Basic Perinatal Matrices

(BPM): are general experiential patterns related to the stages of biological birth. These BPM are used here as a theoretical model, and not necessarily implying causal nexus.

BPM I: - Primal Union with Mother. (Intrauterine Experience Before the Onset of Delivery.)

This matrix is related to the original condition of the intrauterine existence during wh ich the child and his mother form a symbiotic unity. Unless some noxious stimuli interfere, the conditions for the child are optimal, involving security, protection appropriate milieu and satisfaction of all needs. This s ymbiotic unity can have both a disturbed and an undisturbed nature.

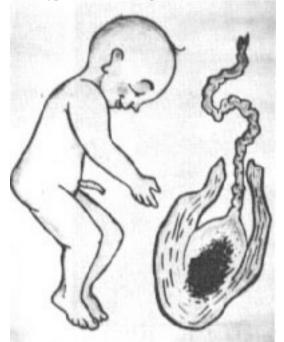**BPM II: - Antagonism with Mother. (Contractions in a Closed Uterine System.)**

This matrix is related to the first clinical stage of the delivery. This episode belongs perhaps to the worst experiences a human being can have. The fetuses both mechanically and chemically alienated from the mother with no possibility of immediate escape which may be later manifested as feelings of being trapped, of being hopelessly caught and overwhelmed.

BPM III: - Synergism with Mother. (Propulsion Through the Birth Canal.)

 This matrix is related to the second clinical stage of delivery. The uterine contractions continue, but the cervix stands wide open and the gradual and difficult propulsion through the birth canal begins. There is an enormous struggle for survival, mechanical crushing pressures and high degree of suffocation. The system is not closed any more, however, and a perspective of termination of the unbearable situation has appeared.

BPM IV: - Separation from Mother. (Termination of the Symbiotic Union and Formation of a New Type of Relationship.)

 This matrix is related to the third clinical stage of delivery. In this phase the agonizing experiences of several hours culminates, the propulsion through the birth canal is completed and the ultimate intensification of tension and suffering is followed by a sudden relief and relaxation.