

A Couples Line of Development

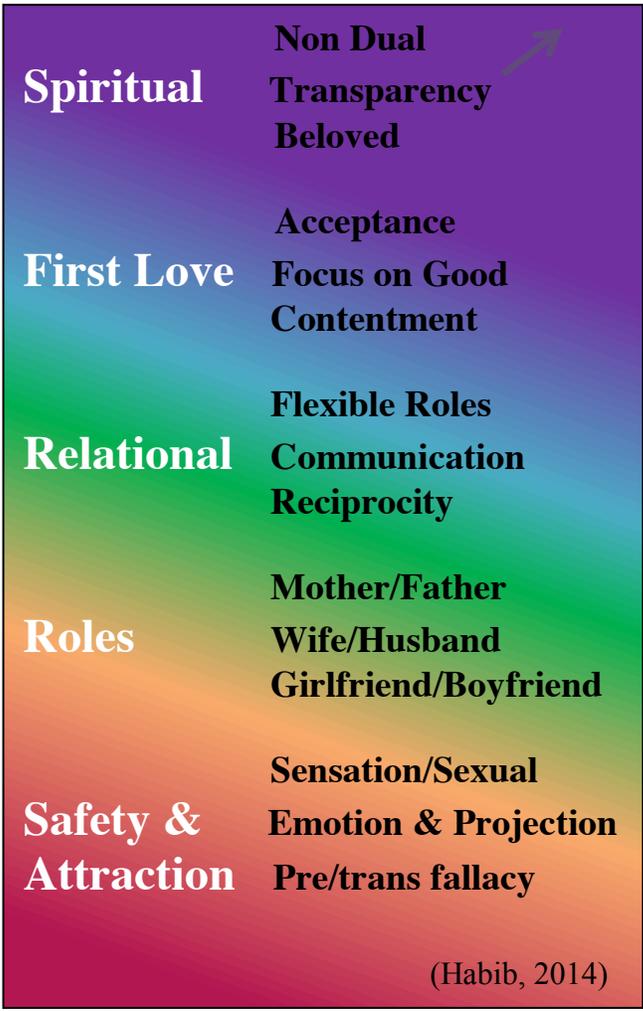
Thomas A. Habib, Ph.D.

- Rarefied ground for the few. Both members deep into 2nd tier capabilities.
- Deficiencies are expected, explored and integrated.
- Transparency and communing easily accessed.
- Joint witnessing serves to open space greater than either could achieve alone.
- Intuition/subtle energies heighten presence during peak experiences of love.
- Ongoing creative advance into novelty.
- Experience is of the beloved.

- Finally in love with your partner, not the projected ideal.
- Partner is the “great neighbor”.
- Free from the pull from the Safety & Attraction Stage fantasy and fears of a mistake in partner selection.
- Can drop into other stages as needed.

- Stage widely appeared after 1964.
- Functional interactional patterns include problem solving, flexible A/C, sexual intimacy, communication, division of labor, child care, & more.
- Persistent fantasy: the fear of partner selection mistake and that others perpetually live at Safety & Attraction. LL cultural messages still unchallenged.

- Expulsion from the Garden of Eden. Reality of partner replacing projected ideal.
- Partner’s imperfections combine with our own limitations ending Safety & Attraction.
- Moving into Roles of wife/husband, mother/father, lovers, partners.
- Establishing goals concerning family, work, and friends. Building a life together.
- Persistent fantasy: the fear of partner selection mistake and that others live at Safety & Attraction.
- Healthier couples do not overreact to diminished romantic love.



- Wonderful feelings of romantic love, powerful attraction, absorption, excitement and chemistry.
- Emotional enthusiasm fueled by bodily sensations vs. much more developed empathy and understanding.
- Romantic movies often end at this stage.