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# Editorial

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## MAY DAY MAGIC

I had no idea what I was getting into when I started my research. One of the more surprising links was a book by Gerald Hawkins - *Mindsteps to the Cosmos\**

I had already reviewed this book but had dismissed it in a rather lighthearted manner. For reasons which are apparent in this issue, it nevertheless had a profound effect on my thinking.

The author is an astronomer who has an interest in the way the human race has developed. He suggests that our development can be seen in crucial and distinct phases. Whether or not he is right in his view about the actual dates, I cannot see any way at all to disagree with the idea that the development of our minds has changed over the ages.

He suggests that we view the evolution of our 'mindsteps' as being major turning points in the way 'we' accept a new concept or paradigm or whatever we choose to call it. He suggests there have been five so far. The first was between 35,000 BC and 3,000 BD. He calls this mindstep zero - the age of chaos. The world was seen but not understood or explained; conscious of our difference but only just. Mindstep one lasted to 150 AD. An age of myth and legend; examples are given. Mindstep two lasted to 1543 AD and was the age of order; again with arguments to justify his viewpoint. Mindstep three - the age of revolution lasted to 1926 when the age of space started our present period.

The author's idea of a mindstep is that point in time when 'WE' decide that the world is not the way we previously thought. If we substitute COSMOS for world then we are almost home. While he does venture into predictions he is very cautious. In one way I share that caution yet I do believe that spring this year is very special.

The important point is that if we are willing to accept his view of a developing consciousness and we also accept Wilber's view of an evolutionary development in ourselves, then we are faced with the idea that the windmills of our mind may not be all they seem at the time.

Let us speculate: in recent years we have begun to understand how we, as individuals, have a deep and vital relationship with our environment. We call it ecology. The fact has always been there; it is simply that I (WE) did not give it prominence in the past. Could I (WE) think that there is a need now for an ecology of consciousness? I jest; this is the May issue and our purpose is to enjoy.

But this book is not a joke. It is written by a serious scientist who, in trying to relate outer space to the workings of our mind, could perhaps have reached an understanding that we might have missed. If one can allow just for a moment that both He and Wilber are right, then we have spirals within spirals.

Change is in the air: change is in us. Let us experiment and try to open ourselves to what is going on. Let's make it a celebration. At noon on May 1st let's all join in a mammoth (cosmic?) meditation and/or happening. It could be **magic**.

**Mark Matthews**

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**\*Mindsteps to the Cosmos: Gerald S. Hawkins. Souvenir Press. 340pp £9.95**

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