

Foundations of Science

2217/03

I



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① Gurukul: Intellectual activity - downloaded to Bangalore

1/3 Silicon Valley - Asians

### Books:

① Science and Philosophy - past and present. Derek Gjertsen  
Pelican Penguin Books

अहिंसा प्रथमं पुष्पं  
पुष्पं इन्द्रियनिग्रहः  
सर्वभूत ह्या पुष्पं  
क्षामापुष्पं तथैव च ।  
शान्तिः पुष्पं तपः पुष्पं  
स्नानपुष्पं विशेषधः  
सत्यं अष्टविधः पुष्पं  
विष्णोः प्रीतिकरं भवेत् ॥

dpc (dpc @ cal. vsnc. net. in)  
~~csc~~ csc @ del 2. jnet. in

• Foundations of Sciences

• Foundations and Methodologies of Sciences

• Foundations and Grand Factors of Sciences

Why and how foundations change

\* The Changing Picture of the Universe  
Star studded sphere - Curvature of Space of GR  
Blackholes, Neutron Stars

Could be  
one  
chapter

Whitehead

"The Stable Foundations of physics  
have broken up"

(Ref 41 in Thacker's

Book on Gite) →

"On the day when quantum theory...

DeBroglie

The Predictors: Thomas A Bass Henry Holt  
(1999)

(How a band of Marxist Physicists  
used Chaos Theory to trade their way  
to a fortune on Wall Street)

CHAOS is the Score Upon Which Reality is Written  
Henry M. Cohen

Derek Gjertsen

p 239. • Science has a history. It is a history  
rich with discarded and false theories.

pg 2 : Today the disciplines of Science and  
Philosophy seem to be so far apart  
so fundamentally distinct, that it  
is initially hard to see how  
they could be related in any  
significant manner.

- While many philosophers may treat  
Science with immense respect,  
many Scientists have only,  
according to Peter Medawar, an  
'exasperated contempt for philosophy

Socrates on Science: (p 15-16)

- ① How could any one hope to understand  
Nature without knowledge of himself
- ② Dispute Characteristics of Science — (of  
his day)  
While some argued 'Reality is one',  
others insisted that it is  
infinitely many

(3) Science had little practical value.

(4) The Gods would be unlikely to be pleased by attempts to pry into matters they had chosen to conceal.

(p19)

Copernicus 1543 De Revolutionibus —  
"One can look in vain through the large hole for empirical investigations on which his conclusions were based. Instead a number of philosophical and mathematical arguments are presented to show the superiority of his views."

(p25)

Philosophy and Science also differ in the views they take of their own past.

The history of Science is of peripheral interest to the modern Scientist  
The history of Philosophy is and always has been part of philosophy

"Grandest Conclusions from Scientists' observations"  
How the picture of the universe is changing -  
(Perihelion of Mercury - to small and steady motion)

Historians of Science, Richard Rorty, notes  
'do not think it 'anachronistic' to say  
that Aristotle had a false model of  
the heavens or that Galen did not  
understand how the circulatory system worked.  
We take the pardonable ignorance of  
great dead scientists for granted.

(p29) Campbell's definition of Science  
(1921, What is Science)

"Science has 'the study of those judgements  
concerning their universal agreement can be  
obtained'"

John Ziman (in Public Knowledge)

"The object of science is not just to  
acquire information nor to utter all  
non-contradictory notions: its goal is  
consensus of rational opinion over  
the widest possible field"

Peter Medawar (Immunologist)

"If politics is the art of the possible,  
research is surely the art  
of soluble (The Art of Soluble 1969)

Fragility and Indirect Evidence in Science  
Leads to Profound Conclusions

p37  
Fabric of  
Reality

Thomas Kuhn (p46)

"The ability of men to generate new  
~~scientific theories~~ requires a decision  
process which permits rational men  
to disagree"

(?)

Philosophical Speculations  
on Nature of Matter } → Chemistry

Debates on Nature of  
Man } → Medicine

Atomism } → Physics.

Pythagorean  
Mysticism } → Mathematics

Philosophical  
Issues } Mind-Matter  
Free Will  
Reality } Scientific  
Issues



## (p6) Darwin's Theory of Evolution

During his voyage on HMS Beagle, he had been:

"deeply impressed by - - - group"

These three sets of facts →

"Species gradually become modified"

Fusion of disciplines - new disciplines  
Astrophysics, Molecular Biology

(p62) = (Astronomy)  
Plato: Republic (521c-531c)

Knowledge of heavens could not be gained by staring at the sky for the simple reason that knowledge of sensible objects here impossible.

\* The true realities were not part of the visible world; they belonged to, rather, to the "world of pure numbers and perfect geometrical figures." And inevitably these were not seen by the eyes, but by reason and thought.

Objects belonging to the world of appearance  
were known and were things we could  
have no knowledge of; the intelligible  
world, in contrast, were free and could  
be the object of our knowledge.

\* (Naegebauer "The Exact Sciences in Antiquity"  
New York 1969)

## (p64) Physics

• physics, as we know it to-day, did not originate  
in any single event or in any  
simple manner.

- Motion -
- Composition of bodies relevant for motion?
- Weight.
- Resistance - force.
- Medium of motion.

Scientific knowledge has to be theoretical  
and abstract in order to be useful  
and practical

(p69) Science without philosophy is impossible,  
where philosophy without science  
is merely immature.

§72

Descartes:

- Machines get not through understanding but only through the disposition of organs.
- Thoughts are the activities of the conscious mind.

§73

- Mind has an unextended substance distinct from the body. The mind has indivisible, without parts and consequently for ever beyond the anatomist's scalpel and chemist's retorts.

1959 J.C. Smart.

"Sensations are nothing over and above brain processes" - Statement of strict identity.

1963 Nobel Prize Winner Sir John Eccles:  
Gifford Lecture

§73

"Recent experimental investigations did in fact ~~support~~ lend support not for materialism, but for dualistic ~~interpretation~~ interaction hypothesis

Eccles "The Human Mystery" London 1984  
p 214

(p. 26)

Eccles talks without any apparent embarrassment of the manner in which sensory data becomes perceptual experience as a miraculous transformation.

(p. 76-77)

Searle:

Computers are machines for manipulation of meaningless symbols which lack any semantic content.

Thoughts may occur to be as symbols. These symbols are, however, about something. They have meaning.

"The reason that no computer programme can ever be a mind is simply that a computer programme is only syntactical and minds are ~~not~~ more than syntactical. Minds are semantical - they have content.

The results of Searle are often relevant to philosophers, but seldom crucial for any particular philosophical position.

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## Reality

- Scientific views on Reality are likely to change as science itself changes
- On the nature of Reality science may not always offer instant enlightenment

## Hume and Causality

"Though distant objects may sometimes seem productive of each other, they are commonly found upon examination to be linked by a chain of causes, which are contiguous among themselves and to distant objects; and when in any particular instance we cannot discover this connection, we still presume it to exist."

[Treatise on Human Nature Book 1 part 3, § 2]

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\* Locality Principle though valid classically is not valid quantum mechanically

"Whatever Reality is it must be non-local" Bell.

"Money is always there, but the pockets change. It is not in the same pockets after a change and that is all there is to say about money" Gertrude Stein

Do we have to change our notion of reality?

How to link quantum world of photons and electrons with the familiar world of tables and chairs?

### §93 Scientific Methodology

- Complex phenomena should be first resolved into their composite elements from which appropriate cause could be identified

§105 Hypotheses should be consistent with all observed facts. But further they should successfully forecast phenomena which have not been observed

§106 - §108

Darwin's problem was how to explain how the units the variable traits that natural selection worked on could be inherited. (Pencil's objection)

It required the discovery of Mendel to dispose of this objection. (Long trait)

## Serendipity

Fleming's discovery of Penicillin (July 1928)

The discovery of Penicillin is surely  
"the supreme example in all scientific  
history of the part that luck  
may play in the advancement  
of knowledge"

"R. Hare 'The Birth of Penicillin'"  
London, 1970 p 87

§111-112

## Originality and Novelty

- Alfred Hagner's theory of Continental Drift - great shock to his contemporaries - (improbable? outrageous?)
- No scientific method scientific or otherwise to account for Hagner's insights.

|| What forces drive the Continental drift?  
|| Is it still an open question

CARNAP - Logician.

§112

§113

The hypothetico-deductive method  
favoured by distinguished scientists — BUT  
does not accurately the methodology of  
science.

Can lead to false conclusions

Does not account for creativity, originality, luck.

## (Philosophy and Science)

§114

Philosophers consistently see the  
method of science before their eyes  
and are irresistably tempted to  
ask and answer questions the way  
science does. This tendency ....

leads philosopher into complete darkness

Ludwig ~~Wittgenstein~~

↳ Wittgenstein's

The Blue Book (1933)

How Russell planned  
Principia Mathematica }  
↓

"Every morning I would sit down before a  
blank sheet of paper... I would stare at  
the blank sheet. — Throughout the day. After  
the evening came it was still empty"

P116

'If the techniques worked out for the study of TB prove initially misleading when applied to malaria and if Leverrier's extension of his work on Uranus to Mercury has proved to be equally misleading it must be very certain that transplantation of scientific techniques to more distant philosophy will fare better'

The three successful methods in science

- (1) Deductivism of Eucled (300 BC)
- (2) Attractive Force - Newton
- (3) Natural Selection - Darwin

Rudolf CARNAP: (1913)

(Physics, PHILOSOPHY, LOGIC)

Logical Positivism: } Experience is  
Logical Empiricist: } fundamental.

- From the simplest elements of experience using only logical machinery, all other aspects of our thoughts and experience could be constructed.

§ 143

4<sup>th</sup> Century BC. Epicurus:

\* "Better to follow the myths of the philosophers than be a slave to the fatalism of physicists"

§ 145

Feyerabend: Astrology, voodoo, witchcraft, rain-dancing and much more besides, are no less reasonable procedures than astronomy, medicine and meteorology.

§ 156

SCIENCE IS IN DETAILS

Much of science, including science of the highest kind, consists little more than the obsessive working out of the details and implications of an initial hypothesis

\* Ideas alone are not enough, you have to show they work. That only it beholds skulls.

§ 157

Mythical Thinking according to 'Feyerabend' → inventions of {  
Fite  
rotation of fields  
crossing of oceans in less than

§165

In a quite abstract manner Parmenides had argued that Being, whatever exists is eternal and unchangeable.

Nothing, therefore, seemed predictable of Being, other than It is.

Even motion was impossible for Being for ever being in the same place.

Zeno with his Antinomies reinforced these claims

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[ The fullest account of ancient atomism can be found in "De Naturam Naturae" of Lucretius 1st Century BC

↓ "The Nature of the Universe"

Hammonds with 1951

1. Nothing can ever be created by divine power out of nothing
2. Nature never deduces anything to nothing

The atomic hypothesis revived by Thomas Harriot (1560-1621).

Harriot wrote to Kepler in 1606

→ If he wished to discover the mysteries lying within Nature's house, he should abstract and contract himself into an atom

Newton in Principia (Book II Prop. XXIII)

Rule 3 of Rules Philosophical Reasonings  $\Rightarrow$

"The extension, hardness, impenetrability, mobility, inertia of the whole result from extension, hardness, impenetrability and inertia of the parts; and hence we conclude that the least particles of all bodies to be also extended and hard, and impenetrable and movable and endowed with their proper inertia, And this is the foundation of all Philosophy."

p170 - p171

Disappearance of Atomism

Philosophical objection of Descartes, Leibniz  
Life - Man - Life problems - Harvey

- In Chemistry Affinity turns out than Atomism

Boscovich Atom.  $\rightarrow$  mathematical points  
Kant's properties  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{bordered by attractive} \\ \text{repulsive force} \end{array} \right\}$

(p172)  $\rightarrow$   $\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{Universe as a plenum} \\ \text{filled with forces rather} \\ \text{than things} \end{array} \right.$

$\downarrow$   
Faraday

Ⓟ 176

## Second Revival of "atomism"

The Second Revival of atomism in the 19th Century was by Chemists - John Dalton

The greatest achievement of the 18th Century - atmosphere composed of oxygen, nitrogen and water vapor - not one homogeneous gas. Then why they do not separate and form layers?

F. von Kekulé opposed atomic hypothesis

"The question whether atoms exist or not has but little significance from the chemical point of view; its discussion belongs rather to metaphysics"

[D. Knight Atoms and Elements London 1962 p119]

Ⓟ 175

Beginning of 20th Century : Atomic hypothesis

Neither physicists nor Chemists - Solidly behind Atomic hypothesis!

Friedrich Ostwald: 1909 Nobel Prize  
winner for Chemistry

(1904) - Ostwald said:

"Atomic hypothesis unnecessary."

Mach: Atoms have only a 'mathematical  
1897 model facilitating mental  
reproduction of facts.

The Science of Mechanics

La Salle, III, 1962 p 492-4,  
505.

What restored Atomic hypothesis was  
Bridgman's method

(176)

"For Positivists: all expressions, other than  
logical constants, must either refer directly  
to specific sense-data, ~~otherwise~~ or  
be explicitly definable in terms of  
expressions which do refer directly to  
specific sense-data otherwise the expressions  
are meaningless.

(177) Paul Davies

- Science is a surer path to God than  
Religion.

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# Failure of Phrenology

Aschaffenburg ← Physics 19th Century.  
Imperial Institute of Stats

Biochemistry ←  
Neurophysiology ←  
Molecular Biology ←

Psychology ←

Location of Soul - { Pined gland  
all parts of the body

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## Parascience

p186

ESP.

- 21 British Scientists
- 10 Fellows of Royal Society
- 2 Nobel Laureates

} Among 47  
presidents  
of  
Society of  
Psychical  
Research

Sir William Crookes  
President of Royal Society }

### ON Levitation

"The most striking case of levitation  
I have witnessed"

p186 →

R.G. Medhurst  
"Crookes and the Spiritual World"  
London 1972 p119

§ 189 • (Regarding Crooke's evidence for levitation)

- The point can be accepted without difficulty that no unsupported testimony is beyond ~~doubt~~ challenge
- Eminence is no defence.
- Critical observations of Newton's own observations show conclusively that at certain <sup>critical</sup> points, he fudged the data

§ 198

Do in fact the strange theories of quantum physics make parasitism any more plausible?

§ 200

Can science demonstrate the existence of God?

Lucretius, Cicero — History has shown the ruin of many a good man and the success of more than a few villains.

Newton stressed repeatedly that it was the inability of his science to throw light on a number of issues that most clearly revealed the hand of God

\* (See page 201 for his reasons)

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physico-theology } topics of  
Astro-theology } Boyle Lectures

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Leibniz: Any gaps in the system of Principia were the result of Newton's inadequate physics rather than God's oversight.

p204-205

Hume: The danger of analogies.

• Experience alone ~~cannot~~ can point out "... the true cause."

∴ Chance can account for neither for the assembly of bricks and mortar into a house, nor for the manner in which planets move in the same plane and in the same direction.

In the first case he seeks a builder

In the second case, in Newton's phrase

"the Counsel and Contrivance of a

Voluntary Agent." // Derek Gjertsen - author

Hume conceded the legitimacy of analogical reasoning, but ~ insisted that "While the similarity of events gives a perfect assurance of a similar event, departure from

Similarity was liable to error and uncertainty.

Example: Blood circulation in humans →  
in monkeys → frogs and fennel(?) →  
sap circulation in plants.

How close is the analogy between horses and unicorns?

Kant: Echoed Hume's views.

In Critique of Pure Reason. (1781) Kant argued Physico-Theological Proof for the existence of God.  
(Limits God to materials discerned by skeletons!)

(p210)

Although Hume was right to criticize the manner in which scholars had taken 'apparent design' in nature as positive evidence for the existence of God, he had failed to offer an 'alternative explanation' for this design. This gap has been filled by Darwin with Natural

Selection serving as the 'blind  
latch maker.

Blind - because it does not see ahead,  
does not plan consequences and  
has no purpose in view.

[R. Dawkins 'The Blind Watchmaker'  
London 1986]  
~~p. 21~~ p. 21

(p210)

• Modern Physics and Design

While biologists no longer feel the  
need to introduce divine providence  
into discussions on the evolution of  
mammalian 'eye', physicists have  
begun to see in the detailed fine-  
tuning of nuclear and electro-  
magnetic interactions clear evidence of  
design.

p211 Feynman's autobiography -

"Evolution of life required a star  
like the Sun... then the strength  
of nuclear had to lie within  
narrow limits to make life possible."

The Weak Anthropic Principle (Robert Dicke  
1957)

(The Anthropic Cosmological Principle  
J. Barrow and F. Tippler. Oxford, 1988 p 16)

"The observed values of all physical and cosmological quantities are not equally probable, but take on values restricted by the requirement that there exist sites where carbon-based life can evolve and by the requirement that the universe be old enough for it to have already done so."

• The Strong Anthropic Principle  
(Brandon Carter 1974 in  
J. Barrow and F. Tippler p 21)

"The universe must have those properties which allow life to develop within it at some stage in its history"

(not of much use!)

§217

- Science, one of the several possible ways of looking at nature.
- Before the Science of Newton and Boyle
  - Aristotilians
  - Magi : Priests of Ancient Persia
  - Skeptics:

§218

walked on  
magic.

Cornelius Agrippa (1486-1535)

dismissed Science as pointless.

"De Vanitate Scientiarum" (1530)

Astronomy was concerned with vain disputes about Eccentrics, Concentrics, Epicycles, Retrogradations, Trepidations, Accessus, recessus . . . all works neither of God or Nature but the Fiddle-fiddle and Trifles of Mathematicians

In J-L. Heilbron, Elements of  
Early Modern Physics

Berkeley, Cal 1982 p 21-2

p227

\* Forms, Substantial Forms, Four elements  
Four causes

Descartes: "It is not the final, but the efficient causes of created things that we must enquire into. To do otherwise would be to assume that we can share in God's plans"

(Boyle: ~~"Selected Philosophical Papers"~~ p7  
Descartes' Philosophical Writings  
p202)

\* Sceptical Traditions in antiquity:  
(> 200 AD)

Modern Philosophy Shaped by the publication "Sextus Empiricus" -  
Outlines of Pyrrhonism  
(1562) Henri Estienne.

"We must suspend judgement on all issues"

Democritus, Alexander's traitor, unlike others, shivered when he was in the sun and felt harm in shade!

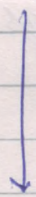
# Science and Philosophy in Non-Western Traditions:

China: "Science and Civilization in China" Needham

Connections between Chinese Science and Chinese Philosophies:

- Non-human phenomena ignored.

Confucius: "you do not know about the living, how can you know about the dead?"



J. Needham Science and Civilization in China Vol 2. Cambridge 1956 p13.

- Not tolerant of theoretical thought.
- Things which have nothing to do with right or wrong -
- Things knowledge of which does not benefit men
- Ignorance concerning which does no harm
- Belong to untidy persons of a degenerate age.

Does not make us lesser gentlemen

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Needham: both such a philosophy  
there is no room for science.  
... only traditional technology.

p233

But Taoism was different

Despite beneficial influences, and  
despite number of early successes,  
science failed to develop in  
China.

China no doubt produced any number of  
astronomers, chemists, mathematicians  
and physicians - but no scientists.

The Confucians dismissed outright any  
kind of theoretical knowledge  
While Taoists reduced much of its  
power by forming into a form of  
esoteric knowledge.

\* ( crafts and early technologies  
did develop in China ) -

(p234)

## Tradition vs Science

Pierre Bayle:

" It is the purest delusion to suppose that because an idea has been handed down from time immemorial ... it may not be entirely false

{ ( Paul Hazard  
The European Mind  
1680-1715, Harmondsworth  
1964 p188 )

### Stages

- Super natural.
- Metaphysical
- Correlations (Science)

- Magic
- Religion
- Science

Kuhn

§245

Theory preferred to experimental data?

Reappraisal of the experiments of Galileo (inclined plane), Dalton (nitric oxide over water), Mendel (experiments with peas)

|| In all these experimental data adjusted to fit the theory.

|| Even the most eminent Scientists have been prepared to modify observational data to satisfy the needs of theory

( R.S. Westfall "Newton and the Fudge Factor Science Vol 179, 1973 p 757-58.

R.R. Newton "The Crime of Ptolemy Baltimore 1977

G. Holton "Subelections - Pre-suppositions and the Millikan - Ehrenfest Disputz

"Historical Studies in Physical Sciences" Vol. 9 (1978) p 166-224

Theory requires Magnetic Monopoles,  
gravitational waves, Higgs Boson,  
& Unstable Proton. —  
No experimental evidence yet. The  
search goes on.

• Ephemeral Nature of Scientific  
Theories — Poincaré.

"Science and Hypothesis"  
New York 1952 p160

- \* Much of the science of the past  
is undoubtedly false. of course  
much is also true.
- Some theories change. But much  
remains unaffected.
- Errors of the past are early  
approximations of the truths of  
to-day and at least to the truths  
of tomorrow.
- In science, what is important is  
not whether we have got the  
truth but are we advancing  
towards truth.

(p249)

## • Scientific Revolutions and Advancement

Kuhn: "... The earlier truths are not expelled, but absorbed, not contradicted but extended and the history of each science <sup>that</sup> may thus appear like a succession of revolutions is, in reality a series of developments"

K. Kuhn "History of Inductive Sciences"  
London 1857 vol 1, p8.

(The Velocity of light Story - p250)

(p251)

Jan Hacking:

There are two kinds of scientific realism, one for theories and one for entities

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# The Scientific Revolutions and the Origins of Modern Science.

John Henry.

(MACMILLAN PRESS Ltd. 1997)

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(p1) knowledge of the natural world can easily be seen to have been different in 1700 from the way it was in 1500.

fundamental change.

- p(2)
- Continuity vs revolutionary changes.
  - Origin vs beginnings
  - To judge the past in terms of the present is to Whiggish. - to look back with hindsight about what ~~is~~ important to is known to be important later.

Continuism - antidote to Whiggish tendencies - backward looking than forward looking

(pg)

Our present use of the word "Science" was first coined in the 19th. Century.

There was "natural philosophy" - to describe and explain the entire system of the world.

Disciplines: { Mathematically based - Astronomy, optics, mechanics, kinematics  
Natural philosophy. { Medically based: - anatomy, physiology, pharmacology  
technical disciplines { Arts: navigation, cartography, fortification, mining, metallurgy and surgery

Galileo: (Kinematics + Natural philosophy) → Science of Motion

Newton: Natural philosophy + Mathematics  
Aristotle's natural philosophy + Chemical knowledge → Atomic theory

∴ Natural Philosophy and Science are not equivalent.

• Scientific Revolution changed Natural philosophy beyond all recognition

"Natural philosophy" was the one that  
was most used to refer to the  
understanding of the physical world.

## p(8) The Scientific Method

One major element of scientific methodology  
- Experimentalism can be traced back  
to 13th Century -

A.C. Crombe, "Robert Grosseteste  
and Origin of Modern Science"  
Oxford: Clarendon Press (1953)

↳ Before Scientific Revolution in Europe

### • Mathematical Analysis of Nature

Instrumentalist attitude gave force to  
mathematical analysis during the  
Scientific Revolution

• Mathematical analysis reveals how  
things must be - Astronomy of Copernicus

Fabric of Reality : p 58.

• Since Solipsism, and an infinity of related theories are logically consistent with your perceiving any observational evidence, it follows that you can logically deduce nothing about Reality from observational evidence.

• If Scientific Reasoning does not amount to sequence of logical deductions from evidence what does it amount to? Why should we accept its conclusions. This is the "Problem of Induction"

Inductive Concept of Science - Profoundly false?

(p 80) Can you draw a boundary beyond which the claim that human reason has no access or at least, beyond which problem-solving is no path to understanding?

Positivism: the theory that all statements other than those describing or predicting observations, are meaningless.

p 80  
Not only explanations change, but our criteria and ideas about what should count as explanations are gradually changing - list of acceptable modes of explanation will be open-ended.

Popperian view on what Science is - Process of Problem Solving and explanation Seeking

Church - interested in explanations and not predictions. Was willing to let Galileo solve problems using any theory, but did not accept his solutions (they called them mathematical hypotheses)

Problem Solving is a process that takes place entirely in the human minds

The fact is that all our problems and solutions are located within ourselves, having been created by ourselves.

∴ What does scientific-problem got to do with Reality?

(we cannot say anything about the reality of Heliocentric or geocentric theory)

Depends on the vantage point of viewing  
Geocentric theory cannot explain planetary motions without complications of Heliocentric ~~comp.~~

Geo is convoluted elaboration of Heliocentric  
Solipsism self-destructs.

Explanations are not justified by the means by which they are derived. They are justified by the superiority of ability, relative to rival explanations

There is no hierarchy of reliability from mathematical to scientific to philosophical arguments.

Even mathematical arguments derive their reliability from scientific and philosophical theories that underpin them.  $\therefore$  not certain. (Chapter 10)

\* Not only explanations change, but also our criteria and ideas about what should count as explanation are changing

\* Criterion for Reliability: If something can kick back, it exists.

Not only Johnson's rock, but also theories.

\* We prefer SIMPLER Explanations to more COMPLEX ones. Why?

page

SELF-SIMILARITY: Some parts of physical reality (such as symbols, pictures, or human thoughts) resemble other parts.

Resemblance may be concrete or abstract.

\* Virtual Reality:

Computers are physical objects and computations are physical processes.

What computers can or cannot do is determined by physical laws alone, and not by pure mathematics.

# Science and Civilisation in China

( Joseph Needham ) CUP

" Certain it is that no people or group of peoples has had a monopoly in contributing to the development of Science. Their achievements should be mutually recognised and freely celebrated with the joined hands of Universal Brotherhood."

( Vol 1. Preface )

From Giants of Science.

(Philip Caine and Samuel Nisenson)

Pyramid Books, NY (1961)

(p23)

Archimedes: (287 bc)

• The ability to observe what happens, to understand what is observed and to use information to discover new ideas in the minds of the Scientist

• Archimedes took a bath and came out with the idea - now called "Specific Gravity"

• Mathematics of the Lever.

• Archimedian Screw

"One man and one intellect - a host in itself"

Polybus, Historian

P(1) Pythagoras b(582) Greece.

- driven to Southern Italy.

"Self discipline, purity, temperance and obedience" - his mottoes.

• Pythagoras gave the first challenge to Copernicus that the Sun was the centre of the universe

Euclid (Greek Mathematician) ~ 300 BC.

(date and place of birth not known)

father of geometry "Elements"

Geometry (= land measuring)

Science of Deduction (Conan Doyle  
(Sherlock Holmes))

"From a drop of water, a logician could infer the possibility of an Atlantic Ocean or a Niagara Falls without having seen or heard of one or the other.

So all life is a great chain, the links of which is known whenever we are shown a link of it. Like all other arts the Science of Deduction and Analysis is one which can only be acquired by long and patient study"

Euclid's Contribution:

\* Starting with simple definitions called "axioms", Euclid combined them into statements called "Theorems" which are proved by "Logic"

(p14)

Father of Modern Medicine

Hippocrates (c. 460 BC) Greek.

Successor to school by "Thales" 600 BC.  
(mathematician)

The oath:

" I swear that I will carry out this oath.  
I will use treatment to help the sick according  
to my ability and judgement, never  
harm the sick by wrong doing, to none  
will I give a deadly drug, even when  
asked to do so. Into whatsoever houses  
I enter, I will enter to help the sick.  
Whatever I shall see or hear in the course  
of my profession, if it should not be  
published, I will never divulge it."

- Hippocrates believed only in facts  
ascertained by observation and  
experiments. He tried to overcome  
superstition as regards disease and its  
cure.
- Study of anatomy most important aspect  
for medical study.

(p19)

ARISTOTLE

Greek

Scientist - Philosopher.

b(384 BC)

His father was Court physician to Alexander the Great.

Went to Athens in 367 BC when he was 17.

Studied under PLATO. but did not agree with him on many issues.

- Aristotle taught Alexander the Great. when the latter was 14 yrs old.
- Aristotle produced 400 - 1000 books
- Forefather of modern biological methods - first to dissect animals.
- ARISTOTLE WHO WAS SO CAREFUL IN BIOLOGY WAS NOEFULLY WRONG IN HIS PHYSICS

(p29)

GALEN

AD - 129 AD

Asia Minor

(Black Sea - Mediterranean)

(Turkey)

Physician.

Encyclopedia of Medicine - Anatomical Exercises - Authority for 1500 years.

but later proved wrong. - by VESALIUS in 16th Century.

Dates of Birth  
↓

- 582 BC • Pythagoras M
- 460 BC • Hippocrates (Greece)
- ~~300 BC~~ • ~~Eucld~~
- 384 BC • ARISTOTLE (Greece - Athens) P
- 300 BC • Eucld (Greece) M
- 287 BC • ARCHIMEDES (Sicily) P
- 129 A.D. • Galen (Asia Minor) B
- 150 AD • Ptolemy (Egypt)
- 1452 AD • Leonardo DA Vinci (ITALY FLORENCE)
- 1473 AD • COPERNICUS (POLAND) A
- 1514 • VESALIUS (BRUSSELS) B
- 1564 • GALILEO. (ITALY FLORENCE) P, A
- 1571 • Kepler (Germany) P, A
- 1578 • Harvey (England) B
- 1608 • Torricelli (Italy) P
- 1627 • Boyle (Ireland) C, P
- 1629 • Huygens (Netherlands) P
- 1632 • Leewen hooke B, T  
(Holland)
- 1635 • Hooke (England) P
- 1642 • NEWTON (England) P, A
- 1706 • Franklin (Boston USA) P

- (English Astronomy)
- 1731 • Cavendish (France) C
- 1743 • Lavoisier (France) C
- 1745 • Volta (Italy) P
- 1749 • Jenner (England) Me
- 1766 • Dalton (England) P, C
- 1775 • Ampere (France) P
- 1776 • Avogadro (Italy) P, C
- 1778 • Davy (England) C
- 1787 • Ohm (Germany) P
- 1791 • Faraday (England) P, C
- 1797 • Henry (USA) P
- 1800 • Volta (Germany) (Wheat) C
- 1809 • Darwin (England) (Evolution) B
- 1819 • Foucault (~~USA~~) (Pendulum) P  
France
- 1822 • Pasteur (France) Me
- 1822 • Mendel (Czechoslovakia) B  
(CZ)
- 1831 • Maxwell (Scotland) P
- 1834 • Mendeleev (Siberia) C
- 1845 • Roentgen (Germany) P
- 1849 • Pavlov (Russia) B
- 1852 • Michelson (Germany) P  
USA

- 1856 • J.J. Thomson (England) P
- 1857 • Hertz (Germany) P
- 1858 • Max Planck (Germany) P
- 1869 • Marie Curie (Poland) C
- 1879 • ~~Das~~ Einstein (Germany) P
- 1881 • Fleming (Scotland) M
- 1885 • Niels Bohr (Denmark) P
- 1901 • Fermi (Italy) P
- 1901 • Heisenberg (Germany) P

(p47)

## Foundations of Medical Science.

### Anatomy - Vesalines.

He proved Galen anatomy completely wrong and laid the foundation for modern anatomy - 1300 years of medical practice has proved wrong.

books: De Humani Corporis Fabrica -  
on the structure of the human body.

\* Galen had written his accounts on the human anatomy on the basis of his dissections of barbaric apes. in 200 AD

(p62)

### William Harvey

Heart is a pump. The heart is a hollow muscle; when the muscle contracts the space inside gets smaller and squeezes out blood - when the muscle relaxes blood flows into the larger cavity and the heart gets bigger.  
(pumps 1500 gallons/day) -  
blood must circulate

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## Leeuwenhoek

Microscope that enlarged by a factor of 100.  
Lee-- looked at silk fibres, ox-eyes, animal hairs, the legs, head of fly. ... from a pebble  
one day looked at RAIN WATER} - discovered  
little animals ~~that~~ swimming, playing,  
thousand times smaller than what  
you can see with the eye.

No such beasts in rain water  
directly collected from the sky.

He examined the blood from his finger  
and discovered red blood corpuscles.

- Lee--k made drawings of bacteria in 1683.
- Even the lowest form of life REPRODUCE.

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## Jenner (Vaccination)

- Between 1700 and 1800, Sixty Million people died in Europe of Smallpox
- Cowpox injection for preventing Smallpox
- || "This man had taken of the old Country Superstition and proved that it had Scientific accuracy"
- "He had the Considered Courage to infect humans with a mild disease to protect them from a terrible Scourge"

(p172)

## Friedrich Wöhler

" I can make urea in the laboratory without the help of a man, or a dog or a kidney.

- Synthesized Urea in 1828.

Led to the idea of isomers by

Berzelius

" Compounds which have the same chemical composition in exactly the same proportion, but have different arrangement of atoms in their molecules are called ISOMERS.

"People have a hunger for knowledge of ultimate things, and science and spirituality are the two main paths they traverse in trying to get it"

"Heisloeg"

The world's cultural education is impoverished if scientists and theologians aren't encouraged to talk.

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## The Ascent of Scale

(Brian Soren)

Living World:

- Concept of Cells
- Concept of Species
- Concept of Hierarchy

} John Ray (1627-1705)

Species:

A collection of individual animals or plants that reproduced among themselves to give individuals similar to themselves.  
(Aristotle had similar ideas)

Classification of Animal Kingdom  
(Linnaeus)

- Monera: Single Cells without nuclei  
(bacteria, algae)
- Protista: ~~the higher plants~~ Single Cells with nuclei
- Fungi: mushrooms - do not live  
Sun light as source of energy
- Animalia - animals.
- Plantae - higher plants

Burton - Rebel against Linnaeus

- Role of DNA - Rebirth to classification of Species.

(p260)

(1632-1723)

Single Lens Microscopes - Leewenhoek }  
assistant - Johann Ham }

Magnification of 500.

- Spermatozoa - Creator of life. Bigger than egg.
- Ovum Bigger than the sperm - (Sperm is smaller)

Robert Hooke - Compound Microscope had two lenses

\* Hooke was the first to employ the term CELL in the context of living matter

\* Marcello Malpighi - founder of microscopic anatomy  
(1628-1694) (missed the significance of cell)

• Francois-Vincent Raspail (1794-1878)

"Plant cell, like animal cell, is a type of 'laboratory' of cellular tissues"

He realized that the membranes around the cell acted as what he called a "sieve" selectively allowing certain substances to pass.

The credit for the origin of the cell theory is however given to the German scientists Theodor Schwann  
(1810-1882)

(p 261)

and Matthias Jakob Schleiden (1804 - 1881)

Schleiden: (1) All organisms built from cells, a cell is a layer around the nucleus - the membrane covering the nucleus.

(1) Organism develops by differentiation of the original clump of undifferentiated cells.

This is the basic axiom of Embryology

(Schleiden - Academically active only for 5 years. He drifted into Mysticism)

Schleiden: "foundator of the Vegetative World"  
Aristotelian ideas

• Rudolf Virchow: (1830)

Omni Cellula e Cellula

All Cells are from other Cells

\* (German Scientists dominated in this field)

\* Turning point in the history of Biology

Advances in }  
Cell Biochemistry }  
Molecular Biology }

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"The metamorphosis of biology into a science came into full fruition with the elucidation of the nature of genes and their mode of action. The story begins in a quiet Austrian garden."

Brian Swin.

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Gregor Mendel (1822-1884)

interested in inheritance of characteristics. colour of pea plants.

"Mendel knew nothing about genes, but by attributing the inheritance of single characteristics to a "factor" that could take a dominant or recessive form he could explain the statistics that emerged from his painstaking work." The founder of genetics published his work in 1865 in a minor scientific journal and also wrote to some eminent biologists

His work was neither dismissed or ignored. Mendel was crushed he gave up trying to publish his results.

Mendel had read Darwin's "Origin of Species", but strangely did not see the relevance of his work to evolution.

Darwin had been a reviewer to Mendel's work, but did not refer to Mendel's work.

In 1900 De Vries in Holland, von Tschermak in Austria and Correns in Germany independently confirmed Mendel's work.

All three disowned reference to Mendel and acknowledged Mendel's prior claim.

- Mendel had died 16 years earlier

[According to R.A. Fisher - Mendel cooked his results to suit his theory!]

- His confessions must have been litigative for a while!

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# Evolution :

In December 1831 - 22 year old Charles Darwin - set sail on HMS Beagle. 5 year journey.

- Species evolved into new species.
  - Theory of Natural Selection - Survival of the fittest.
- (He worked for 20 years before publishing)

1858 - Received a letter from Alfred Russel Wallace - "Fitter breed survive." The letter contained his ideas on evolution - identical to Darwin's.

\*\*\*His sense of fairness made the thought of publishing before Wallace repugnant

Linnear Society Meeting 16 July 1858 (both papers presented, both were not present). The Annual Report of the President of the Society for 1858

"This year has not been marked by any of those striking discoveries which at once revolutionize & to speak the department of science on which they bear"!!!

At the heart of the modern theory of evolution is the genome, the collection of genes that determines the physical characteristics of every individual living organism.

- Mechanism of evolution - appearance of new variants of genes. - mutation and sexual reproduction
- Evolution is an automatic process. It involves "no kill" on the part of the organism
- Was there enough time?
- Is the kill superfluous for evolution?

There is no evidence that anything except man demonstrates kill.

The fact that an animal fights for its life is not evidence for existence of kill.

But • Nietzsche: Will a kind of animate force directing nature.

"The effect of environment is over-rated in Darwin .. the essential factor in the process of Life is precisely the tremendous inner power to shape and create new forms, which merely uses, exploits environment."

Schopenhauer saw Unconscious Will as the ultimate reality, a purposeful irrational force that manifests itself in the ~~natural~~ phenomena of the natural world.

He believed that it was Will that drove the evolution of the Cosmos, the geological history of the earth, and biological evolution.

(Will = Life force?)

## Darwin (in Descent of Man)

"The Old Testament has no more to be trusted than the sacred books of the Hindus or the beliefs of the barbarians"

\* Lamarck (invented the word Biology)

Jean-Baptiste de Lamarck had suggested the concept of evolution half-a-century before Darwin.

The trouble was that Lamarck's mechanism for evolution was completely wrong.

Lamarck believed in the inheritance of acquired characteristics.

The striving of individuals for improvement was the mechanism of evolution.

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Darwin never used the phrase "Survival of the fittest". This was done by Herbert Spencer in 1870's. Spencer was Lamarckian.

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## Eugenics (Francis Galton)

The policy of encouraging "good" human specimens to breed at the expense of "less good".

### (293) The Gene Machine.

• DNA discovered in 1869

"The most perfect machine that God ever made"

In DNA history:

Rosalind Franklin X-ray photographs.

Griffith (1928) - genetic information transfer one type of bacteria to another

Oswald Avery - 1945 - DNA has the material for genetic transformation

Crick and Watson (1953) Double Helix

Rosalind died of Cancer in 1958.

Crick and Watson got Nobel Prize in 1962.

Human DNA contains in a billion atoms.  
(Carbon, Nitrogen, oxygen, Hydrogen and phosphorus)

PSK.

Life

Darwinian Evolution.  
Mendelian Genetics.  
Genetic Code.  
Cell  
Germ Theory

## Books in NIAS Library.

- ① The Scientific Revolutions and the Origins of Modern Science. John Henry
- ② Greek Science in Antiquity. Marshall Clagel.
- ③ The Ascent of Science. Brian Sillen
- ④ Science and Philosophy. Derric Gjerfve.

Sept 2003 -  
Toronto

9052810285

The End of Physics

The Myth of a Unified Theory

David Lindley

1993

(Basic Books)

Harper Collins.

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This is My Philosophy - Twenty of the World's  
Outstanding thinkers reveal  
deeper meaning they  
have found in the World

Bertrand Russell,

Soren, ... Oppenheimer,

Heisenberg, ...

Ed. Unity Burnett

CITADEL (1957)

---

pl06 Robert Oppenheimer  
(1904-1966)

## Science and Values

Larry Laudan

University of California Press (1984)

## I CHING or Book of Changes

Wilhelm ~~and~~ Bayness

PANTHEON Books 1950, 1966

## What is phenomenology?

Pierre Thevanaz

Ed. James M Edic

Quantum Paperback (1962)

## Kant's Transcendental Idealism

Henry Allison (1983)

Yale University Press

## Phenomenology:

- Arose in Creative criticism of British Empiricism by Brentano and Husserl.
  - New approach to the phenomena of our lived existence (James - radical empiricism)
  - There is a vast range of facts and patterns to which objective science has no access but which are open to the new discipline of phenomenology.
  - In philosophy, phenomenology has led to a radically new way of understanding man - new speculations in the field of traditional ethics, metaphysics, and philosophy of religion
- 
- When philosophy ceases to be looked upon as the storehouse of inadequate answers to man's eternal questions and becomes an enterprise of questioning beyond questioning
  - Husserl's ideas - turning point in 20th. Century of philosophy - to make philosophy a
  - Rigorous science - such schemes given up after Kant, Descartes, Kant and positivist philosophers
  - British philosophers - whatever philosophy may be, it cannot be science.

Husserl to from Vienna.

(Meaning of science and foundations of science have always interested Vienna - Brentano, Husserl, Schlick, Carnap and even early Wittgenstein)

The merit of Descartes is to have discovered subjectivity as the apodictic foundation of the elaboration of a philosophy of experience. - established metaphysics of experience on a solid foundation

Husserl: Primary Structure of Consciousness is intentionality.

Intentionality of Consciousness requires the absolute and empirical (in the sense of experienced) coincidence of self with self which is the very definition of self-consciousness.

Husserl restricted himself to the analysis of fully reflexive consciousness precisely because it is no longer "Pure Consciousness", but experience of the world which is the subject of their analysis.

reflexive Consciousness = Cogito in Cartesian and Kantian sense.

Husserl: phenomenology = transcendental idealism

Lebenswelt, the Life-World = correlate of C.

Husserl is neither Cartesian nor Kantian

Sartre - Pre-reflexive consciousness

It is the same C that is reflecting, and it is because of this reflecting that it can ever become aware of itself reflexively in the very act of reflection.

Thus in the primary reflecting (not yet reflected) consciousness he reaches Absolute C.

as the source of all reflexive and thematic awareness.

Sartre: C is self-relational, self-identical, self-coincident, immediate C (of) itself.

Existential Transcendentalism:

Difference between Existential and Existential

ontic and ontological

ontic - Existential phenomena - 'death'

'Care', 'anxiety', 'guilt', 'debt', "freedom"

- they reveal the 'ontological' structure of the Dasein = "Human Experience".

Existential categories = objects

not a category of the mind, of the

reflexive thinking

542  
Galileo did scientific research without being able to state clearly or thematically what he was doing. Phenomenology is in a similar position. It has to become gradually clarified.

Heidegger:

The Dasein is the being who asks the question of Being. It is through Dasein that the question of Being is made manifest.

Dasein is the foundation of the possibility of the experience of beings and hence it can be called the 'opening' of Being.

Being in Heidegger's philosophy is a 'transcendental' in a very special and new sense. It is not a transcendental category of experience. It is not an existential. It is not a "transcendental idea" in the Platonic sense.

It is not God. Heidegger has not told us what it is and the reason is that he cannot.

Heidegger's Being is not an abstraction. It is the very to be of beings, the ultimate ground of not only of experience but of being.

The problem that haunted Husserl  
until his death: "Foundations"

This is the guiding thread of his thought  
mathematician turned philosopher -  
Questioning himself of the foundations  
of mathematics, he is sent back  
to pure logic, then to epistemology,  
then to ontology and even to philosophy  
of history - irrepressible movement of  
perpetually going-beyond.  
giving science an "absolute foundation"

Sciences in spite of the fact that  
their actual results are always  
approximative and imperfect, are  
oriented, in intention, towards an  
absolute objectivity. -

It is this "idea" of science, not its  
results that is truly worthwhile.

There lies the meaning of science  
and it is from this perspective that any  
inquiry into the foundations of science  
must begin.

Thus it is the intention of the scientist,  
which is to say intentionality of C  
that must be analysed. - The  
foundation can not be found

except on the side of the Subject.

- ① Search for an absolute objective foundation
- ② Analysis of Subjectivity of Consciousness

• Psychology is incapable of founding or even clarifying the absolute objectivity inherent in the idea of science.

New direction opened by Husserl → phenomenology

- The mathematician is used to manipulate ideal values or essences without ever having to ask himself whether or not they correspond to factual reality.
- The phenomenologist asks the question — What do we mean by ---? What is the meaning of that we have in mind when we judge, affirm, dream, live etc. Phenomenology never is an investigation of external or internal facts. On the contrary it silences experience provisionally, leaves the question of objective reality or of real content aside, in order to turn its attention solely and simply on the real reality in consciousness — "ideal essences"

To understand this he must completely forget the Kantian opposition between phenomenon and the thing-in-itself. Phenomenon according to Husserl is that which manifests itself immediately in consciousness.

- From a non-psychological analysis of consciousness, Husserl passes to the analysis of non-psychological consciousness - to transcendental consciousness. Phenomenology becomes transcendental philosophy.
- 

### • Going Beyond Metaphysics:

Metaphysics is contested by Sophists, philodoxists, or misologists, by Sceptics, Relativists, empiricists and positivists, by men of Science, theologians, by artists and by honest men!

Nobody has the courage any more or taste to undertake again the enterprises of a Plato, a Spinoza, or a Hegel.

## "Gaia hypothesis"

The earth is an organism whose harmonious balance, temporarily disrupted by humanity, will eventually be restored"

# Kant's Transcendental Idealism

Henry E. Allison (1983)  
Yale University Press

According to standard picture: Kant's Transcendental Idealism is a metaphysical theory that affirms the unknowability of the "real" (things-in-themselves) and delegates knowledge to the purely subjective realm of representations (appearances). It thus combines a phenomenological account of what is actually experienced by the mind and therefore knowable, with the postulation of an additional set of entities which, in terms of the very theory are unknowable. In spite of the obvious difficulties it creates, this postulation is deemed necessary to explain how the mind requires its representations or at least the material for them (their form being imposed by the mind itself). The basic assumption is simply that the mind can only require these materials as a result of being "affected" by things in themselves. Thus such things must be assumed to exist, even though the theory denies any right to say

anything about them (presumably including the claim they exist).

According to Strawson, who echoes the standard picture, defines transcendental idealism as the doctrine that "Reality is supersensible and that we can have no knowledge of it."

(The New Cannon of Thought)

TERTIUM ORGANUM

P.D Ouspensky (1970)

Vintage Books N.Y

"A KEY TO THE ENIGMAS OF THE WORLD"

This is a great philosophical work from Russia.

Ouspensky - born mathematician and a mystic  
Bridges Western Rationalism like Eastern Mysticism.

According to Ouspensky - the dimensionality of space corresponds to the development of consciousness.

TRANSCENDENTAL LOGIC: (p233)

"In the world of infinite and fluent magnitudes a magnitude may not be equal to itself, a part may be equal to the whole and of two equal magnitudes one may be infinitely greater than the other."

All this sounds as absurdity from the stand point of mathematics of the finite and constant numbers. But the mathematics of finite and constant numbers is itself the calculation of relations between non-existent magnitudes i.e. an absurdity, and therefore only that which from the stand point of mathematics seems an absurdity, can be the truth.

Logic now goes along the same path. It must now renounce itself, come to perceive the necessity for its annihilation and out of it new and higher logic can arise.

In his "Critique of Reason" Kant proved the possibility of transcendental logic.

\* Before Bacon and earlier than Aristotle, in the ancient Hindu scriptures the formulae for this higher logic were given, opening the doors of mystery. But the meaning of these formulae were lost. They were preserved in ancient books, but remained there as some strange 'mummies' of extinguished thought, words without real content.

Now thinkers again discovered these principles and expressed them in new words, but again they were incomprehensible.

and again they suffered transformation into some unnecessary ornamental forms of words. But the ideas persisted. A consciousness of the possibility of finding and establishing the laws of the higher world has never lost. Mystical philosophy never regarded the logic of Aristotle all-embracing and all-powerful. It built its system outside of logic or above logic, unconsciously going along those paths of thought paved in remote antiquity.

The higher logic existed before deductive and inductive logic was founded. This higher logic may be called "Intuitive Logic" - the logic of infinity, the logic of ecstasy.

Not only is this logic possible, but it exists and has existed from time immemorial and has been formulated many times; it has entered into philosophical systems. The most precise and complete formulation of the higher logic I find in the writings of Plotinus in his On intelligible Beauty.

I have called this higher system of logic Tertium organon because for us it is the third canon - third instrument of

Thought after Descartes of Aristotle and Bacon.

The first has organon, the second Novum organon. But the third existed earlier than the first.

Man, master of the instrument, of this key may open the door of the world of causes without fear.

The New Logic: (Axioms)

- A is both A and not A
- or • Everything is both A and Not A
- or • Everything is All

These axioms in effect should be absolutely impossible. They are not axioms of higher logic. They are merely attempts to express the axioms of this higher logic in concepts. In reality

the ideas of higher logic are inexpressible in concepts. When we encounter such an inexpressibility it means we have touched the world of causes.

The Meaning of it All (1918-1988)  
Richard Feynman (1963 Lectures)  
Thoughts of a Citizen Scientist. (University of  
PERSIUS BOOKS Washington  
State)

Science, Society and our precious ignorance  
Scientist = An Acrobat travelling tight ropes  
of logic beautiful

- (i) Uncertainty of Science.
- (ii) " of Values
- (iii) This Unscientific Age

Nature of Science - Doubt and Uncertainty

What is Science? Not good to be precise.

- (i) Special method of finding things out
- (ii) Body of knowledge from things found out
- (iii) New things you can do when you  
have found something out - technology

Most obvious character of Science is application

No industrial Revolution without Science

Power to do things has a value - good or  
bad depends on the user.

4  
To every man is given the key to <sup>the gates of</sup> heaven.  
The same key opens the gates to hell.  
So it is with Science

A characteristic of Science is Objectivity.  
Observation is the judge of truth of an idea.  
Where does the idea come from?

Observations themselves do not suggest laws.  
In Science, there is no interest in the  
background of the author of an idea, or his  
motive in expounding it.

The various ideas of Science must be consistent.

\* It is not a characteristic necessity of  
Science that it must be mathematical.

Why nature is mathematical is a mystery.  
Why did we assume that "mass" does not  
depend on speed?

" It is necessary and true that all of the  
things we say in Science - all of the  
conclusions, are uncertain because they are  
only conclusions. They are guesses as to  
what is going to happen and you cannot know  
what is going to happen because you have  
not made the most complete experiments

- Scientists are used to dealing with doubt  
and uncertainty.
- All Scientific knowledge is uncertain.

you to have to leave the door to the unknown ajar. you have to permit the possibility that you do not have it exactly right.

This freedom to doubt is an important matter in Science and I believe, in other fields. Doubt is clearly a value in Science.

### The Uncertainty of Values:

- Potential vs accomplishments
- Scientists are working in secret laboratories to develop the diseases which they were so careful to control!

Meaning of Life: • we do not know. We do not know the direction necessarily to go permit a possibility of alteration, of thinking, of new contributions and new discoveries for the problem of developing a way to do what we want ultimately, even when we do not know what we want.

"It is in the admission of ignorance and admission of uncertainty that there is hope for continuous motion of human beings in some direction that does not get confined

Confined, permanently blocked as it has so many times before in various periods in the history of man. I say we do not know what the meaning of life is and what are the right moral values and we have no way to choose them and so on.

Religion: No discussion can be made of moral values, of the meaning of life and so on, without coming to the great source of systems of morality and description of meaning, which is in the field of Religion.

### \* Relation of Science and Religion

Church-going kind of Religion not the elegant theology that belongs to it

There is a conflict between this kind of Religion (everyday) and Science

Most Scientists do believe in 'personal God'.

The Unscientific age:

"FLOW" The Psychology of optimal experience  
Mihaly CSIKSZENTMHALYI (chicago)  
(1991) Harper and Row NY.

'Flow' reminds us that the true approach to making ourselves feel and function better is to look within ... an inspiring worthwhile read.

Psychology, philosophy and humanism come together for society's sake as well as our own.

addresses seemingly unanswerable question of "What is happiness?"

Flow = positive aspect of human experience  
= joy + Creativity + total involvement with life.  
How to transform meaningless life to one of full enjoyment.

Aristotle (2300 years ago)

- More than anything else, men and women seek happiness - health, beauty, money or power are for making us happy.

But, we do not know what happiness is any better than what Aristotle did.

Happiness is not something that happens.

It does not depend on outside events, but rather on how we interpret them.

People who learn how to control their inner feelings - inner experiences - will be able to determine the quality of life.

You cannot reach happiness by consciously searching for it.

• Control the content of your consciousness

\* We all have experienced times when instead of being buffeted by anonymous forces we do feel controlled of our actions, masters of our own fate. On the rare occasions that it happens, we feel a sense of exhilaration, a deep sense of enjoyment that is long cherished and that becomes a landmark in memory for what life should be like. -

This is what we mean by Optimal Experience.

\* How to make optimal experience happen?

The best moments happen when a person's body or mind is stretched to its limits in a voluntary effort to accomplish something difficult or worthwhile.

Sometimes it can be painful.

Flow experience not the peculiarity of affluent.  
Flow is being used to generate ideas and  
practices in - Clinical psychotherapy, the  
rehabilitation of juvenile delinquents  
organization of activities in old people's  
home. . . .

Optimal Experience - order in Consciousness.

- Autotelic Self: translates potential threats  
into enjoyable challenges. and maintains  
harmony.

# The Fabric of Reality

David Deutsch (1997)

(Penguin Books)

"Although history has no meaning, we can give it a meaning"

Karl Popper (The Open Society and its elements vol 2. p278)

p321

\*The old fogies of Scientific 'establishment'

They behave irrationally .. They refuse criticism.

.. they try to suppress innovative ideas.

This stereotype has been ~~establis~~ elevated into a philosophy by Thomas Kuhn (Structure of Scientific Revolutions)

World-view = paradigm = collection of theories = psychological and theoretical approach through which its holders observe and explain everything in their experience"

those that don't fall in - anomaly, fraud, error etc

Normal Science and Revolutionary Science = change of paradigm

Kuhn makes the mistake of explaining the succession of paradigms to another sociological or psychological ~~paradigm~~ terms rather than merit of rival explanations.

Unless one understands "Science as a quest<sup>d</sup> for explanations" the fact that we find successive explanations, each objectively better than last, is inexplicable.

According to Copenhagen interpretation the equations of quantum theory apply to the unobserved aspects of physical reality. At the moment of observation a different process takes over involving a direct interaction between human consciousness and sub-atomic physics. One particular state of consciousness becomes real the rest were only possibilities. As for the unobserved events that interpolated between conscious observations was one 'not permitted to ask' to physicists even during what may be called the day of positivism and instrumentalism. Could accept such an insubstantial construction as the orthodox version of a fundamental theory is a question for historians.

\* It's motivation was to conclude that reality was not multivalued.

20 yrs later Hugh Everett, Princeton graduate student of Wheeler set out the many-universes implications of QT.

Wheeler did not accept them.

# Darwin's Evolutionary Theory:

\* Unlikely that such complex adaptations could have evolved in the given time  
heap of spare parts of Boeing 747  $\rightarrow$  747 (?)

But billions of years all over earth in the case of evolution.

Darwin's - wants not to be surprised that complex adaptations have happened simultaneously. (No explanation?)

His selfish gene theory is full explanation (How?)

QM  $\rightarrow$

physical variables can store information.

they can store information. can interact with each other and replicate through transfer. stable and depend on AT.

virtual reality generation and universality.

consequence of Turing principle that links physics and theory of computation

## Popperian Epistemology:

No theory of knowledge should attempt to explain why we are successful in our attempts to explain things.

But, if we once we understand that the growth of knowledge is a physical process, it cannot be illegitimate to try to explain how and why it occurs.

- Epistemology is a theory of (emergent) physics.  
The explanation must involve quantum physics

and Turing Principle and the theory  
of Evolution.

The Four Strands (AT, Evolution, Turing Principle,  
Epistemology)

Quantum Theory : Pocklington  
oxford UP (2002)

WWW.OUP.CO.UK/US

By no means all the quantum world  
dissolves into efference

Excursion Principle → Structure of Periodic Table  
QM — stability of the atom

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The Whole SHEBANG (1998)  
/ Timothy Ferris  
Touchstone Books NY

A State of the Universe(s) Report.

