. However, the ocean always exists as the underlying entity that makes the short life of waves possible in the first place.

In more philosophical terms, we can call the ocean *potential*, because it is capable of manifesting any conceivable form actually (on the surface), but it contains that shape in itself only potentially. The wave or water drop is, however, an *actual* form, because it has an individual and distinct shape and can be differentiated from any other form.

Take the ocean as *Hyponoesis*, as the primary totality of everything that exists or can be conceived to exist. Take the waves or water drops as the individual entities (forms) of our world, that is, living beings, material things, intelligible objects of our thinking, emotions, etc. *Hyponoesis* continuously creates and sustains the actual reality, as we perceive it.

Hyponoesis is not individual but universal. It is not dependent on the brain and not bound to any material or physical property or entity. It is infinite, uncreated, not subject to evolution, timeless, absolutely independent - the active principle in the universe, the most elusive and most powerful energy conceivable.

The definition of the nature and essence of *Hyponoesis* involves a logical paradox: from an ultimate point of view, *Hyponoesis* cannot be defined or qualified with any of the concepts used by the analytical mind. There's only the way of the *via negativa*. On the other hand, since we are manifestations of *Hyponoesis* and as such are fully qualified and **determined**, we are able to postulate positive statements about *Hyponoesis*. This is, however, only for the sake of obtaining a more comprehensive understanding of our world and ourselves as human beings. (See chapter 'Hyponoetics' for a more detailed view on the nature of *Hyponoesis*)

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2.3 Postulate 2 (Exonoesis and Exohyle)

B. The Individual Mind (*Exonoesis*), Matter (*Exohyle*), and every other aspect (*Noeme*) of this world are actualized and individuated from *Hyponoesis*. (view [Diagram](#))



Exo-noesis is derived from the ancient Greek *ἐκ, ἐξ* (ex = out, away, off, from, from out of) and *νόησις* (noesis = intelligence, understanding, mind, processes of thought). It represents the idea of a distinct, transient and individual mental form or entity that is a manifestation, actualization or [objectification](#) of *Hyponoesis*. **Synonym: Individual Mind.**



Exo-hyle is derived from the ancient Greek *ἐκ, ἐξ* (ex = out, away, off, from, from out of) and *ὕλη* (hyle = stuff of which things are made, material, matter). It represents the idea of a distinct, transient and individual physical form or entity that is a manifestation, actualization or [objectification](#) of *Hyponoesis*. **Synonym: the substance of matter as objectified in the exterior physical world we experience.**

Picking up our previous analogy, the water drops or waves represent individual physical or mental forms. They are manifested or actualized out of (ex-) the potentiality of the ocean. They are not a substance distinguished from the ocean. The water is the same in the ocean and in the water drop or wave. The same applies to all the physical and mental forms of our mind and our world. They are aspects or manifestations of the same underlying reality, *Hyponoesis*. The next chapter discusses the process of actualization in more detail.

There are other aspects than the physical and the mental, but these two are the primary manifestations in our world. I use the term *Noeme* to refer to any kind of manifestation that is actualized out of *Hyponoesis*.

I found a similar water-wave analogy in Indian Vedanta philosophy:

Which is real, the water or the waves? Water here represents the empty (nirguna) Absolute, and waves are its phenomenal manifestation in time and space. In these terms, the prajnaparamita [sutra] claim that 'form is no other than emptiness' means that the waves never lose their intrinsic nature as water, since they have no self-nature of their own, being simply a form or manifestation of the water. Yet it is also true that 'emptiness is no other than form': to emphasize only the immutability of water is to miss the fact that water never exists in an undifferentiated state but appears only as waves, currents, clouds, and so on. So what really exists? One might say that there is only one thing, the water, and that waves do not really exist, since they are just the forms that water takes. Conversely, one might claim that there are only waves, since there is no such thing as undifferentiated, formless water. [1]

[1] David Loy: *Nonduality*, p. 262, Humanity Books



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2.4 Postulate 3 (Paranoesis)

C. It is possible by means of Transrational Thinking (*Paranoesis*) to access any information actually existing in our world or potentially residing in *Hyponoesis*. (view [Diagram](#))



Para-noesis is derived from the ancient Greek *παρά* (past, beyond) and *νόησις* (noesis = intelligence, understanding, mind, processes of thought). It represents the idea of a supreme latent faculty of the Individual Mind (*Exonoesis*), capable of accessing and processing any intelligible information of the universe or information that still is potential within *Hyponoesis*. *Paranoesis* or *Transrational Thinking* transcends the limitations of rational thinking and leads to yet unknown possibilities and powers resident within our mind. *Paranoesis* reunites *Exonoesis* with *Hyponoesis*. Synonym: Transrational Thinking, Transrational Mind.

To use our analogy of the ocean in order to further our understanding of Paranoesis, we have to think of one single wave or water drop as being capable of accessing the infinite information pool of the ocean in a direct and controlled way. Since one wave is connected with the ocean and thus with all other waves and water drops, it is theoretically conceivable that through this intrinsic and essential connection, each single wave can have knowledge of everything else that is a manifestation of the same ocean.

Paranoesis is a higher form of thinking, yet undeveloped in our minds, that is able to access any information in the universe. Recent scientific research and experimental evidence increasingly support theory that we all have to a certain degree telepathic or clairvoyant abilities. They illustrate that it is possible to access non-local information. Psychics can know about things that they have never acquired through any known sensory process and therefore do not reside in the local memory of the brain. Intuition is another example of how we can extend ordinary, rational thinking and tap into a universal information pool.

There are several ways to reach this higher state of mind: a) through classic ways of meditation or mystical experience or b) through *Paranoesis* or Transrational Thinking. Most systems of philosophy, especially in the East, claim that this higher state of unity can only be accessed through experience, not through rational thought. Paranoesis is, however, a completely different way of thinking. It is the ability to grasp the whole (*Hyponoesis*) instead of just one or more parts of it.

My concept of *Paranoesis* (Transrational Thinking) does not unite the poles of the "Intuitive" and the "Rational" in a complementary way, but on the contrary, attempts to cancel them in the unity of thought. I still call this unity "Transrational Thinking" because my intention is to emphasize that this new thinking embraces the entire intellectual potential of the human being rather than the ratio-intellectual or analytical part.

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