



THE ADVENT OF DIVINE JUSTICE

A PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF A SPIRITUAL PROCESS

HOW TO READ THE BAHA'I WRITINGS WITH SPIRITUAL STATIONS IN MIND

For inspiration:

The Bab (The Gate)

Baha'u'llah (The Manifestation)

Abdu'l Baha (The Exemplar)

The
Central
Figures

For structure:

Baha'u'llah

Abdu'l Baha

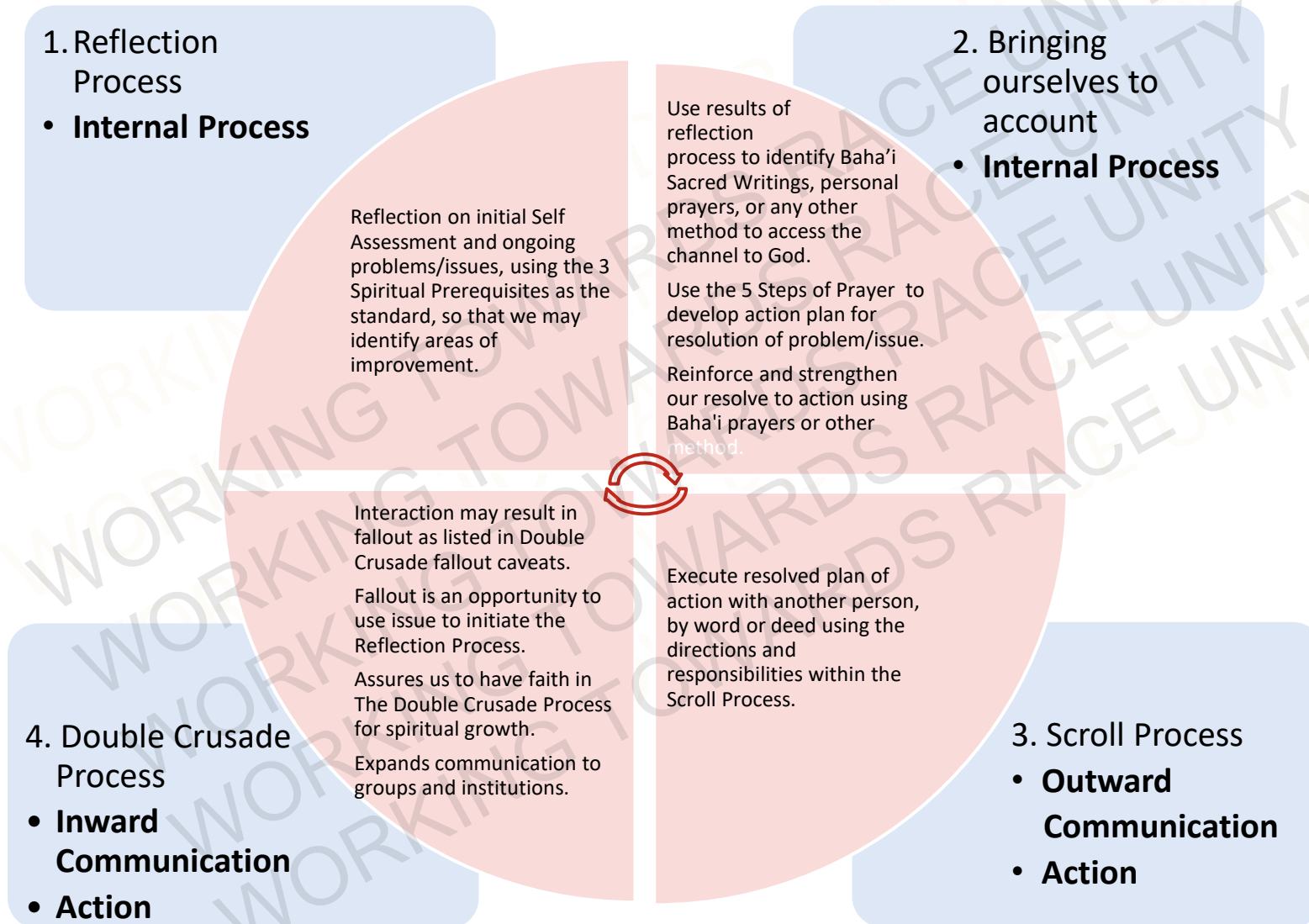
For instructions on how to implement:

Shoghi Effendi (The Guardian)

Universal House of Justice (The Governing Body)

There may be overlap depending on the Texts but if you read with their station in mind, you will get more clarity and comprehension.

THE ADJ PROCESS



VIRTUES WHEN APPROACHING ADJ PROCESS

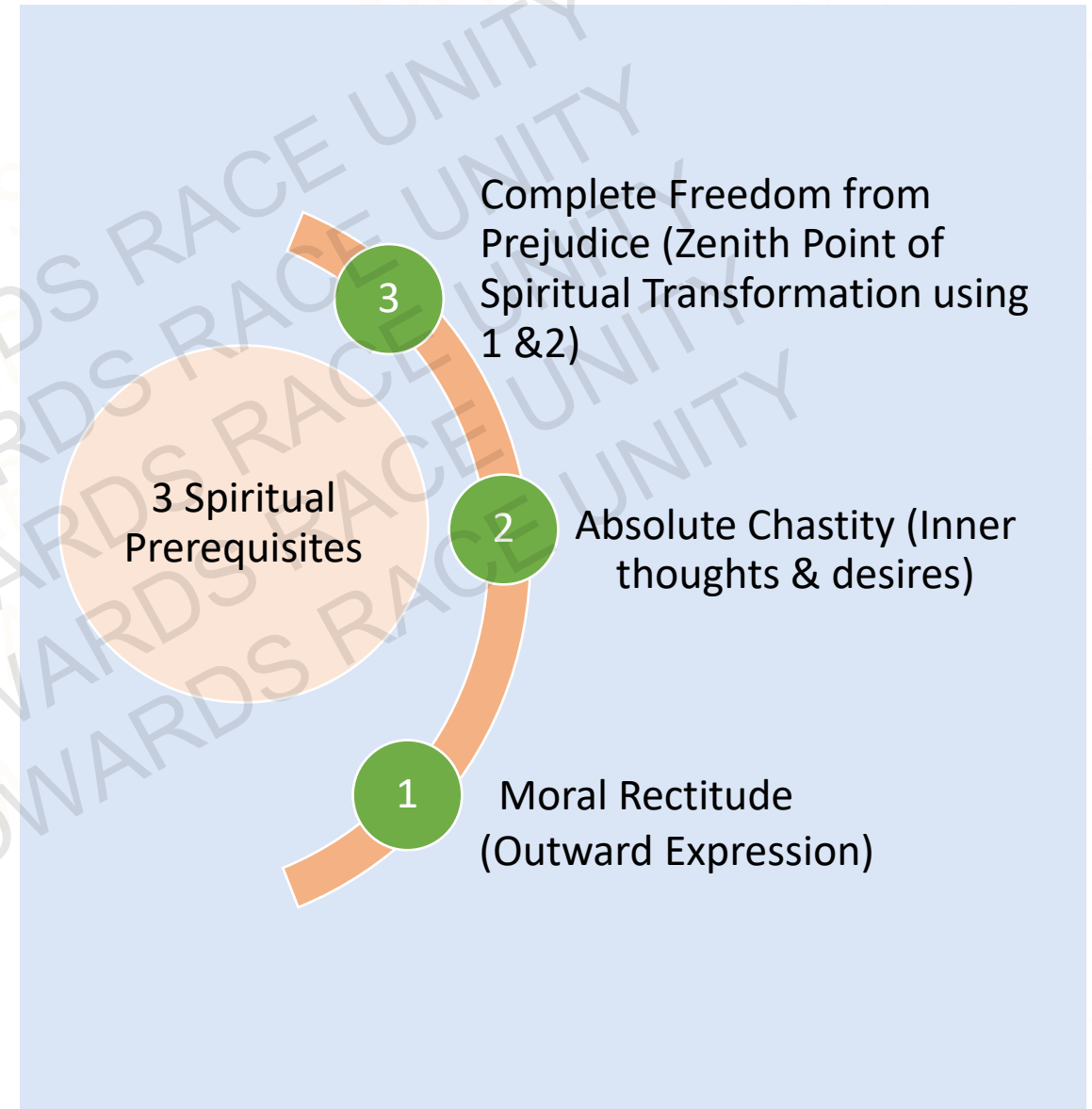
- The primary virtue to approach the ADJ process is:

HUMILITY

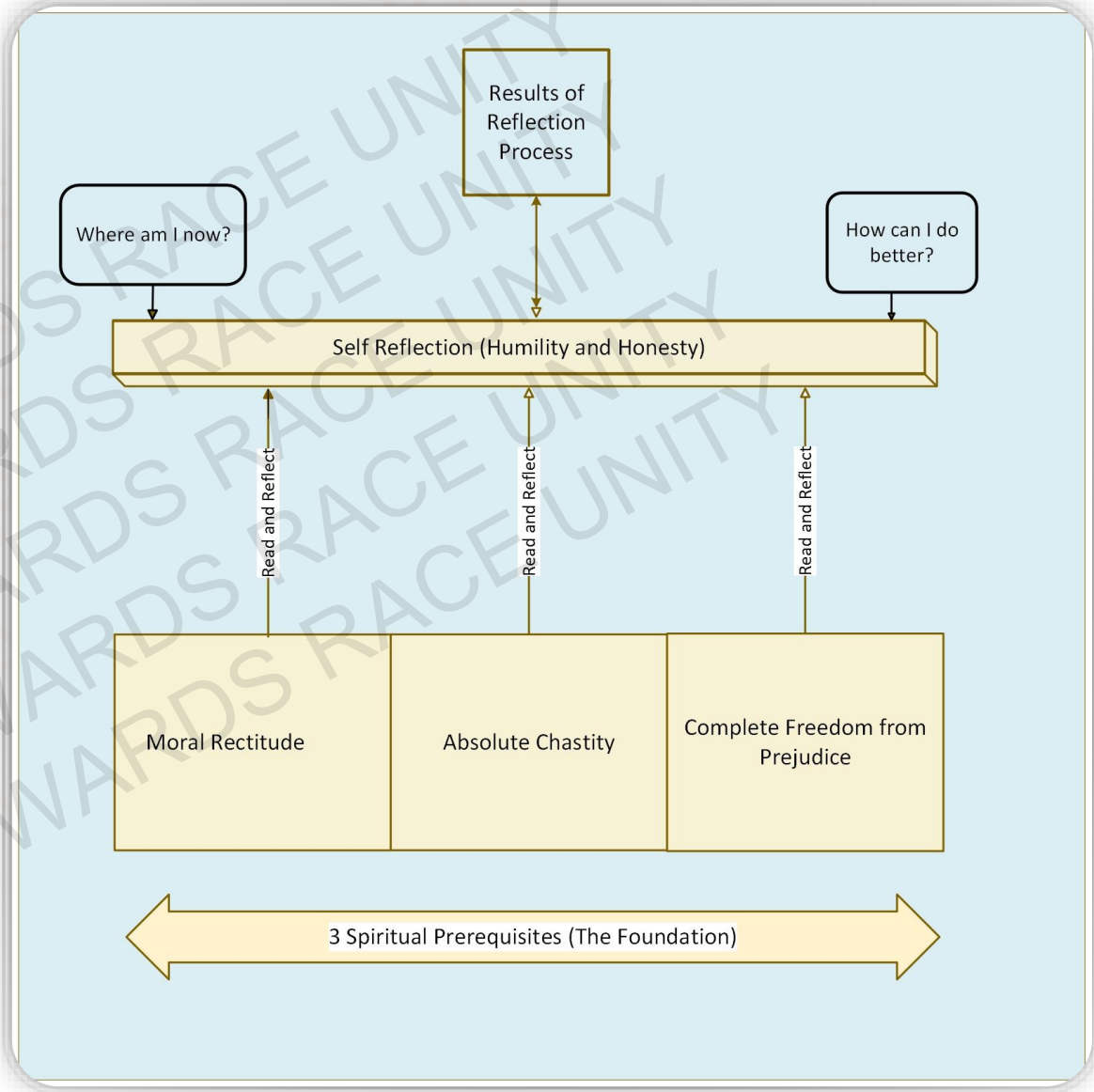
- The supporting virtue to approach the ADJ process is:

HONESTY

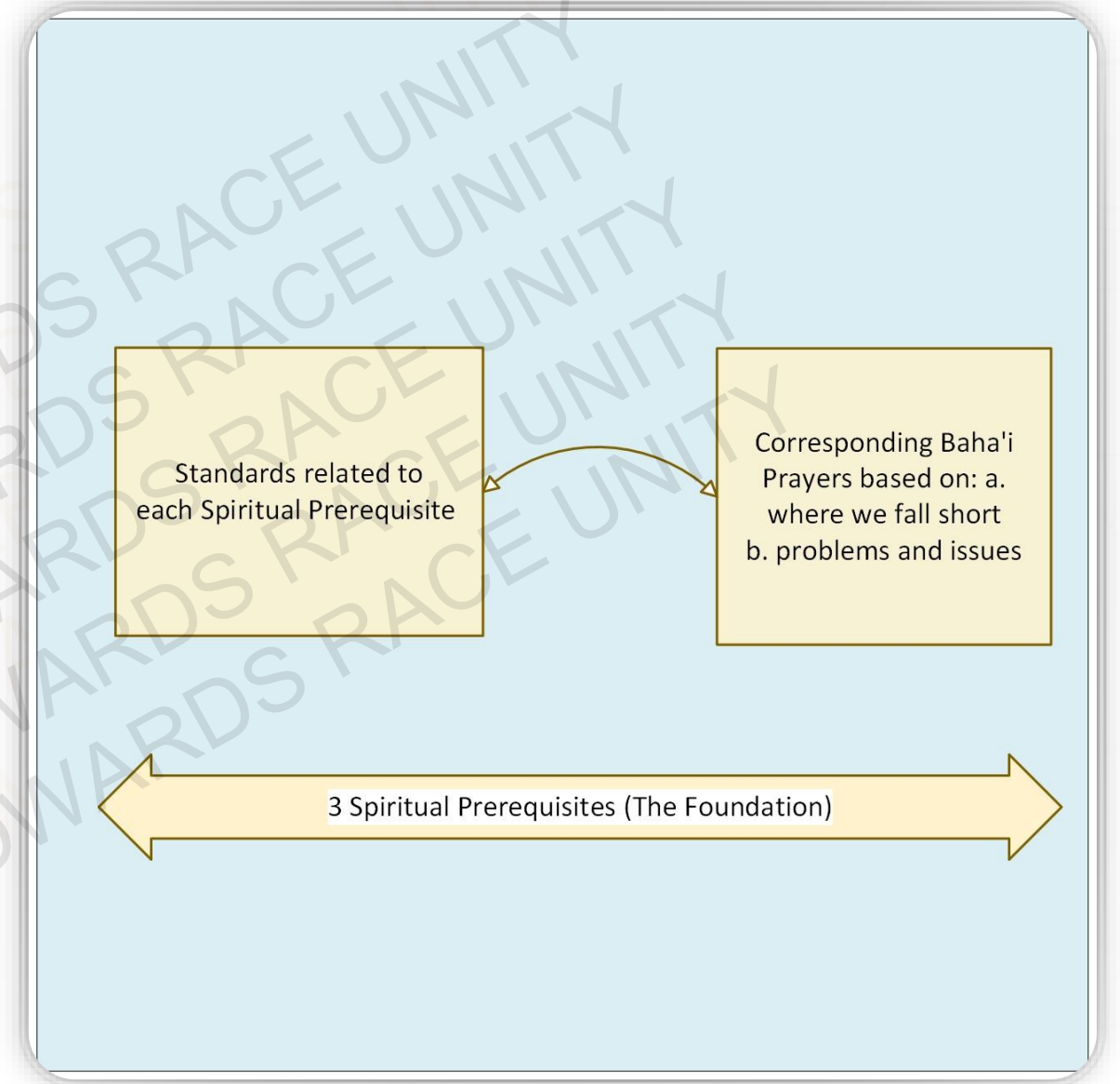
3 SPIRITUAL PREREQUISITES FOR SUCCESS



REFLECTION PROCESS



BAHAI' PRAYERS AND CORRESPONDING STANDARDS



5 STEPS TO ACTION PLAN – STEPS 1 & 2

1. Pray and Meditate

Pray and meditate about it. Use the prayers of the Manifestations as they have the greatest power. Then remain in the silence of contemplation for a few minutes.

2. Decide

Arrive at a decision and hold this. This decision is usually born during the contemplation. It may seem almost impossible of accomplishment but if it seems to be as answer to a prayer or a way of solving the problem, then immediately take the next step.

5 STEPS TO ACTION PLAN – STEPS 3 & 4

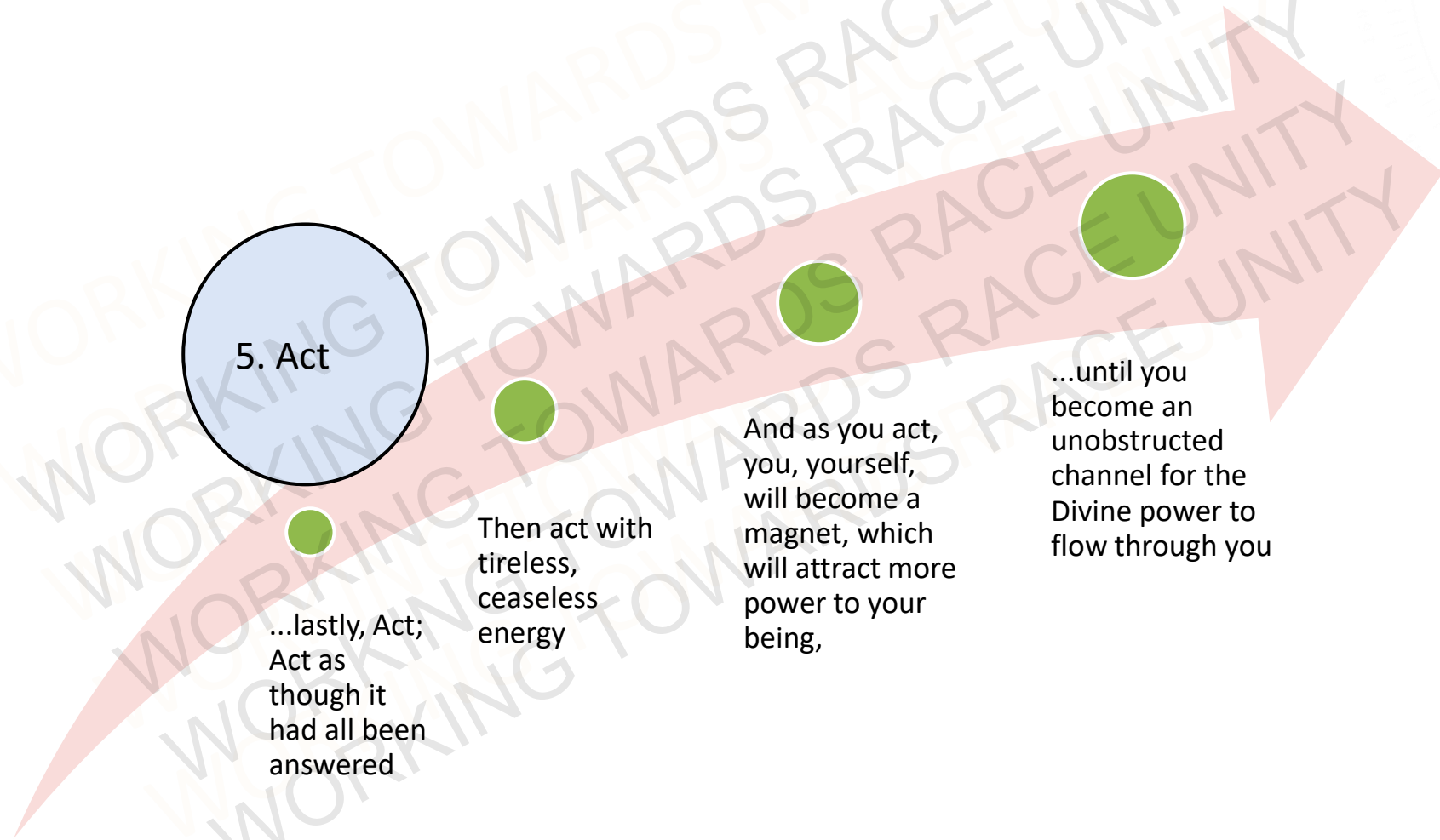
3. Persevere in carrying decision through

Have determination to carry the decision through. Many fail here. The decision, budding into determination, is blighted and instead becomes a wish or a vague longing. When determination is born, immediately take the next step.

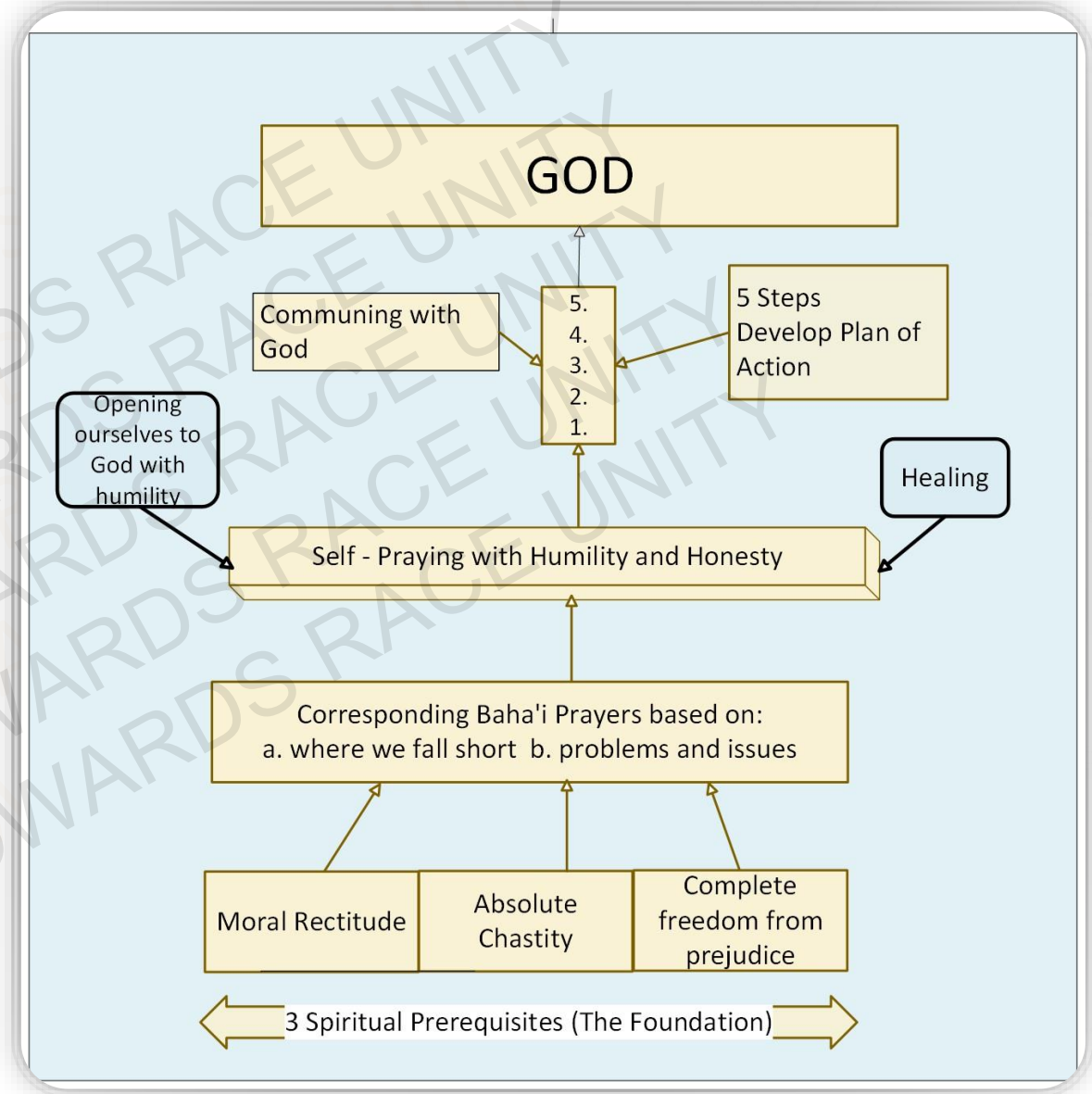
4. Have faith and confidence

Have faith and confidence that the power will flow through you, the right way will appear, the door will open, the right thought, the right message, the right principle or the right book will be given you. Have confidence, and the right thing will come to your need. Then, as you rise from prayer, take at once the fifth step.

5 STEPS TO ACTION PLAN - STEP 5



BRINGING OURSELVES TO ACCOUNT



SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE (REFLECTION AND BRINGING OURSELVES TO ACCOUNT)

INITIAL BASELINE ASSESSMENT

1. For the initial time, reflect on the 3 spiritual prerequisites and do the initial self assessment and list the areas that you need to improve on.
2. Find the corresponding Prayers that will help you to improve and go through the process of bringing yourself to account.
3. Execute Plan of Action for improvement.
4. If you don't have any overriding issue or problem, go back to your original self assessment list and continue to work on improving yourself through the application of the process.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE PRACTICE (REFLECTION AND BRINGING OURSELVES TO ACCOUNT)

SPECIFIC PROBLEMS AND ISSUES

1. For a specific problem or issue, use the Reflection Process to identify what Spiritual Prerequisite Standards are affected.
2. Find the corresponding Prayers that will help you to improve and go through the process of bringing yourself to account.
3. Execute Plan of Action to resolve issue/problem.

SUGGESTIONS FOR
THE PRACTICE
(REFLECTION AND
BRINGING
OURSELVES TO
ACCOUNT)

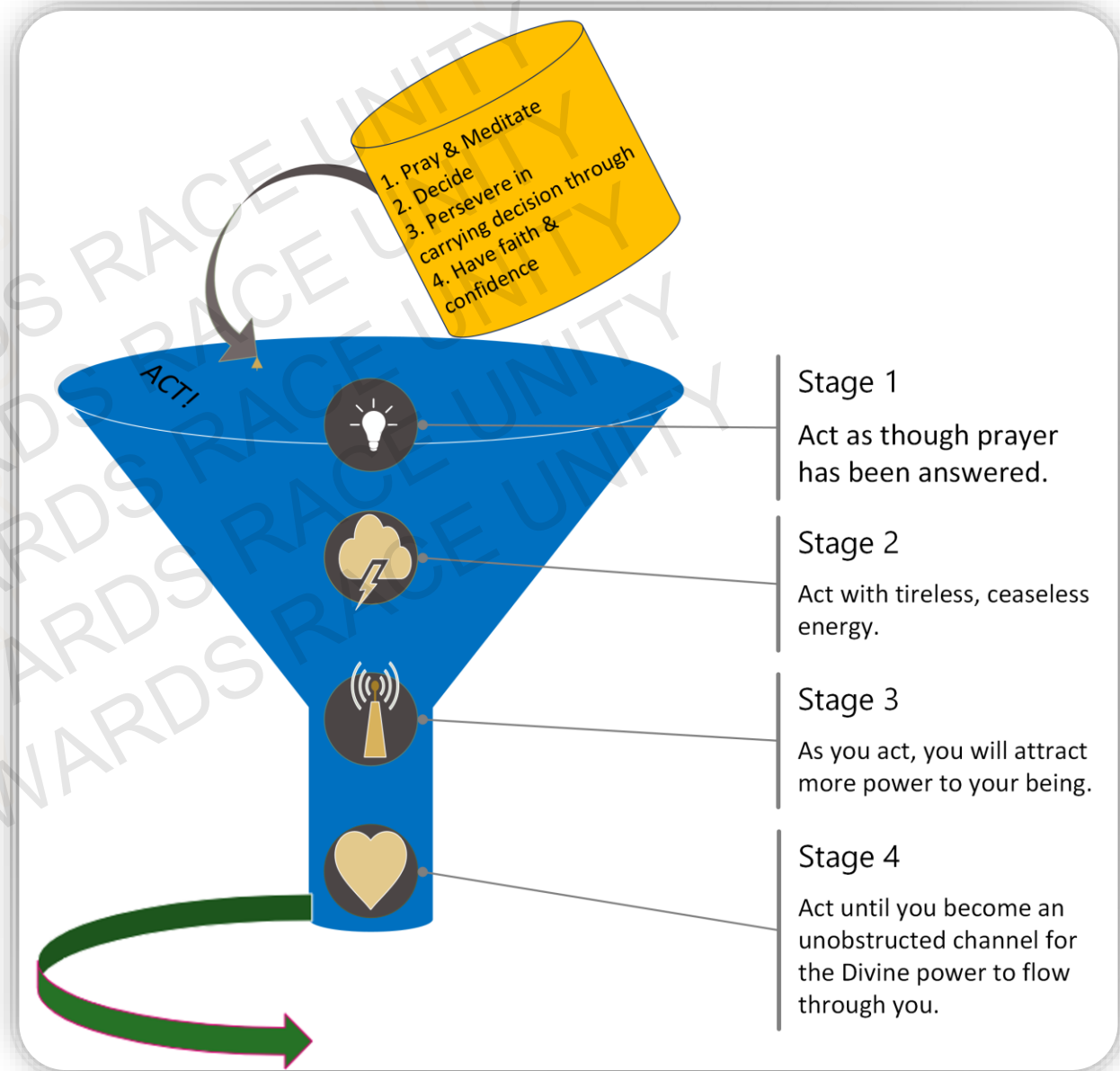
CONSTANT
IMPROVEMENT

You must always constantly be using this process to improve both your self assessment baseline and to address new problems and issues as they arise.

Practice this morning and night until you have internalized the process (eventually you will come to the point that you can use it at any time that an issue occurs.

TRANSITION TO THE COMMUNICATION (SCROLL) PROCESS

- The ACT Interaction may be word or deed.



BINDING CONTRACT FOR INTERACTION – TRANSITION TO COMMUNICATION

The Binding Contract contains all the characteristics of a Contract

- **Contract Date, 2 or more Parties, Acceptance and , Value, duration of the Contract, and penalty for non – adherence.**
- **The Binding Contract binds the ADJ Cycle's internal processes of Reflection and Bringing Ourselves to Account to the external processes of Communication (Scroll) and the Double Crusade.**
- **The Binding Contract also binds us through our commitment to focus on the 3 spiritual prerequisites as our standards and our commitment to God through Baha'u'llah's Message.**

A tremendous effort is required by both races if their outlook, their manners, and conduct are to reflect, in this darkened age, the spirit and teachings of the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh. Casting away once and for all the fallacious doctrine of racial superiority, with all its attendant evils, confusion, and miseries, and welcoming and encouraging the intermixture of races, and tearing down the barriers that now divide them, they should each endeavor, day and night, to fulfill their particular responsibilities in the common task which so urgently faces them.

Let them, while each is attempting to contribute its share to the solution of this perplexing problem, call to mind the warnings of 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and visualize, while there is yet time, the dire consequences that must follow if this challenging and unhappy situation that faces the entire American nation is not definitely remedied.

SCROLL PROCESS RESPONSIBILITIES

White Responsibilities to Process

- in their resolve to contribute their share to the solution of this problem,
- To abandon once and all their usually inherent and at times subconscious sense of superiority
- To correct their tendency towards revealing a patronizing attitude towards the members of another race
- To persuade them through their intimate, spontaneous, and informal association with them of the genuineness of their friendship and the sincerity of their intentions
- And to master their impatience of any lack of responsiveness on the part of a people who have received for so long a period, such grievous and slow-healing wounds.

Black Responsibilities to Process

- *The warmth of their response*
- *Their readiness to forget the past*
- *And their ability to wipe out every trace of suspicion that may still linger in their hearts and minds.*

Mutual Responsibilities to Process

Let neither think that the solution of so vast a problem is a matter that exclusively concerns the other. **Let neither** think that such a problem can either easily or immediately be resolved. **Let neither** think that they can wait confidently for the solution of this problem until the initiative has been taken, and the favorable circumstances created, by agencies that stand outside the orbit of their Faith. **Let neither** think that anything short of genuine love, extreme patience, true humility, consummate tact, sound initiative, mature wisdom, and deliberate, persistent, and prayerful effort, can succeed in blotting out the stain which this patent evil has left on the fair name of their common country. **Let them rather** believe, and be firmly convinced, that on their mutual understanding, their amity, and sustained cooperation, must depend, more than on any other force or organization operating outside the circle of their Faith, the deflection of that dangerous course so greatly feared by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and the materialization of the hopes He cherished for their joint contribution to the fulfillment of that country's glorious destiny.

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE SUPREME EFFORT AND THE CORRESPONDING EFFORT

- Shoghi Effendi specifically defined the structure of the effort so that we would clearly understand who was to initiate the action and who would respond to the action.



SIGNIFICANT DEFINITIONS

Shoghi Effendi was very specific in his use of terms in the Scroll Process.

- Shoghi Effendi uses the phrase Supreme Effort to identify and clarify the role of initiator of the effort played by the whites.
- Shoghi Effendi uses the phrase Corresponding Effort to describe the role of the blacks in responding to the white initiated action.
- Shoghi Effendi, in the binding contract, defined black and white as a range which would include all combinations of peoples as each self identifies.

Supreme: adjective (usually before noun)

- Highest in rank or position
- Very great or the greatest in degree: *to make the supreme sacrifice* (= die for what you believe in) *a supreme effort*.

Corresponding: adjective (current definition)

- **Corresponding** comes from the Latin roots cor-, meaning "together," and responderere, meaning "to answer." Aside from its meaning of "having similar function and purpose," the adjective can also mean "related" or "accompanying."

Corresponding: adjective (definition per Unabridged Oxford English Dictionary 1938 – Shoghi Effendi)

- That corresponds or answers to another.

Effort: noun

- An attempt to do something especially when it is difficult to do

THE ADVENT OF DIVINE JUSTICE TERMINOLOGY AND EQUIVALENT MODERN-DAY TERMS

- In The Advent of Divine Justice, the term racism is not used. Rather, Shoghi Effendi uses the term race prejudice.
- Additionally the term 'the most Vital and Challenging issue' is used as an action requiring a process to resolve.
- If you are interested, either individually or in groups, identify more words for the list.

Terms used in The Advent of Divine Justice

The most Vital and Challenging issue

White Air of Superiority

Suspicion

Some Equivalent Modern Terms

Racism

White Fragility,
White Oppression,
White Supremacy

Black Self Hatred,
Black Internalized
Racism, Post
Traumatic Slave
Syndrome

Additional Terms from Class Participation

SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY ADDRESSED TO WHITES

**Let the
white make
a supreme
effort**

=

**how we
initiate
action**

in their resolve to contribute their share to the solution of this problem,

to abandon once for all their usually inherent and at times subconscious sense of superiority,

to correct their tendency towards revealing a patronizing attitude towards the members of the other race,

to persuade them through their intimate, spontaneous and informal association with them of the genuineness of their friendship and the sincerity of their intentions,

and to master their impatience of any lack of responsiveness on the part of a people who have received, for so long a period, such grievous and slow-healing wounds. = effort what we are supposed to apply with the initial action to building relationships.



SPECIFIC RESPONSIBILITY ADDRESSED TO AFRICAN AMERICANS

Let the
Negroes,
through a
corresponding
effort on their
part,

show by every means in their power the
warmth of their response,

their readiness to forget the past,

=

how we
respond to
initiated action

and their ability to wipe out every trace of
suspicion that may still linger in their hearts and
minds.

MUTUAL RESPONSIBILITIES ADDRESSED TO BOTH WHITES AND AFRICAN AMERICANS

Mutual Standards of Communication

Let neither think that the solution of so vast a problem is a matter that exclusively concerns the other.

Let neither think that such a problem can either easily or immediately be resolved.

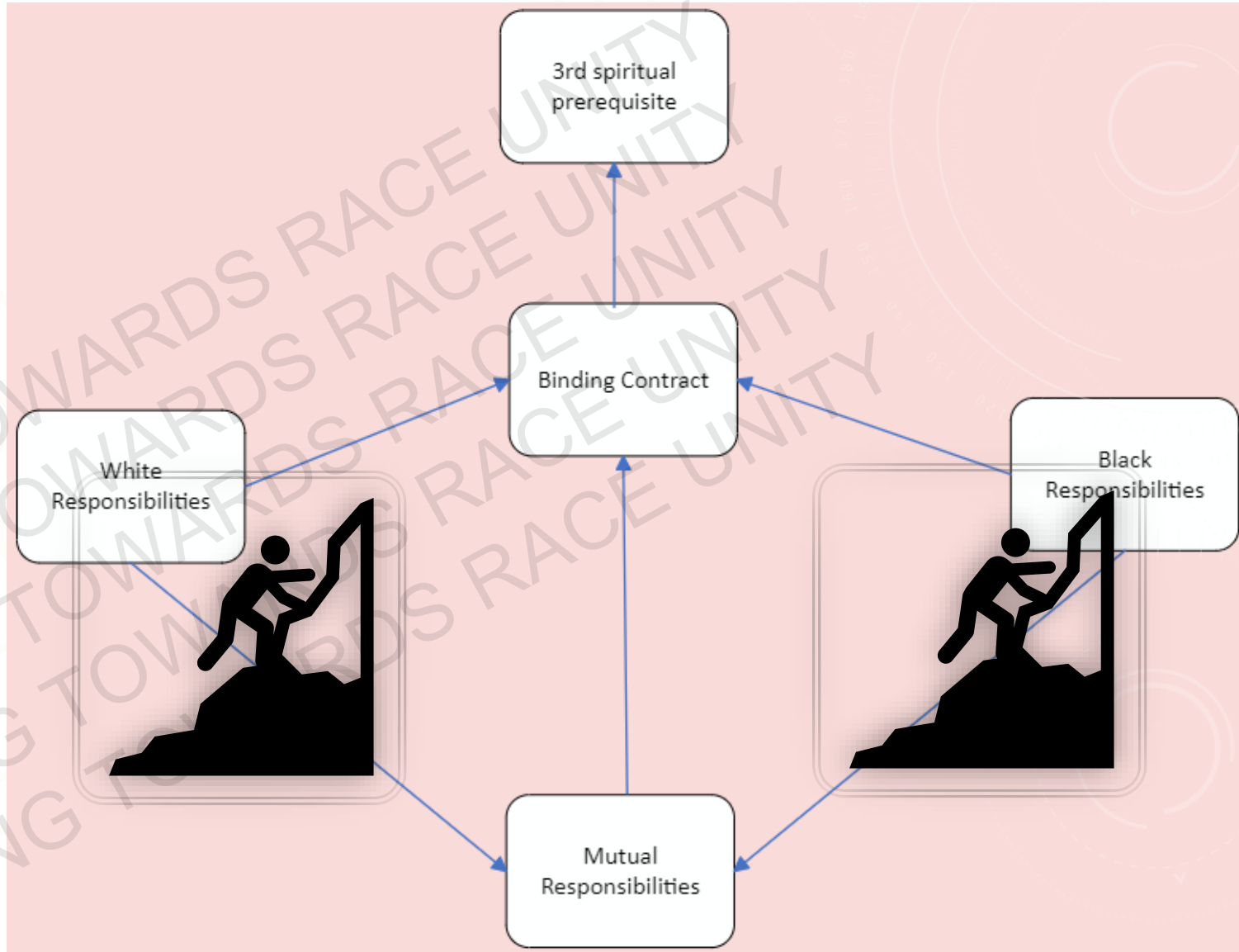
Let neither think that they can wait confidently for the solution of this problem until the initiative has been taken, and the favorable circumstances created, by agencies that stand outside the orbit of their Faith.

Let neither think that anything short of genuine love, extreme patience, true humility, consummate tact, sound initiative, mature wisdom, and deliberate, persistent, and prayerful effort, can succeed in blotting out the stain which this patent evil has left on the fair name of their common country.

Let them rather believe, and be firmly convinced, that on their mutual understanding, their amity, and sustained cooperation, must depend, more than on any other force or organization operating outside the circle of their Faith, the deflection of that dangerous course so greatly feared by 'Abdu'l-Bahá, and the materialization of the hopes He cherished for their joint contribution to the fulfillment of that country's glorious destiny.

RELATIONSHIP OF RESPONSIBILITIES TO SPIRITUAL PREREQUISITES

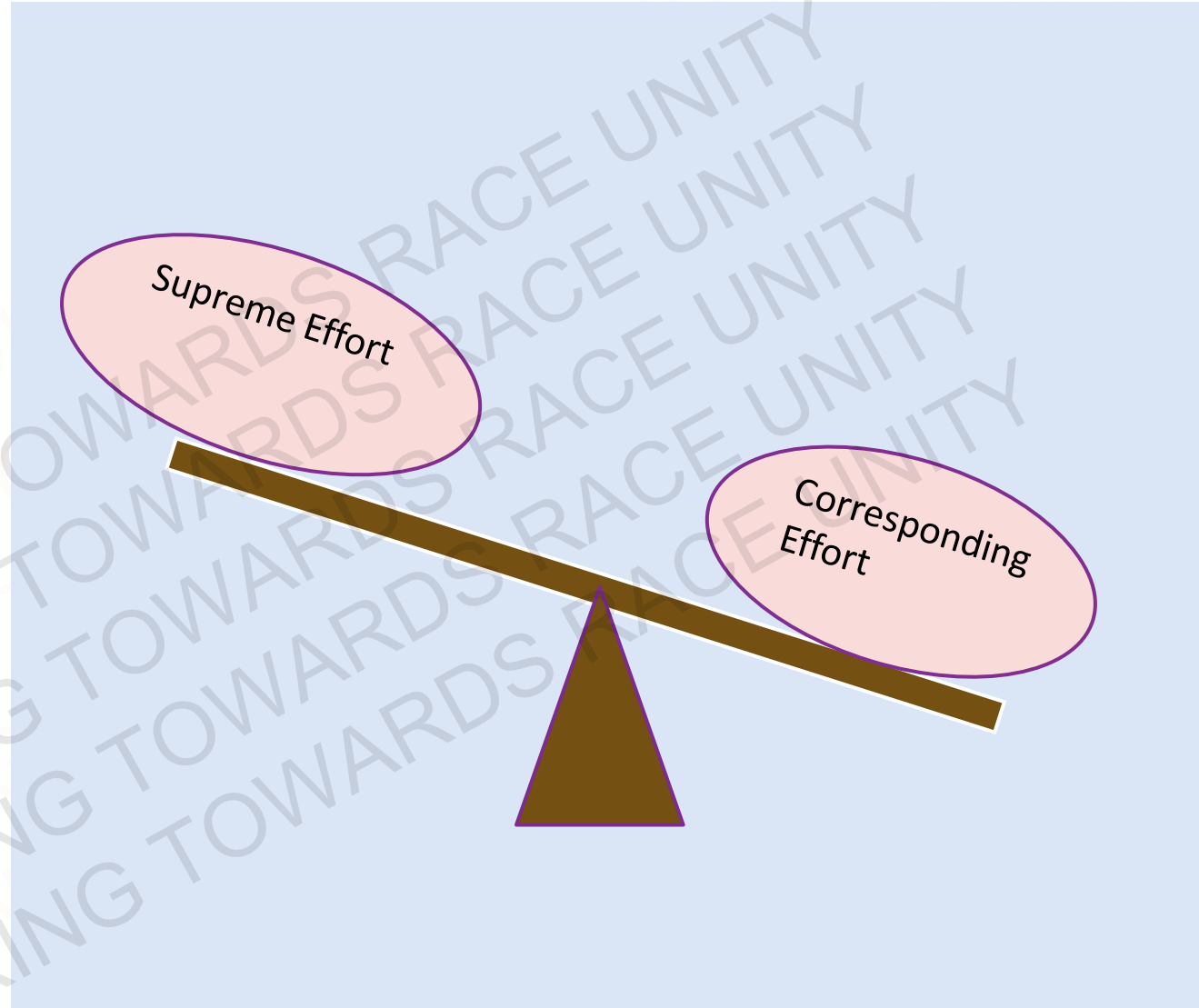
Note: 3rd spiritual prerequisite as the zenith point includes the 1st and 2nd spiritual prerequisites



SCROLL PROCESS — CURRENT STATE

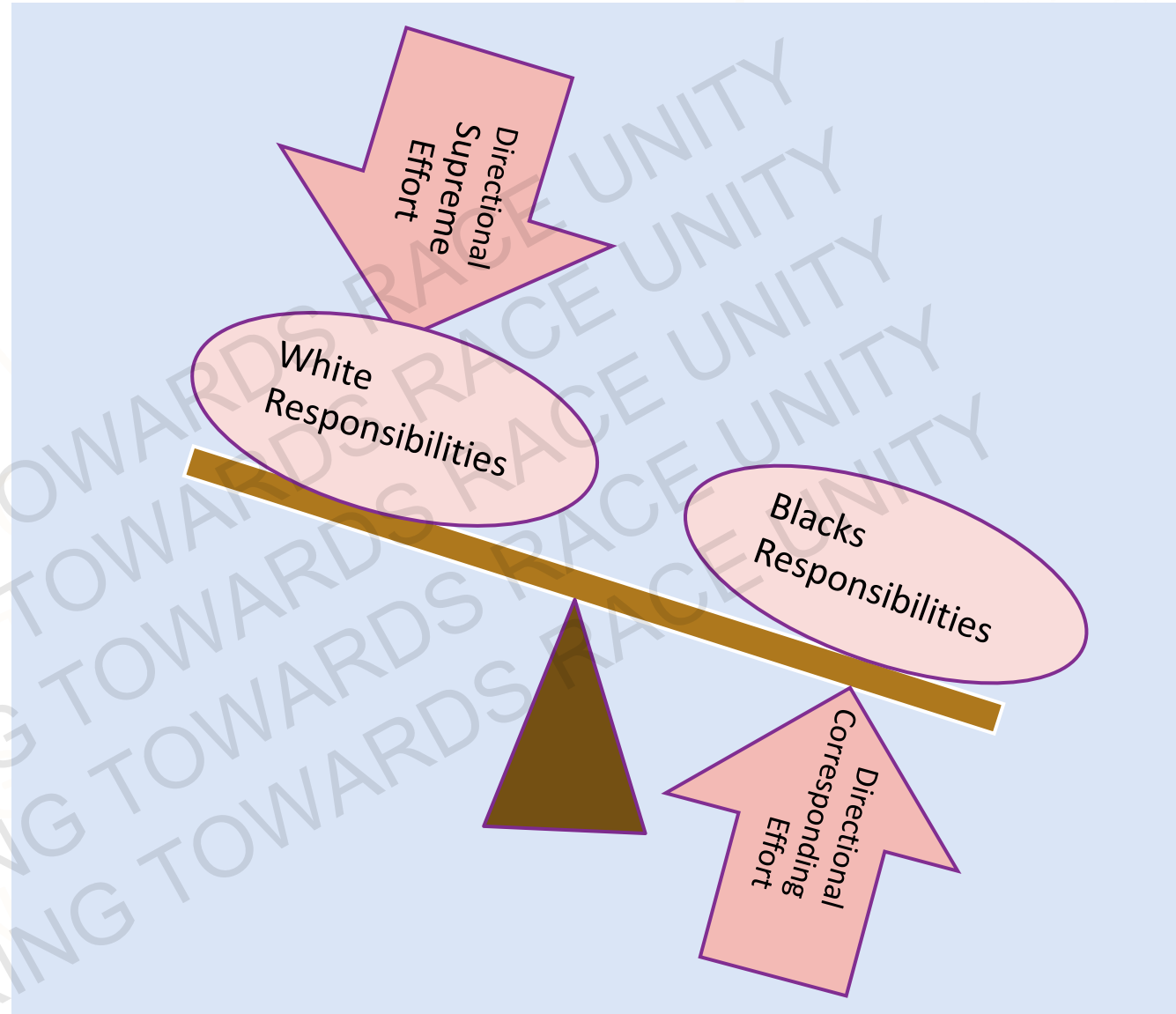
Our Current State of Imbalance represented by:

- White air of superiority requiring the Supreme Effort and responsibilities
- Black suspicion requiring the Corresponding Effort and responsibilities



SCROLL PROCESS – EFFORT

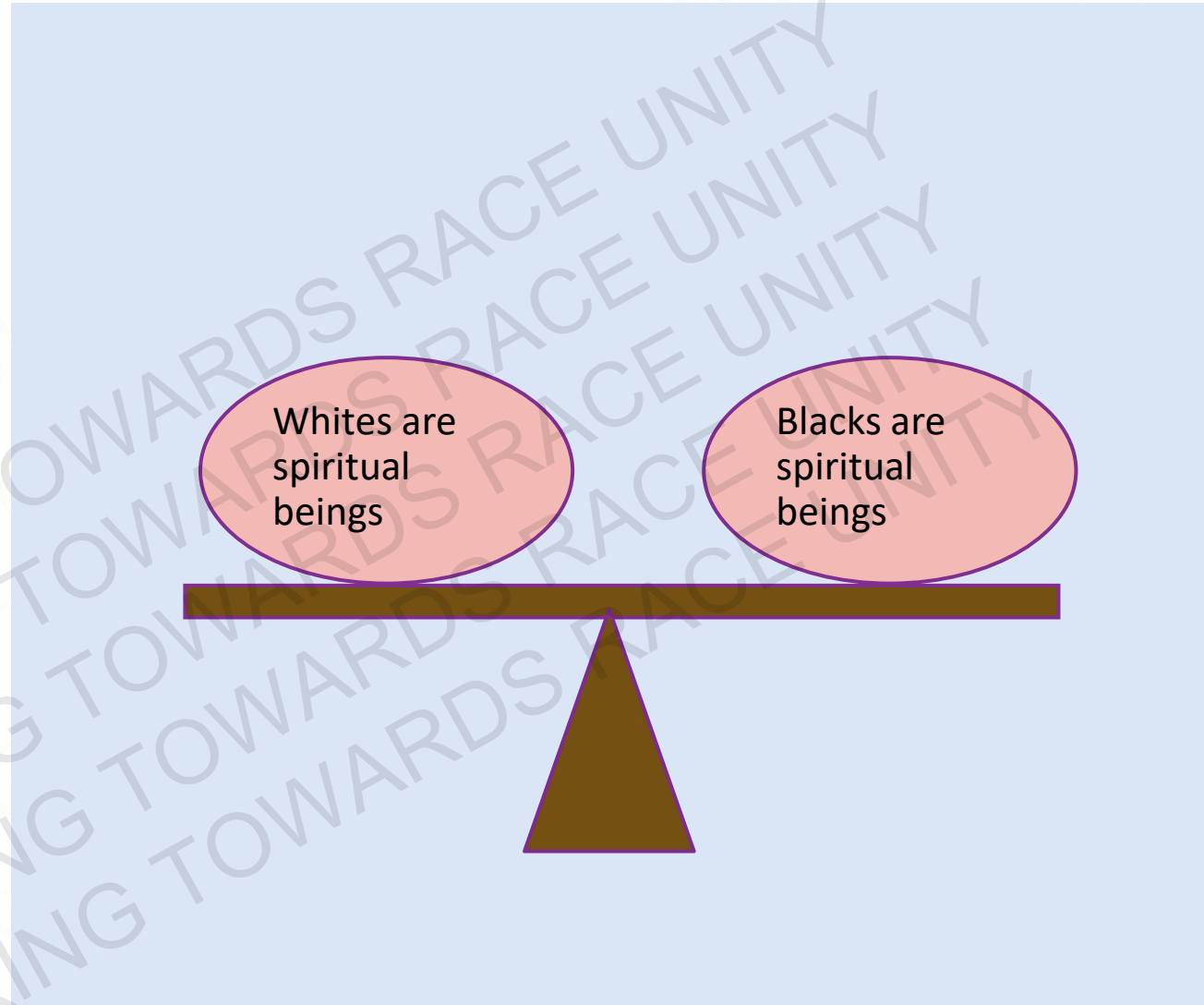
Both parties must practice the relevant directional effort, which means, the specific and mutual responsibilities for the shift to occur.



SCROLL PROCESS — SPIRITUAL EQUITY

As you practice and mature, you will start to see changes in how you think, process, speak, listen and behave.

At the zenith, we will see each other as true brothers and sisters. Spiritual Equity is the state that we achieve where we will see and experience our oneness.

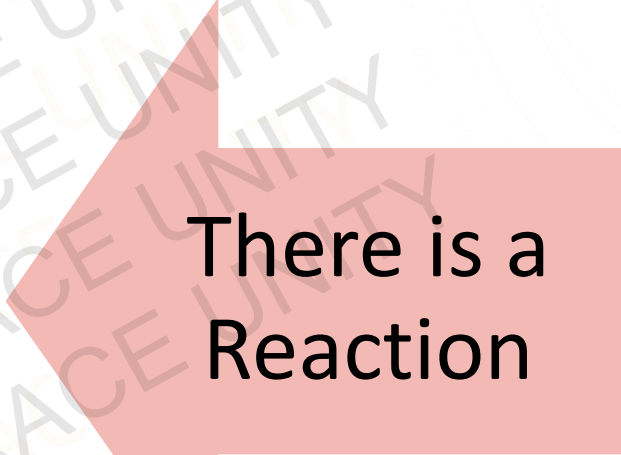


PROCESS OF COMMUNICATION

- The Scroll Process defines the Standards and responsibilities for the Speaker's part of the communication process.
- Under the Scroll Process, Shoghi Effendi focuses on one individual talking to another individual.
- Communication involves two roles, the speaker and the listener.



**For every
Action**



**There is a
Reaction**

SCROLL PROCESS

- In the Scroll Process, Shoghi Effendi specifies the Standards and responsibilities of communication for the Individual to Individual conversation.
- The Individual to Individual conversation is defined as one speaker and one listener where the speaker initiates the action, and the listener interprets the action.



TRANSITION FROM SCROLL PROCESS TO DOUBLE CRUSADE PART 1 – SPEAKING TO GROUPS

- In the first part of the Double Crusade Process, Shoghi Effendi extends the Scroll Process standards and responsibilities of communication from the Individual to Individual conversation to the Individual to Group conversation.
- The Individual to Group conversation is defined as one speaker and more than one listener, where the speaker initiates the action, and the listeners interpret the action.



Speak



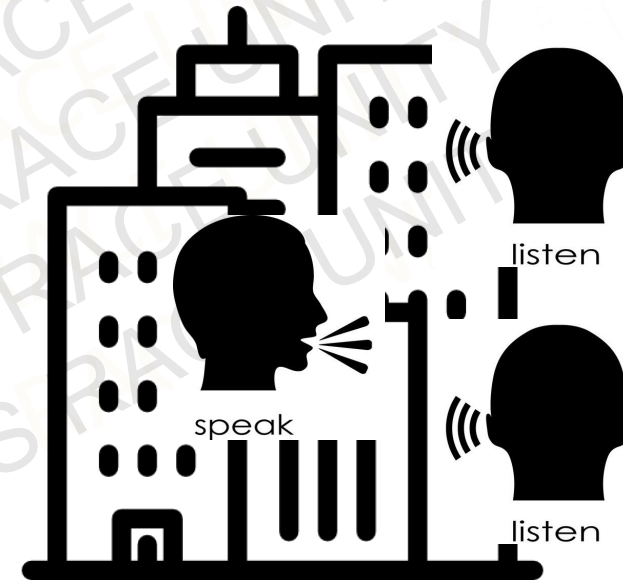
listen



listen

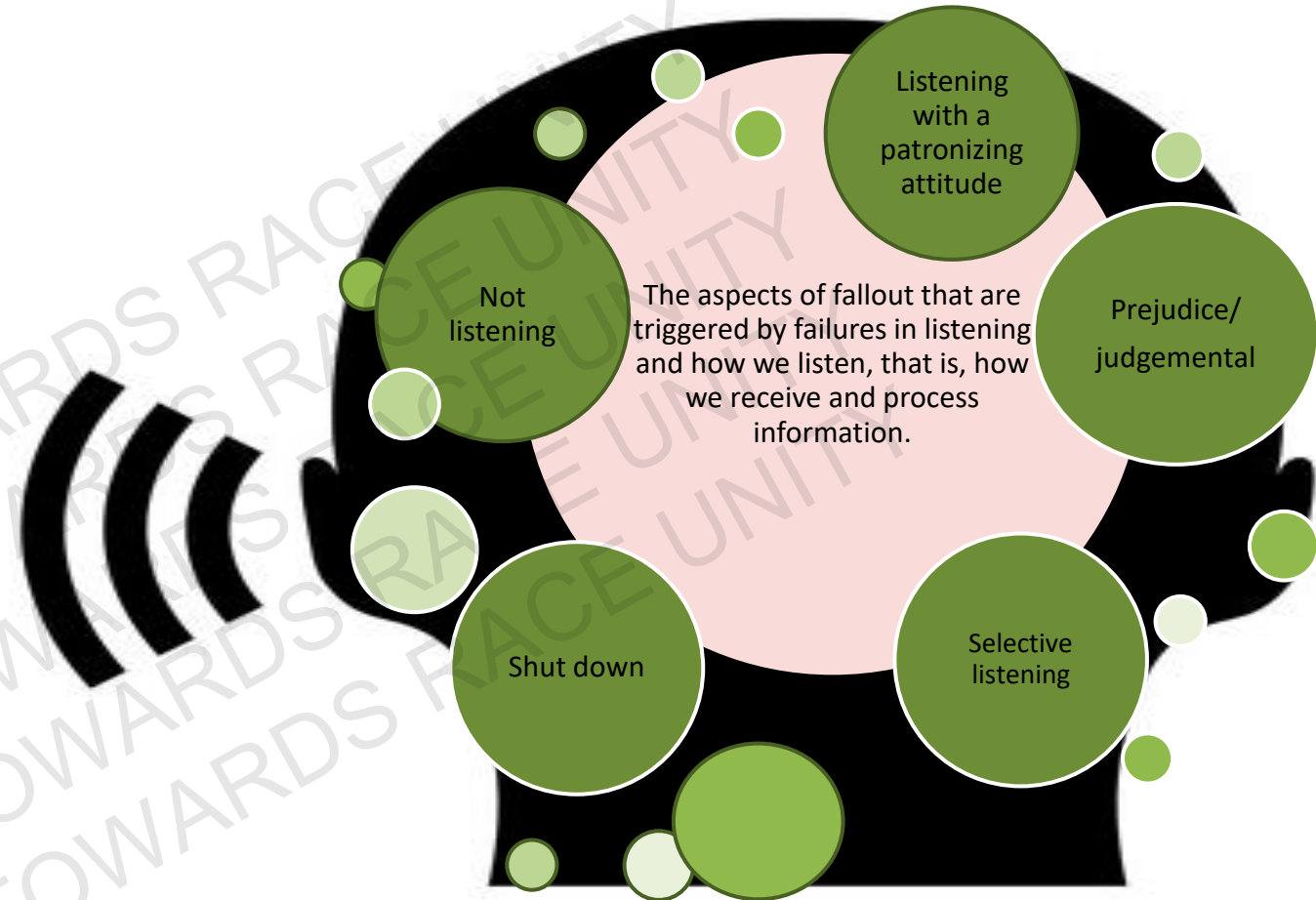
TRANSITION FROM SCROLL PROCESS TO DOUBLE CRUSADE PART 1 – SPEAKING TO INSTITUTIONS

- Shoghi Effendi also extends the Scroll Process standards and responsibilities of communication from the Individual to Individual conversation to the Individual to Institutional conversation.
- The Individual to Institutional conversation is defined as one speaker and representative(s) of the Institution, where the speaker initiates the action, and the listener(s) of the Institution interpret the action.



DOUBLE CRUSADE PART 2 - HOW WE LISTEN

- In the second part of the Double Crusade Process, Shoghi Effendi describes the reactions of all listeners, whether individuals, groups or representative(s) of institutions as they receive and process information from the initiator/speaker.
- The information received may be positive, neutral, or negative. The reaction to the information received may be positive, neutral or negative.
- Additionally, in the Double Crusade process Shoghi Effendi provides to the listener, a method for identifying (Fallout), acknowledging (Caveats), and using God's Assurances to build the spiritual confidence and fortitude to move the issue to the Reflection process.

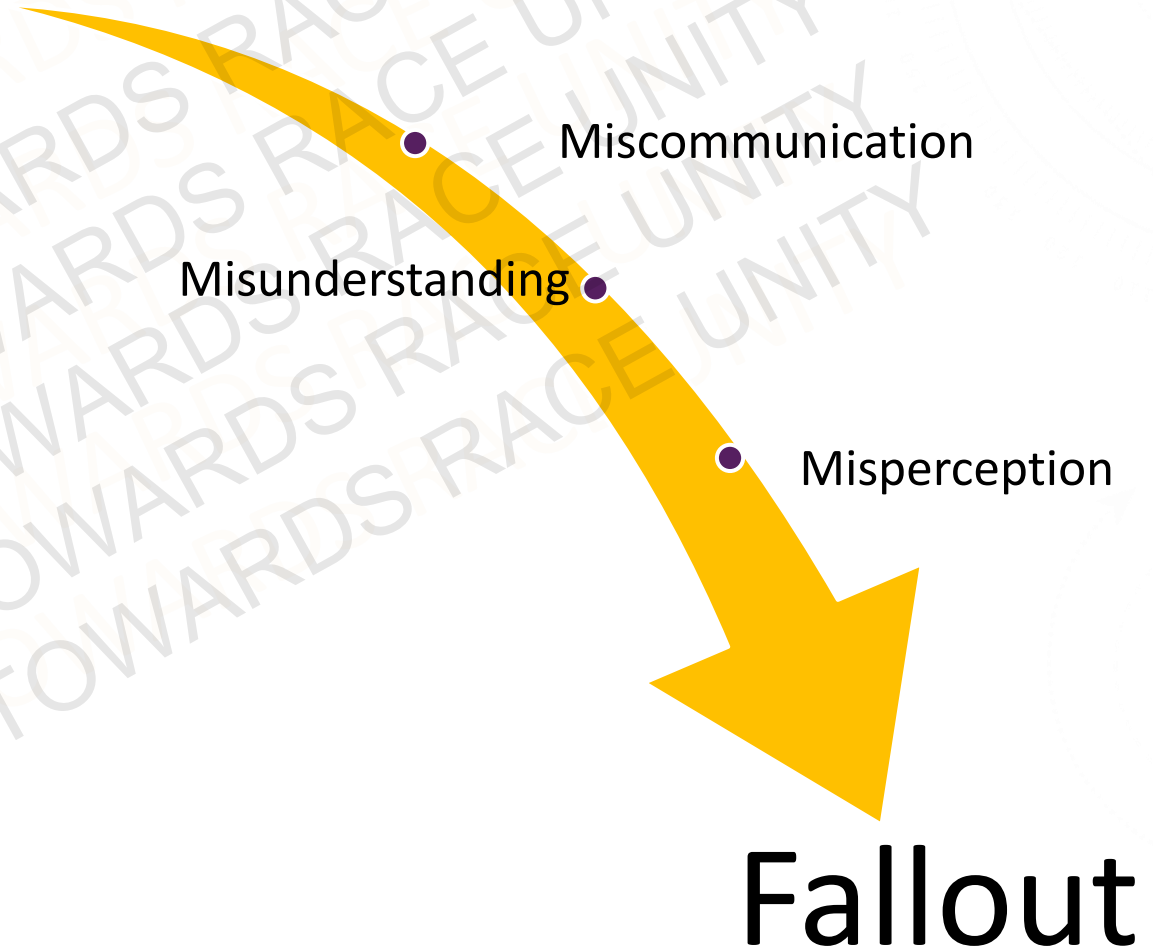


listen

DOUBLE CRUSADE PART 2 – FALLOUT, WHAT HAPPENS WHEN WE REACT

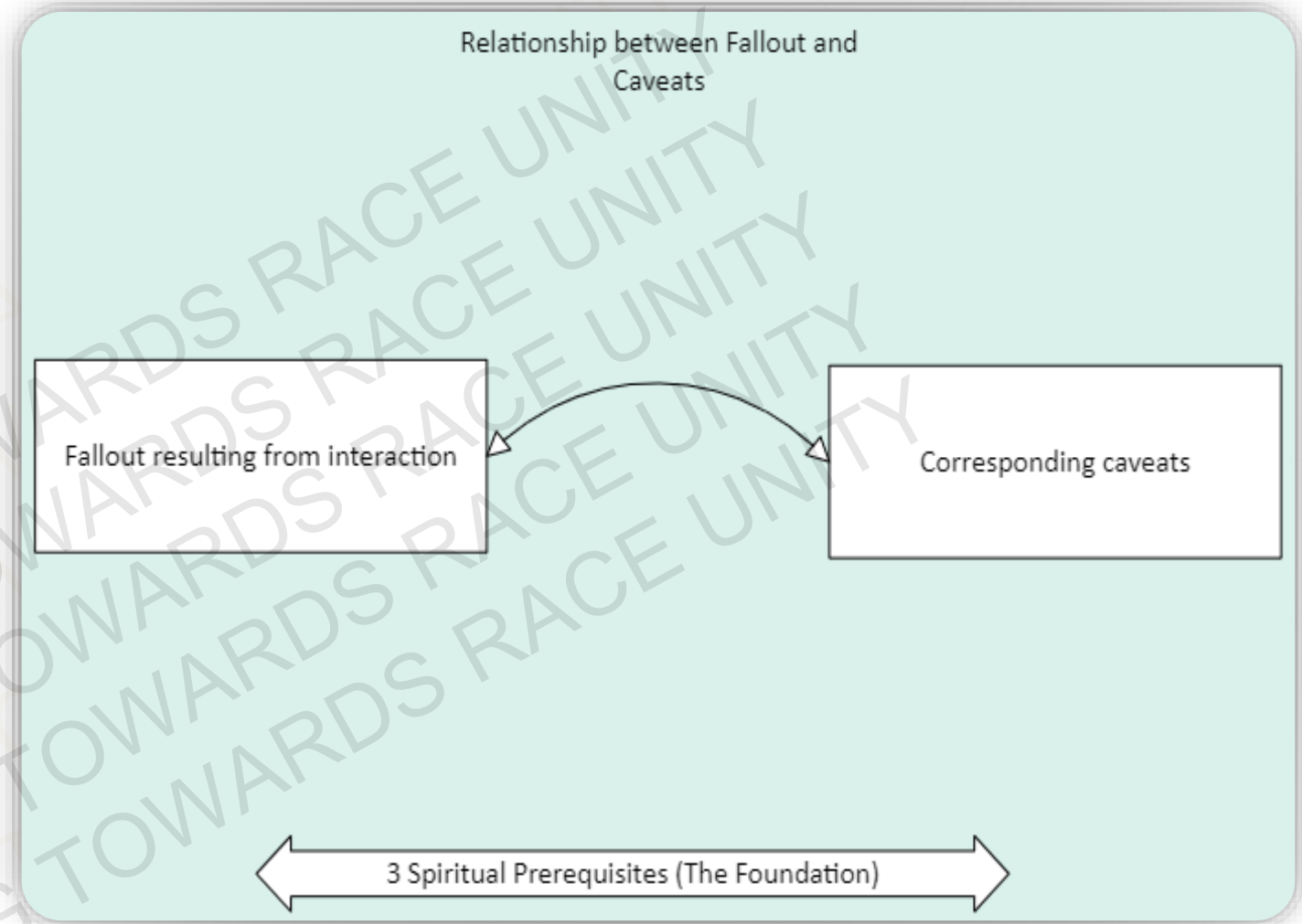
- Fallout refers to any misunderstandings, miscommunications, misperceptions that generate dissension, either directly or indirectly.
- The negative interaction that causes dissension can be verbal or physical.
- If fallout is not identified, a range of denial and avoidance behaviours will close the path to spiritual growth.

Negative Interaction



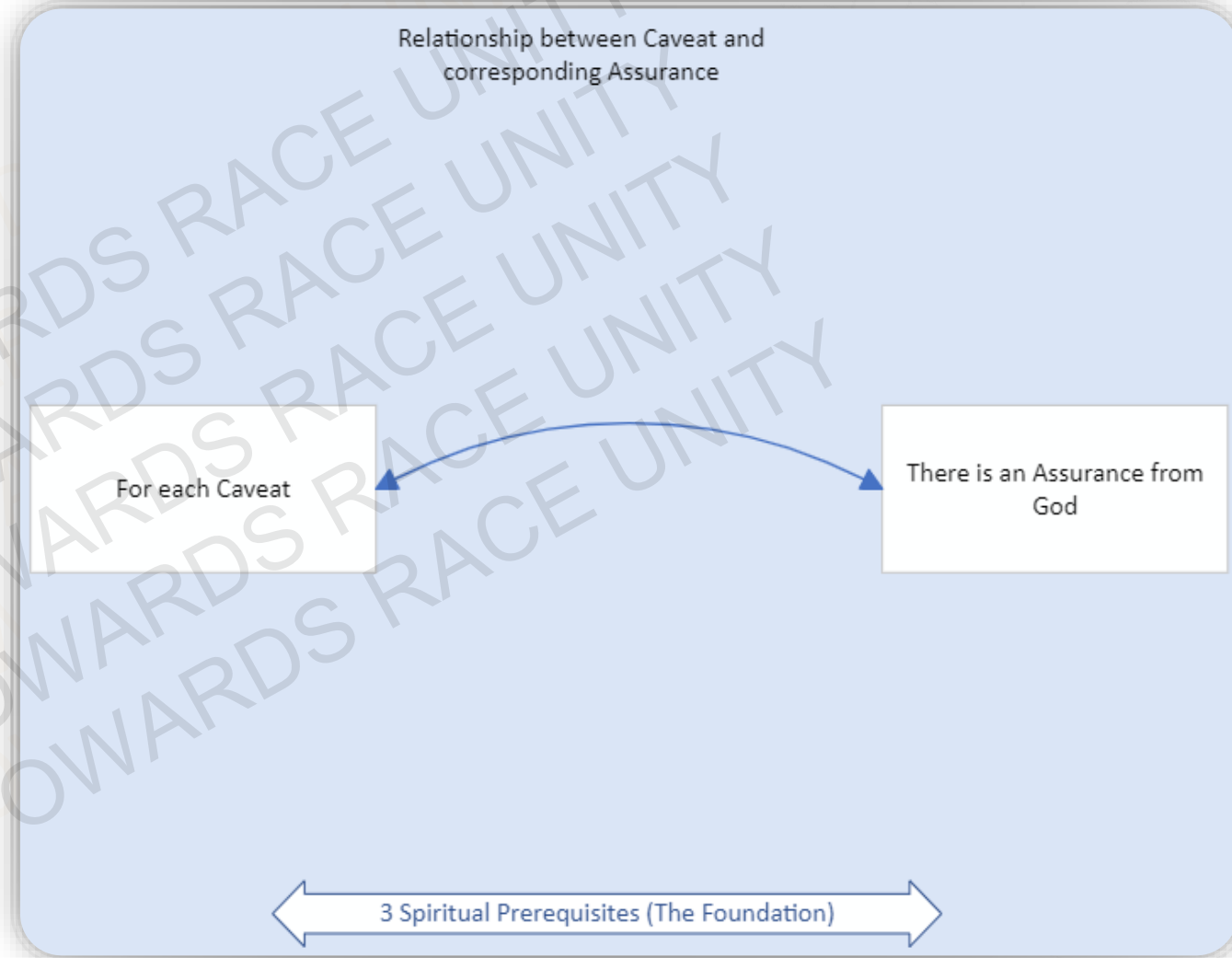
DOUBLE CRUSADE PART 2 – FALLOUT RELATIONSHIP TO CAVEATS

- For every fallout, there are caveats that relate to it.
- Shoghi Effendi lists caveats in The Advent of Divine Justice.



DOUBLE CRUSADE PART 2- CAVEATS' RELATIONSHIP TO ASSURANCES

- For every fallout, there is a caveat that covers it.
- Shoghi Effendi lists all caveats in the Baha'i Writings.
- The caveats help us acknowledge that these types of fallouts occur.
- The caveats are measurements of potential spiritual growth.
- At this stage, without God's Assurances, the state of suffering persists.
- These assurances help us develop our faith and spiritual perseverance so that we can resolve our tests through prayer and communion with God.



DOUBLE CRUSADE

PART 2 -

ACKNOWLEDGING THE CAVEATS

By acknowledging the caveats that Shoghi Effendi lists in The Advent of Divine Justice, we initiate a two-step process to spiritual growth.

- Shoghi Effendi identified every possible fallout through the list of caveats (warnings) that can be generated in any interaction, but especially those which refer to the most challenging issue.
- It is considered a blessing to know the list of caveats (warnings) of all possible fallouts so that we are then empowered to acknowledge that these type of negative interactions will occur.
- Acknowledging the Caveats is the first half of the process where we may change a fallout into a spiritual opportunity.
- When we acknowledge the Caveats, we are accepting our mistakes and this acceptance changes the nature of the suffering to spiritual suffering. The acknowledgement of the Caveats signals that we have a spiritual method to address our spiritual suffering.
- If we fail to either acknowledge the Caveat or to follow through on that acknowledgement, this decision will close the path to spiritual growth.

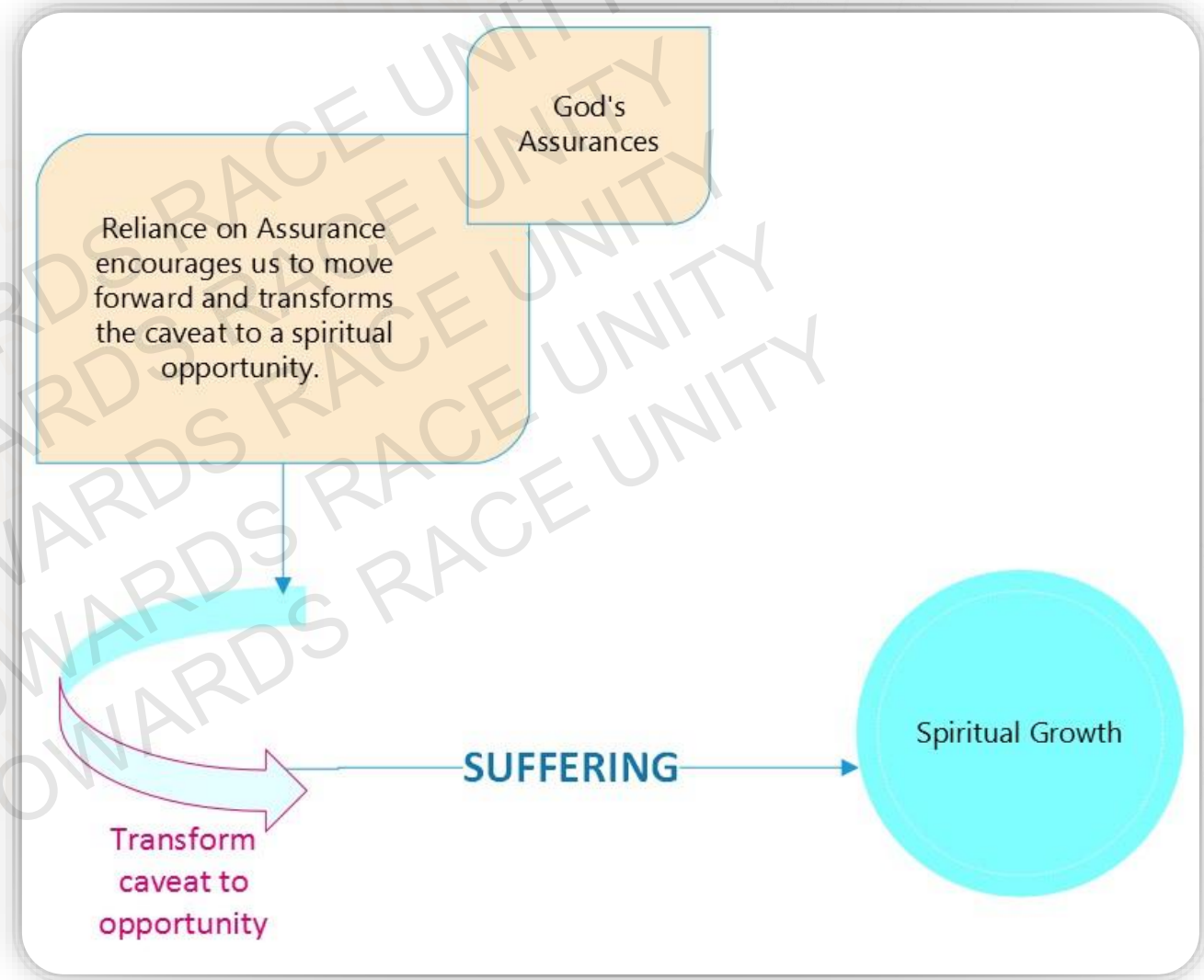
DOUBLE CRUSADE PROCESS

PART 2 - RELYING ON GOD'S ASSURANCES

The second step of the two-step method is God's Assurances.

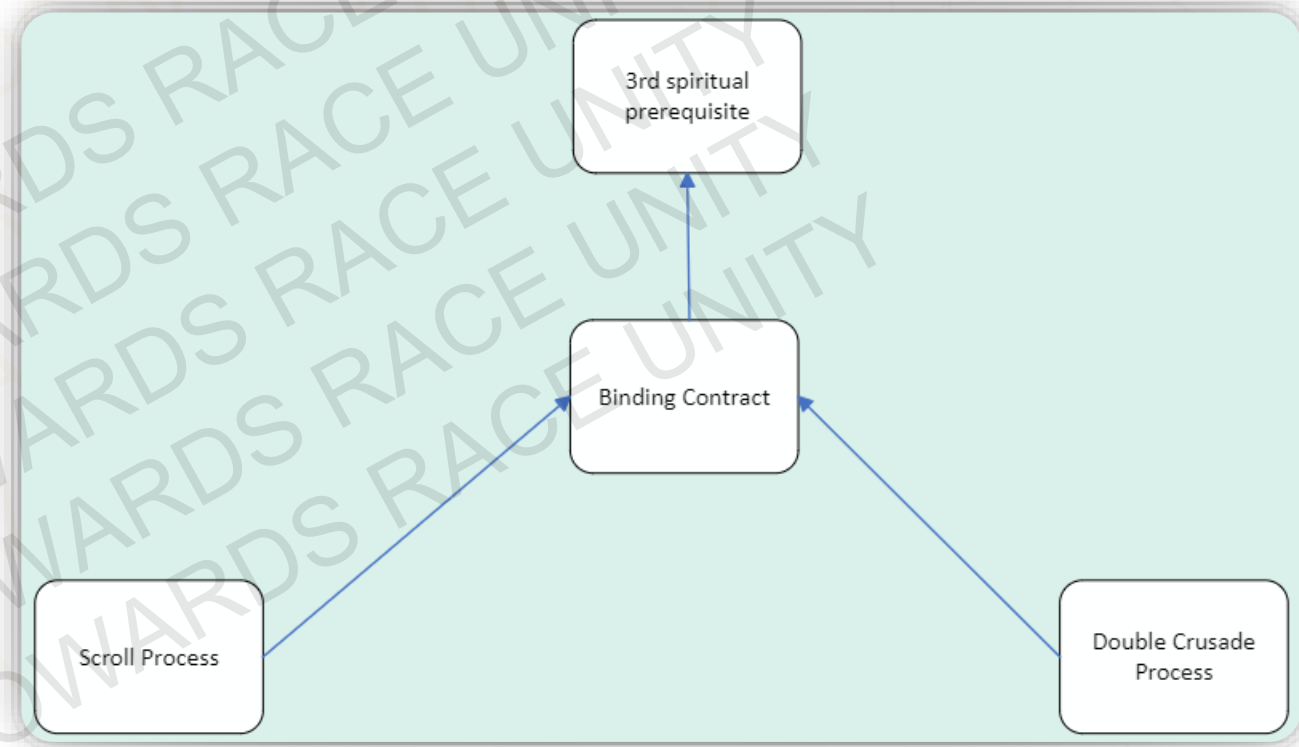
Shoghi Effendi provided us with a list of God's Assurances to assist us in building the spiritual fortitude to act to move the Caveat into the Reflection Process.

- Reliance on God's Assurance empowers us
 - a. to transform Caveats into a spiritual opportunity
 - b. to access the will and resolve to move to the Reflection Process and
 - c. finally, with humility and honesty, bring ourselves to account.



DOUBLE CRUSADE PROCESS PART 2 RELATIONSHIP OF 3RD SPIRITUAL PREREQUISITE TO THE SCROLL AND DOUBLE CRUSADE PROCESS

- The Scroll and Double Crusade Processes work together in setting the standards for all human interactions. They are connected to the 3rd spiritual prerequisite through the Binding Contract.



DOUBLE CRUSADE PROCESS - TRANSITION FROM FALLOUT TO REFLECTION PROCESS

Interaction between individuals, groups and/or institutions may result in fallout. Fallout creates suffering which can be mental and/or physical stress.

CAVEATS

• Shoghi Effendi has identified and listed all possible outcomes of fallout. We call them Caveats (warnings). This is a blessing because it allows us to be able to identify the nature of the fallout, and to confirm that the fallout is a necessary part of the process in the total cycle. We can link the specific fallout to a caveat. The result is the acknowledgement and understanding of the issue.

SUFFERING takes two forms:

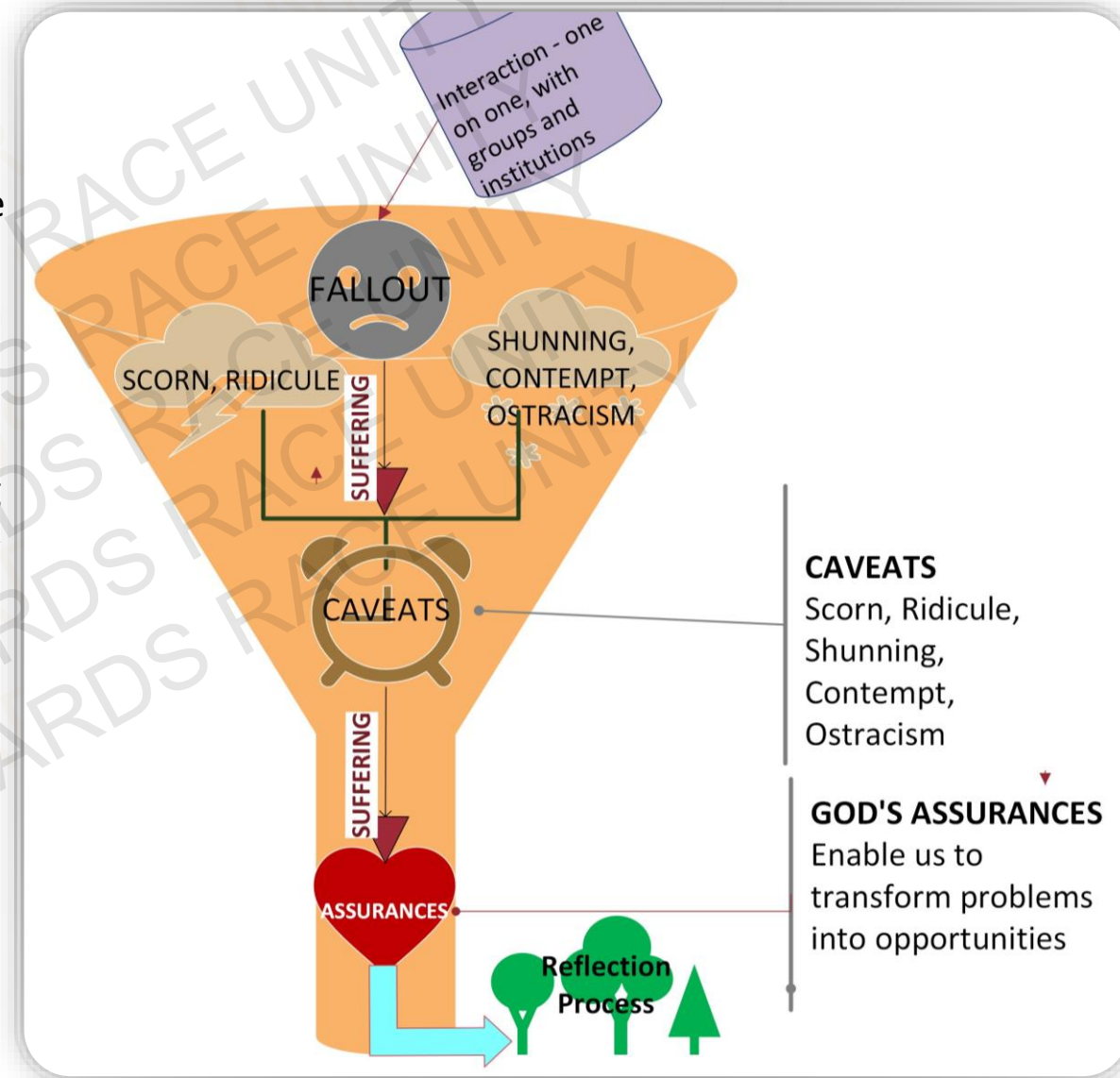
- Physical mental or emotional pain. This is when we are stuck in the suffering state, after initial fallout. It is a result of a human interaction.
- Spiritual suffering, which is to bear, suffer, endure, abide and tolerate, occurs after we acknowledge the caveats. The Caveats refer to the spiritual process of the acknowledgement and acceptance of the issue that we must face.

GOD'S ASSURANCES

Shoghi Effendi lists God's Assurances to help us:

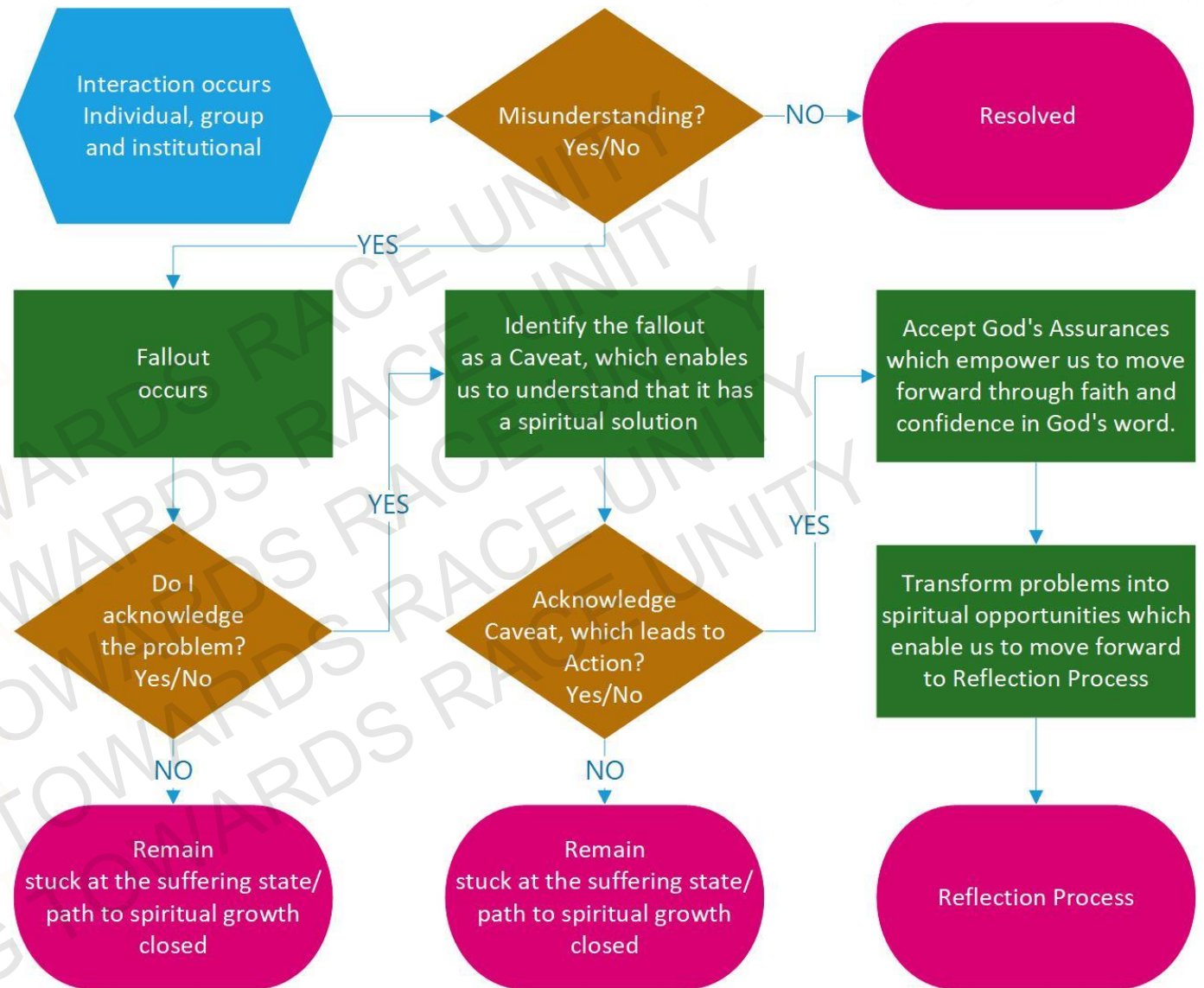
- Accept the struggle that we must go through to develop our spiritual qualities
- Transform our perception of the struggle from a problem to a spiritual opportunity.

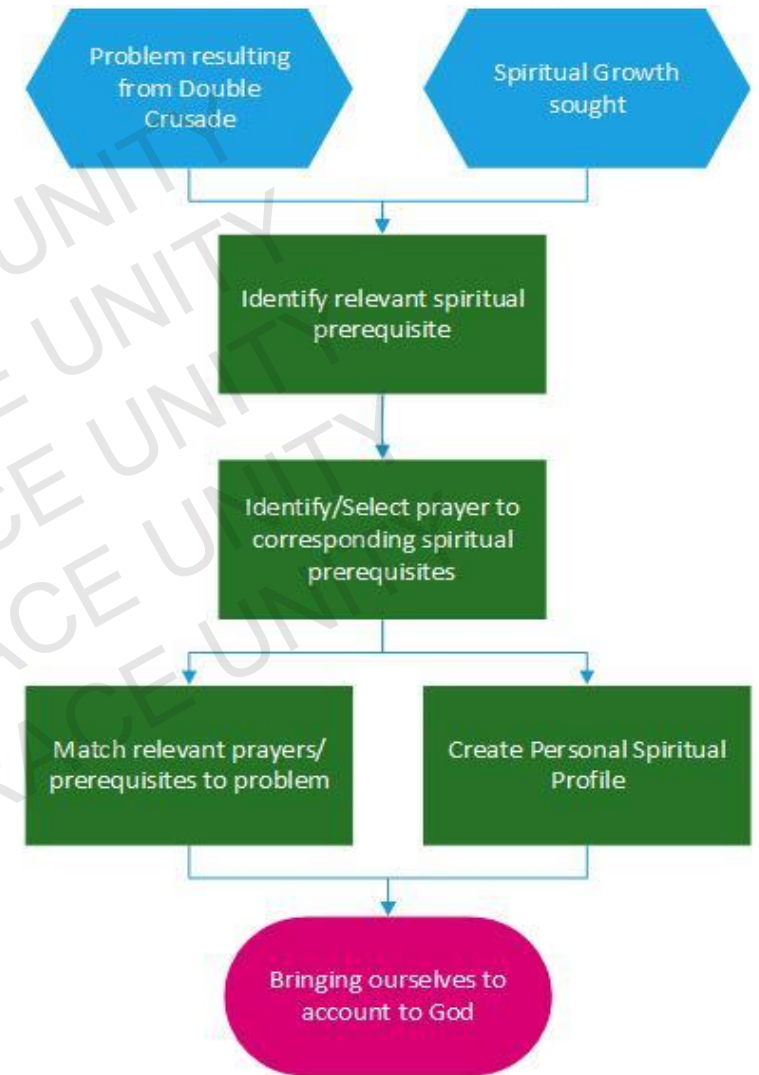
Without God's Assurances we would stay in spiritual suffering mode and not move forward to do the hard work required to move the issue to the Reflection Process.



DOUBLE CRUSADE PROCESS – FUNCTIONAL VIEW – FALLOUT TO REFLECTION PROCESS

This slide represents a functional flow chart of the previous graphic slide.





Note: The Reflection Process starts initially with the ongoing search for spiritual growth. It is essential to build your spiritual profile.

It also can be used in the Scroll and the Double Crusade processes when a fallout occurs.

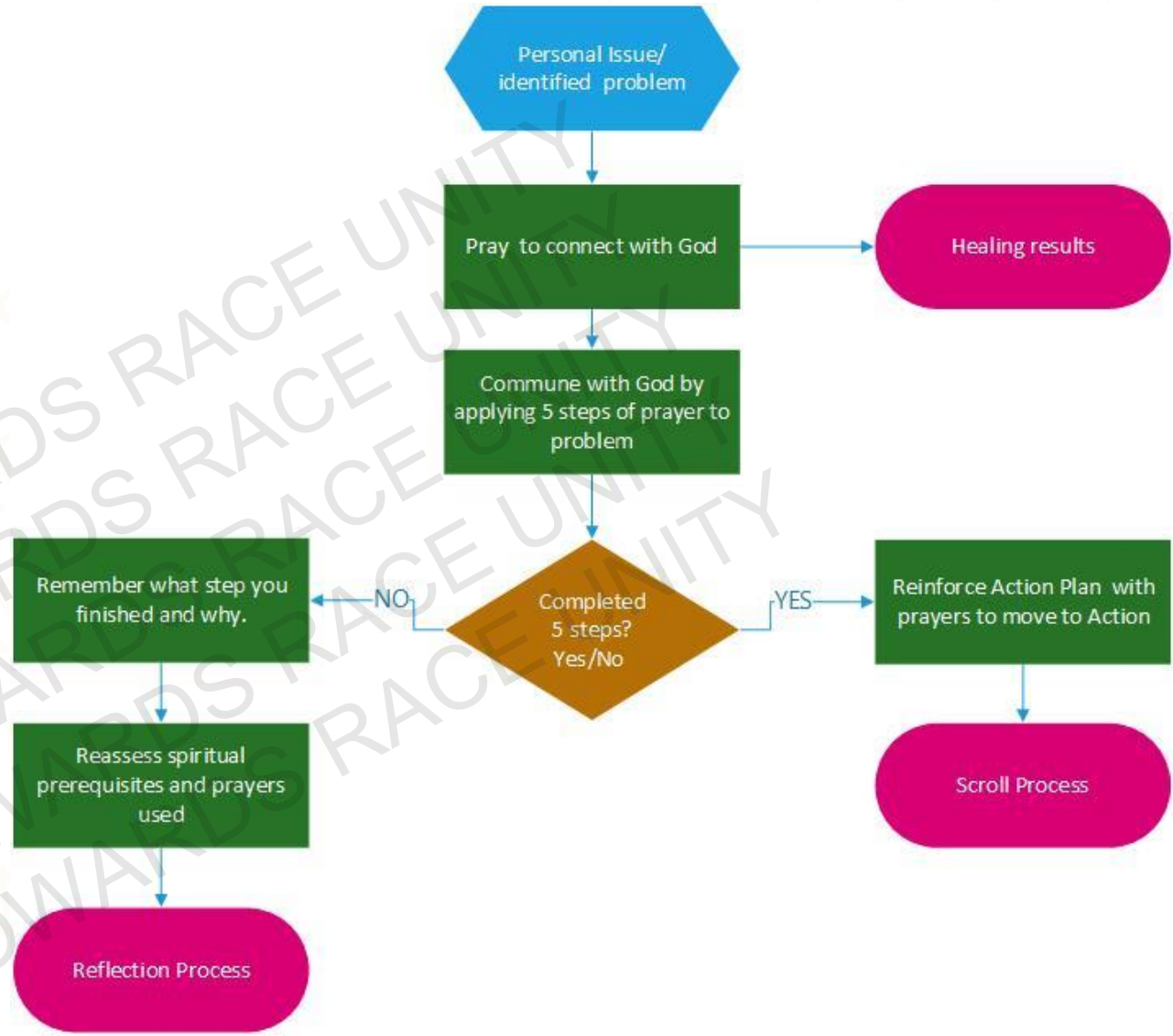
Whatever the entry point is, the process itself still flows the same way to get to the Bringing Ourselves to Account Process.

LEGEND

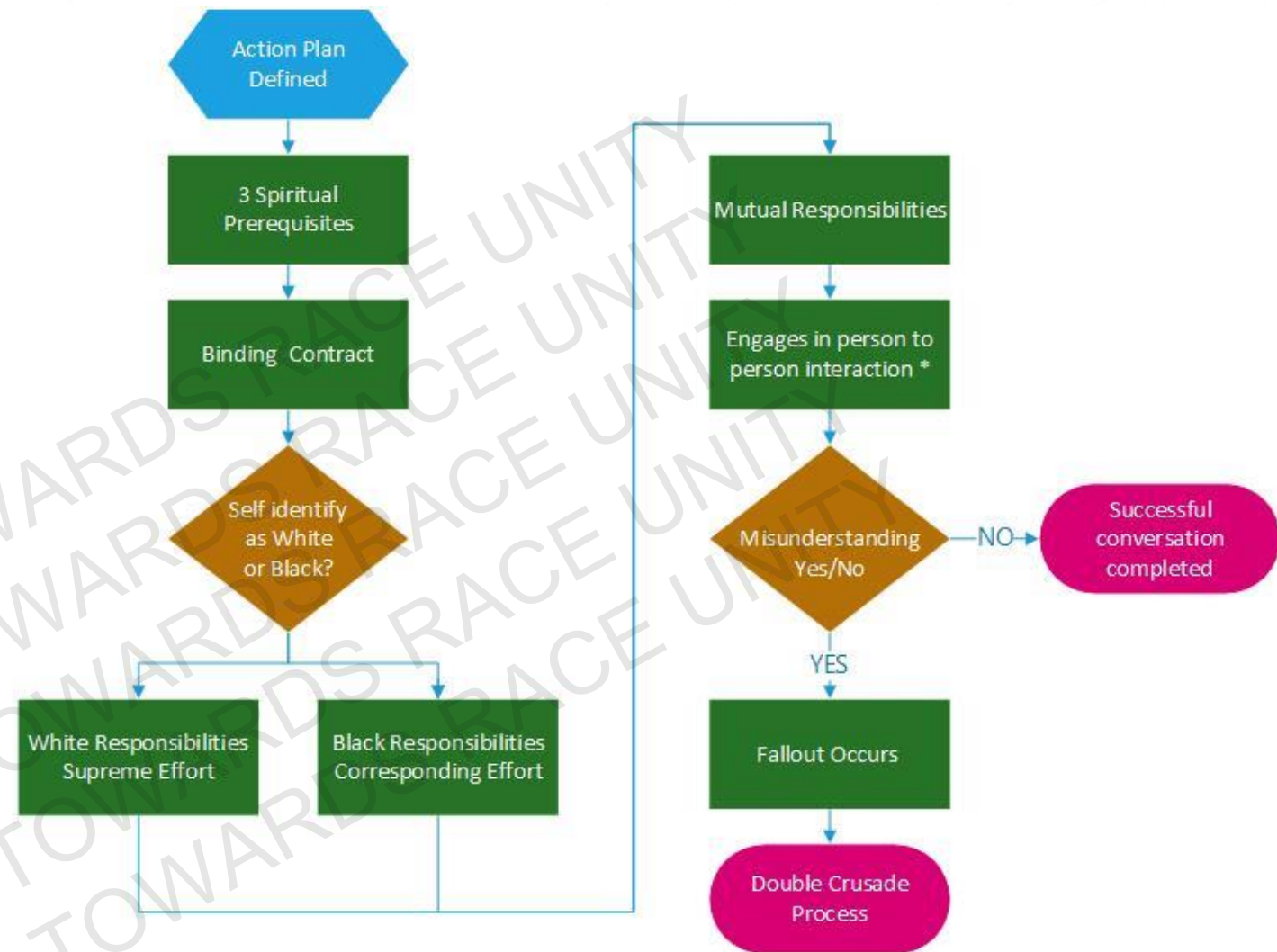


THE ADJ CYCLE –FUNCTIONAL VIEW – TRANSITION FROM BRINGING OURSELVES TO ACCOUNT TO SCROLL PROCESS

- The hexagon represents the entry point of the results from the Reflection Process which should be the spiritual prerequisite that you have selected and the corresponding prayers.
- If you are unsuccessful in the 5 steps of prayer stage, the outcome is that you must go back to the Reflection Process and reassess the initial issue so that we can initiate the path to the Bringing Ourselves to Account Process and try again.



THE ADJ CYCLE – FUNCTIONAL VIEW - TRANSITION FROM SCROLL TO DOUBLE CRUSADE PROCESS



The Scroll Process represents individual to individual conversations.

The outcome could be either a successful conversation or fallout which leads us to the Double Crusade Process.



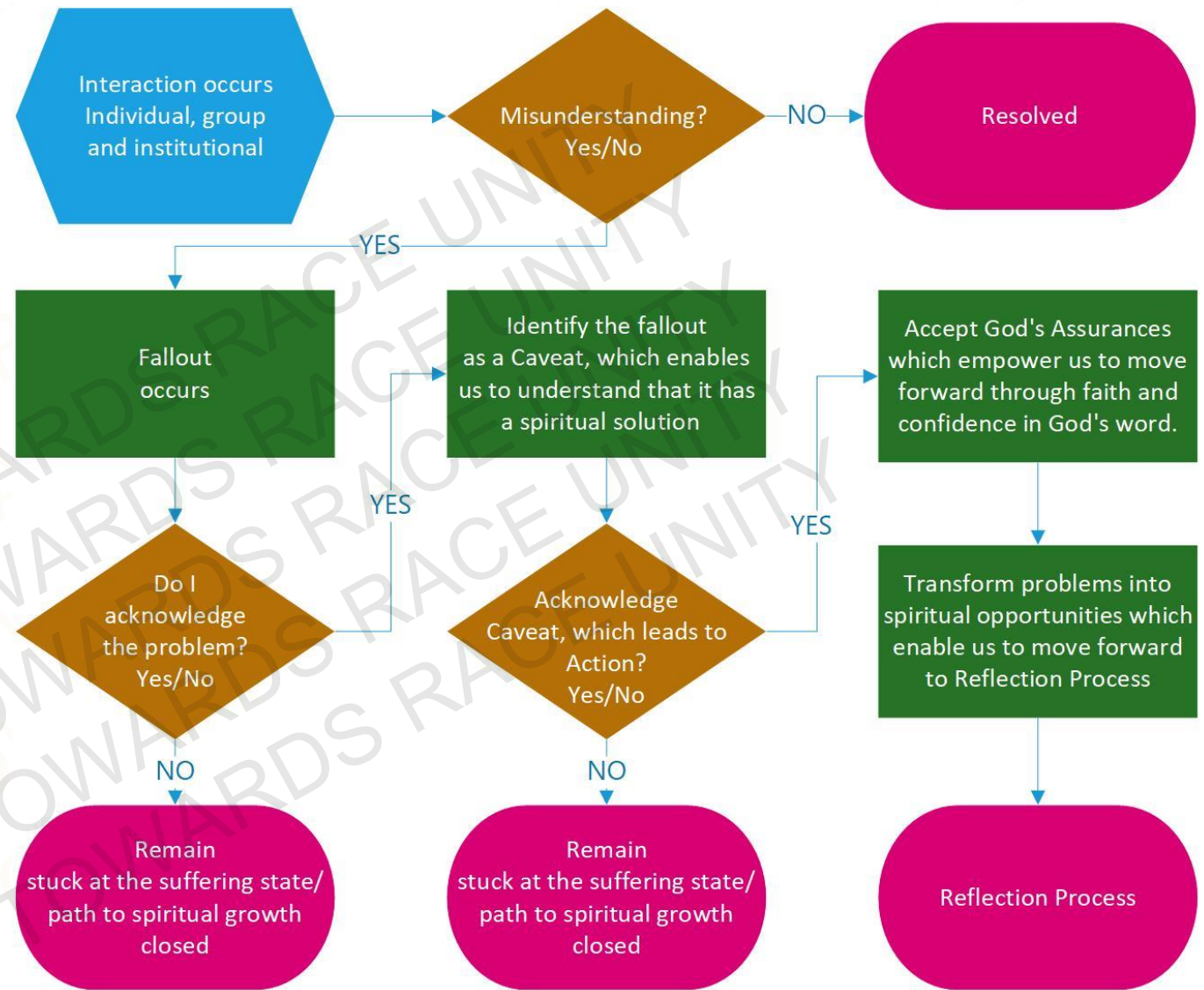
*: The Scroll Process speaker's requirements and responsibilities are extended into the first part of the Double Crusade, to include groups and institutions.

THE ADJ CYCLE- FUNCTIONAL VIEW - TRANSITION FROM DOUBLE CRUSADE FALLOUT TO REFLECTION PROCESS

The Double Crusade expands the Scroll Process responsibilities for individuals interacting with groups and Institutions.

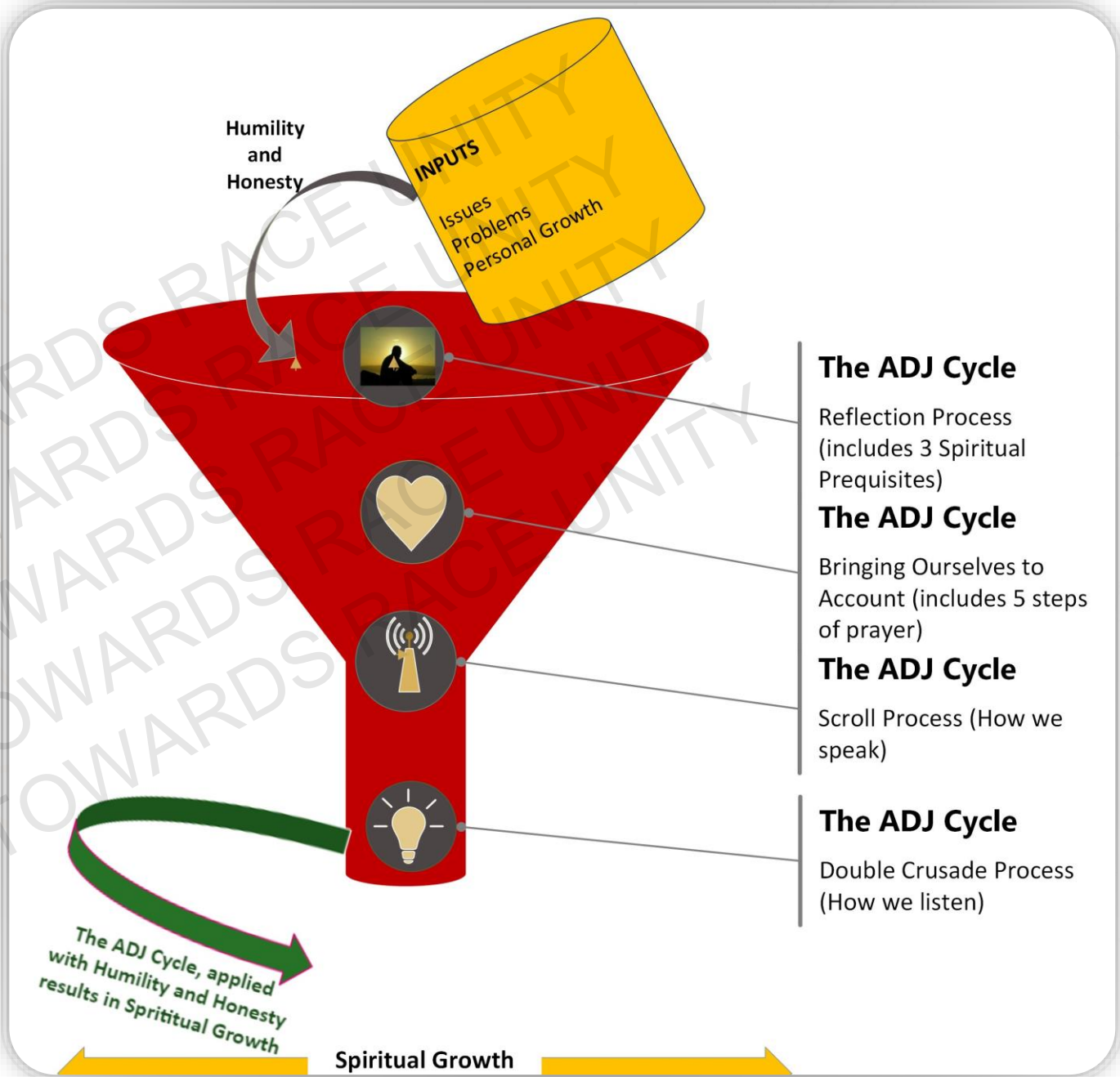
The second part covers the responsibilities of how we receive the interactions for individuals, groups, and institutions.

Interaction may result in Fallout.



SPIRITUAL GROWTH – HOW PRACTICING THE ADJ CYCLE AFFECTS US

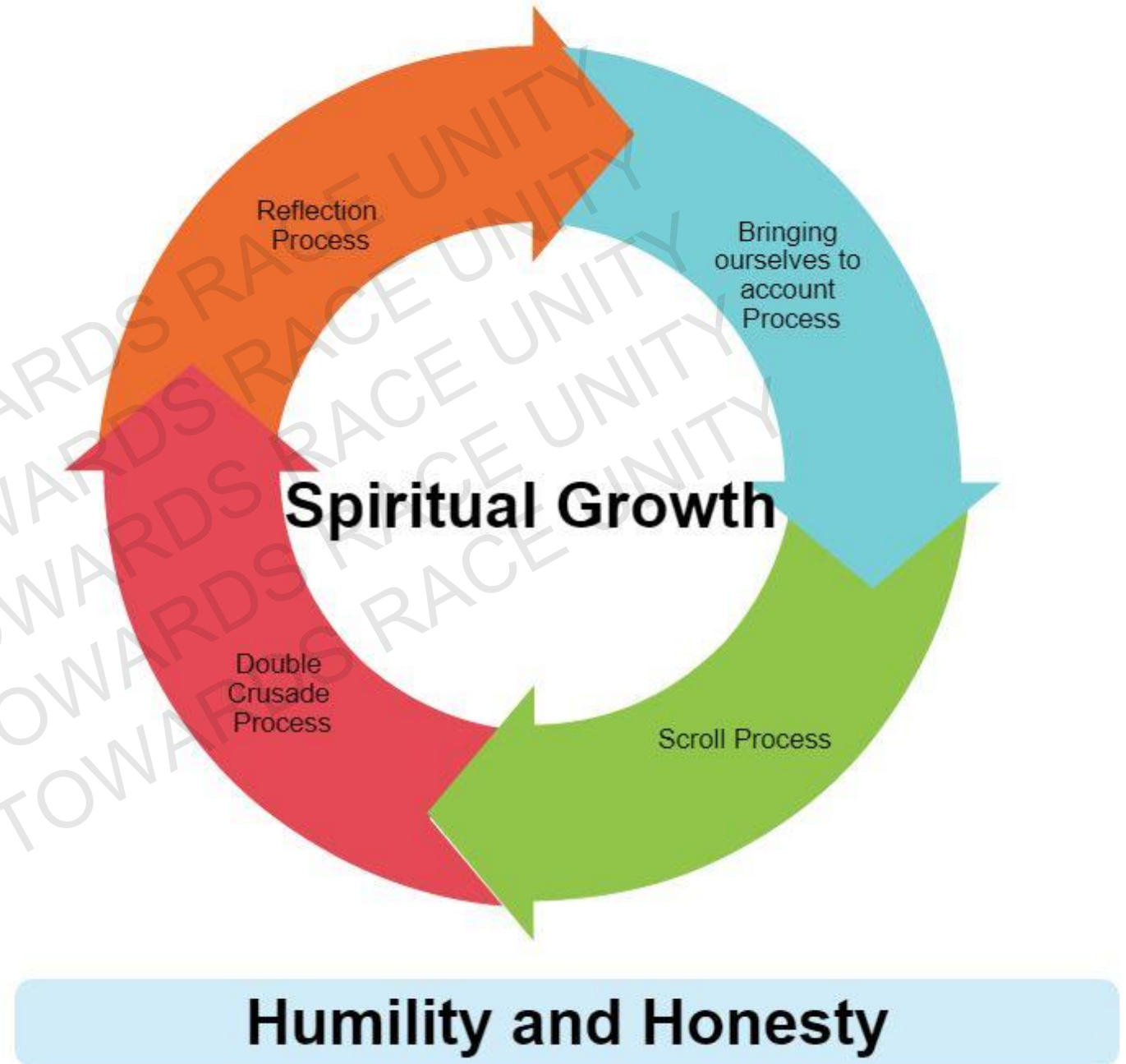
- The path to building our spiritual growth requires humility and honesty as we move from the Reflection Process, to Bringing Ourselves to Account, and finally to how we speak in the Scroll Process and how we listen to each other in the Double Crusade Process.
- The virtues of humility and honesty are the foundation blocks we use as we create this path through which we will eventually Become The Light.



THE ADVENT OF DIVINE JUSTICE

FROM PROCESS TO CYCLE

- Shoghi Effendi directed us to continuously practice this cycle. The Cycle adheres to the Tablets of the Divine Plan.
- Each time that you complete all of these processes, you have completed the entire cycle.
- The entire ADJ cycle may take variable amounts of time to complete.
- The zenith point that we are always aiming for is to bring ourselves to account. The ADJ Cycle also builds intimacy with God through prayer.
- Although you can get stuck at any point, the most challenging will be at the point of fallout.
- Each completed cycle helps you to move closer towards spiritual growth.
- The cycle is life long as our life purpose is to reorient ourselves to the Baha'i Standards.

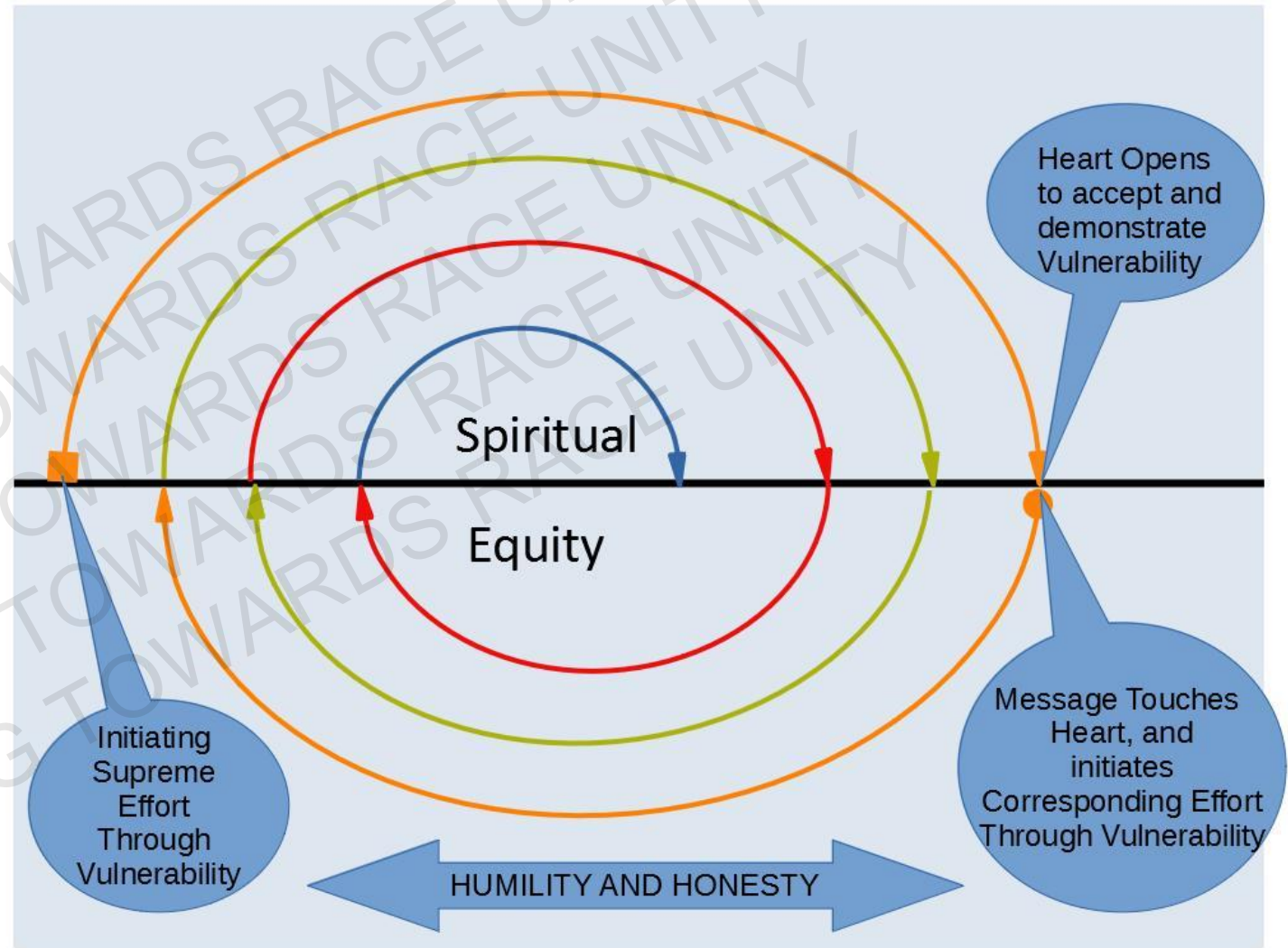


SPIRAL TO SPIRITUAL EQUITY

- Through humility and honesty, Whites allow themselves to be vulnerable to initiate the Supreme Effort that is required of them. The Whites demonstrate their vulnerability in abandoning their air of superiority through a continuous Supreme Effort, until it touches the hearts of the Blacks. In turn, once touched, and through humility and honesty, the Blacks allow themselves to be vulnerable to initiate the required Corresponding Effort to abandon their suspicions and begin to trust.

- At the level of interactions, both Whites and Blacks make progress through iterations of this cycle over time. As a result, they build trust and confidence that forms the basis of relationships. On the spiritual level, the cycle tears down the sense of superiority for the Whites and suspicion for the Blacks and replaces these with an ability to see each other as spiritual human beings.

- Once they perceive themselves and each other as spiritual human beings, oneness can occur, and spiritual equity achieved.



REFERENCES

Definitions

supreme -

<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/supreme>

Corresponding

<https://www.vocabulary.com/dictionary/corresponding#:~:text=Corresponding%20comes%20from%20the%20Latin,to%20create%20a%20keyboard%20shortcut.>

CONTACT INFORMATION

If you're ready to do the hard work, we invite you to join our Facebook page, The Advent of Divine Justice – Working Towards Race Unity.

Additionally, do join our website www.adj-wtru.org and stay updated

If you have any questions, please send email to info@adj-wtru.org.