## **Taxonomy of Ego Structure**

Level of Development	Self-Protective	Conformist	Conscientious	Autonomous	Integrated
Major Theme	Victimization (Acceptance of non-worth)	Conformity (Prove worth to others)	Achievement (Prove worth to self)	Acceptance (Acceptance of intrinsic worth	Acceptance of self and the realities of this world
Relationships	Blame ("I'll get you before you get me")	Duty ("I won't upset you if you won't upset me.")	Justice ("I'll be fair with you if you'll be fair with me.")	Acceptance of differences	Cherish the differences in others
Motives	Survival (Fear)	Oughts or shoulds as defined by others	Ought as defined by self	Desire (Love)	Desire
Feelings	Dramatize or deny	Suppress	Analyze	Experienced	Experienced without judgment
Conflicts	I must have my solution (Control)	There is only one solution dictated by society as the "right" solution.	There may be many possible solutions	Solutions are not sought	There are no solutions, seek understanding and acceptance.
Responsibility	Others are at fault, not me. ("I'm not to blame even for my own unhappiness.")	"Others are responsible for my happiness."	"I am responsible for me and my happiness."	"I am responsible for me and the effect my behavior has on others."	Dynamic collaboration
World View	Banal	Banal	Multiplicity	Relativism	Commitment to that which is relative.

Note: Movement between the stages is not definite or rapid. Life does not become easier as we progress through the stages of development; possibly it becomes more difficult, challenging, and fulfilling. An individual at a more mature level of development has within them the possibility of behavior typical of any of the previous levels of development. However, to the extent that an individual is "autonomous", she or he is not "conformist". The differing stages of development affect our relationships, our roles, and our ways of dealing with conflict. An individual at a mature level of development can understand the cognitive functioning of an individual at a less mature level of development, however, an individual at a less mature level of development cannot fully understand the functioning or depth of experiencing of a person at a more mature level of development.

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