

**Question Two:
How do we get well
being and avoid
misfortunes?**

QUESTION TWO:

**How can we assure our
well being . . .**

**. . . and how can we avoid
or overcome misfortunes?**

**What do we want in order
to have a good life?**

WHAT ARE MISFORTUNES?

MISFORTUNES AND EVILS

1. UNTIMELY DEATHS

- *child and mother in childbirth***
- *barren woman, unmarried man***
- *hunting or fishing accident***

2. UNUSUAL BIRTHS

- *twins***
- *abnormalities in infant***
- *breach birth, still birth***

3. SUICIDES

4. NATURAL CALAMITIES

- *earthquakes***
- *droughts, floods***
- *fires***

- 5. ILLNESSES, EPIDEMICS**
- 6. FAMINES**
- 7. POVERTY**
- 8. FAILURE**
 - *gambling*
 - *love*
 - *business*
 - *school exams*
- 9. LOSS OF OBJECTS**
- 10. WAR, RAIDS**
- 11. BARRENNESS**
- 12. MENTAL ILLNESS**
- 13. OTHER MISFORTUNES**

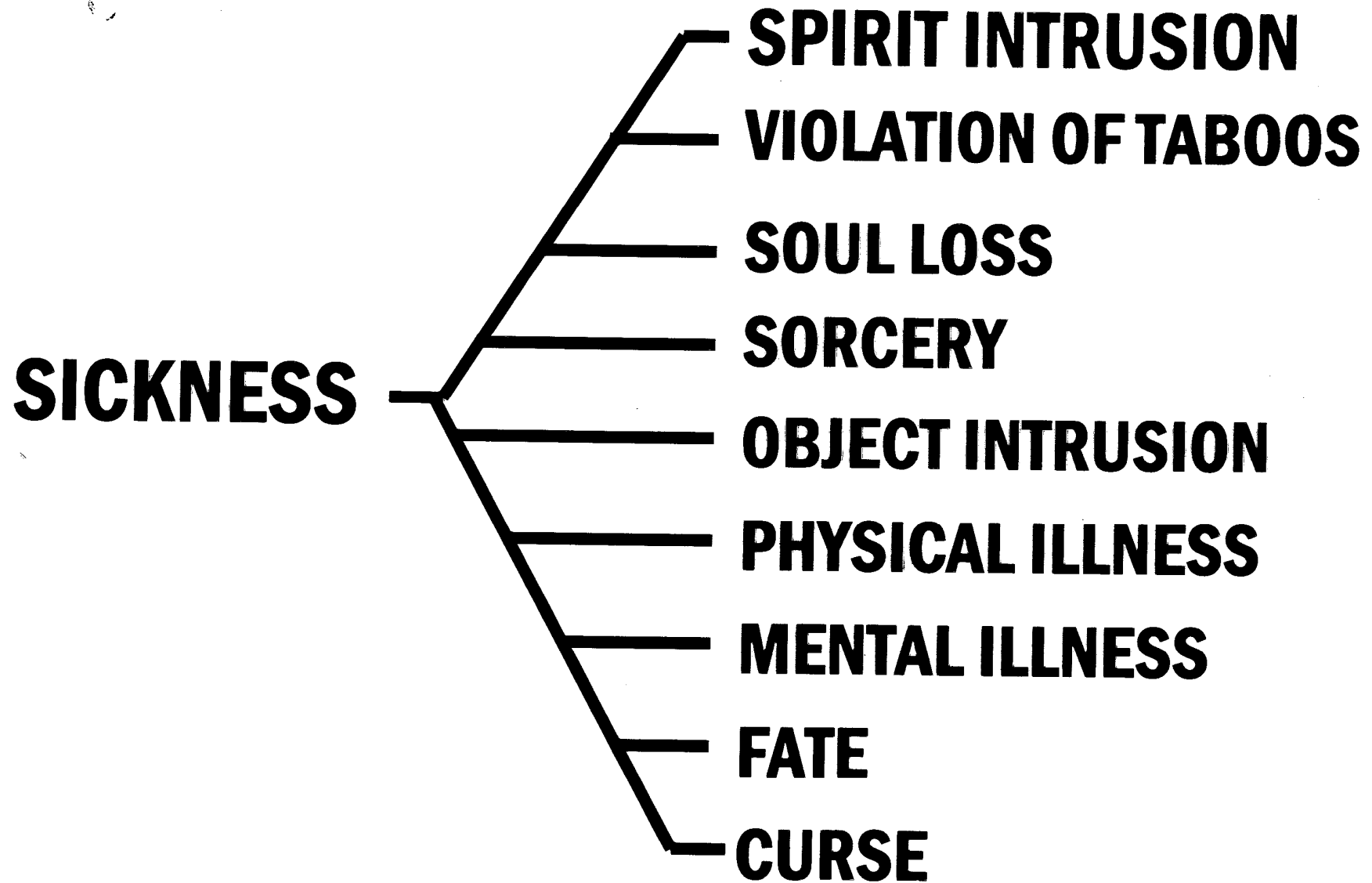
REMEDIES

- amulets, charms
- chants
- ~~medicines~~
- magic
- exorcism
- soul recovery
- counseling
- vaccinations
- sacrifices
- repayment of damages
- witchcraft protection
- shielding from evil eye
- dikes to prevent flooding
- fire safe housing
- etc.

DEALING WITH MISFORTUNE

ADVERSITY → CHOOSE A —→ DIAGNOSE —→ SELECT A
BELIEF THE CAUSE REMEDY
SYSTEM TO USING THIS AND
EXPLAIN IT THIS SYSTEM APPLY IT

DIAGNOSES OF DISEASES IN KOREA



SHRINES IN OSAKA, JAPAN

ISHIKIRI SHRINE -

- For Healing

HOZAN-JI SHRINE -

- For Business Success

IKOMA WATERFALLS -

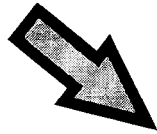
- For Power and Purity

BUDDHA FIGURES

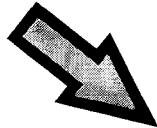
- Help in This Life

TREATMENTS FOR ADVERSITIES

ADVERSITY



**SYSTEM OF
EXPLANATION**



**DIAGNOSIS
OF CAUSE**



REMEDIES

IN MANY SOCIETIES:

- there is no place for “accidents.” All misfortunes must be explained and settled.
- most misfortunes are blamed on bad interpersonal relationships.
 - witchcraft, sorcery
 - curses
 - evil eye, touch
 - strong mana
 - evil magic

MECHANICS

CAUSES

REMEDIES

BAD FATE ← → Divination and
cautious living

BAD KARMA ↔ Live lawfully.

BAD STARS ↔ Use astrology.

BAD MAGIC ↔ Counter magic.

BRANCH OF
TABOO ← → Restitution and
cleansing.

OBJECT
INTRUSION ↔ Object removal.

EVIL EYE ↔ Preventive acts.

POLLUTION ↔ Purification.

BIOLOGICAL ↔ Medicines.

ILLNESS

**PHYSICAL ↔ Surgery,
INJURY medicines.**

BROKEN RELATIONS ↔ **Mediation,
counseling.**

MENTAL ILLNESS ↔ **Counseling.**

VIOLATION OF NATURE ↔ **Placation of
nature.**

ORGANIC

CAUSES

REMEDIES

SIN AGAINST:↔ Sacrifice,
- God, spirits, cleansing,
ancestors, punishment.
society, nature,
self

SPIRIT ←————→ Exorcism.

POSSESSION

SOUL LOSS ↔ Soul recovery.

WITCHCRAFT ↔ Protection,
 counter witchcrf.
 destroy witch.

WITCHCRAFT

Witches and sorcerers:

1. Get power by -
 - birth.
 - apprenticeship.
2. Are feared.
3. Detected by divination, ordeal, and forced confession.
4. Are seen as anti-social - opposite to normal people.
5. Are found in most societies

AGUARUNA WITCHCRAFT

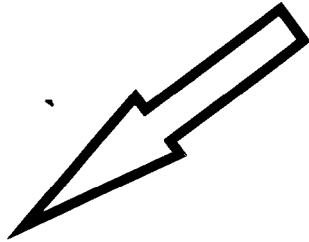
assumption:

- every death is caused by some other person.

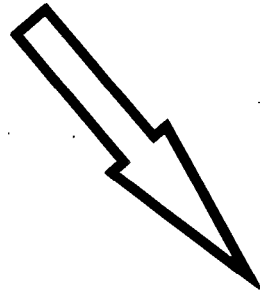
obligation:

- every death must be avenged

WITCHCRAFT



**SPIRITUAL
SYSTEM**



**SOCIAL
SCAPEGOATING**



SOURCES OF WITCHCRAFT

1. Belief that people can have supernatural power.
2. Strong group orientation.
3. Hostile external world.
see
4. No ways to solve internal tensions.

CURE OF WITCHCRAFT

- 1. Treat the victim.**
- 2. Detect the witch and
destroy his/her power.**

THEOLOGICAL RESPONSES TO WITCHCRAFT

- 1. Condemn it. (Ex. 22:18,
Deut. 18:10)**
- 2. Pray with those who believe
they are bewitched.**
- 3. Defend and support those
falsely accused of being
witches.**
- 4. Develop methods to deal with
hostility and reconciliation.**

ILLNESSES IN AN INDIAN VILLAGE

- hot diseases (fevers)
- cold diseases
- boils and cuts
- mental diseases
- bad tempers
- family quarrels
- bad luck, frequent accidents
- being robbed repeatedly
- going broke
- house burning down

HEALING IN AN INDIAN VILLAGE

1. [SAINT]

- deals with spiritual illnesses
- cures by prayer
- asks no questions
- charges no fees

2. [SHAMAN]

- deals with spirits and soul sickness
- cures by battling spirits and exorcism
- asks no question
- charges no fees

3.

[MAGICIAN]

- deals with misfortunes caused by planets, curses, evil magic
- cures by magic
- asks no questions
- charges no fees

4.

[MEDICAL DOCTOR]

- cures biophysical diseases
- uses Ayurveda and Unnani medicines
- charges high fees because he has powerful cures
- guarantees result, no cost if no cure

5.

[HOME REMEDIES]

- deals with minor medical problems
- asks many questions because he/she does not know much
- charges low fees because the medicines are not powerful
- gives no guarantee, must pay for services when one is cured or not

HMONG IMMIGRANT QUESTIONS ABOUT AMERICAN MEDICINES

- Why do American doctors take so much blood from their patients?
- After you die, why do doctors try to open up your head and take out your brain?
- Do American doctors eat the livers, kidneys and brains of Hmong patients?
- If they cut brains and eat them, is it forbidden to go to the shaman for healing?
- Is it true that when Hmong people die in the U.S. that they are cut into pieces and put in tin cans and sold as food?

(Fediman)

FUNCTIONS OF WITCHCRAFT

1. SOCIAL CONTROL:

- in small societies with weak systems of social control.**
- in societies unstable due to rapid social change.**

2. STRESS REDUCTION:

- in beleaguered societies surrounded by a hostile environment.**

3. EXPLANATION OF EVIL:

- in societies where nothing is due to "chance."**

- 4. GIVES POWER TO THE POWERLESS.**

- 5. PROVIDES EXPRESSION FOR ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOR.**

- 6. USED SOCIALLY IT IS USUALLY USED FOR GOOD:**
 - bring prosperity.**
 - assure victory in battle.**
 - control the weather.**
 - prevent disasters.**
 - maintain customs and laws.**
 - discipline deviants.**

7. USED INDIVIDUALLY IT IS OFTEN USED FOR EVIL:

Good:

- bring prosperity.**
- avoid danger.**
- control the future.**
- love magic.**

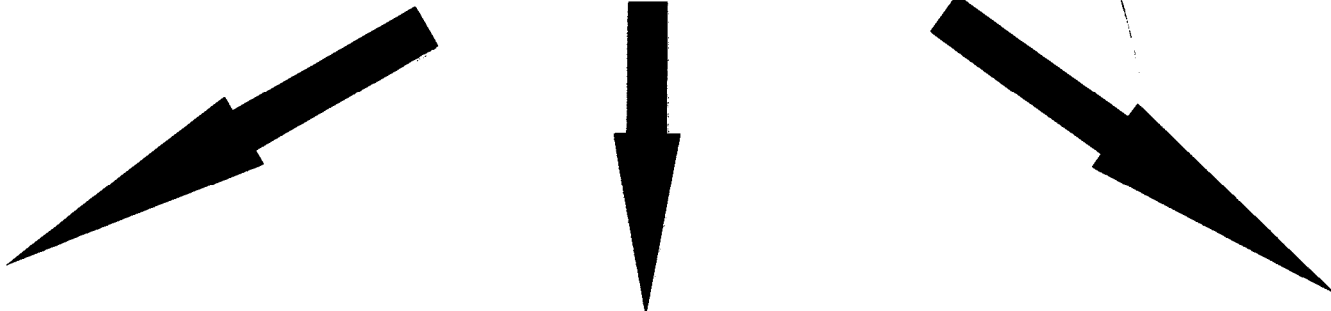
Evil:

- curse or kill an enemy.**
- steal someone's soul.**
- send "waste away" magic.**
- cast a spell.**

In studying spirit realities we need to examine the worldviews we bring with us when we study Scripture and interpret experiences.

Our worldview is what we *think with*, not what we think about. It is very hard to think about what we are thinking with.

POSSESSION



SPURIOUS

**PSYCHO-
PATHOLOGICAL**

RELIGIOUS



Simulated



Pathological



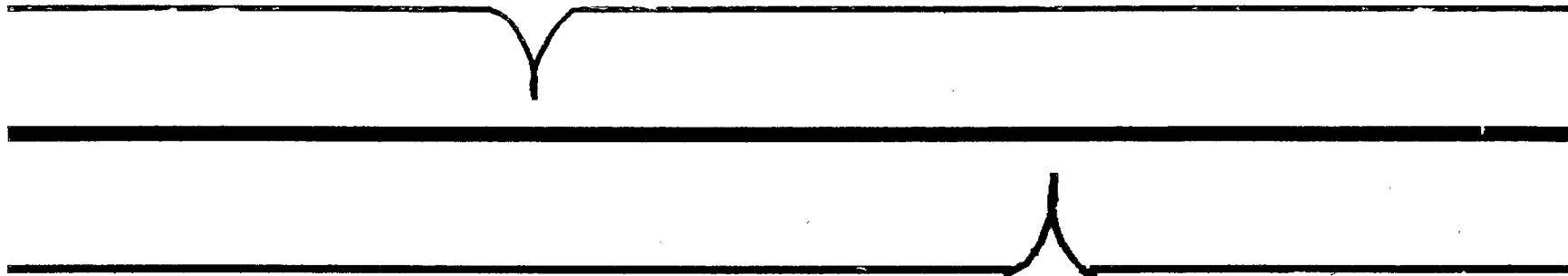
Genuine

INSPIRATION

POSSESSION

SELF CONTROL

LOSS OF SELF CONTROL



SELF AWARENESS

**LOSS OF SELF
AWARENESS**

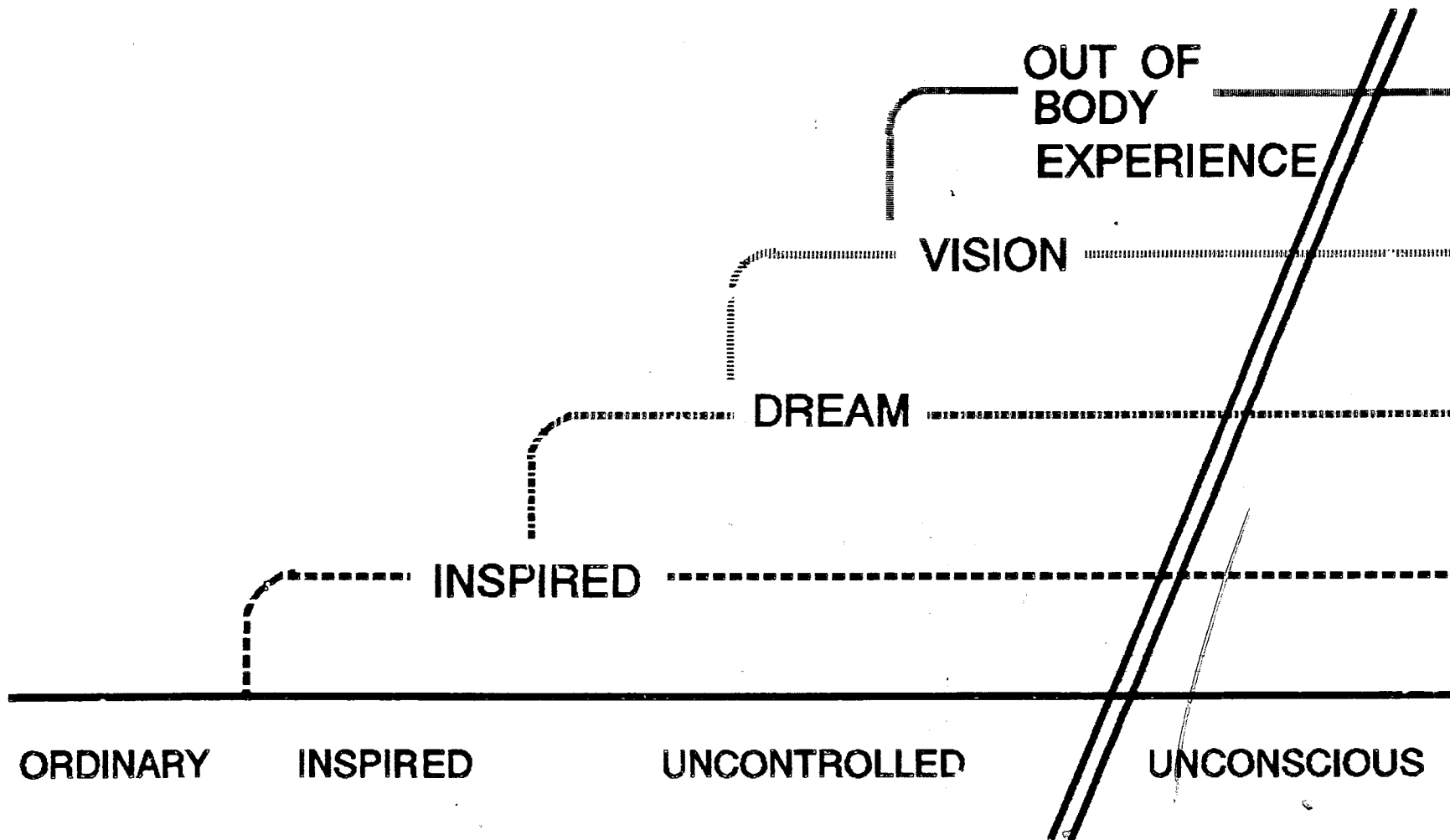
CONTROL

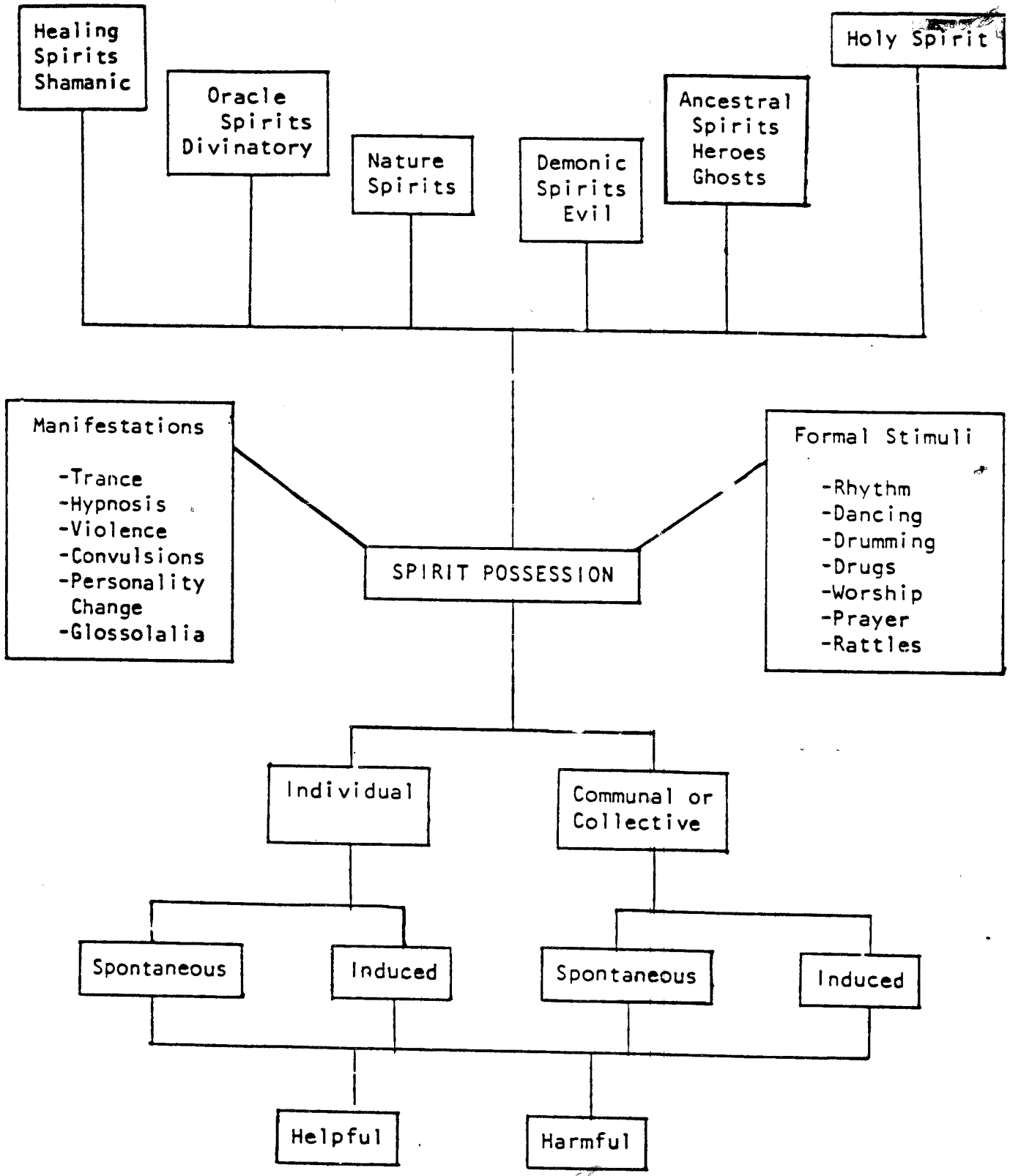
- stresses cognitive
- carefully groomed
- caution, passivity
- priestly type
- institutional control

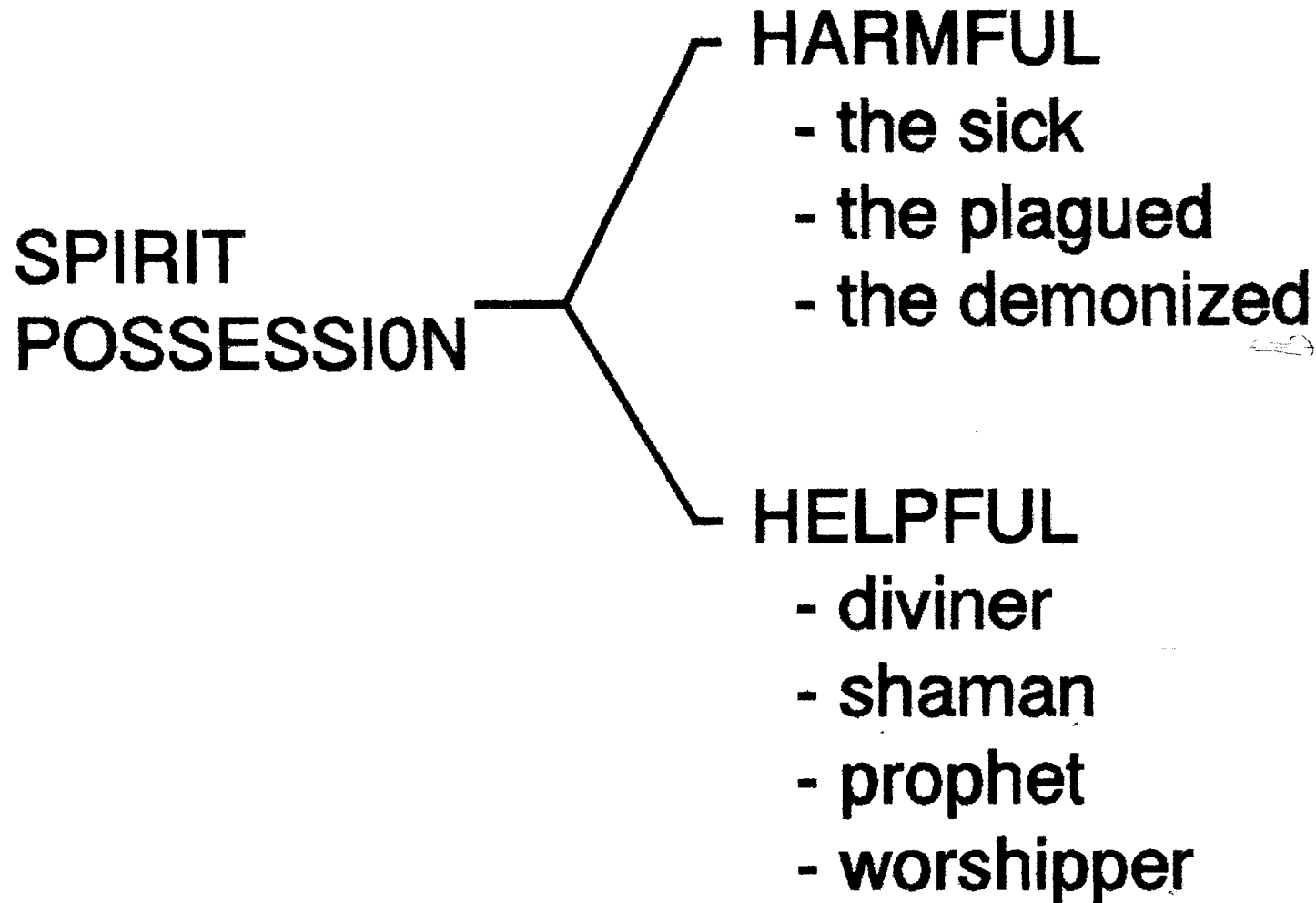
FREEDOM

- stress ecstatic feelings
- unkempt
- abandonment, activity
- prophetic type
- individualism

ALTERED STATES OF CONSCIOUSNESS



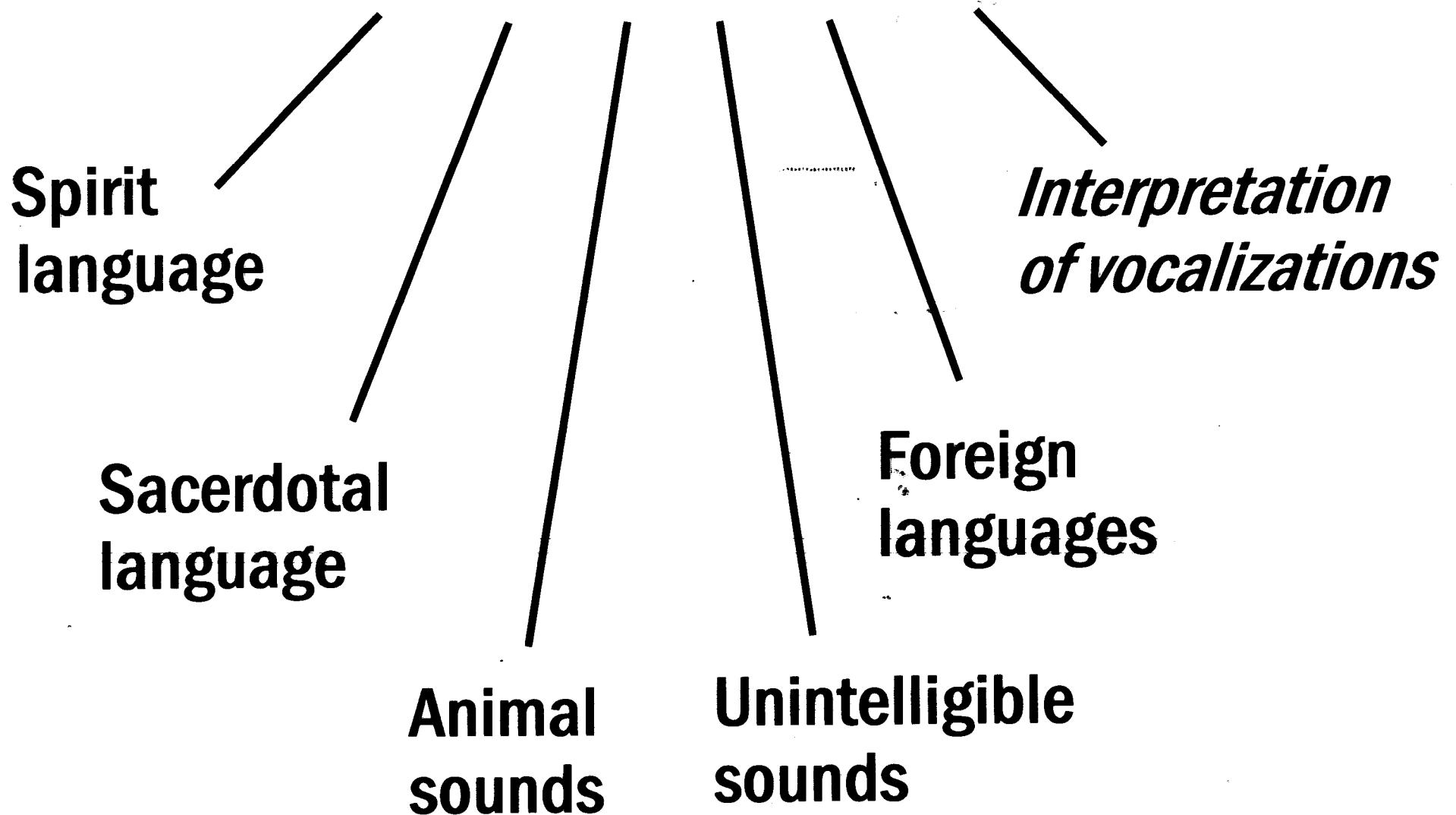




EXAMPLES OF GLOSSOLALIA

- Mesopotamia: "Muhhum"
- Inner Asia: "Shaman"
- Arabia: "Kahin" - tribal seer
"Dervish"
- Greece: "Oracles," "Sibyls"
- Israel: "Prophets" (I Sam.
10:5-6, 6:16)
- Early church: Donatists, Arians,
Nestorians, Huguenots,
(sleeping preachers in U.S.)

VOCALIZATIONS DUE TO SPIRIT POSSESSION



OCCURANCE OF GLOSSOLALIA

- 1. Often found among those who feel powerless and oppressed by religious institutions.**
- 2. Led by a "prophet" type leader.**
- 3. Commonly associated with a heightened state of consciousness.**
- 4. Often produced by rituals associated with ecstasy or meditation.**

FUNCTIONS OF INDUCED SPIRIT POSSESSION

- 1. Guidance in everyday life**
- 2. Sanctions leadership**
- 3. Provides an authority in life**
- 4. Communicates with the spiritual world**
- 5. Deals with mental illnesses**
- 6. Counters sorcery**
- 7. Frees a person from the constraints of society**

DEALING WITH POSSESSION

1. Treat it 'matter-of-factly':

- recognize its reality.
- don't go looking for it.
- deal with it when it arises.

2. Work in a team:

- involve a minister, doctor, and psychologist.
- do not use possession as the first explanation. Consider it alongside other explanations.

3. Don't fear it:

- in Scripture it is associated with diseases.
- it is to be pitied, not feared.
- deal with known sin in your life before ministering.
- demons have no power over you.

4. Test the Spirits:

- rule out other causes.
- don't trust the evil spirits.

TEST THE SPIRITS:

Not:

- emotions
- experience

But:

- confession that this
Jesus is the Lord
(1 John 4:1-3)
- manifestation of
spiritual victory and
fruits of the spirit.
(Gal. 5:19-25)

5. Minister to the person:

- **avoid a magical approach. Remember you are powerless, but God is powerful.**
- **minister in teams.**
- **pray and use Scripture.**
- **if the deliverance does not last, it may be a case of psychological need.**

6. Move to priorities:

- **remember exorcism is not salvation.**

HOW SHOULD WE DEAL WITH THE PHENOMENOLOGY OF SPIRIT POSSESSION?

Healing Cults

- doctrine: all Christians are to be physically healthy and materially rich.
- three verbal confessions
 - lordship of Christ
 - sins
 - positive confession
- origins: Phineas Quimby (1802-1866) - New Thought
 - Mary Baker Eddy --
Christian Science