

## Jean Gebser (1905-1973)

A poet and cultural philosopher, his studies convinced him that the human mind/consciousness is an evolving entity that has passed through several stages—stages that do not replace their predecessors. Rather, each new mind development incorporates or blends in with its ancestors—the primitive coexisting with the modern.

The labels that Gebser uses are: *archaic*, *magic*, *mythical*, *mental* and *integral*. This latter stage is named with the expectation that it will be just that: integrated. The other labels characterize a cultural-historical continuum from ancient/*archaic* times to the present *mental* stage.

Other thinkers have tried to imagine what this new *integral* human would be. Such before-the-fact guesses are not really satisfactory except as stimuli for hypothesis tests like those done by Edelman—discussed later.

More at: [Net Link 1 Integralism](#) - [Net link 2 Integralism Summary](#) - [Net Link 3 Wikipedia](#)

English source: Gebser, Jean (1985). *The Ever Present Origin*, Ohio University Press, Athens, Barstad and Mickunas (Trans.).