### F. <u>E</u>. <u>D</u>. <u>Vignette #15</u> --

# The Dialectic of TV Series --

Systematically Presented via a 4-Symbol Expression.

by Miguel Detonacciones

<u>Author's Preface</u>. The purpose of  $\underline{\mathbf{F}}.\underline{\mathbf{E}}.\underline{\mathbf{D}}$ . Vignette **#15** is to provide an 'ultra-simple' "worked example" of a <u>dialectical</u> equation-model, and of the standard  $\underline{\mathbf{E}}.\underline{\mathbf{D}}$ . method of solution of <u>dialectical</u> models in general.

<u>A Note about the On-Line Availability of Definitions of F.E.D. Key Technical Terms</u>. Definitions of <u>Encyclopedia Dialectica</u> technical terms, including of  $\underline{E.D}$ . 'neologia', are available on-line via the following URLs --

http://www.dialectics.org/dialectics/Glossary.html

https://www.point-of-departure.org/Point-Of-Departure/ClarificationsArchive/ClarificationsArchive.htm

-- by clicking on the links associated with each such term, listed, in alphabetic order, on the web-pages linked-to above.

Links to definitions of the *Encyclopedia Dialectica* special terms most fundamental to this vignette are as follows --

#### «aufheben»

https://www.point-of-departure.org/Point-Of-Departure/ClarificationsArchive/Aufheben/Aufheben.htm

#### Diachronic vs. Synchronic

http://point-of-departure.org/Point-Of-Departure/ClarificationsArchive/Synchronic/Synchronic.htm

#### Dyadic Seldon Function as "Self-Reflexive Function"

http://point-of-departure.org/Point-Of-Departure/ClarificationsArchive/SeldonFunctions/SeldonFunctions.htm

#### **Dyadic Seldon Function as 'Self-Iteration'**

http://www.dialectics.org/dialectics/Glossary\_files/%27Dyadic%20Seldon%20Functions%27\_as\_%27Self-Iterations%27, vs. Standard\_%27Other-Iterations%27.jpg

#### Historical or Diachronic Dialectics

 $\underline{\text{http://point-of-departure.org/Point-Of-Departure/ClarificationsArchive/HistoricalDialectics/HistoricalDialectics.htm}}$ 

#### 🚾 <u>dialectical</u> arithmetic / algebra

http://www.dialectics.org/dialectics/Correspondence\_files/Letter17-06JUN2009.pdf

#### Systematic or Synchronic Dialectics

http://point-of-departure.org/Point-Of-Departure/ClarificationsArchive/SystematicDialectics/SystematicDialectics.htm

-- and we plan to expand these definitions resources as the *Encyclopedia Dialectica Dictionary Project* unfolds.

[Note: "Arithmetical Quantifiers" vs. 'Arithmetical Qualifiers'. In the phrase "3 apples", we term "3" the "arithmetical ["pure"-]quantifier", and "apples" the "ontological" -- or kind of thing -- "qualifier". In the phrase "3 pounds of apples", we term "pounds" the 'metrical[-unit] qualifier' -- or "unit of measure qualifier" -- quantified by the 3, which, together, 'quanto-qualify' the 'ontological qualifier', "apples". A key use-value of the dialectical arithmetics is to provide algorithmic, ideographical-symbolic systems for the various kinds of 'arithmetical qualifiers', both with and without the co-presence of "arithmetical quantifiers".].

**Introduction**. The dialectical model presented in this vignette is an 'ultra-simple' example of such models -- is literally a "trivia[ $\ell$ ]" example -- a dialectical model of the systematics of television programming "trivia". But that is, precisely, the whole point of this example: to dialectically model something so simple and so well known, that the core of the dialectical modeling method will thereby become transparent to the reader.

No "domain expertise" is required of the reader, in order to understand the content of this model, beyond that which is spontaneously learned in the course of following contemporary TV Series, e.g., via broadcast network TV, and/or via cable TV, and/or via internet video streaming, etc., etc.

Herein, we will use the **F**.**E**.**D**. 'first dialectical algebra' to construct and "solve" a "heuristic", 'intuitional' model of a "'systematic presentation" of the principal entities / phenomena encountered in the domain of 'TV Series'.

Herein we mean, by the word, "'systematic'", in the phrase "'systematic presentation", a presentation of the major kinds of "entities" that exist in this domain -- by means of categories that classify those entities by their "kinds", i.e., as "'ontology'', or as "kinds of things" -- presented in the strict order of their rising complexity, starting from the simplest category, and moving, step-by-step, from lesser to greater complexity, until we reach the most complex category that presently exists for this domain, or for the purposes of this example.

The model we will build will generate descriptions of these categories in that strict, systematic order of rising complexity.

This will be a "snapshot" model, a "synchronic" model that takes the present slice of time -- or at any rate, a recent slice of time -- and algorithmically generates descriptions of the 'combinatorially possible' categories that presently exist, or that might presently exist, for the model's domain, in their systematic order. I.e., it models a "Systematic Dialectic".

Our model here will <u>not</u> be a "chronology" model -- a "diachronic" model -- like, e.g., 'The Psychohistorical Equation of Human Social Formations Meta-Evolution', in which the units of *earlier* categories are described as actually, e.g., physically, <u>constructing</u>, through their <u>activity</u>, as "causal agents", or as "subjects", the units of later categories, categories whose units <u>did not exist</u> until that construction took place.

It will <u>not</u> be a model of a 'self-advancing' <u>historical progression</u> of ontology, with each historical epoch containing both old ontology, inherited from past historical epochs, and new ontology, ontology that had **never appeared before** -- in past historical epochs -- <u>until</u> the <u>later</u> epoch in question. I.e., it does <u>not</u> model an "'Historical <u>Dialectic</u>".

We will apply a documented, standard solution procedure to "solve" this model -- to determine what actual category each of these generated category-descriptions refers to, or to determine which, if any, of these descriptions describe "empty categories", standing for 'combinatorial *possibles*' that *actually* do not exist in this domain -- at least not presently.

To get started, we must determine the starting-point -- the point-of-departure -- for our systematic model.

This *starting category* will be the seed of our whole progression of generated category-descriptions, influencing every category that follows, as the "controlling source" and as the "ever-present origin" of all that follows from it.

The rule for getting started is to ask oneself "¿What is the <u>least complex</u> kind of thing, the <u>simplest</u> kind of thing, which exists in this domain?" -- in our present case, in the domain of 'TV Series' -- and then to find the answer to that question, based upon one's prior knowledge of, or familiarity with, this domain of entities / phenomena.

The answer to this starting question that we will pursue in this example is the following: The single, typical "**Episode**" is the simplest ancestor, the ultimate unit of contemporary TV Series, ingredient in every one of the more complex units of that domain.

Our dialectical model then, will take the form of a dialectical equation -- an equation between multiplicity and unity -- that looks like this --

-- with the variable  $\bf s$  indicating the  $\underline{\bf s}$ tep in our systematic presentation that the 'accumulation of categories', denoted by

<u>Stage 0</u>. Our initial <u>step -- step s = 0 -- contains only our starting category,  $\underline{E} = \underline{q}_E$  --</u>

-- because **2** "raised" to the power **0** --  $2^0$  -- is just **1**, and because  $\underline{\underline{E}}$  "raised" to the power **1** is just  $\underline{\underline{E}}$ .

<u>Stage 1</u>. It is when we get to  $\underline{s}$  tep  $\underline{s} = 1$  that our equation-model gives us something initially "unknown" -- something "algebraical", rather than just "arithmetical" -- to "solve-for" --

-- because **2** "raised" to the power **1** -- **2**<sup>1</sup> -- is just **2**, and because our rule for multiplying a *generic* kind-of-thing category, call it  $\mathbf{q}_x \equiv \mathbf{x}$ , "by", or "into", itself, is, simply:  $\mathbf{q}_x \times \mathbf{q}_x = \mathbf{q}_x + \mathbf{q}_{xx} = \mathbf{x} + \mathbf{q}_{xx}$ .

Herein, **q** is the *generic* category '**q**ualifier'. The subscripts that come after it are *specific* category "descriptors", category "predicates", or category "epithets".

¿But how do we "solve for" what the resulting, initially "unknown" -- hence "algebraic" -- category, or 'category description', here **Q**EE, *means?* 

Well, the **generic** rule to "solve-for" the categorial **meaning** of such symbols is that, if we know what is meant by category  $\mathbf{\underline{Q}_x} = \mathbf{\underline{X}}$ , then the symbol  $\mathbf{\underline{Q}_{xx}}$  describes a category each of whose units is an ' $\mathbf{X}$   $\mathbf{\underline{OF}}$   $\mathbf{X}$ s', that is, a category for a different kind of units, called '**meta-X**s', each such 'meta-unit' being made up out of a heterogeneous multiplicity of  $\mathbf{X}$ s.

To be **specific** with this rule, **Q**EE specifies a category each of whose units is an 'Episode OF Episodes', that is, is a 'meta-Episode', such that each 'meta-Episode' is made up out of a heterogeneous multiplicity of "mere" Episodes.

That category-description describes the category of 'multi-**Episode**' units -- of **Seasons**, i.e., of a usually yearly multi-**Episode** succession / 'consecuum', typically ending with a "**Season Finale**" **final Episode** for each **Season**.

We may "assert" our solution as follows:  $\mathbf{q}_{EE} = \mathbf{q}_{S} \equiv \mathbf{S}$  [-----)  $\mathbf{q}_{2}$ .

Again, what is <u>dialectical</u> about the relationship involving  $\underline{\mathbf{E}}$  and  $\underline{\mathbf{E}}^2$ , or  $\underline{\mathbf{E}} \times \underline{\mathbf{E}}$ , or  $\underline{\mathbf{E}}$ 

So, our full solution to the  $\underline{\mathbf{s}}$ tep  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{1}$  equation of our model 'meta-equation' is --

$$- = \underbrace{E + S} = \underline{Episodes} + \underline{Seasons}.$$

If this model is working right, **Episodes** will be the *simplest* generic category of the domain of 'TV Series', and **Seasons** will be the *next more complex* generic category of that domain.

<u>Stage 2</u>. What additional 'category-specifications' do we generate in our next step,  $\underline{\mathbf{s}}$  tep  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{2}$ , that need "solving-for"?

Let's find out:

This result arises by way of two new rules of our categorial algebra, plus its **general** rule for multiplication when one category is multiplied by a *different* category [we used a **special** case of this **general** rule, for the case where *the same* category is multiplied by itself, in **step s = 1**, above] --

- 1.  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}} \times \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{a}} = \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{a}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}\mathbf{a}} = \underline{\mathbf{a}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}\mathbf{a}}$ ; special case:  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}} \times \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}} = \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}} = \underline{\mathbf{b}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}\mathbf{b}}$ .
- **2**.  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{a}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{a}} = \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{a}}$ ; the same category, added to itself, does not make "two" of that category; one "copy" of each category is sufficient; two or more copies of any category would be redundant for the purposes of categorial algebra.
- **3**. There is no  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{x}}$  such that  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{a}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{b}} = \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{\mathbf{x}}$ ; different categories, <u>added</u> together [as opposed to being <u>multiplied</u> together], do not reduce to a single category, just as in the case of the proverbial 'apples + oranges', or  $\underline{\mathbf{a}} + \underline{\mathbf{o}}$ .

Well, we already know how to "solve-for" **Qss**.

It describes a category of 'Seasons' -- a category each of whose units is a 'Season <u>OF</u> Seasons', i.e., each of which is a 'meta-Season', such that each such 'meta-Season' is made up out of a heterogeneous multiplicity of Seasons.

That category-description describes the category of 'multi-**Season**' units -- of TV "**seRies**" units, each typically ending with a "**SeRies Finale**" **final Episode** for each such **SeRies**, and which we therefore symbolize, this time, to avoid another  $\underline{S}$  with a different meaning, via the *third* letter of its name, by  $\underline{R}$ .

We may "assert" our solution as follows:  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{SS} = \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{R} \equiv \underline{\mathbf{R}} [---] \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{4}$ .

Our  $\underline{\mathbf{s}}$  tep  $\underline{\mathbf{s}} = \underline{\mathbf{2}}$  equation-model, as we have solved it so far, thus now looks like this --

-- since we have not yet determined which actual category of the TV Series domain is described by the algorithmically-generated symbol **QSE** [——) **Q3**, if any, i.e., if **QSE** is not an "empty category" for this domain.

Vignette #15, v.2, The Dialectic of TV Series [Simplest Example] #15 -- 4 by M. Detonacciones of Foundation Encyclopedia Dialectica [F.E.D.]

When, as a component of  $(\underline{E} + \underline{S}) \times (\underline{E} + \underline{S})$ , the "higher-complexity" category,  $\underline{S}$ , operates upon / "multiplies" the "lower-complexity" category,  $\underline{E}$  --

$$S \times E = E + q_{SE}$$

-- **generically** speaking, the categorial relationship to be called to the user's attention by this operation, in this 'categorial algebra', is, again, a <u>synchronic</u> «**aufheben**» relationship, this time between **E** and **Q**<sub>SE</sub>. It calls the user to search that user's knowledge and memory of the domain in question -- in this **specific** case, the domain of TV programming -- for a category which represents an "uplift" of category **E** entities to the level of the entities native to category **S**, thereby "canceling" the **E**-type entities concerned, at their own native level, but, by the same token, "preserving" those "special" category **E** entities that **q**ualify for this "hybrid" category, combining **S** and **E q**ualities, in the relationship of "elevation" of those category **E** entities up to within the level typical of category **S** entities. Thus, the additional category thereby presented, **Q**<sub>SE</sub>, signifies **a**typical, **exceptional E** units, that "double as" **S** units, or that "masquerade as" **S** units, or that "exist in the way that, normally, only **S** units exist".

For example, if we were doing a systematic model of written English, with  $\underline{\underline{L}}$  denoting the category of  $\underline{\underline{Letters}}$  of the English alphabet, and with  $\underline{\underline{W}}$  denoting the category of written English  $\underline{\underline{Words}}$ , then the category-symbol  $\underline{\underline{q}_{WL}}$  would stand for the category of individual English  $\underline{\underline{L}}$  etters that also  $\underline{\underline{q}}$  ualify as English  $\underline{\underline{W}}$  ords, e.g., 'a' and 'I'.

In this *specific* case, this means that a unit of the **QSE** category is an **Episode** that "doubles for" a **Season**.

¿Do any such units, hence does any such category, actually exist, in the contemporary domain of TV Series?

Yes.

Any one-**Episode Season <u>q</u>**ualifies, e.g., an incipient **Season**, paused after its initial **Episode** of its initial **Season**, but resumed in its second **Season**, or, e.g., a multi-**Season Series**, with only one final **Episode** for its Final **Season** -- rare, exceptional events, no doubt, but I do not doubt that such things have happened -- *at least* once -- in the history of TV Series. Thus, 'category-description' '**q**se' can well describe the actually-existing, presently-existing category of such "*atypical*" *Seasons*.

Were we to find no instances of such units in existence, then "category"  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{SE}$  might be an instance of the generic "empty category", denoted  $\bullet$  -- connoting "full zero", or "existential zero", or 'ontological zero', or 'qualitative zero' -- for this particular domain, and we might "assert" our solution as follows:  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{SE} = \bullet$  [——)  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{0}$ .

We *might* therefore write our *full* solution for step  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{2}$  as --

Episodes + Seasons + seRies.

But let's keep our 'categorial-combinatorially *possible*' category **q**<sub>SE</sub> around for a while longer, since I feel so sure that the instances of the units implied by the category-description '**q**<sub>SE</sub>' have existed, even though I can't just now cite any --

Episodes + Seasons + single-Episode Seasons + seRies.

<u>Stage 3</u>. What additional 'category-specs.' do we generate in our next step,  $\underline{\mathbf{s}}$  tep  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{3}$ , that need "solving-for"? Let's see:

$$\underline{)} = \underline{|} = \underline{(}_3 = \underline{E}^3 = \underline{E}^8 = (\underline{E}^4)^2 = (\underline{E} + \underline{S} + \underline{q}_{SE} + \underline{R}) \times (\underline{E} + \underline{S} + \underline{q}_{SE} + \underline{R}) = \underline{E} + \underline{S} + \underline{q}_{SE} + \underline{R} + \underline{q}_{RE} + \underline{q}_{RS} + \underline{q}_{RR}.$$

We already know how to "solve-for" **QRR**.

It describes a category of 'seRies's <u>OF</u> seRies's' -- a category each of whose units is a 'seRies <u>OF</u> seRies's, i.e., each of which is a 'meta-seRies', such that each such 'meta-seRies' is made up out of a heterogeneous multiplicity of seRies's.

That category-description describes the category of '<u>multi</u>-se<u>Ries</u>' units, of TV '<u>Multi</u>-Series', e.g., the early '<u>Multi</u>-Series of the Star Trek sequence -- Original  $\rightarrow$  Next Generation  $\rightarrow$  Deep-Space 9  $\rightarrow$  Voyager  $\rightarrow$  Enterprise -- or the later 'Multi-Series of the StarGate sequence -- SG-1  $\rightarrow$  Atlantis  $\rightarrow$  Universe.

We may "assert" our solution as follows:  $\mathbf{q}_{RR} = \mathbf{q}_{M} = \mathbf{M}$  [-----)  $\mathbf{q}_{8}$ .

Our Step S = 3 equation-model, as we have solved it so far, thus now looks like this --

-- since we have not, as yet, "solved-for" which actual categories of the 'TV Series' domain are described by the algorithmically-generated symbols  $\mathbf{Q}_{RE}$ ,  $\mathbf{Q}_{RS}$ , and  $\mathbf{Q}_{RSE}$ , if any.

But we already know how to characterize the *possible* categories that these three category-symbols "call for", viz.:

- **QRE** [——) **Q**<sub>5</sub> "calls for" the category of a kind of **Episode** unit that functions as if it were a whole **seRies** unit, a category for 'atypical, exceptional **seRies** units of type one'.
- **QRS** [——) **Q6** "calls for" the category of a kind of **Season** unit that functions as if it were a whole **seRies** unit, a category for 'atypical, exceptional **seRies** units of type two'.
- **QRSE** [——) **Q7** "calls for" the category of a kind of **QSE** unit that functions as if it were a whole **seRies** unit, a category for '**atypical**, exceptional **seRies** units of type three'.

¿Do any such units actually exist today, in the domain of contemporary TV Series?

- ¿Have there been any planned TV Se<u>R</u>ies units, intended to run for multiple <u>Episodes</u>, but that terminated after just one <u>Episode</u>?
- ¿Have there been any planned TV Se<u>R</u>ies units, intended to run for multiple <u>S</u>easons, but that terminated after just one Season?
- ¿Have there been any TV SeRies, run for one or more Seasons, with at least one single-Episode Season?

Probably there have been -- at least for the first two category-descriptions listed above. I don't know for sure. Any readers who  $\underline{do}$  know, please write in.

Were we to find no actual instances of such units in present existence, then the "categories"  $\underline{\mathbf{Q}}_{RE}$ , and  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{RSE}$ , and might all be instances of the generic "empty category",  $\bullet$ , and we might "assert" our solution as follows:

$$\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{RE} = \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{RS} = \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{RSE} = \mathbf{0}$$
 [----)  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}_{0}$ .

We *might* then therefore write our *full* solution for step  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{3}$  as --

$$\underline{\mathbf{J}} = \underline{\mathbf{I}}_{3} = \underline{\mathbf{E}}^{2^{3}} = \underline{\mathbf{E}}^{8} = \underline{\mathbf{E}} + \underline{\mathbf{S}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{SE} + \underline{\mathbf{R}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{RE} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{RS} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{RSE} + \underline{\mathbf{M}} = \underline{\mathbf{E}} + \underline{\mathbf{S}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{SE} + \underline{\mathbf{R}} + \underline{\mathbf{M}} + \underline{\mathbf{M}} + \underline{\mathbf{M}} = \underline{\mathbf{E}} + \underline{\mathbf{S}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{SE} + \underline{\mathbf{R}} + \underline{\mathbf{M}} = \underline{\mathbf{E}} + \underline{\mathbf{S}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{SE} + \underline{\mathbf{R}} + \underline{\mathbf{M}} = \underline{\mathbf{E}} + \underline{\mathbf{S}} + \underline{\mathbf{q}}_{SE} + \underline{\mathbf{K}} + \underline{\mathbf{M}} = \underline{\mathbf{K}} + \underline{\mathbf{M}} + \underline{\mathbf{M}$$

But let's keep all of our 'categorial-combinatorially *possible*' category-descriptions around for a while longer, since I think most or all of them probably already have actual instances --

Episodes + Seasons +

'Single-Episode-Seasons' + Series +

'Single-Episode-Series' + 'Single-Season-Series' + 'Single-Episode-Seasons-Series' +

Multi-Series.

<u>Stage 4</u>. A step  $\mathbf{S} = \mathbf{4}$  'self-iteration' would end with an "algebraic" category-unknown described by the category-description symbol  $\mathbf{q}_{MM}$  [——)  $\mathbf{q}_{16}$ .

Because I believe that no 'Multi-Multi-Series' -- no TV Series made up out of a '[Meta-]Series' of 'Multi-Series' -- are going to be familiar to very many of my readers, if any [though some long-running "soap operas" may  $\underline{\mathbf{q}}$  ualify], I'm declaring presentation  $\underline{\mathbf{s}}$  tep  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{4}$  to be "'non-present"', and stopping my narration of this model here, at  $\underline{\mathbf{s}}$  tep  $\mathbf{s} = \mathbf{3}$ , even though some of the "cross product" category-descriptions, "crossing" category  $\underline{\mathbf{M}}$  with each of the seven predecessor categories of  $\underline{\mathbf{s}}$  tep  $\underline{\mathbf{s}} = \mathbf{3}$ , might turn out to have actualized meaning / **not** to have the value 'full zero',  $\underline{\mathbf{o}}$ .

The "four symbolic-elements expression" for this model is thus  $\underline{\underline{\mathsf{E}}}^{23}$  [four if we count the underscore under the  $\underline{\underline{\mathsf{E}}}$  as a separate "symbolic-element"].

Our categorial progression so far can be summarized textually as below, and pictorially as on the following pages.

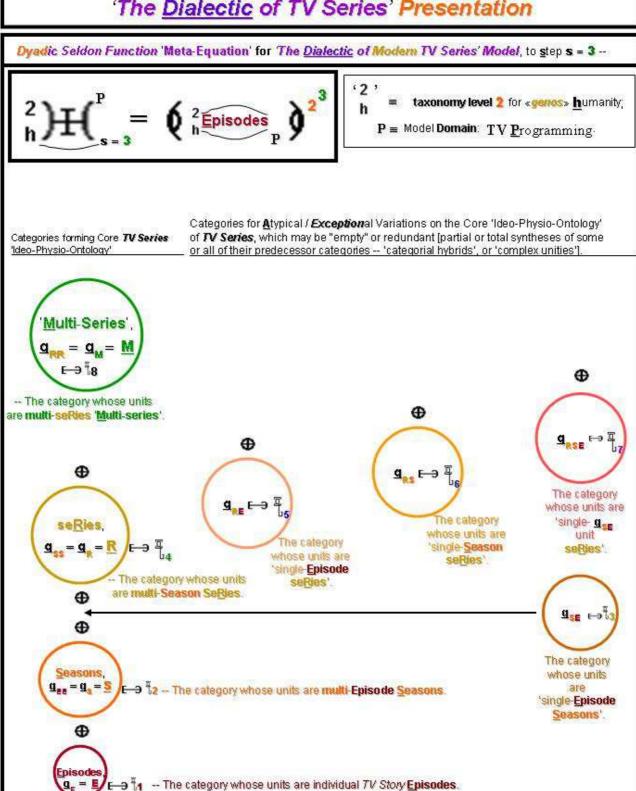
The 'qualo-fractal' 'content-structure' of this 'psychohistorical dialectic' can be summarized as follows --

Multi-Series are "made of" Series,

which, in turn, are "made of" Seasons,

which, in turn, are "made of" Episodes.

## Psychohistorical Ontological Categories Diagram for 'The <u>Dialectic</u> of TV Series' Presentation



# The Growing Psychohistorical 'Qualo-Fractal Tower' of 'The Dialectic of TV Series' Presentation ['ultra-simple' example]

