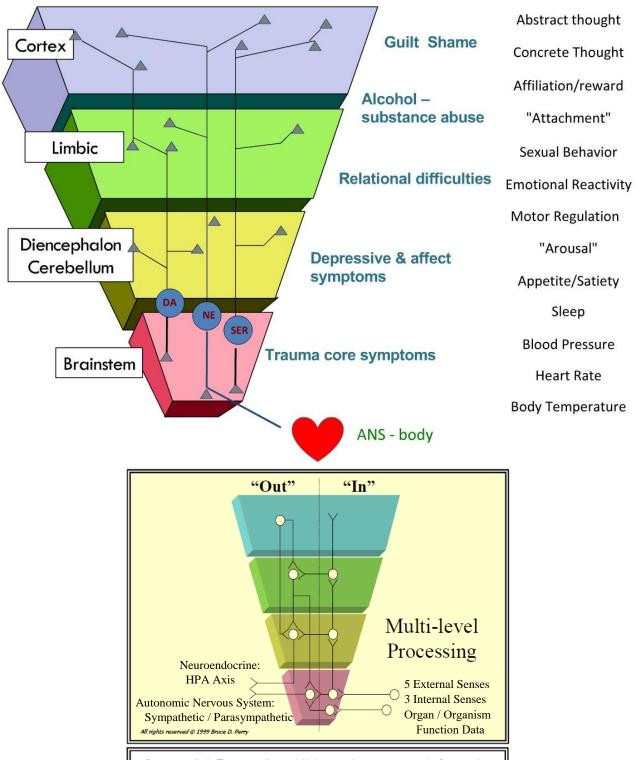
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Sequential Processing: All incoming sensory information first enters the CNS at the level of the spinal cord or brainstem. This means that the first place where patterns of activation are matched against previously stored templates is in these primitive areas. Indeed, the spinal cord and brainstem may process and act on incoming information before the integrated and interpreted signals even get up to the cortex (e.g., reflex withdrawal of a finger from fire).