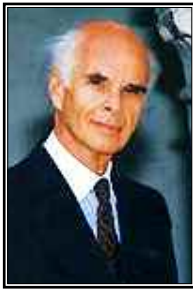


THE CURRENT AND NEXT EVOLUTION OF HUMAN CONSCIOUSNESS

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THE CURRENT EVOLUTION OF CONSCIOUSNESS

MORE AND MORE PEOPLE ARE BECOMING aware of the deeper potentials of their consciousness and seek to realize them in their life and experience. As people seek to transcend the classical limitations of their mind there is an intensifying search for “higher” or “altered” states of consciousness in societies both East and West.

Are these aspirations merely wishful dreams? Or is there a real possibility that we can know a wider reality beyond the reach of our bodily senses – that we not only see the world through “five slits in the tower” but can “open the roof to the sky”? The concept of the universe conveyed by

discoveries at the leading edge of the frontier sciences gives us a view that is consistent with this possibility. It suggests that our mind is not limited to our brain but, like a transceiver, can both receive and send information beyond the confines of our body.

The emerging view, which I exposed recently in a number of books (*The Interconnected Universe, The Connectivity Hypothesis, Science and the Akashic Field, and Science and the Reenchantment of the Cosmos*) gives us a new view of cosmos, life, and mind. It tells us that when we do not repress the corresponding intuitions, we can be “in-formed” by things as small as a particle or as large as a galaxy.

This ancient, but for modern science hitherto unacceptable view is borne out by the finding of a growing number of psychiatrists. When they place their patients in an altered state of consciousness the psychiatrists (and psychologists, psychotherapists, and healers of various kinds) find that a wide range of impressions, intuitions, and ideas flow into consciousness. This matches the experience of Apollo astronaut Edgar Mitchell while in space. Mitchell became convinced that in an altered state of consciousness humans can enter into communication with any or all parts of the uni-

verse. In altered states every cell of the body resonates with what Mitchell called “the holographically embedded information in the quantum zero-point energy field.”

In light of the theory of Akashic “A-field” we can reconstruct how this “broad-band” information reaches our mind. Physicists are agreed that the particles and atoms that arise and evolve in space and time emerge from the virtual energy sea known as the quantum vacuum. There is noteworthy evidence that particles and atoms, and the “material” entities based on them, not only originate in the vacuum, but also continually interact with it. A-field theory maintains that they read their traces into the vacuum field, and subtly but effectively interact with each other through their field-conserved traces. The A-field traces are not evanescent. They persist and in-form all things, most immediately the same kind of things that created them.

→ | DISCUSSION

“ Not that the story need to be long, but it will take a little while to make it short. ”

HENRY DAVID THOREAU

This holds true for our body and brain as well. All we experience in our lifetime – all our perceptions, feelings, and thought processes – have cerebral functions associated with them. These functions have wave-form equivalents, since our brain, as other things in space and time, creates information-carrying vortices. The vortices propagate in the vacuum and interfere with the wavefronts created by the bodies and brains of other people. The resulting interference patterns are a form of natural hologram. Generations after generations of humans leave holographic traces in the A-field. These individual holograms integrate in a superhologram, which is the encompassing hologram of a tribe, community, or culture. The collective holograms interface and integrate in turn with the super-superhologram of all people. This is the collective in-formation pool of humankind.

We can read the information carried by these holograms. On the principle of “like informs like,” we can read first of all the information carried by the hologram of our own brain and body. Reading out what we have read into the field is the physical basis of long-term memory. Our brain is a “transceiver”; it is not subject to the information-storing and information-retrieving limitation of an isolated operational system. We can retrieve anything and everything we have ever experienced, for we do not store this information within our brain, but in the Akashic field that surrounds our body and our brain.

Not only we ourselves, but others also can read out at least some of what we have read into the A-field. This is because the hologram of our body and brain can “conjugate” with the holograms of other people, especially people who are related to us and with whom we have an emotional bond. Aside from cases of clairvoyance and mystical or prophetic insight, the readout is not in the form of explicit words or events, but rather in the form of intuitions and sensations. The most widespread and hence familiar among these are “twin pain” and the sudden revelatory intuitions of mothers and lovers when their loved ones are hurt or undergo a traumatic experience.

In everyday life, however, access to the A-field is limited to our own long-term memory – to what we ourselves have read into it. But this does not mean that our consciousness must be limited to information coming through five slits in the tower. By entering altered states of consciousness we can open the roof to the sky – and recover our deeper ties to each other, to nature, and to the cosmos.



Our consciousness is not a permanent fixture: cultural anthropology testifies that it developed gradually in the course of millennia. In the thirty- or fifty-thousand-year history of modern man, the human body did not change significantly, but human consciousness did.

Different levels of human consciousness, with progressive evolution from the lowest to the highest, were envisaged by almost all the great spiritual traditions. For example, some Native American cultures (the Mayan, Cherokee, Tayta, Xingue, Hopi, Inca, Seneca, Inuit, and Mapuche traditions) hold that we are presently living under the Fifth Sun of consciousness and are on the verge of the Sixth Sun. The Sixth Sun will bring a new consciousness and with it a fundamental transformation of our world.

A number of thinkers attempted to define the specific steps or stages in the evolution of human consciousness. The

Indian sage Sri Aurobindo considered the emergence of super-consciousness in some individuals as the next step; in a similar vein the Swiss philosopher Jean Gebser spoke of the coming of four-dimensional integral consciousness, rising from the prior stages of archaic, magical, and mythical consciousness. The American mystic Richard Bucke portrayed cosmic consciousness as the next evolutionary stage of human consciousness, following the simple consciousness of animals and the self-consciousness of contemporary humans. Ken Wilber's six-level evolutionary process leads from physical consciousness pertaining to nonliving matter energy through biological consciousness associated with animals and mental consciousness characteristic of humans to subtle consciousness,

which is archetypal, transindividual, and intuitive. It leads in turn to causal consciousness and, in the final step, to the ultimate consciousness called Consciousness as Such. And Chris Cowan's and Don Beck's colorful spiral dynamics sees contemporary consciousness evolving from the strategic “orange” stage that is materialistic, consumerist, and success-, image-, status-, and growth-oriented; to the consensual “green” stage of egalitarianism and orientation toward feelings, authenticity, sharing, caring, and community; heading toward the ecological “yellow” stage focused on natural systems, self-organization, multiple realities, and knowledge; and culminating in the holistic “turquoise” stage of collective individualism, cosmic spirituality, and Earth changes.

Ideas such as these differ in specific detail, but they have a common thrust. Consciousness evolution is from the ego-bound to

the transpersonal form. If this is so, it is a source of great hope. Transpersonal consciousness is open to more of the information that reaches the brain than the dominant consciousness of today. This could have momentous consequences. It could produce greater empathy among people, and greater sensitivity to animals, plants, and the entire biosphere. It could create subtle contact with other parts of the cosmos.

A society hallmarked by transpersonal consciousness is not likely to be materialistic and self-centered; it is more deeply and widely in-formed. This would change the world. Under the impact of a more evolved consciousness, the system of nation-states would transform into a more inclusive and coordinated system with due respect for diversity and the right of all peoples and cultures to self-determination. Economic systems would remain diversified but not fragmented; they would combine local autonomy with global coordination and pursue goals that serve all the peoples and countries of the world, whatever their creed, level of economic development, population size, and natural resource endowment. As a result, disparities in wealth and power would be moderated and frustration and resentment would diminish, together with crime, terrorism, war, and other forms of violence. Societies would become more peaceful and sustainable, offering a fair chance of life and well-being to all their members, living and yet to be born.

People will learn to work with the A-field, and a new wave of technological innovations would see the light of day. There would be technologies for beaming active and effective “in-formation” from one place to another, instantly and without the expenditure of energy. This would bring on line quantum computation and open the way to other technological breakthroughs. Ways would be found to teleport not just bits of quanta but atoms and molecules, living cells and organs, and possibly even aspects and elements of consciousness.

Will this condition, which in today’s perspective is distinctly utopian, actually come about? This we cannot say: evolution is never fully predictable. But if humankind does not destroy its life-supporting environment and decimate its numbers, the dominant consciousness of a critical mass will evolve from the ego-bound to the transpersonal stage. This will be a quantum leap in the development of human consciousness and it will bring about a quantum leap in human civilization. ▣



Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.

ALBERT VON SZENT-GYÖRG

