

Chapter 12

The Nature of Reality

I would like to begin by summarizing what I believe is the fundamental nature of reality, based on modern physics.

According to Einstein's general theory of relativity, $E=MC^2$, energy equals mass times the speed of light squared. When you reduce matter to its fundamental component, you end up with pure energy, which in a manner of speaking has no substance to it. Substance, or mass, may be converted into pure energy, and vice-versa. Just a tiny bit of mass may be converted into a huge amount of energy, which is what happens during an atomic explosion.

The same holds true at the sub-atomic quantum level. It has been demonstrated through actual, indisputable, verifiable, repeatable, and almost universally accepted scientific experimentation that the external physical world we observe is actually immaterial. The smallest individual particles, which make up all physical objects, continually blink into and out of existence. In the exact present moment in time, they exist only in the form of waves of potential energy, described by mathematical wave functions, which do not actually collapse into realities (ie. particles) until actually observed by conscious observers.

One experiment that demonstrates this truth is the famous double-slit experiment relating to Heisenberg's uncertainty principle which states that you cannot determine the future state of any particle based on its current position and velocity. When you "observe" or "measure" the position and/or velocity of a wave-like photon of energy, it "collapses" into a particle, and that particle can end up virtually anywhere. You cannot determine in advance where the particle will be the moment after you observe it. Most likely it will end up where you expect on the detector screen on the other side of the two slits, but in actuality it can end up anywhere in the universe based on a range of probabilities. It has been deduced by many physicists that the universe we observe does not actually exist. No two individuals or particles exist at the same moment in time in relation to one another. Everything is "relative" according to Einstein's theory of relativity. You are separated from everything you physically observe by the amount of time it takes the light to travel from the object you are observing to the retina of your eye. Even two related subatomic particles, such as protons and neutrons in a single atom, do not occupy the same place in time relative to one another.

It has been scientifically verified and universally agreed upon that the smallest possible unit of time is approximately 1×10^{-24} seconds (one Planck unit of time) and the smallest unit of distance is approximately 5.3192×10^{-44} meters (one Planck unit of distance). In between those units nothing exists. When a particle moves the distance of one Planck unit of space, it technically disappears and ceases to exist during transit and comes into existence again on the other side, with no time transpiring during transit. That is why the electrons of an atom move only in clearly defined orbits around the nucleus. When they move from one energy level (ie. orbit) to another,

they disappear and cease to exist during transit, and then they instantaneously appear at the next energy level, without any time elapsing during transit. This is referred to as a quantum leap.

What we are viewing when we observe any object, whether in motion or not, are the discontinuous frames of space/time (similar to the frames of a movie) which occur at very small intervals measured in Planck units. In between those frames things only exist as waves of probability or possibility, which do not actually collapse into actual objects (ie. particles) until they are observed by a conscious observer. The actual “present” that I am observing consists of an empty vacuum of nothingness, only un-collapsed waves of potential energy, described by physicists as quantum wave functions. The energy waves that “collapse” into particles by our observations exist in the present moment in what physicists call a “super positioned state” and exist only as possibilities with an infinite number of potential outcomes spread out over all of time and space. The actual “present” moment of the universe from my unique perspective in space and time may be best described as a quantum vacuum, containing nothing but potential energy.

Because of the time it takes for light to reach the retina of my eyes, everything I am looking at in this current moment is in the past. It does not actually currently exist. Everything in the future does not yet exist. So from my perspective, nothing actually exists except my own consciousness, which is not actually a part of this so-called physical universe. I am a spiritual, non-physical, being viewing the world through the eyes, ears and brain of a quasi-physical body.

These discoveries completely changed the way scientists understand the nature of the universe. The old system of Newtonian physics that described all events as deterministic in nature based on strict laws of gravity and motion had to be abandoned in favor of the indeterminism of quantum mechanics. On the macro level (large things), Newtonian physics pretty well describes how the physical universe works, and the results of our measurements are very predictable. But on the micro or quantum level (very small things) we are not able to make accurate predictions and are only able to describe future events as a range of probabilities, not certainties. When events at the quantum level combine to create large objects and events that we can see and experience with our physical senses, we end up with a world at the macro level that is totally unpredictable. True randomness actually does exist in our universe. We don't live in a natural world subject only to the natural laws of Newtonian physics. We actually live in a supernatural world that is partly described by quantum mechanics and general relativity. We are not physical beings subject to deterministic immutable laws of cause and effect. We are actually supernatural, spiritual beings. We live in a world that is governed only by probabilities and possibilities.

You might ask, if events don't actually happen until after I observe them what observer or observers are collapsing all the other wave functions of possibility that I don't observe? What about the tree in the forest that falls when no one is looking? Does it really fall? Perhaps it does, perhaps not. I will say this, human beings are not the only conscious entities in the universe. God is the “conscious observer” who views everything from every possible time and place. All “lesser” conscious entities, including the entire human race, are actually all part of a single divine Godhead. God observes and experiences the created universe, not just “through” us, but “as” us. God may be described as a universal collective consciousness. We are all individual aspects of the consciousness of God. God is everyone and everything that exists. He is

omnipresent and omniscient. There is nowhere that God does not exist. It is impossible to be separated from an omnipresent God.

One way to illustrate this is to compare the collective consciousness of God with a colony of bees. The individual bees exist as separate conscious beings, but they are invisibly connected to one another, and collectively they operate as a single larger organism. Each separate organism operates with a degree of autonomy, but it is also a part of a larger organism, called a hive or colony, which has a personality of its own that incorporates and combines the personalities of the entire colony. In some ways, it behaves as a single conscious entity. At the same time, the individual bees, act as separate entities. In this illustration, we would be the individual bees, and God would be the hive.

Now I would like to answer a question that relates to the apparent randomness and uncertainty of the positions and velocities of the objects that collapse (ie. materialize) as a result of our individual and collective conscious observations. Are the resulting velocities and positions of the particles and objects purely random, or is there some form of guidance involved? Are all human events the result of blind chance, or are they somehow being guided by our individual thoughts and purposes in combination with those of the collective consciousness, which is God? In other words, in addition to causing the quantum waves to collapse into actual particles, are we in any way able to at the same time influence the future velocities and positions of those particles?

In my view, there are two irrefutable proofs that the results of quantum collapse are not totally random and that the universe that we experience and observe is not the result of blind chance. The first proof is the fact that the creation and continued existence of the universe requires a level of fine tuning that is mathematically impossible to achieve by merely random processes and must be the result of some kind of intelligent design. The second proof is the increasing order and complexity that we see in the development of life on Earth, which, according to the second law of thermodynamics, should not be happening. According to this law, which is accepted by the majority of the scientific community, random processes should inevitably result in disorder, but instead we see increasing order and complexity.

God, in a manner of speaking, may be described as a universal conscious entity who brought the universe into being and controls its evolution and development by means of nothing more than His thoughts and active observations. Because we are spiritual beings, and individual parts of the consciousness of God, it is very possible that we have the ability to creatively influence the outcomes of our individual lives by means of that same process, subject perhaps to certain limitations imposed for the good of the entire collective. There is truth to the Biblical teaching that with *God* “*all things are possible*” (Matthew 19:26) and that when we draw upon this limitless resource through prayer we are literally capable of “*doing all things*” (Philippians 4:13) and that “*nothing will be impossible*” for us (Matthew 17:20).

Because we are spiritual beings, created by and connected with God in the way described above, I believe our thoughts, including our attitudes and prayers, can have a dramatic effect not only on future outcomes in our own lives but also in the lives of others whose lives we touch. I believe that for this to happen, what we are praying for must not be at cross purposes with God’s plans for all of us (ie. the colony). For example, if individuals are approaching an intersection from

two different directions and both are “praying” for a green light, both prayers cannot be answered in the affirmative. God has an overriding blueprint which determines the general outline, purpose and culmination of all future events. He allows us great flexibility with respect to the individual routes we choose to travel, so long as the overall plan is not compromised (see 1 John 5:14-15). The result is an interesting and sometimes confusing interplay among God’s sovereignty, quantum uncertainty, and mankind’s freedom of choice.

The Virtual Reality that We Call Life

Assuming the above description of reality is true, what would be the meaning and purpose of it all? Why would we permit this world of our own creation to be filled with so much human misery and evil? The answer to these questions might surprise you. Here are a couple of illustrations that I think will help. They are based on the notion that the world we live in is not actually real, but is more like a computer simulation instead. Because it is not real, and only a simulation, we can’t be hurt by it. However, we can still learn from it.

For example, airline pilots train in computerized flight simulators before being allowed to fly solo in an actual aircraft. The reason for this is obvious. If you crash the plane in a simulator, you walk out alive. Flight simulators create an artificial environment that seems so real that the trainee can for a time forget that the experience is not real. The same kind of learning takes place in a simulator as would occur in an actual airplane, but without the danger. There is one major problem with this type of training, however. Because the trainee knows he is only in a simulator, he might be tempted to bend the rules and/or engage in unsafe practices, knowing that if he makes a mistake he/she will still be able to exit the simulator unscathed. A better way to conduct the training exercise would be to erase the trainee’s memory of his existence prior to entering the simulator and convince him that he is actually in a real airplane.

That is exactly why, when we are born into this “simulated” world, our memories have been erased and we don’t remember our prior existence in heaven and don’t remember who we really are. If one is going to use a simulated world for a training exercise, then it must seem real to the learner. I don’t know about you, but this world seems pretty real to me, and the threat of death is also very real. Sin and evil in this world seem very real to me, as well, and their influence on my attitudes and behavior are also very real. This simulated reality that we live in works the same as an actual world because we think that it is real. The learning potential is only maximized, however, if the deception is convincing. Haven’t you often wondered why God does not communicate with us in clear and unmistakable ways, and demonstrate to us beyond any reasonable doubt that He exists and that Heaven awaits all of us when we die? Well, now you know why. If He did this, He would destroy the illusion and diminish the effectiveness of the simulated training exercise that we call life.

I take comfort in knowing that God has placed me in an earthly environment that is only a simulation, and for that reason it is completely safe. My real home is in heaven, and during my training exercise here on earth, God is with me. He is always by my side. The worst thing that can happen to me is that I crash the plane (ie. die physically). At that point, I would wake up from the illusion, having exited the simulator, and prepare to try again.

Here's another illustration, one that might help you understand why God allows sin and evil to exist in this simulated world. Let's suppose you are a typical family and you are able to purchase a computerized virtual reality game. When your family programs the game's computer and puts on their virtual reality helmets they are all transported together into the game and find themselves immersed in a holographic world of sights and sounds that closely approximate an alternate reality. When the game is over, the lights go back on, and they all remove their helmets and resume their lives in the real world. Then they all get together and choose a new setting and story line for the next time they play. Lots of fun, and just a game.

Now, let's suppose you as parents would like to teach your children not to become bullies at school. So, you program your virtual reality game to simulate a school setting, and when you put the helmets on the heads of your children they find themselves in a virtual reality where they are nerds and misfits in a school full of bullies. Now, you know that your children are going to experience some scary moments and a great deal of unpleasantness, and they might not handle themselves very well in that situation. At times, they would forget they are in a game and would be genuinely afraid of those bullies. While they are in the game, they would not be in any real danger, because it is only a simulation and they are actually seated right in your living room with their virtual reality helmets on. But they wouldn't know that. For them it is not a game but an actual reality. After the game is over, and they have been awakened from their virtual reality dream, you sit down together with them and talk about what happened and what they learned. This bears a striking resemblance to the life review, which is part of most Near Death Experiences (NDE's). Can you see the wisdom of this kind of learning? Now that your children know what it's like to be on the receiving end of bullying, they are much less likely to become bullies at their real school.

To carry the analogy one step further, suppose the family played the simulation game more than once, each time changing the cast of characters they would meet and interact with in the game, in order to learn new lessons and further develop their character. One time, they might decide to reverse roles and the children become the parents, and the parents would become the children, and so on. At the conclusion of each game, they would meet together, carefully analyze and evaluate what happened, and discuss what they learned from the experience. For each new game, they would change the rules of engagement and tailor the situation and cast of characters to help them achieve specific developmental goals.

Well, I personally believe that is exactly what happens in real life. I have done an extensive amount of reading on the subjects of Near Death Experiences (NDE's) and reincarnation, and I am convinced beyond any doubt that they are real and genuine. The evidence is very strong. It is not within the scope of this book to make the case for reincarnation. I will only say here that it fits very nicely with the latest findings of quantum physics and general relativity, and also with extensive research that has been performed and well-documented regarding the existence of life after death, and the existence of the human soul independently from the physical body. Most people who refuse to believe in NDE's, out-of-body experiences, past life and between-lives hypnotic regression, children's memories of past lives, communications from the dead through mediums and clairvoyants, and the like, have not read very extensively on those subjects. Most skeptics dismiss these concepts for one of three reasons. They have been told by their religious

leaders that these ideas are in conflict with the teachings of the Bible, or they are hard-core atheists and skeptics, or they simply have not done their homework and carefully and thoroughly read up on the subject.

Because I come from an evangelical Christian background, I will say this. If you are a Christian fundamentalist and believe that the Bible is infallible and inerrant, including all of the Old Testament, then some of these teachings will definitely conflict with the Bible as you have been taught to understand it. If, however, you view the Scriptures as I do, not as the actual word, or words of God, but instead as a human, yet still inspired, record of mankind's changing, evolving and improving views about the nature and character of God, culminating in the teachings of Jesus and His apostles, especially the Apostle Paul, then you will find much support in the Scriptures for what I have explained above.

When properly translated, interpreted and understood, I believe the Bible totally supports the universality of God's love for all mankind, His intention to redeem all humanity from sin and death, the existence of the spirit or soul independent from the physical body, life after death for everyone, the fair and equitable judgment that we all face after death for things we have done in the flesh, God's willingness to forgive even His enemies, salvation from sin and the fleshly sin nature by grace (which is undeserved love), the rule of love, rather than assent to a narrowly defined set of religious dogma, as the main criteria for God's evaluation of our thoughts and deeds while on earth, Jesus' oneness with the Father, our oneness with Jesus Christ and the father, Christ living in us and we living in Him, our current existence in heaven (ie. seated with Christ in the heavenly places), the Spirit of God dwelling in us and empowering us to live Godly lives and perform miracles of love and healing, and much, much more.

All of this ties in perfectly with reincarnation. The goal of our earthly walk is to become like Christ. For most of us, this is an ages-long process. It is accomplished not in our own strength, but by the power of the Spirit of God within us, which is, in a manner of speaking, our own human spirit or soul, our divine nature, which is directly connected with the God of ALL creation. Everything I have read in the literature describing life after death, reincarnation, and the nature of God supports the view that the single word that most accurately describes the nature of God is Love. Love is literally what makes not only this world go around, but all other worlds as well, including all of the unseen heavenly places.