

PART V

THE HIGHER ORDERS

This part will be something of a hodgepodge, an ollapodrida. I want to say a few more things about how the control loop works. I could have bloated up Chapter 4, but I did not want to strain your patience. You will find the leftovers in Chapter 22. Then in Chapter 23, I will turn to conflicts among control loops—as, for example, when one internal standard wants you to be friendly and shake hands, while another wants you to keep your hands clean and stay healthy. Chapter 24 will say more about how the world looks from the levels of programs, principles, and system concepts. Chapter 25 will focus on logic, a capability of which, it seems to me, everyone is proud. Chapter 26 will pursue that psychological will-o'-the-wisp, personality.

What did I mean by that box back in Figure 4-1 that I labeled “Internal processing”? Well, I meant all the stuff you have just been reading about in Part IV—beginning to control your perceptions by controlling intensities, but if that is ineffective or

inefficient, controlling sensations, and if that is not really satisfactory, then configurations, then transitions, and so on up to principles and system concepts, where, depending on the beliefs one has formed, one can call upon the aid of God, Zen meditation, Bach's *Musical Offering*, daily jogging, or even PCT. I do not mean to be flippant here; I do mean to include imagination, emotional invigoration, sport, art, and dreams in the ways we find to answer the demands of our internal standards. Some of our immense repertoire of adaptive ingenuity goes on unconsciously and some consciously.

In earlier parts of the book, I said a good deal about the lower orders of control. In the traditional divisions of academic psychology, those are the realms of physiological and sensory psychology. Most popular writing about psychology, however, turns to the higher orders of control—programs, principles, and system concepts. Beginning in Chapter 23, you will recognize several popular topics.