

# **THE HUMANISTIC FOUNDATIONS OF IMOGENE KING'S THEORY OF MUTUAL GOAL ATTAINMENT AND IMPLICATIONS**

A LECTURE BY BEVERLY WHELTON, PHD, MSN. AT THE CONFERENCE,  
NURSING THEORIES: MOVING FORWARD THROUGH COLLABORATION, APPLICATION  
AND INNOVATION.

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NOVEMBER 14 AND 15, 2019

WASHINGTON D.C.

THIS PPT CONTAINS SLIDES FROM PREVIOUS CONFERENCES:

KING, IPONS, AND WVPS

# THOUGHTS ABOUT THE GLOBAL WORLD COMMUNITY

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- A global world calls for concepts to fit a variety of nursing environments.
- The global world is the location of contemporary nursing practice, leadership and knowledge development.
- Health-care systems are delimited areas within the global world.
- **Imogene King**
  - Undated letter to Maureen Frye p. 2. “ My ideas are acultural and can be used in any culture because they deal primarily with human beings and interaction with environments.”
  -

GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY EXPRESSES A DIFFERENT REALITY THAN THIS IMAGE EXPRESSING THE UNITY, THE BOND BETWEEN THESE COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN INDIA.

BUT EVEN MORE AS WE LOOK AT THEM, WE SEE “THEY ARE LIKE US.”



[HTTP://WWW.FRIESTYLE.COM/WORLD-PEACE/](http://www.friestyle.com/world-peace/)  
FRIEDA ANDERSON. HAND DYED FABRIC, QUILT ARTIST AND TEACHER  
THIS PIECE EXPRESSES WORLD UNITY IN A CLEAR AND CREATIVE WAY.

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We all share an identity in common. We are all human. We all share capacities for learning/knowing and choosing that allow us to act creatively and purposefully insofar as our physical capacities and social environments allow.



# INDIVIDUALS IN A GLOBAL COMMUNITY AND MUST HAVE CONCEPTUAL TOOLS FOR STRUCTURING DATA, PROCESSES AND STABILITIES WITHIN GLOBAL SYSTEMS.

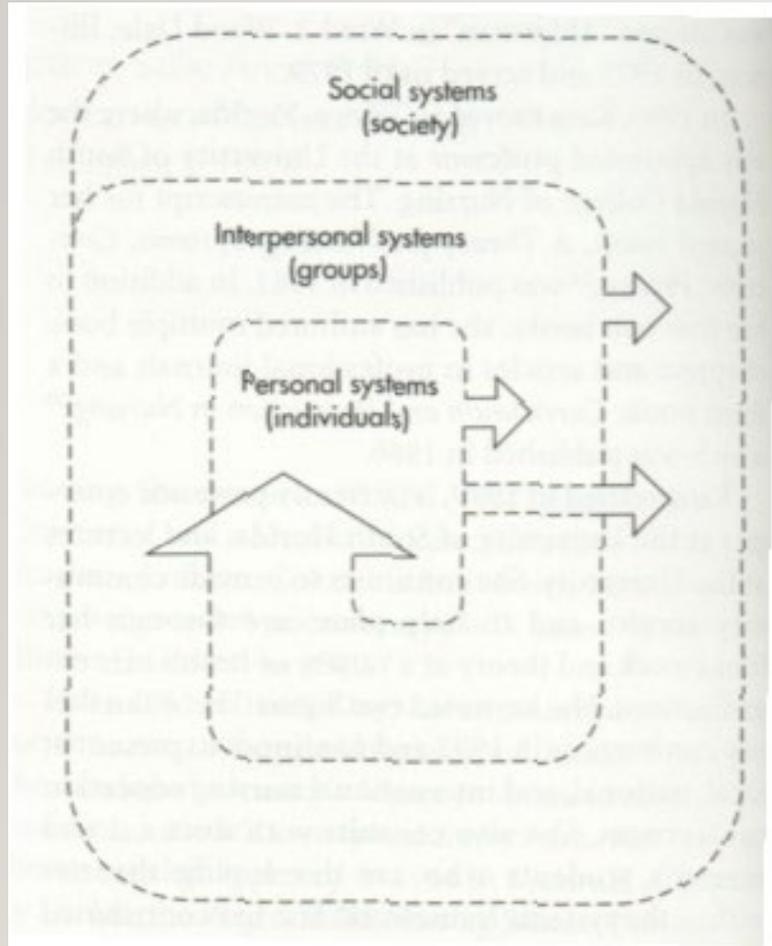
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# NURSING IN AN EMERGING WORLD CULTURE

- In our emerging world culture, nurses are called to assess
- not only ----individual physical, social and spiritual capacities and needs (including cultural contributions),
- and ----family ability to care for the patient, social and economic stability of the family within the community,
- but ----also the impact of political, economic and technological developments within the patient's global geographic region.

# DYNAMIC INTERACTING SYSTEMS

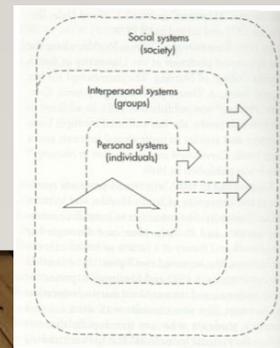


- Three systems in the conceptual framework:
  - **Personal System** (the individual)
  - **Interpersonal Systems** (individuals interacting with one another)
  - **Social System** (groups of people in a community/society sharing common goals, interests, and values)
  
- **Amethyst Vic C. Mergal, RN**

# THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE PERSONAL SYSTEM

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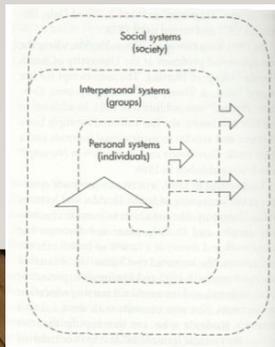
- The internal environment transforms energy to continuously adapt to external environmental changes. (1981, p.5.)
- “Growth and development are a function of genetic endowment, meaningful and satisfying experiences, and an environment conducive to movement of individuals toward maturity. (p. 31)



# THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE INTERPERSONAL SYSTEM (PATIENT CARE OCCURS WITHIN THE INTERPERSONAL SYSTEM)

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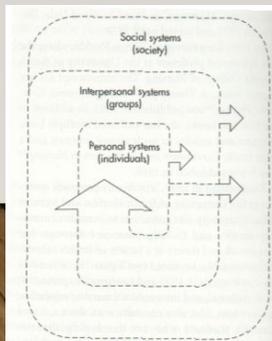
- Human transcendence is the matrix of King's interpersonal system, space within which patient and nurse interact in the caring relationship. Nurses transcend themselves in the care of other persons.
- Humanity is the heart of health care within the personal existence of the nurse and the patient.
- This is a global phenomenon that unites all health care.
- Particular physical, social, economic, cultural and spiritual circumstances individualize nursing needs and nursing care provided.



# INTERPERSONAL SYSTEM (ENVIRONMENT) CONTINUED

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- A nursing situation is the immediate environment, the spatial and temporal reality, in which nurse and client interact. (1981, p.2)
- An understanding of the ways human beings interact with their environment to maintain health is essential for nurses...p.2.
- Health is partially explained as a dynamic adjustment to stressors in the internal and external environments. p.5
- The cultural/financial-economic/ political aspects of global environment are a part of the meaning of Social System environment.



# A WORLD OF ORGANIZED COMPLEXITY OF GREAT VARIABILITY.

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- 6/18/1996 A challenge and a vision for nurses for tomorrow, with Jessie Scott. Lecture for ANA convention p. 15 in summary is written, “Nursing is based on an understanding of human beings of all ages and from all socio-economic and cultural groups. The roles, functions and responsibilities of nurses are multidimensional and involve individuals and groups in specific situations related to health promotion, care of the sick and dying and health maintenance. Nurses work within a world of organized complexity of great variability.”

A Philosophical Discussion of  
Inherent Human Dignity: at the  
interface between philosophy,  
theory and practice

IPONS

Boston, USA 2008

Beverly J.B. Whelton

# Aristotle/Aquinas/Wallace on life



Humans are intellectual,  
adding to the capacities below reason (understanding)  
and will (freedom)



Animals are sensate adding  
sensation, perception, appetites,  
and action/motor capacities



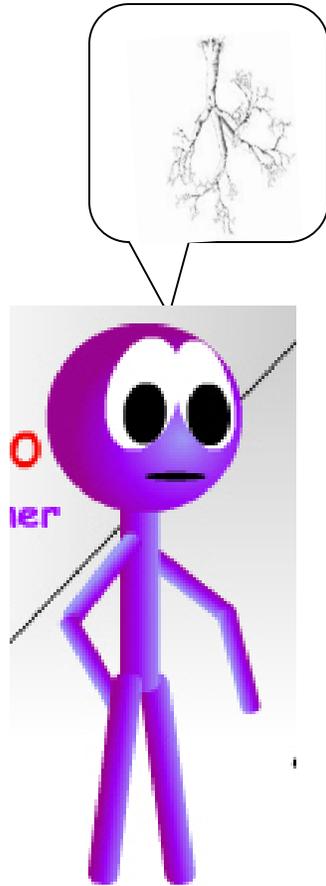
Plants are vegetative adding  
homeostasis,  
nutrition, growth and development  
and reproduction



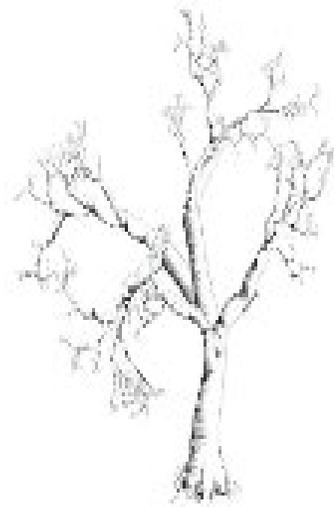
Stones are not living but have weak and strong  
forces, electromagnetic and gravity

To be is  
to be  
a particular  
kind



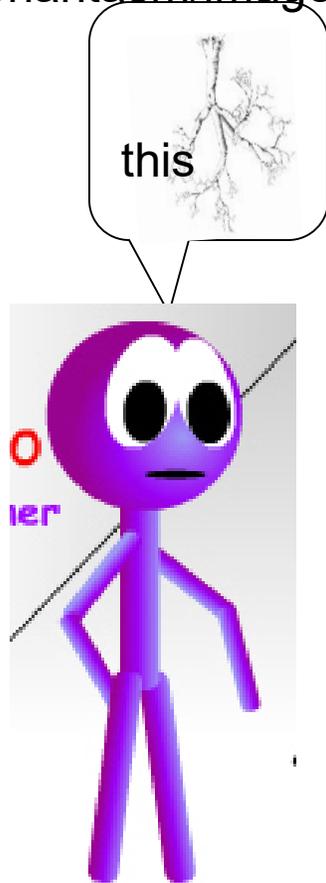


Coming to  
know



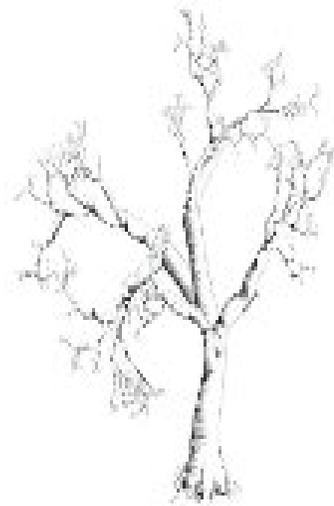
**Perception seems quite a simple thing, but a perception is a product of sensations from outer senses and coordinating of inner senses (capacities of coordination, memory, and imagination, as well as an immediate estimate of good or harm). These capacities result in a phantasm or image of the extra-mental existent item.**

phantasm/image



## Sensation → Perception → intellection

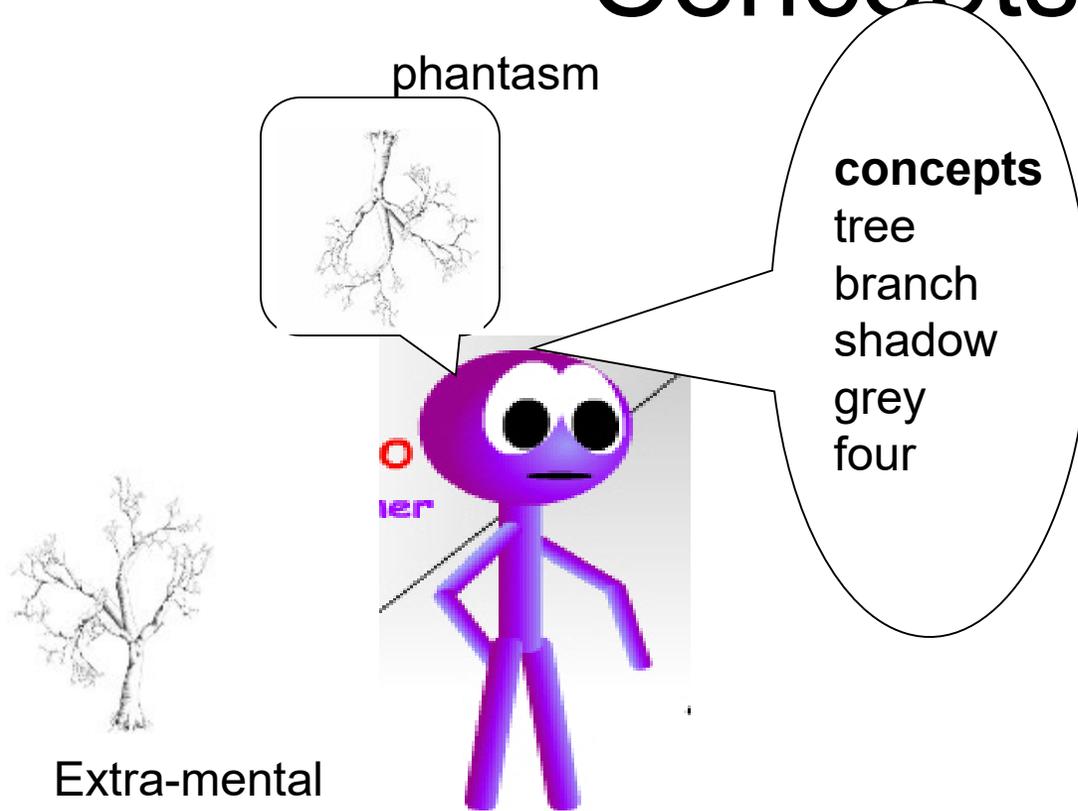
The human Intellect abstracts from the particular (phantasm) 'this shadow tree', the **universal** content as concepts, i.e. tree branch, grey, arc, four, trunk, twigs, etc.



**The materials of the tree are not taken into the intellect. The content is immaterial.** These concepts are given names/labels.

-makes language possible

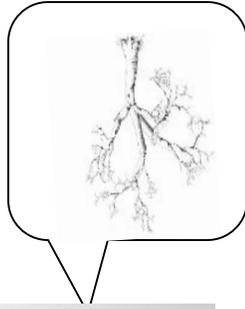
# Concepts



Intellect  
**abstracts**  
universal content  
from the particular.  
At this point the mind  
goes beyond the  
brain and neuro-  
chemical process.

Concepts are  
immaterial with extra-  
mental referents that  
can be applied to "all  
of the same kind."

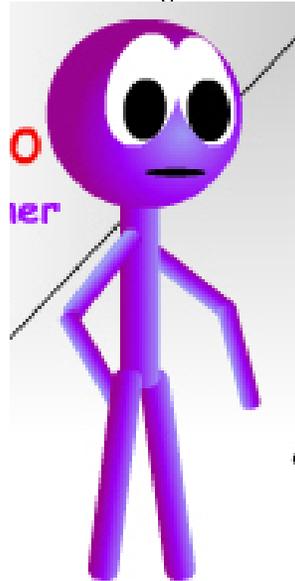
# phantasm/image



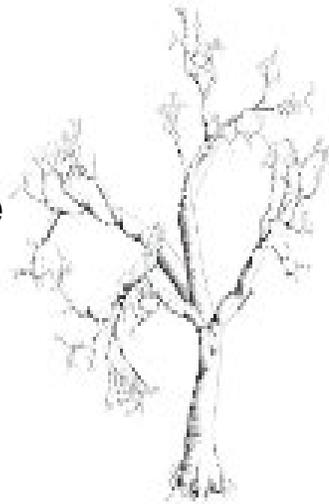
Sensation → Perception → intellection

## Concepts

tree  
branch  
shadow  
grey  
four



## Circle



Concept formation-  
labeled with words

Propositions formed

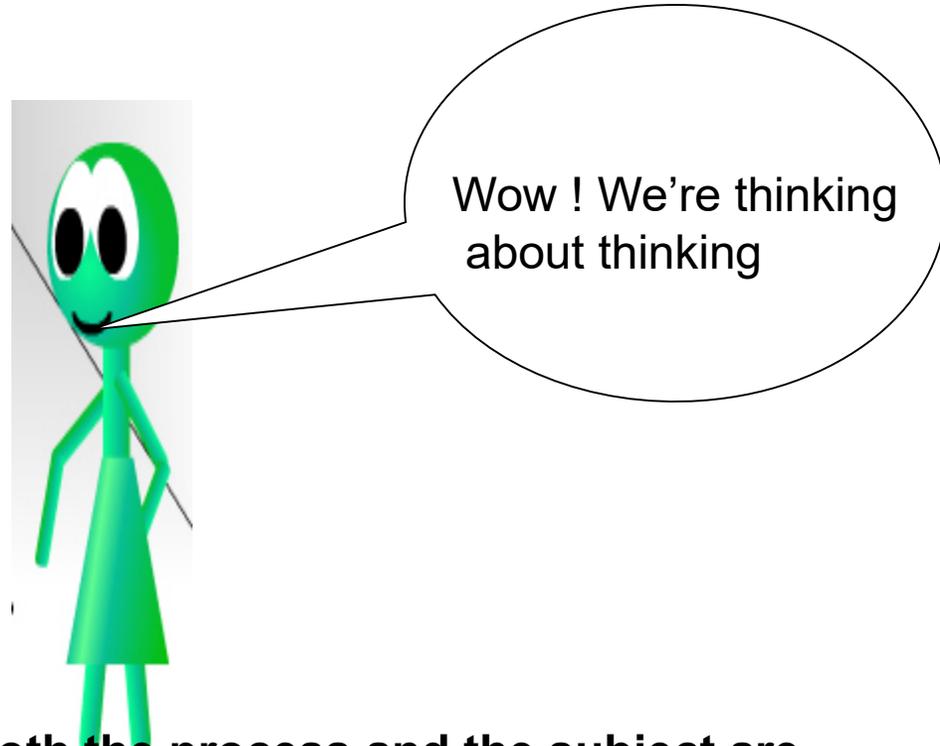
Judgments as T/F

Reasoning—arguments  
to new knowledge

**Proposition--** This tree is a only a shadow.  
**Judgement—**False it is made of paper.

**Particulars are known by universal aspects.** The mind contains universals not particulars.  
**Thinking is immaterial**

# Thinking is an immaterial process



**When we think about thinking both the process and the subject are Immaterial. This is a completely immaterial process (outside of matter).**

**Existent beings are known by their highest capacities**

**This immateriality signals human life is a different order of existence.**

# Definitions capture perfect figures

- A circle is a closed curve every point of which is equally distant from a fixed point within it. (Merriam Webster)

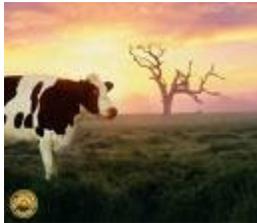
These perfect figures  
are “imperfected” by  
Material existence and  
yet they exist as perfect in  
the human mind!



# Capacities of intellect allow for freedom of the will

- For most animals movement “derives partly from external things sensed and partly from nature...they are not the cause of their own movement; and so they are not master of their own action. On the other hand, **the form understood, through which the intellectual substance acts, proceeds from the intellect itself... . Intellectual substances, then, move themselves to act, as having mastery of their own action. It therefore follows that they are endowed with will.**” Summa Contra Gentiles, book two, chapter 47:4. (p. 143)
- This freedom is also considered an attribute worthy of inherent human dignity and behaviors of respect that attend human dignity.

# Augustine on living things



Plants receive from the environment –

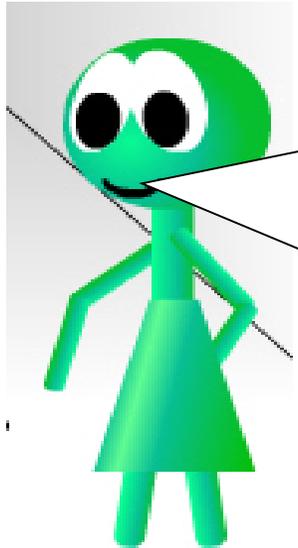
Animals see, hear, smell, taste, and touch—

Humans know and understand they can know and see, hear...receive and give to the environment. They have a higher dignity.

**Self- consciousness signals a being worthy of respect**



# Sources of human dignity



**Immaterial** intellect signals an immaterial soul (principle of life) which cannot come from the material. Where does it come from? Some believe God creates each individual soul giving human life dignity to be respected.

This **Immaterial** intellect makes us **Self-conscious & Free – Autonomous beings**

**Self-reflection requires the objective distance and an ability to look (intellectually) at self as subject.**

**This self-reflection / self-consciousness is evidenced in language (self-report). It also gives rise to inherent human dignity. Respect is given to individual insight and to self determination (The dignity of Identity).**



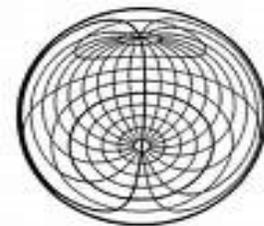
# Being Human as Substantial and Relational:

- An exposition of the contemporary synthesis of  
Norris Clarke, S.J. in *Person and Being*  
Marquette University Press, Milwaukee, 1993, 5<sup>th</sup> printing 2004
- By Beverly J. Whelton, PhD, MSN
  - Wheeling Jesuit University
  - Feb 24, 2014



# Existents in Relationship

- *From moderate realists*, like Aristotle everything **exists** as a particular kind (a matter/form unity) identifiable by the individual's characteristic behaviors; the shared nature or essence.
- *From existentialists*, like Sartre, to **exist** is to participate in making ones self and the world what it is and what it will be.
- *From phenomenologists*, like Hegel and Heidegger, existence is tied to relationships. We're not just characterized by relationships, we **exist as** the web of our relationships. (p. 4)





# The Mystery

- “...How to explain the distinction between person and nature (as that which is common to all humans which unites us as being of the same kind) and how to identify and speak of this ...uniqueness of each person as distinct from the common nature they shared: natures could be shared, personhood not (p. 3).” (parenthetical content added)



# Substance–in–Relation

- For Clarke we are Aristotelian *substances* with phenomenal *relationality* who freely made our history and make our future. Substantiality and relationality are equally primordial and inseparable modes of reality (p.14-15)

## *Substantiality*

Being in-itself-

- Unique interiority
- Privacy
- Inner self

## *Relationality*

Being towards-others

- self-possession
- self-communicating
- self-transcending



Who am I?  
Who are we?

We are intellectual beings possessing our own act of existence.  
We are the self-conscious responsible source of our own actions.  
(Clarke p. 29)

We stand as our own unity-identity-whole (an “I”) in a community of others (We are substantial existent beings in relationships).

We are self-determined and free. We are, thus, responsible for our own actions. (p.43)



# Two Mysteries

- **Self-communication** is an overflowing from within the self towards others. It is fulfilled in love. An individual “**person exists in its fullness only in the plural** (p. 76-77).”
- **Self-transcendence** is intentional movement outward from the self to another in knowledge and love. It is intentionality towards the other. **To be a true self...one must forget the self.** (p. 96)



# The Lesson of Sleeping Beauty

- “The person is awakened to actual exercise of its personhood by the initiatives of others, but is not constituted in being as person by them (p. 59).”
- “Unless someone else treats me as a “thou” I can never wake up to myself as an “I,” as a person (p. 66).”
- I distinguish myself from the subhuman world around me by responding to it, by interacting with it and discovering that it is not like me, neither articulate, nor **self-conscious**, not free, as I am (p.65).”





# I-Thou-We

- Personal being tends toward communion as its natural fulfillment. Receptivity to others leads to loving self-transcendence, an overflowing of self towards others (p. 23).
- Community is a mode of being-together for intrinsically self-communicative and relational action.
- “Being and being in community are inseparable (p. 23).”



# We are fulfilled in communion

- The social matrix of I-Thou-We constitutes the human community (p. 74).
- “Belonging to an authentic community does not submerge the free self but liberates it, nourishes it as its natural environment and ends up bringing us to know our own unique individuality even more keenly.” (p. 80)



# **IMOGENE KING**

## **Nursing Theorists in Focus**

**ORIGINAL BY Amethyst Vic C. Mergal, RN**

**ADAPTED FOR USE AT BOZEMAN, MONTANA  
BY BEVERLY J WHELTON, RN, MSN, PHD**

**April 8, 2011**

# King's Theory and Nursing's Metaparadigm - PERSON

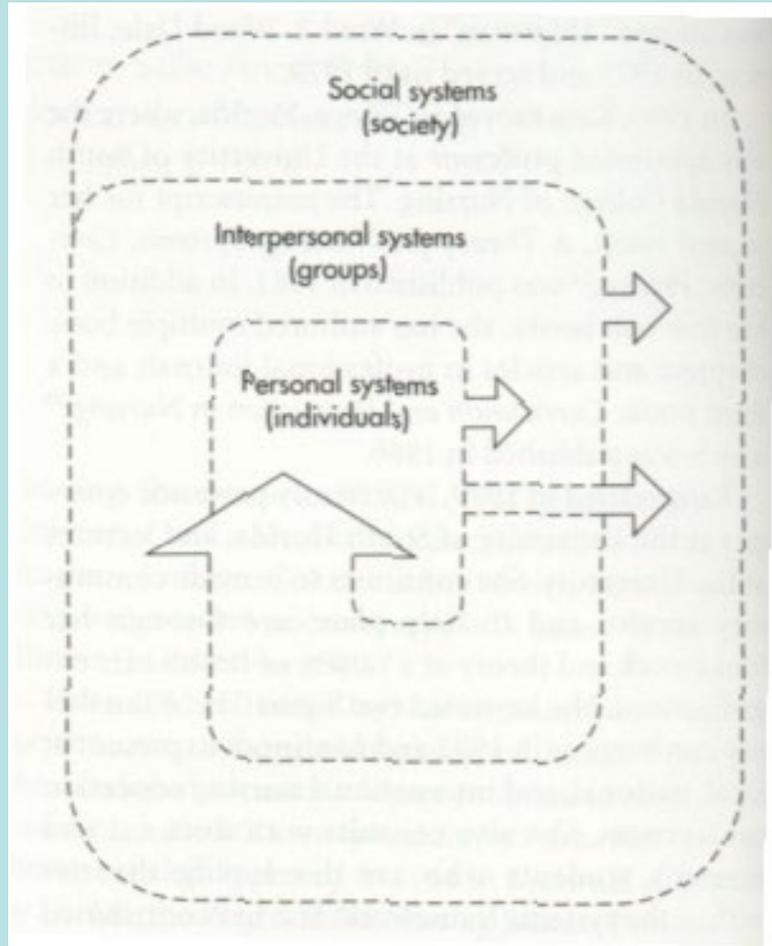
- ...*social* beings who are *rational* and *sentient*
- ...*communicate* their thoughts, actions, customs, and beliefs through language
- ...exhibit common characteristics like ability to *perceive*, to *think*, to *feel*, to *choose* between alternative courses of action, to set goals, to *select* means to achieve goals, and to *make decisions*



# HUMAN NEEDS

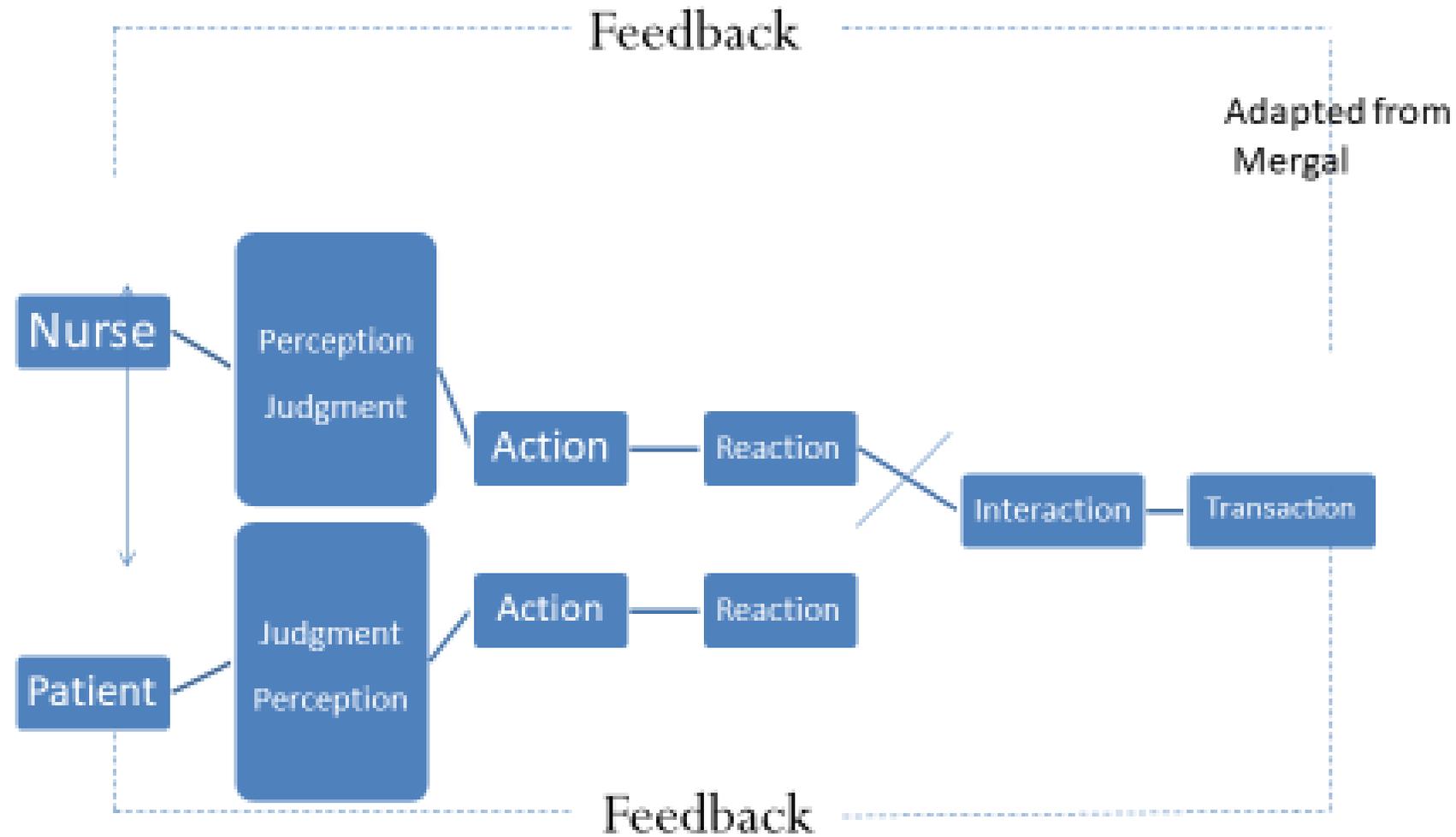
- According to King, humans in receiving health care have three fundamental needs:
  - (a) The need for **health information** that is understandable at the time when it is needed and can be used
  - (b) The need for **care that seek to prevent illness and promote health**, and
  - (c) The need for **care that humans are unable to provide themselves.**

# DYNAMIC INTERACTING SYSTEMS



- Three systems in the conceptual framework:
  - **Personal System** (the individual)
  - **Interpersonal Systems** (individuals interacting with one another)
  - **Social System** (groups of people in a community/society sharing common goals, interests, and values)
- Study systems as a whole rather than as isolated parts of a system

# KING'S DIAGRAM OF INTERACTION



**A model of King's Theory of Mutual Goal setting**

# Personal System Concepts

- **Self**
  - awareness of being a person separate from others
- **Growth and Development**
- **Body Image**
  - personal & subjective; acquired or learned; dynamic and changing
  - includes how person sees self & other's reactions to one's appearance)
- **Space**
- **Time**
- **Learning** (1986, not defined)
- **Perception**



# Interpersonal System Concepts

- **Interaction**
- **Communication**
- **Transactions**
- **Role**
- **Stress**



# THEORY OF GOAL ATTAINMENT

- ...elements are seen in the *interpersonal systems* in which two people, who are usually strangers, come together in a health care organization to *help and be helped* to maintain a state of health that permits functioning of roles.
- ...reflects King's belief that the practice of *nursing* is differentiated from other healthcare professions by *what nurses do with and for individuals*
- nurse and client *communicate* information, set goals mutually and then *act* to attain those goals



# Some MAJOR CONCEPTS OF THE THEORY

- Perception –reality as seen by individual
- Communication—exchange of information  
intrapersonal / interpersonal
- Transaction
  - process of interactions* in which human beings communicate within the environment to achieve goals that are valued
  - goal-directed* human behaviors
  - Leads to mutual goal setting*



- Thank you for the opportunity to share with you this time considering King's foundations within classical and modern understanding of the human person

beverlywhelton@gmail.com

» <http://www.kingnursing.org>