

# EXPANDING TEILHARD'S "COMPLEXITY-CONSCIOUSNESS" LAW

**Louis M. Savary**

## INTRODUCTION

One of Teilhard's great discoveries related to the theory of evolution is his Law of Complexity-Consciousness. Simply put, this law reflects the tendency in matter to become more complex over time and at the same time to become more conscious. Teilhard recognized that this tendency in material things toward higher levels of complexity leading to higher levels of consciousness is a pattern that seems to guide the evolution of the entire universe, especially Earth's development in all its dimensions. For example, this law is key to understanding our planet's biological development in its four-billion-year process from single-celled organisms to a vast array of multi-celled creatures that cover our planet today. It also operates in psychological and social arenas, for example, in the increasingly complex socialization of humanity, and proves to be important in understanding and managing personal and collective spiritual growth as well as in working out the moral conclusions that may be drawn from it.

Teilhard discovered this law of *complexity-consciousness* early in his career, though he describes it for the first time formally in *The Phenomenon of Man*. Throughout his years, it remains central to his thought. He refers to it again and again in his many later lectures and essays.

In this paper I hope to show that Teilhard's law of *complexity-consciousness* can be further clarified and enriched by adding two preliminary stages, attraction and connection, creating a clearer natural progression: the law of *attraction-connection-complexity-consciousness*.

I offer five reasons for taking this liberty to expand the formulation of Teilhard's law.