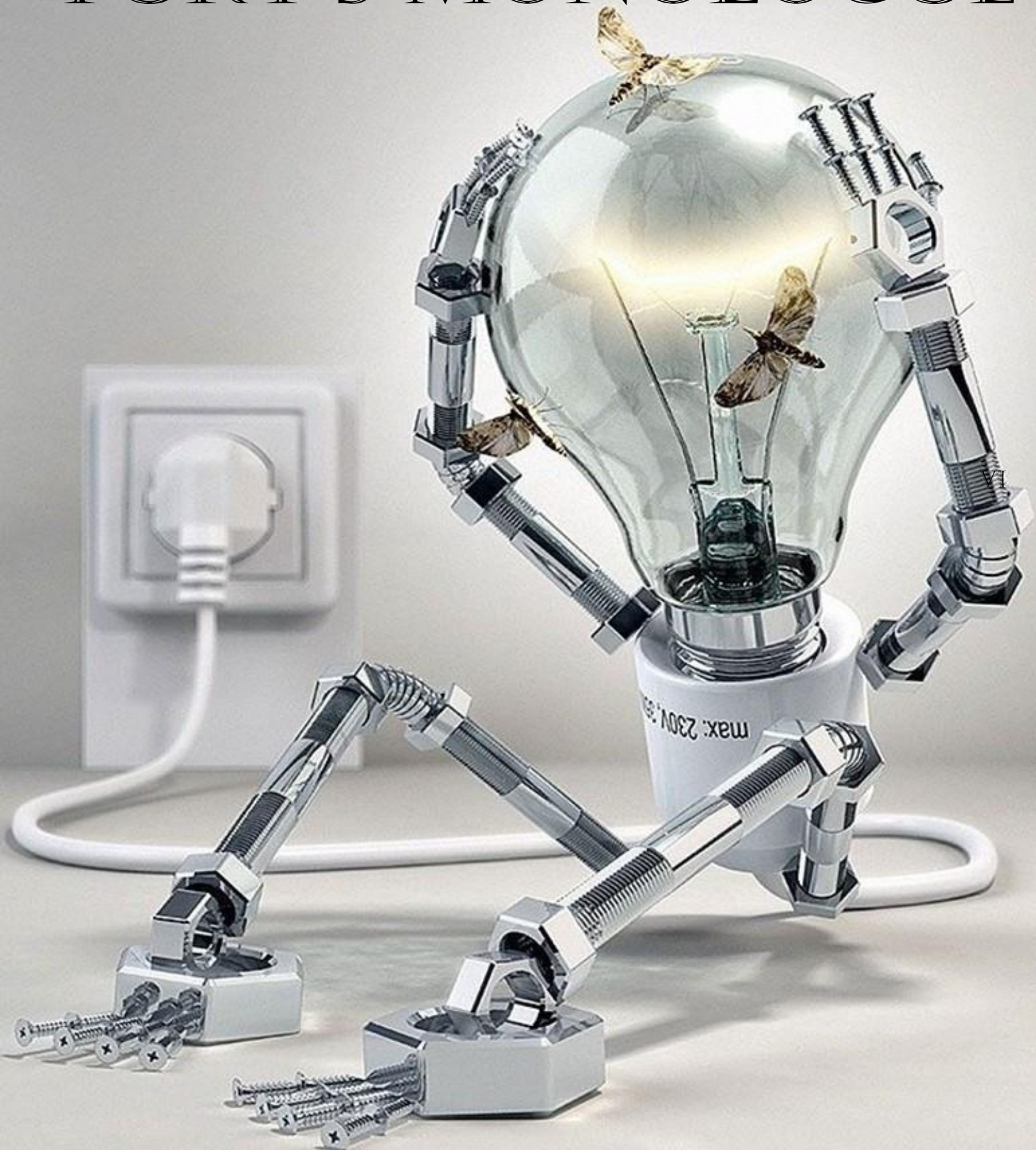


# YURY'S MONOLOGUE



Year of Writing: 2020

# Index

*Foreword*

## **PART I: God, Life and Science**

*Meaning of Life: Absurdism and Existentialism*

*Pantheism, Causality, Skepticism, and Empiricism*

*Nature of Reality*

*Searching for God: Agnosticism, Atheism, and Religion*

*Science and Religion*

## **PART II: Human Nature**

*On Slavery, Capitalism, Socialism and Marxism*

*Human Nature, Personal Freedom, and Morality*

*On Education*

*On Psychedelics*

*Future & Past*

## FOREWARD

There is a certain irony that I have begun to realize. The more that I am living—and learning—the more I am blown away by my *infinitesimal* existence. Indeed,

**“The more you know, the more you know you don't know.”**

— Aristotle

And so, I feel slightly awkward in presenting any ideas and opinions—for I know that everything that I express here is merely a drop in the ocean of knowledge.

Nonetheless, I want to acknowledge my appreciation of it all. And so the feelings that I have experienced—encompassing all that I have ever seen, heard and learned—has driven me to write a document outlining, in my opinion, the most important ideas in formulating my perspective of life.

I will do this by making this document as a sort of “internet book” –that is, intertwining the text with all sorts of links to YouTube videos, online articles and websites, references to books, and pictures. And also, a lot of quotes for in the words of Montaigne:

**“I quote others only in order the better to express myself.”**

— Michel de Montaigne *The Complete Essays*

All the things I present here already exist. Many of the ideas are arguably ‘my interpretation’, but nevertheless there is nothing new. But it is these ideas that have influenced the whole of me and what I think today. Thus this document—as a sum of ideas—presents a sort of ‘mental framework’. There are some wild thoughts that extend as far out as my imagination can, but even those stems from certain previous thoughts from others before me. In fact, such is the case with all of us (and every single thing that exists):

**“We are nothing but echoes. We have no thoughts of our own, no opinions of our own, we are but a compost heap made up of the decayed heredities, moral and physical”**

- Mark Twain's *Notebook*

These have ennobled my life, and therefore I feel that it would be selfish to not share them with anyone who is interested. Hopefully, you will get something out of them — knowledge, inspiration, awakening of curiosity, a twist on your imagination, new questions, meaning in and of your life, a new idea, or a different perspective on a topic. At the very least, I hope you'll enjoy the wonderful YouTube channels I attach every now and again.

Without further ado, enter my mind...



**PART I:**  
**God, Life, & Science**

*In the beginning...*

## **Meaning of Life: Absurdism and Existentialism**

*This is perhaps the most important question that each one of us must answer for ourselves.*

*I am convinced, that everyone does so eventually—consciously or subconsciously.*

*When you feel alone, when you exist in your deepest thoughts in the early morning or deep into the night, after a death, or after experiencing a good piece of art, we all at some point ask the central questions: why are we here? Why am I here? What is my purpose? Where am I headed? Who am I? What is the meaning of life?*

*These is really only one question: what is life?*

*This is the most important question for every human being to answer.*

*is the whole purpose of one's life? In fact, I think that we all live our lives to attempt to find "our role" and "who we are". Whether this is expressed directly in the individual's mind or it is done subconsciously when the individual attempts to decide what degree they should study for—we all want to know our role in society. This is, in many ways, synonymous questions to the meaning of life?*

*The answer to this question depends on the person's past and will determine their future. So, think creatively about this question carefully, for your future depends on it, and your past will be formed by it.*

*I will share my conclusion based on my experiences in life.*

*In short—there is no meaning to life. Well, kind-of.*

*I have pondered a lot in my teenage years about this question, and I came across a few people who's philosophy have (literally) grown on me.*

*When I was sixteen in my senior year of high-school, I had to write a final essay in English class on one of the books we had read that year. I chose Shakespeare's Hamlet. It was our choice to come up with what to discuss about regarding the book, and I ended up writing my essay titled: "Existentialism through the eyes of Hamlet".*

*I began reading about the topic—Existentialism. The "father" of this philosophical movement was Soren Kierkegaard, 18<sup>th</sup> century philosopher, who is generally considered to be the first existential philosopher. Although the idea (I am sure) has been thought of before him. It's quite an obvious thought too. It is the philosophical idea that essentially proposes that it is the individual who is solely responsible for giving meaning to their life. In essence, whatever your answer is to the question on life's meaning, will be the correct answer (for you)!*

*In this manner, you are completely free to choose, and it is your God-given right to do so. Existentialism posits that there ought not to be any external influences such as religion or societal traditions.*

*While I do believe that ideally individual growing up should not be told the answer to this question and thus not influenced by it, the (often painful) truth is that we are all influenced by everything that we experience. Who was your role mode, what were you activities and habits, where you have lived, what you have seen and heard, what time period you existed, the age that you are (young and old people tend*

to have different ideas), and even your biological and neurological make-up, will all be influencing factors on the central question of your life.

**“One believes things because one has been conditioned to believe them.”**

— Aldous Huxley (*Brave New World*)

*In that case, what can you say about a man who finds wealth and money as the primary objective of his life? Do you not think that the reason that this is his answer to life’s central question is because that is all he has ever learned—the value of money?*

*I, personally, feel sorry for a such a person. I think they are missing out on a lot of great feelings in life. Feelings of friendship, love, wonder, family... But can you really blame him?*

*He, however, may say equally that it is I who am missing the great feeling that money can provide! Feelings of luxury, self-confidence, superiority, and the perks of being popular and valued...*

*And so no of us will agree or perhaps even understand another’s answer, as we are all influenced by things which evolved different feelings in us.*

*Indeed we have seen geniuses who make the purpose of their life to make scientific discoveries or contribute to the arts.*

*Indeed we have seen aggressive people who understand that nothing really matters, and so enjoy life by taking what you want taking it whenever you want it, no matter the cost.*

*Indeed we have seen people who have plenty of hope for a bright and positive future of mankind, and work to promote peace, and love among humans.*

*Indeed we have seen people who struggle to get by day-to-day, and their attitude in life is to simply follow the mainstream patterns of the daily cycle.*

*Indeed we have seen people who are inspired to gather as much as possible the unique and exciting experiences through travel and adventure.*

*Indeed there are people who care only for success—working non-stop to attain as much fame or financial success as possible.*

*Indeed there are people who know the value of family, friendship, and the people around them, and make that the purpose of their life.*

*So then how can we arrive to conclude on some objective meaning to life?*

*Furthermore, with the recent advances in science, our understanding seems to indicate that the answer to the meaning of life is rather limited—simply to eat and reproduce. In other words, to survive period.*

*With these thoughts, it is difficult to believe in some definitive answer.*



Nietzsche's (and other's) Nihilism—of a meaningless existence—is perhaps not wrong. But I think it gives some rather negative vibes (side note: Nietzsche went mad in 1889).

Absurdism, however, is what I find remarkably interesting. And as I have grown older, my thoughts on life have grown almost in-line with this philosophical movement.

Discussed largely by Albert Camus (1913-1960), absurdism centers around the idea of “the Absurd”, which Camus writes in his essay “Myth of Sisyphus” (1942). The Absurd is the feeling of a conflict, that is, every individual has a tendency to find the meaning to life, despite (objectively—for all people) there does not appear to be any.

There is a reason for this thinking. It is because life just makes no fucking sense! ● One does not have to think too much to realize all sort of scenarios and experiences that leave them scratching their heads.

**“What can a meaning outside my condition mean to me? I can only understand in human terms.”**

—Albert Camus

Strip away everything you believe to be true. Your religion, your ideas of right and wrong, what your parents and teachers have told you as a child—and now you can approach life from a fully objective perspective. Such, I believe, is what existentialism tries to assert. When you do, I am quite convinced that you will come to the same conclusion as I have about life's meaning.

**“I don't know if this world has a meaning that transcends it. But I know that I do not know that meaning, and it is impossible for me just now to know it.”**

—Albert Camus

Camus writes in the Myth of Sisyphus:

“Rising streetcar, four hours in the office or the factory, meal, streetcar, four hours of work, meal, sleep, and Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday and Saturday according to the same rhythm. This path is easily followed most of the time. But one day the “why” arises and everything begins in that weariness tinged with amazement”.

Camus describes how when one comes to this realization of the Absurd how they can respond to it. He points out three things: Physical Suicide, Philosophical Suicide and an acceptance of the Absurd. The first option—one must become a madman! In the second option, the individual believes in a beyond-the-absurd meaning of life. We call this “faith”. This is that which causes people to become abiding to a specific religion or system of belief. But I have a problem with this (personally, that is).

**“I don't know if this world has a meaning that transcends it. But I know that I do not know that meaning, and it is impossible for me just now to know it.”**

—Albert Camus

And so the last option allows the individual to be as free as their human condition allows. By accepting the irrational and bewildering universe—one which does not bound a person by moral or religious doctrines—they can make the most out of their life by creating their own meaning.

But that's not my entire answer. I will elaborate why in the pages to follow.

In summary, absurdism is the culmination point of this thinking, with the other two ideas as sort of the steps to understanding the Absurd, at least for me personally.

*This has been the climax of my own personal philosophical conviction regarding the meaning of life.*

***“The mystery of human existence lies not in just staying alive, but in finding something to live for.”***

***— Fyodor Dostoyevsky (The Brothers Karamazov)***

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# Pantheism, Causality, Skepticism, and Empiricism

*The ultimate story is the story of our universe—from the Big Bang to the Future—here it is:*

*Short version:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TBikbn5XJhg>

*Really short version:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZSt9tm3RoUU>

*I have thought about expressing some of the most important ideas about “the story of the Universe”, but I have realized that this task is too big for me. For one there is too much to talk about, much detailed and accurate research is needed. Secondly, it makes no sense: I don’t want to turn this into a Wikipedia article—you can find this stuff online. There is plenty of information available on the internet, and plenty of books written discussing this wonderful story. In fact, I’d like to refer to **Story of the World** by **H.G Wells**. I want to keep this document as short as possible. <too many words for a simple side-note>*

*What I really want to express is the remarkable fact that everything has a precursor. This is the law of cause-and-effect, also called Causality. This has been observed for thousands of years by people. And it is this fact from which all of physics stems and is the basis for all science. Mathematics—the language of nature—is based on connected sequential steps which we call logic (from premise to conclusion). Cosmology tells us that our very universe can be lead back to a single point in space time—the Big Bang (at least that’s what the current scientific consensus tells us). In this manner, everything in the Universe is connected to each other in some way.*

*As I grow in knowledge, I cannot help but be in awe at this interconnectedness of it all. This realization for me is something divine. In fact, this “everything is connected” view is the view of Pantheism—the perspective that the idea of “God” and “the Universe” are one and the same. Or in other words, that all that exists is itself “God”. Pantheism is translated as “All is God” from Greek.*

*To visualize it: It is as though the universe is a sort of system. This system has many parts. Not only do all the parts of the system make up the system, but all the parts are the system, with them working together. The parts make up the whole- A really interesting fellow I know said it wonderfully to me once:*

*This is my God. Influenced upon me by many great minds. It is the God of Einstein and Spinoza.*

*Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) was the western philosopher who popularized the modern notion of this view. He was a 17<sup>th</sup> century philosopher who was exiled from the Jewish quarters of Amsterdam for such a philosophy.*

***"I believe in Spinoza's God, who reveals himself in the harmony of all that exists, not in a God who concerns himself with the fate and the doings of mankind."***

***—Albert Einstein***

*Here is an interesting video:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gtM6DkXqZ70>

*Pantheism is heavily entangled with the idea of causality.*

*I find that it is of great help to apply this understanding—this connected nature of things—to everything that you may encounter in your daily life. The reason so is because I find that it allows for your mind to*

*find reasons as to why an event happened or something exists the way it does. And there is always some sort of explanation!*

*This document is dedicated to discussing ideas with this framework of the mind. In fact this document is all about promoting this framework of the mind.*

### **Skepticism**

*Fact: In Quantum Mechanics, scientists have uncovered that a particle can be in two states at once—it can be excited and not excited simultaneously! (Known as superposition).*

*Another idea, which I find of utterly great importance is called skepticism.*

*To be skeptical means to doubt. Thus, a skeptic is unsure of anything. And in my view, as I will explain, one ought to doubt everything.*

*Skepticism is a wonderful tool to develop both personal stubbornness and openness! I have been teased by my family oftentimes for going around exclaiming “that’s your opinion” in response to much of their comments ●. As annoying as this habit of mine got, there does exist an underlying inner layer of truth to this statement.*

*This attitude of questioning everything that you learn and not taking any statement as a certain fact is in my view, of vital importance and is the underlying principle for all the scientific progress made within the last few centuries.*

*In fact not only have I found that skepticism has been an immensely valuable mindset for developing my understanding and perspective on life, it too like causality, is a basis for this wonderful thing we call science.*

*(In Greek, skepsis means investigation. And sure enough, skepticism has been used as a fundamental building block of our most precious tool for investigation—science).*

**“Religion is a culture of faith; science is a culture of doubt”**

**—Richard Feynman**

*But I believe that, just as with causality, the skeptical attitude should guide one’s daily thinking, thereby not ever being 100 percent certain to any possibility.*

**“I am the wisest man alive, for I know one thing, and that is that I know nothing”**

**—Socrates**

*I have experienced time and time again, as I am sure you have as well, how your truth is completely different from another human being. Take for example the human activity of arguing. Everyone has argued! Recall a recent argument, did you not feel as though you are right? Of course, you do—that’s why you’re arguing! And you say Why—oh God why!!!?—can this person not see what I’m trying to say!!! (At least that how I feel...). ●*

*But breaking it down—to what exactly is an argument, and why it happens—it's because—whether about politics or a quarrel—they each possess different pieces of information which makes them perceive the discussed topic a certain way. And this perspective is influenced by various factors. In fact, I would imagine that if you take two people arguing and imagine yourself “becoming” that person (except some part of this becoming, you are still aware that the “new you” is not the real you), you would realize that an opinion is formulated by thoughts and memories—linked to feelings and emotions—that can be traced back to one or more experiences that you had many years prior. This is because, as I will continue to elaborate on this theme, you are influenced by everything that you have ever experienced. The vast majority of “your experiences” lie in your subconscious mind which you cannot freely access it, and perhaps only a tiny bit of it at any given time. But it is this subconsciousness that makes you who you are. For me, this thought is extraordinary. Perhaps it is obvious to many, but I am not convinced that many apply it to practice. When I stop and think about it—I find it a miracle. I mean everything is explained! The argument another person has, even if they are “wrong” in a definitive sense, they have a reason to think this way. I think that if more people thought about this, and truly let this sink into them, they would avoid many arguments and be a little more tolerant to people.*

*What's really interesting, is that this very idea of different views is found even in the most concrete sciences. Take relativity in physics as an example.*

*<Train and Relativity from EM Griffiths: train*

*There is a similar idea with length (called length contraction), in which a man and his daughter try to fit a ladder into the barn. I had this problem on an exam once>*

*...even the concept of time itself is not absolute entity!*

*Thus, in other words, I find the reason for the different truths is because every individual experience their existence differently, and there are so many influences that occur and shape your state of mind at any given time. And thus, it ends up being a matter of perspective. In fact, this idea goes back Friedrich Nietzsche, who developed what is called perspectivism.*

*This brings me to the next topic—empiricism. Since having read some of David Hume's work, I became very much influenced by this 18<sup>th</sup> century Scottish enlightenment philosopher.*

*A very pleasant and sociable man—a really jolly fellow, he was what is called an empiricist (he was actually a skeptic too!). The two major schools of thought during this time were the rationalists who claimed that reason and rationality was the source of all knowledge, and the empiricists who claimed that sensory experience is the ultimate source of all our knowledge. (In a nutshell).*

*In my experience in living, I will remark that I am heavily intrigued by the thoughts of on sensory experience. Such thoughts which I will describe can be applied to practice on a daily basis, and concurrently works wonderfully with the whole understanding and explanation of the natural world. Firstly, empiricism, like causality and skepticism, has been fundamental in shaping what we now call science. The reason so is that science relies on observations (we call these observations “experiments”).*

*While of course, I will remark that it is very impressive to the extent that logical reasoning and abstraction (i.e., mathematics) has been used to predict theories and phenomenon, science stands on experiments, nonetheless.*

***“It doesn't matter how beautiful your theory is, it doesn't matter how smart you are. If it doesn't agree with experiment, it's wrong.”***

**—Richard Feynman**

*These observations (or data) is analyzed and then interpreted to formulate some sort of working explanation to the question at hand. We call this a Theory. It is not and never is 100% certain!*

***“If you thought that science was certain - well, that is just an error on your part.”***

**— Richard P. Feynman**

*With the collaboration within the scientific community their emerges some consensus on what the most likely explanation is to explain the data. If the many scientists re-analyze the data, re-do the experiments, and form entirely new experiments to test and challenge the question or hypothesis, and in the end achieve similar results, then the scientific community will accept the theory and use it as a basis for further scientific developments. In a sense it is used as a sort of “seems-like-nature-works-this-way” type of view. If, however, at some point an experimenter reveals new data and thus challenges the current theory—the scientific community must go back to refine the theory. In this manner, science filters any biased and human-errored deduction. This was the exact case of Albert Einstein’s Theory of Relativity, which redefined our understanding of Gravity in the manner that Isaac Newton presented.*

*One should thank this method—the scientific method—for its progress in attaining knowledge and information for the human civilization.*

***“We are trying to prove ourselves wrong as quickly as possible, because only in that way can we find progress.”***

**— Richard P. Feynman**

***"The fact is that Spinoza is made a testing-point in modern philosophy, so that it may really be said: You are either a Spinozist or not a philosopher at all."***

**—Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel**

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\* Giordano Bruno who was burned at stake was a pantheist.

# Nature of Reality

Now that I have mentioned the idea of pantheism, and remarked how words like “nature”, “universe”, “reality”, and “God” are essentially (fundamentally) one and the same. Thus, let us break down God—or reality—whichever you prefer.

Information. That is all everyone and everything is.

**“All things are made of atoms—little particles that move around in perpetual motion, attracting each other when they are a little distance apart, but repelling upon being squeezed into one another. In that one sentence ... there is an enormous amount of information about the world.”**

—Richard Feynman

**FACT: Approximately the size of a single marble in a football field is the ratio of a mass in an atom versus the space in atom... In other words, 99% of everything is merely empty space. ●**

Physics has influenced my imagination on the world enormously. From the eyes of an evolving physicist, I say with confidence that everything you see around you, if broken down to its fundamental constituents, is nothing more than bundles of energy. Perhaps, breaking this down even further, it is nothing more than purely mathematical entities—mathematical relationships combine to form a notion of reality (and describe the evolution of this thing we call energy). This has been an interesting thought that occurred in me, which I soon had discovered that people before me had already explored the thought in depth<sup>1</sup> (as pretty much seems to be the case with every thought that you or I ever have!).

**“Mathematics takes us still further from what is human, into the region of absolute necessity, to which not only the world, but every possible world, must conform”**

— Bertrand Russell

But overall, I think the word information is most appropriate as it takes into account consciousness—the interpretation (and interaction) of these mathematical relationships and/or the surrounding energy with the interpreter.

I have imagined (with the very tiny amount of knowledge that I have attained) what our reality may consist of. It is a wonderful activity of the mind in my opinion, that is, to break down the physical make-up of things. In fact, I find this attempt to imagine nature’s phenomenon—whether a small aspect or nature as a whole—to be the very essence and the very fun of physics! This amusing/pleasurable activity leaves me in a sense of awe at the complexity and beauty of it all. It is an incredible feeling containing a complex mixture of mystery, fear, excitement, sense of beauty, calmness, depression, laughter, and happiness.

**“Imagination is more important than knowledge. For knowledge is limited to all we now know and understand, while imagination embraces the entire world, and all there ever will be to know and understand.”**

— Albert Einstein

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<sup>1</sup> In particular, Professor Max Tegmark of MIT had already written about this idea—called the Mathematical Universe Hypothesis (MUH) in his lecture notes (**listed below**) and his book ‘Our Mathematical Universe’ (2014).

*The way I have imagined, is that everything around you does not “exist” per se. By “exist” I mean that everything you see around you is only that which it is because of your human-mind. Rather, it is merely energy surrounding you.*

*Imagine just a huge clump of “energy”, something like this →*

*So it is just light—without movement—simply paused.*

*You exist in there. To you (as a person) you see all this light around you taking specific forms, colors, shapes, movement—i.e. properties—simply because you are a human being, and your mind is constructed to interpret this energy a certain way.*



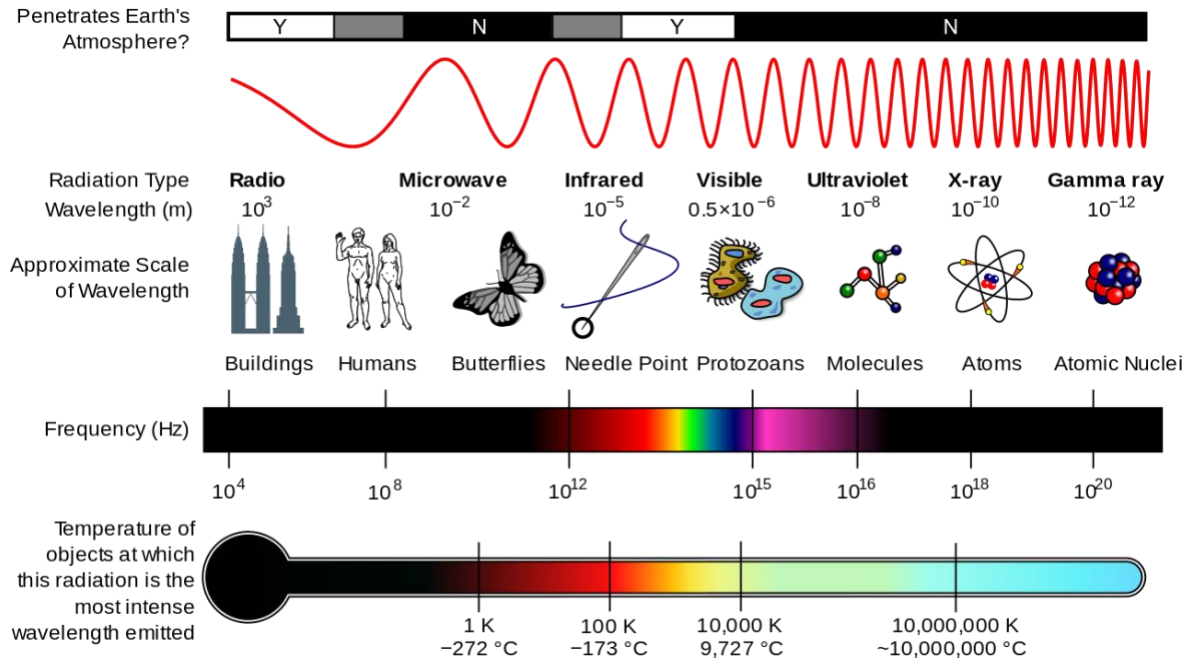
*So it is only at the very moment when you aim your eyes in the specific direction, do you see the bundle of energy forming into the shape, color and material that makes the object in becoming what you perceive it to be. Everything behind you is still “there”—but it is simply a bundle of energy, until you look back at it. In my view this is not too far off to what quantum mechanics says—that a particle collapses into a specific state only when it is measured or observed, otherwise it exists in all possible states simultaneously. Thus, it seems as though nature knows that we observe it—for only then does the particle decide to act in one way as opposed to another (leading to the probabilistic nature of quantum mechanics).*

*A very interesting, an important idea in philosophy going all the way back to Plato is Idealism, which asserts that reality is not independent of the mind. I will note, that just like with many of these terms, there exists various ideas, interpretation and aspects under the umbrella of idealism (<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Idealism>). My point though, is that you and I are programmed in a specific way to interpret the world as it does, and thus, our reality solely exists as a humanly understood reality.*

*The shape of the object is described by geometric entities—which is pure mathematics. It describes the space of the object and its relationship to all the things around it. The color is the specific wavelength (and frequency) of light. When we say the object is of a certain color—say blue, is that specific wavelength (and frequency) of energy that is associated with that color (in this case blue) that the object reflects, while absorbing all the other light. The reflected light wave (we chose blue), travels in all directions and thus reaches your eye when you look at the object. It is then, that your perception of the color is stimulated by the photoreceptor cells of the human eye. Thus, based on our biological makeup, we interpret information in a specific way.*

*The EM Spectrum:*





[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetic\\_spectrum](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Electromagnetic_spectrum)

*Had you been a mosquito, you would see the world vastly different (image below):*



<https://www.nationalgeographic.org/media/infrared-vision/>

*Imagine the possibility of seeing other properties of the physical world being able to be interpreted differently due to our programmed mind—for example, since space is a property, imagine interpreting space in a certain way to see different shapes and geometric patterns rather than the way we normally do (which I would presume that this property is based on our programmed mind's specific interpretation (on a neurological basis) of things like mass and gravity, which physics tells us affect shapes and forms of objects.*

*I would not be surprised, that scientists will slowly discover time and time again that many of the attributes such as the geometry of an object as we see it, the movement of things, and other physical interpretations only exist due to the specific wiring of our mind. And given the ability to fully understand the mind of another creature (or perhaps even “create different brain-wirings”), we will be able to simulate and see the variety of different possible realities that can exist.*

*In summary, I find that our reality is a direct result of certain biological and chemical processes that are specifically unique to our human minds.*

*With these thoughts, { I'd like to bring to your attention } / { I would like to present } a few ideas which have been proposed and discussed by notable people. You can explore them further on your own accord.*

*The first is the Simulation Hypothesis—the idea that reality could be an artificial simulation, like some sort of computer simulation. Such an idea has been discussed historically but has been most*

recently proposed (in a modern form) by Swedish philosopher Nick Bostrom in his 2003 essay: <https://www.simulation-argument.com/simulation.html>, or <https://www.simulation-argument.com/matrix.html>)

and supported by Elon Musk : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IK0q812bAK0&feature=youtu.be>

Kurzgesagt: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tTKTTt47WE>

Another idea I'd simply mention for your further exploration is Stephen Wolfram's research into the Computational nature of the universe. (He is the creator of Wolfram Alpha & Mathematica). In his 2002 book "A New Kind of Science" he discusses how the universe is run on very simple programs—computational systems he calls cellular automata. These cellular automata, from their very basic simple nature, evolve into the most complex forms. In such a way, he hypothesizes that nature is built and run on a similar computational evolution.

This mathematical universe makes me think that nothing is truly "physical", it is all mathematical. It only "exists" because of the formulation of our very selves. I mean that mathematics combines to formulate the existence of things. As those things continue to follow mathematical formulas they combine to form as complex objects as you and I—with enough capabilities to essentially study our own selves. We perceive it as "physical". But this concept of physical and non-physical does not actually exist—nor does it differentiate.

So as I have stated that our form in which we exist—the human form—views reality the way it does because of our biological, neurological, and physical makeup. Thus, when thinking about reality, we must think about, and even intertwine, our "physical" notions (i.e., energy), with the "non-physical" aspects, which we may call consciousness. I put these words in quotations because I have not yet disclosed a position as an idealist, materialist, dualist or otherwise.

But it is for this intertwining why I stated earlier that Information. That is all everyone and everything is. To my mind, information is the wonderful word which accounts for both our external environment along with our internal selves—taking into account how we interpret it.

I admit that I am not a philosopher, nor a psychologist or neuroscientist, and in fact my scientific education is still rather minimal. But the topic of consciousness is one that I think should be pondered on, learned about, and discussed by all individuals.

Here are my thoughts.

## Consciousness

***"We are the cosmos made conscious and life is the means by which the universe understands itself."***

**— Brian Cox**

Imagine if indeed as science currently agrees that the Big Bang was the start of the universe. And the story goes that all that energy formed particles. Those particles combined, annihilated, or evolved—we will use one word to describe all these: interacted—to form atoms which were able to form all sorts of elements, which interacted again to form compounds and mixtures. This is already so vastly complex on how this happens, and the details as to what particles and elements do what. The detailed study of these interactions are the realm of physics and chemistry. But it does not end there. This process of building up to a higher complexity of things continued, eventually forming "life". From the tiny little one-celled

*organisms (prokaryotes) evolved into multi-celled life (eukaryotes). Eventually the evolution of life continued all the way up to the complexity of man. I most certainly do not think it stops at humans. I don't think we are anything special—nor different—in this hierarchy of complex systems. And therefore, there exists—or will exist—much higher consciously-aware entities.*

*How this formulation of specific things happen is what many people try to find out—that is, scientists. Why things form to create newer things is a question that no one knows and belongs in the realm of philosophy.*

*But this very thought of the evolution of energy into different forms and combining to more complex products is very interesting. (Perhaps it is the very reason Darwin is such a well-known name in science).*

*This view is already along the lines of pantheism, but what I want to mention is another idea—that all things—from the tiniest particles—themselves possess what we may call consciousness. I had not known that it has been thought of long before I have (I feel as though everything has already been thought of, eh?!), but the idea is called panpsychism.*

(Panpsychism: <https://qz.com/1184574/the-idea-that-everything-from-spoons-to-stones-are-conscious-is-gaining-academic-credibility/>)

*In my view, the definition of consciousness is an awareness of your existence.*

**“Cogito, ergo sum” ~ “I think, therefore I am”**

**—Rene Descartes**

(<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/how-do-you-know-you-exist-james-zucker>)

(Somewhat relatable, google Boltzmann Brain—for fun)

*Now if one argues that there are creatures that may exist without any such realization, I will disagree (of course I cannot know though!). Indeed, I would agree that a specific statement such as the one Descartes made cannot be expressed by any creature like that, but I am convinced that there ought to be some other way that the lower-creature possesses the understanding that it exists, or that it is part of this system. It is not a statement, like we humans make. Nor is it an abstract thought, like we humans make. But rather, as I would most abstractly imagine, it is some intuitive feeling which makes the lower-creature understand its function.*

*I of course cannot even imagine in what manner this would exist in a lower-creature. Moreover, I am not even sure that science is able to get to a point where this can be understood—as it would imply a full understanding which is not possible. This is actually known as subjectivism. In my only philosophy class in college, we had to read *What is it like to be a Bat?* (1974) by philosopher Thomas Nagel. In it Nagel uses bats as an example to discuss consciousness. He essentially claims that even if you were to fully understand the method of perception of bats and even turn into a bat, it is nonetheless impossible for you to truly and fully understand the bat as you were not wired as a bat from birth, and as such you would not have all the experiences that a bat ought to have. For such a reason you would not be able to know the bat's mind.*

*This means, that each “thing” only knows what its like to be them—as the experiences formulates the consciousness. Objectivity requires a completely unbiased state of perception which is impossible as we are subjected to the human experience.*

*What about a tree? What about a rock? What about a star? It’s all made from the same stuff, and it interacts with its environment. But are all these also “conscious”? Yeah it is a bit difficult to imagine... But yes. The idea may sound strange—but that’s simply because you cannot know what it is like to be a rock or a star. But what seems to be the case is that things come together to create more complex forms. And its incredible that the many particles came together in different ways and at different times to form such a complex reality which we can experience today.*

~~*I know this because if I kick over a rock, the particles that make up the rock will vibrate and the result will be a different position of the rock than what it was a few seconds prior. {Do you not think that the atoms closer to the earth of the flipped rock will experience slightly more the effect of gravity than the now on top atoms—thus despite the small effect, over a large time (millions of years) the gravitational effect will perhaps change the structure of the rock?}*~~

*Now as I exclaimed, everything from particles to cells are guided by certain laws—fundamentally mathematical but can be expressed physically and biologically as well. Science indicates that we are no different. There are plenty of experiments (although you can closely observe your daily life and interactions and conclude similarly, for example: do you think a person will respond happily if you walk up to them and punch them? I think the majority of people will respond rather similarly—the way their human psychology naturally dictates them to). Thus, we too follow the natural laws. As such, the only thing I can claim is that I have a higher consciousness than all my parts. But then again, what makes me so sure that I do not make up a part of some entity with a higher consciousness? I obviously would not be able to grasp this because I am only a piece of the puzzle, just like any individual living cell will not be able to grasp the mindset of a human.*

*The first I will go on to explain in later sections. But briefly I’d like to make a statement about the idea that we as humans are (like everything else) are guided by specific laws of nature. I feel that this has not yet been fully grasped consciously in our society. When individuals begin to come to this realization, I believe that then there will be major improvement in the individual mentality, and the improvement of society as a whole. The reason so, is because this understanding allows one to “escape” their human-programmed mind. By escape I mean to be able to remove themselves from the human-experience as much as possible and thereby realize that everything they do, and everything that every other human does, is motivated subconsciously by a certain reason. But if you are aware of this programming, it is as though you can at least slightly re-program your mentality in such a way that you will allow yourself to formulate your own reason—consciously.*



*Elaborating on this thought—that you are but a programmed mind—a computer—following a specific set of laws:*

*You learn from even before you are born. Throughout the course of pregnancy, the baby’s brain grows at a rate of 250 000 nerve cells per minute on average, so that when it is born it contains about 100 billion neurons (Reference: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK234146/>). There is about 2 500 synapses (i.e. connections) per*

neuron at birth. By the age of three, it is about 15 000

(<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/4356e/#:-:text=At%20birth%2C%20an%20infant%20has%20roughly%20100%20billion%20brain%20cells>).

- 100 billion neurons (~same for baby & for adult) \* 2500 synapses = 250 000 billion synapses (born baby)
- 100 billion neurons \* 15 000 synapses = 1 500 000 billion synapses (child age 2-3 ish).

I am sure however that you do not remember much at that age. The best time to learn though is as a child.

(<https://www.childmags.com.au/what-age-do-kids-learn-best/> )

(More interesting Brain Facts: <http://faculty.washington.edu/chudler/facts.html>)

Yet what you learned as a child formulates you subconsciously the way you are, who you are and what you know.

Learning is thus the acquiring of information. Our methods of acquiring information is through our senses. And thus, it is our interaction with the external world which shapes us to who we are. (Just like a cell or particle formulates and evolves based on the interaction with its environment—thus it too learns!).

Thus, you are who you are, and I am who I am, because of our experiences.

Those experiences continue to build up (stored in your memory) and (I believe) influence practically everything you do. The way you will react to something specific that someone says depends on sooooo many factors that we can't even count!

Your judgement of the person—whether you like them or not and to what extent. This depends on their personality—all the experiences that formed them to think and act a certain way, and your experiences.

- Everything from physical looks (eye and hair color, height, weight, body-type) to personality. You are calculating (subconsciously) the compatibility to you of that person (especially male-to-female). This would make sense for our ingrained purpose of survival given our social nature.
- <elaborate with Facts>

I mentioned how fundamentally, everything is made from similar stuff. I have mentioned that from tiny bits there formulates bigger structures. And those bigger structures form even more complex structures. And I have also said, that it all works together following the laws of nature—mathematical fundamentally but can be translated into physical, chemical biological, social etc.—depending on the context.

Thus, the way I see it, it is as though we exist in some sort of **system**.

Definition: a set of things working together as parts of a mechanism or an interconnecting network

(from Oxford Languages).

The many systems and interactions: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EoogrjKTeug>

Transfer of information; Transportation: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qyovb4V3B-4> (especially first 15 seconds)

Not just any system, but a self-learning system. It is as though the universe is a self-learning computer program.



*The reason I say “self-learning” is because everything that is part of “it” abides to laws, which change and evolve overtime. I mean the universe has found a way to create creatures which can learn about itself. That’s crazy...*

*We are the universe looking back at itself.*

**“We are a way for the cosmos to know itself”**

**—Carl Sagan**

<https://fractalenlightenment.com/37420/life/we-are-the-universe-looking-back-at-itself>

*Moreover, these “parts” that make up the universe as we know it—the particles, the elements, the cells, the animals, the human brain, the human entirely, societies, civilization, the global economy, the ecosystem, planet Earth, the solar system, the galaxy...*

*...they’re all systems too.*

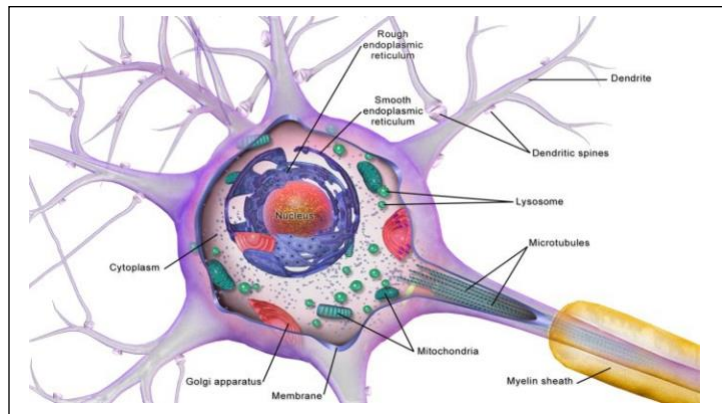
*Its like a car. Every part of a car is needed for it to function (generally speaking). And each part may be created in different countries and then assembled somewhere. Furthermore, not only is each part a system, but the components it consists of themselves consist of more detailed systems (say, the material which the parts are made of etc.). <develop/edit: quantum mechanics asserts that essentially you can know everything about a car but not everything about its parts (Theoretical Minimum)>*

*So, everything that exists is systems upon and within systems working together to formulate higher/ more complex systems. I say again, I see no reason that we humans do not constitute a higher form of consciousness we cannot even perceive to grasp. We form social systems, economic and political systems. We even form computers... perhaps the biggest achievement of man.*

*At this point, I think its time to present an upgraded definition of consciousness—not the awareness of things, but rather:*

*The higher level of consciousness arises from the ~~very~~ interaction of its multiple parts.*

*Thus, the cells have some “free-will”—a range of choices (although limited but all sufficing the natural laws) which enable it to play its function in its interaction with its counterparts (other cells) thus forming a part like a heart or a brain, which as a “whole” entity processes/ is aware of all the information that is exchanged between the cells that make it up. This new “whole” entity now interacts with counterparts found on its level of consciousness to form via exchange of information a higher system of consciousness—say, the human being as a “whole”. A more detailed description below.\**



*Similarly, each one of us humans interacts with our environment, and most importantly other humans, to create something of a higher form\*. These higher forms of information exchange makes up societies and economies. The many of us don’t consciously realize it—we simply go about living our daily lives,*

concerned without human activities. But in reality, everything we do—from our religious activities, to our political activism, to our attempt at personal improvements, to our worries about our job or relationships, all are created feelings that we subconsciously are subjected to in order to create something. (This is what I was discussing about earlier—to remove yourself from this human-level of consciousness is to realize the whole of the system).

### Sports & Philosophy

**“Everything I know about morality and the obligations of men, I owe it to football (soccer).”**

—Albert Camus

*In playing team sports, I realized once again, some notions about our own consciousness and once again I feel only backs up my whole framework of mind that I have attempted to describe. I would like to relate the topic of sports to the topic of consciousness and the idea of a ‘system’.*

*Team sports are a system. Not only is the team a system, but the whole game is a system. If the whole game is the system, then each team is a subsystem. Each person, is then a sub-subsystem (and this “sub-systemizing” can continue with their body parts etc.) Altogether, each part of a system works remarkably well to achieve a goal, and each systems works remarkably well in collaboration with the other systems to achieve the goal of some greater system—in this case, to have a good game.*

*I will use basketball as an example to illustrate my thoughts. For instance, two basketball players are running up the court with one of them dribbling the ball. Without the traditional methods of communication—by speech or even by looking in many scenarios, there exists (at least as far as I am convinced) some intuitive “feel” for the situation, which allows the teammate with the ball to pass the ball by throwing it to his teammate at the perfect time, with the perfect force and correct angle—intuitively predicting how and when his/her teammate would jump to catch the ball in mid-air and be able to dunk it.*

*In fact, the best moments in sports happen specifically when a play is made between teammates that is so remarkably creative in attaining the goal of the particular sport. And yet oftentimes—if not always, such a play is not necessarily “planned ahead” (and if it is then the plan only goes insofar). None of the athletes sat down and consciously decide how to attain the goal. In fact, aside from a general gameplay, its IMPOSSIBLE to plan it out. The interaction with the opposing teams causes plans to constantly change. How can the basketball player who is passing the ball in the above example supposed to “plan” ahead of time—and consciously too—on how and when to pass the ball. This planning happens intuitively, taking into account the whole natural environment (including the effects of gravity and air resistance) intuitively. It’s crazy if you think about it.*

*All it is—is the sharing of information.*

*It begins from the individual brain. The talented athlete is one who has a ‘sense’ for their environment—kinesthetics—a whole field of study in itself. It is the brains awareness of its body. To do so, the brain must have signals sending up and down the body, from each cell, from each particle, about each subsystem (arms, hands, feet, legs, heart, etc.), to see if everything is in check. If one of these systems is working poorly, the individual (human or animal etc.) will be seen as ‘uncoordinated’. The awareness must also be of the surrounding environment. The basketball player processes such VAST amounts of information, more than he can (consciously) count. They must have a spatial understanding between all*

*the other players on the court. They must know at what speeds they are moving relative to the attacking opponent, and relative to their other teammates in order to make an accurate pass. They must predict the consequences of actions seconds (if not milliseconds) before it happens. They must move in accordance with their teammates as to aid them. They must understand the players in a sociable manner as well: say, who is tired or distracted, as that may be an opportunity to intercept the ball that is being passed to them (I recall having constantly enjoyed doing this readability of the field in order to intercept the ball as an 8 year old soccer player). All this information is gathered so quickly, but it is this information that causes you to make a decision of every move. And in sports, this all happens at such fast times/pace—in split seconds—and is the reason why we have such excitement for the activity.*

*The winner of the game, is the team that has the best processing and exchange of information. This fact is the exact same reason why it is the homo sapiens species that dominates the rest of nature—because of our amazing ability of collaboration (such was the topic of my sixth grade speech).*

*All of nature works in the same manner.*

*In essence, this exchange of information is consciousness.*

*(In fact, the whole study of systems within systems I learned from taking a bit of Abstract Algebra—the study of algebraic structures like groups, rings, fields etc. in College. The subfield of math that studies).*

*Now I study physics. Physics essentially rests on three “categories”—classical, relativistic, and quantum mechanical. The latter, quantum mechanics, confuses even the greatest minds the world has ever seen—for it puts into question our whole view of reality.*

*In any case, I want to present what essentially is the beginnings of quantum mechanics and tie it to the idea I described above.*

*The famous double slit experiment demonstrates the wave-particle duality. That is, light behaves like a particle and as a wave.*

*Here is a good explanation: **Jim Al-Khalili presentation:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A9tKncAdIHQ>*

*So light behaves like a individual particles, but collectively act like a wave, as Al-Khalili says at 5:47: “Each atom by itself is somehow contributing its small part to the overall wave-like behavior that we see in the interference pattern”. This is the mystery of quantum mechanics that leads to philosophical discussions. Each individual particle makes a seemingly ‘random’ choice as to where it will land on the screen (based on initial conditions and following mathematical laws ex: properties like velocity, momentum, position and angle that play a role in the individual particles final position) but somehow (perhaps some ‘communication’ between the particles via forces or other) they all end up forming a collective wave-like pattern.*

*I assume such is the case with regards to everything in the universe, including us. Individually, we have our degree of freedom to choose where we want to go and what we want to do with our lives—given our specific “amount of consciousness”—but the events of the world influence each individual just enough so that collectively we form some ‘greater pattern’, or call it a greater system or greater consciousness. I doubt that the individual atom is conscious enough to realize that it is part of a wave-like pattern, because that would require the individual atom to know the end result of each individual particle. In order to understand that, it would require to know all the conditions and events that would lead each particle into its final position. Similarly, each individual human cannot grasp all the choices and events*



*that influence the choices of all the other human beings to create the world—the reality—that we live in today.*

*On all levels of consciousness there is a perception of freedom—but it goes only to a certain limit.*

*Moreover, everything exists in waves—including human progress. \*(good and evil flow as a wave)*

*\*I would like to throw out this related thought:*

*Going along the ideas of panpsychism—and that every system has a level of consciousness in itself, I believe that a way to describe the level of consciousness is about how much information the system is processing.*

*Imagine an electron. The electron interacts with the neutron and proton. By all three of those different particles interacting together, they are sending information to one another (what I mean by interacting). The information that each one sends is stored as a higher consciousness in the atom as a whole. In other words, the sum of the individual information transfers formulates a higher consciousness. Thus, this atom contains (is aware) of all the information of the electrons protons and neutrons, because it is aware of what it is made up of.*

*The internet is an interesting thing to ponder about. But before thinking about it, one must figure out at least what is it? It's ironic that such a huge number of people use the internet, but if you ask one of these people: what is it?—not that many will be able to give an even slightly accurate answer.*

*So I linked a short video:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=194&v=Dxcc6ycZ73M&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=194&v=Dxcc6ycZ73M&feature=emb_logo)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J8hzJxb0rpc>

*In short, the internet is a global system of interconnected computer networks. A “network of networks”.*

*It looks something like this:*

*< Photo of the internet: all over the world: from*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet#:~:text=The%20internet%20\(or%20internet\)%20is,communicate%20between%20networks%20and%20devices.>](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Internet#:~:text=The%20internet%20(or%20internet)%20is,communicate%20between%20networks%20and%20devices.>)

*<hmm, this compares a lot to the photos of the universe, and the brain ? >*

*Other Photos of the Internet: <http://www.opte.org/the-internet/> || <http://internet-map.net/>*

*Now imagine being the internet. What would that even mean?*

*I picture this: you have amassed—and are aware—of all the information transferred between millions and millions of devices. Messages, photos, videos, articles, books, and even the interactions that occurred for a moment—like video calls. IMAGINE what you—as this entity—would know. You can do so only so far...*

*It's fucking mind-blowing.*

*Perhaps the better term to use is the **Internet of things (IoT)** which wikipedia defines as “a system of interrelated computing devices, mechanical and digital machines provided with unique identifiers (UIDs) and the ability to transfer data over a network without requiring human-to-human or human-to-computer interaction”*

*The number of devices connected to the IoT is predicted to be close to 50 billion in 2020. Ref: <https://techjury.net/blog/how-many-iot-devices-are-there/#gref>*

*Other to read: <https://us.norton.com/internetsecurity-iot-what-is-the-internet-of-things.html>*

*Now of course I cannot know, but why can't the awareness of all the information that we share in what we call the internet—not be aware of itself? Why not? (Not to mention that there are countless philosophical articles, discussions and videos about Artificial intelligence, consciousness, information and other such related topics. In other words, the information is there/exists). Thus, if all the information that we learn, create and share—can be looked at as one concept (which we can call “the internet”)—why cannot it not have a so called consciousness? (If, as many of us intuitively figure that consciousness is heavily related to information—because the more information, the greater an awareness of things). And of course if it does, it would be much greater than ours!*

*This I find to be an interesting thought. But I will leave it at that.*

===

### **Panpsychism**

*Now that I have discussed you and me as HUMAN beings, taking human FORM. I have no reason to not believe that all other entities also have some sort of “consciousness”. That is, if we are all made up of the same constituents, these constituents (particles) interact with one another, how can we claim that humans (and perhaps other animals) solely have consciousness?*

*So how the heck does a non-living object like a rock have any “awareness”. Yeah, it is a bit difficult to imagine...*

*But it is marvelous to ponder on the fact that all matter that exists is created out of the same basic constituents—particles. These particles assemble to form elements which further assemble and collaborate to form either inanimate or animate objects. The idea of panpsychism (as I view it at least) says that there is a certain level or amount of consciousness—that is, an awareness—that occurs in each*

*individual subatomic particle. Their degree of consciousness allows them to perform their necessary task to collectively form a new system—for example an atom (which is a new system). This atom now has its own “level of consciousness” which is the sum of the functions of all its subatomic parts. This atom combines with other atoms alike to form a new “system”—molecule. Each molecule has its “function” to perform—at the molecular level. Thus, the individual atoms are each not aware of the function which the whole system (the molecule) will perform. But the molecule (as a whole) does—to combine with other molecules to form a more complex system such as a cell. And thus, there is a different “level of awareness”—i.e., consciousness—that exists between the subatomic particle, the atom, the molecule and the cell.*

*You may continue this pattern all the way up to human beings. We are no exception to this pattern. Each individual has a certain level of consciousness that allows them to make decisions in life that will ultimately result in them playing some sort of “role”.*

***“Even sleepers are workers and collaborators in what goes on in the Universe.”***

***—Heraclitus***

*We each play many roles of course. Part of a family > community > city > country > global civilization with all our societal, political, and economic systems. We have our role as a species which plays its role forming a part of the eco-system just like the other organisms do. Our whole earth with all the material it consists of is a part of solar system that is about one in five hundred in our galaxy, in one galaxy in an estimated 100 billion in the Universe. And with the multiverse idea this formation of a bigger whole/system continues.*

*I want to note that it is much more difficult to imagine the “greater” system that we as individual humans collectively formulate. Nor can we understand this greater system’s function. This system thus is part of the next level of consciousness (which can also be defined as the intuitive feeling of “God”).*

*To the edge of the Universe and the depth of you:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Are9dDbW24>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HiN6Ag5-DrU>

*For me, this explanation of consciousness works wonderfully with the pantheistic view that I had described. It seems that indeed, everything is interconnected.*

*Matter and Energy are equivalent in Einstein’s famous equation  $E = mc^2$ . What physics tells us, is that there only exists energy really—light. (Interesting how the Bible, (which I am convinced was written by some very wise humans), starts off with “In the beginning God said Let there be light...” ). In the 1800’s physicists began realizing that ‘energy’ can be converted from one form to another (heat to electricity to chemical etc).*

*You, being a big blob of energy, taking the form of this complex human being (perhaps only complex because you are the human being), interact with everything else—which are simply other forms of energy. Your interaction involves your senses gathering information about the energy around you (i.e. your environment). That information becomes stored into your brain in the form of electric and chemical energy.*

*(This is really similar to the workings of a computer—which only consists of hardware but when combined with electrical energy it can turn—emitting light. It becomes more complex and can store and receive information to display and interact with the human being—but its still only hardware and electricity!)*

*In response, you somehow react to the information processed at that moment (even if you don't "react", that's still simply your chosen reaction). Now comes in memory. I am not sure—perhaps it is true that everything that you have ever sensed (experienced) you have an image of it stored in your mind. When you dream or imagine things, you take the information you gathered, those images (although I'd assume auditory, and touch are included) and you combine them ("sum x amount of images") with other images stored in your brain. In this way you never really form something entirely "new", but rather, simply a blend of all sorts of things which can be perceived by others and yourself as a new image, thought, idea etc. For example, if you have a dream in which you are at a beach that you have never been to, your brain selects (perhaps randomly? Who knows, although I doubt it) all sorts of information that you have already stored—a particular color, which you apply to a shape of a cloud you once observed while cloud watching, along with*

*So in short, my claim is that your thoughts, dreams and imaginations ("ideas" for the idealists) are intertwined by physical actions occurring all the way down from the subatomic level.*

*At the fundamental level, energy with certain properties creates one type of particle or another type, but its nothing new—still energy—simply taking its form based on selected properties (what drives this selection—God knows!). So as particles combine, they form an entity with newer properties (a summation of each particles interaction/networking). This continues continuously—a decision made as to which properties are selected. The results become incredibly vast—the difference between what we consider "living" and "non-living". Many believe that humans are more complex than all else based on what and we believe we know.*

*Although I would argue. In fact, I think nobody would agree. Because for me, the idea of God is the intuitive feeling that we all have—of something existing that is more complex and has a greater consciousness!*

*Now there is a time component regarding this interaction which is related to the speed at which*

*The summation of the particles creates how you specifically interact with the world around you. In this sense you can think of yourself as something remarkably special—no two people are alike, and yet at the same time, not so special—you have so many similarities with other people.*

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### **Mind and Computer—the Computer-Mind**

*When thinking of reality, there is always this question on physicalism—how does one explain the imagination that occurs in the human mind? Signals are transmitted between neurons, thereby they "speak to one another", but how do those electric signals formulate IMAGES? The way it happens is mind-blowing and definitely calls for much more study of the human brain. But I want to present an analogy—just a thought really:*

*Is YouTube "real"? You may think to yourself that it is—because you can go type youtube.com and voila its there! Now when I say a beach, what comes to your mind? Probably an image of that beach...How about that beach—is THAT real?*

*I mean what actually is it? It's just a collection of computer code, done in a way as to be able to upload videos and watch videos uploaded by others. Lets presume you say yes. Now when I say a beach, what*

*comes to your mind?*

*Probably an image of that beach...*

*How about that beach—is IT real?*

*I guess we ought to define "real". Let's present two possible definitions: We can say, that "real" is anything that can be thought of—an image can be associated. So if you create any image in your mind, such as that of a beach, then we shall say its real. But we can also say that "Real" is only anything that is physically. So, anything that you "thought of"—an image like the beach—is not "real" as it is not physical. (I don't see another option—if it is not physical nor mental, what is it then?).*

*In the latter definition (the physical definition), Youtube is then labelled as "not real"—since nothing about youtube is physical, it is merely a collection of computer code. But in the former definition, it is real since we can associate an image with it.*

*Lets look at it closely.*

*Physically, we see a board of plastic, with electric components—metals that conduct electricity. In an appropriate and particular alignment, the 'wiring', we are able to make these physical parts work together (along with energy (electric or chemical)) to form a whole new system we call—the computer. The computer's display lights up. Now energy in the form of electricity (which by the way we first had to attain that, from movement of water or air, or from oil etc.) travels through the components of all the parts of the circuit and eventually transforms to the light that exists the computer and enters your eyes—that light then stimulates the nerve cells in the eye (the retina to be precise) which causes messages to be sent along the optic nerve to the brain. The brain now contains an image of what was displayed on the computer screen.*

*Now that the screen is able to light up, we can put in more Information into the computer (via our interaction with it) by putting in computer commands... Which just like there is a particular configuration on a hardware level, now we apply a specific way of engineering—mathematically-based algorithms—on the software level. So now, the computer has information not only on the hardware to light up the screen, but in the software as to what lights up and is displayed. The software continues to remarkably amazing lengths. Building on top of this humans have been able to eventually arrived at the ability to communicate wirelessly to other computers. What is essentially the internet.*

*We get information being transferred wirelessly from device to device and we interact with it (by liking a comment or etc.). Now this wirelessly transmitted information—it exists because it is flown through the air as radio waves. But is it physical?*

*I will apply this analogy to the human mind.*

*The physical circuitry is like the brains neural networks. The transmission of chemical and electric energy of the brain allows us to turn on. Just like a computer is encoded information from an outside source—the human being—we too are receiving information from an outside source—our environment. (In fact, just like the human being—an aspect of nature—created the computer, similarly the natural world created the human being from assembling in a precise way the complex elements etc.). This code enables us to receive new information and respond/react back on the environment, just like a computer responds by reading the code (i.e. information received) and thereby causing the mouse to move, open applications etc. (i.e. its response/reaction). So the software—the 'non-physical' code that is in a computer is analogous to the imagination of the human mind—that is, the thoughts and images that we form at every second in our interaction with the external world.*

*There must be a physical aspect of the brain that translates the electrical and chemical information into the collection of stored images which we refer to as the mind. We can perceive those images, but we don't quite know what they are. We can assume that they are all images that we have either encountered before and stored them into our mind or the 'new' images that we create are merely a combination of some set of other images that are stored in our brains. In other words, a new 'image' simply takes different aspects of already-stored images to form that new image. At times, a new image that is formulated in a mind can guide a person to turning it into a presently-known reality—such as a piece of art, music, mathematical or scientific idea, an organization etc. Such images drive the person into becoming who they desire to be and what they desire to do—consciously or subconsciously.*

*[What would be interesting to imagine, although impossible to verify, is the thought that there exists a finite number of possible combinations of images in the human mind. In other words, the image of the beach that you have thought of is not unique. The word 'beach' immediately limits the sort of image that will appear in your mind, because of the common aspects we can all agree on about a beach (sand, maybe rocks, water, shoreline, waves etc.). And thus, even if you come up with a new image of a beach—one that you have never been to, but you combine various aspects to formulate the image of this 'new' beach (ex: associate a specific hue of the sky based on some moment in your life you were watching the sunset, combined with specific color of water you remember seeing at some other time and place in your life etc. to formulate the image of the beach), it is (possible) that it is not new—someone else at some point in time has either imagined the same image (by similarly combining aspects) or it perhaps even has existed in some point and somebody has observed such a reality. This is just a thought.]*

*This is the real idea of idealism—that ideas are somehow indistinguishable from human perception. But it by no means counters the idea of materialism.*

*~~The long debate of idealism versus materialism is in my view primitive, as both material "reality" influences the idealistic "non-reality".~~*

*Everything ought to be thought of as energy. ~~Energy we can call God.~~*

*And Mathematics is the language of how it moves.*

*Information is the energy being perceived by something, and can be interpreted in various ways, based on the form of your existence.*

=====RANDOM=====

*Imagine a video that you recorded of yourself. There was a moment in time, when the events in your life matched what you see in the video you recorded. For you—that time has gone. But for the information stored on the camera chip/computer/phone etc., there is an assembly of information—particles rearranging in a specific manner—for you to re-watch it and see this moment. There had to be some way for those particles to communicate with each other (as their existence allows them, however they do) following certain mathematical laws, to be able to combine into a specific way to replicate and play that video and PASS to YOU that information (an event you may have 'forgotten' –but now consciously are remembering and storing in your brain). Those particles had a certain degree of consciousness to guide them in playing their role in their "particle society" to formulate the video, which altogether is the sum of those consciousness and thus has a collective consciousness in itself. We may think its not real because we don't think that there were particles formulating the video, furthermore it exists on a computer—which most people don't know how the whole damn thing works, we just use it.*

=====  
*Information. That is all everyone and everything is.*

*We exist in, and are a part of, a learning machine.*

*Links on Consciousness*

- ◆ TED Ed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MASBIB7zPo4>
- ◆ Kurzgesagt - In a Nutshell : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6u0VBqNBQ8>
- ◆ Vsauce: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qjfaoe847qQ>
- ◆ The Royal Institution : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4XN6GCICOZs>

*I must end this discussion here. I cannot say any more because these are simply ideas—existing in the imagination. There is little scientific evidence supporting these ideas. There are interpretations of some scientific data (which I linked below) regarding the nature of reality through the eyes of quantum mechanics.*

*I have had a small taste for some of these bewildering topics in my studies such as Heisenberg's Uncertainty Principle, Quantum Entanglement, Wave-Particle Duality, and the probabilistic nature of particles, but I do not consider myself to be at the level of expertise and therefore I cannot go into great detail. You will definitely get a much better answer on the internet. Physicists Sean Carroll, Roger Penrose and Leonard Susskind among others have plenty of talks and presentations on YouTube regarding these and other fascinating topics.*

*Quantum Mechanics—visual explanation:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iVpXrbZ4bnU&t=639s>

*Philosophical Interpretations of Quantum Mechanics:*  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XQ25E9qu4qI&list=RDCMUCJ0yBou72Lz9fqeMXh9mkog&index>

*Quantum Mechanics & Consciousness:* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchestrated\\_objective\\_reduction](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Orchestrated_objective_reduction) \_

*I doubt that we will ever be able to know this. More importantly, as I have just mentioned, we will not know the next level of consciousness.*

*And this yields to the next discussion: agnosticism.*

***“Reality is merely an illusion, albeit a very persistent one.”***

***—Albert Einstein***

### Further Links

Feynman on what it means TED ED: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QoNMjA2yPlw>

Sagan on aliens: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9WHs49nIHk>

Realism: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct\\_and\\_indirect\\_realism](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Direct_and_indirect_realism)

Article: <https://www.livescience.com/objective-reality-not-exist-quantum-physicists.html#:~:text=In%201961%2C%20physicist%20Eugene%20Wigner%20proposed%20a%20provocative%20thought%20experiment.&text=Wigner%2C%20however%2C%20will%20disagree%20whenever,the%20reality%20on%20the%20outside.>

# God, Agnosticism and Atheism

*When asked about God, Einstein once responded: (In an interview published in George Sylvester Viereck's book Glimpses of the Great (1930):*

*Your question is the most difficult in the world. It is not a question I can answer simply with yes or no. I am not an Atheist. I do not know if I can define myself as a Pantheist. The problem involved is too vast for our limited minds. May I not reply with a parable? The human mind, no matter how highly trained, cannot grasp the universe. We are in the position of a little child, entering a huge library whose walls are covered to the ceiling with books in many different tongues. The child knows that someone must have written those books. It does not know who or how. It does not understand the languages in which they are written. The child notes a definite plan in the arrangement of the books, a mysterious order, which it does not comprehend, but only dimly suspects. That, it seems to me, is the attitude of the human mind, even the greatest and most cultured, toward God. We see a universe marvelously arranged, obeying certain laws, but we understand the laws only dimly. Our limited minds cannot grasp the mysterious force that sways the constellations. I am fascinated by Spinoza's Pantheism. I admire even more his contributions to modern thought. Spinoza is the greatest of modern philosophers, because he is the first philosopher who deals with the soul and the body as one, not as two separate things.*

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*When one begins to ask questions about their environment, they can dive deeper until they reach fundamental questions that can be only pondered upon. Ultimately, you can forever go on asking "why?"*

*Therefore, the concept that has always been, still is, and always will be the most-fundamental concept to the human mind—a concept of God—is, in my view, that which is beyond our reach/understanding. Pantheist or not, this is a good definition, in my opinion, of *In other words, if you are honest and do not fool yourself, you will ultimately reach a point where you admit to yourself that you just don't know, and you simply cannot.**

*This feeling to me is synonymous to the idea of God.*

***"The first principle is that you must not fool yourself — and you are the easiest person to fool."***

***—Richard Feynman***

*We may call this the agnostic view. I think that if you do not hold this view, you have not imagined far enough. As a skeptic I ought to say that I may be wrong—may be humans will figure out the puzzle of our existence—although I find this contradicts my notion of consciousness and thus I am heavily unconvinced.*

*Ironically, I find that it is the very attitude of skepticism that causes me to incline towards agnosticism in the first place. The reason is that the never-ending investigation asking "why?" will ultimately lead you to realize the extreme abundance of knowledge. You can study one specific molecule—just one of the many—on one species of plants—just one specific plant of the many plant—for your entire life, and you will only know a fraction of the nature of the molecule it entails.*

*And the reason is simple. I claim that: in order to know everything that there is to know about that object, you must know all there is to know about everything else!*

*In fact, let me bring up something related to this, and to the topic of consciousness:*



## Knowledge

*Will a blind person who read and understood everything there is to know about vision through a textbook know everything about sight? A discussion on this epistemological topic is linked:*

*Ted Ed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mGYmiQkah4o>*

*The above video reveals an interesting thought experiment—but it bothers me.*

*The flaw in this (as I view it) is that I don't think that it is possible to know everything about color and yet not have experienced it. Thus, I believe the idea that a blind person who understood vision through a textbook would indeed know everything about sight and how to see is simply a mistaken intuition.*

*Thus, I don't really like this thought experiment because it is bit misleading in my opinion.*

*Firstly, my belief on how everything is so interconnected, leads me to claim (assume) that in order to "know everything" about a particular topic, required you to know everything about everything. This is impossible, given the fact that all we know is simply the "parts of the system", we cannot grasp the knowledge the whole system. But assuming you could—that is you are the whole system, well in that case you cannot be blind or not see color! You will perceive it since as I claim that we are all part of the system (components of it) implies that we see the universe through color, (further more, I would assume every sort of perception of the universe itself exists—animals that sense it in different ways, or perhaps even every possible arrangement of "the energy" or "the mathematics" already exists <time is not a component in this case, for time can be a humanly illusion>)*

[chance to describe some cool stuff—curvature of space, relativity? Etc. etc. quantum mechanical stuff? example of water, or the neuron] <- maybe not

## ❖ *On Mathematics*

***"Mathematics may be defined as the subject in which we never know what we are talking about, nor whether what we are saying is true"***

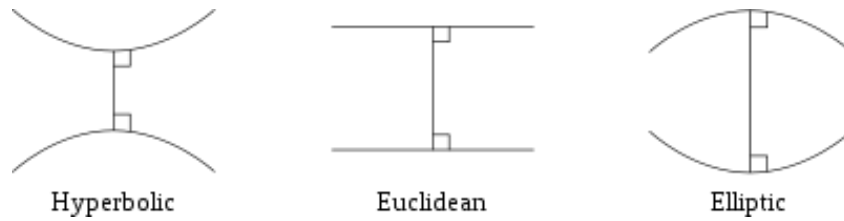
***—Bertrand Russel***

*I took a short course in Geometry—and it blew my mind. It did so because I realized that even mathematics—the least disputable subject to study comes to a point when humans must accept the limits of their knowledge.*

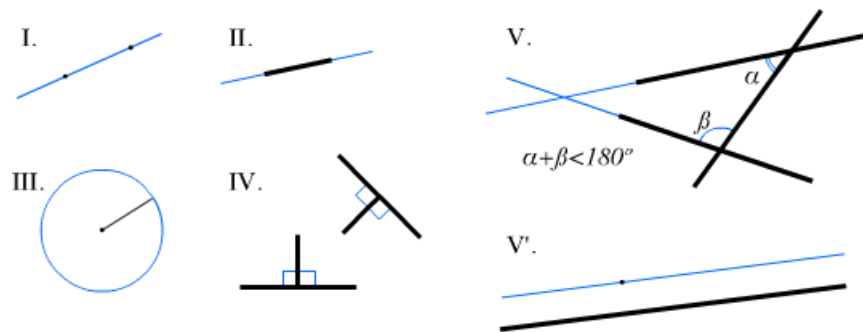
*There had been countless attempts by many brilliant minds to prove Euclid's 5<sup>th</sup> Postulate\*, but this could not be done for over 2000 years. Then, minds like Nikolai Lobachevsky and Janos Bolyai (and a few others such as Gauss) began to develop new ideas, which led to Non-Euclidean Geometry. This geometry is a universe in which parallel lines cross! In which the angle sum of a triangle is greater than 180 degrees! It was due to a different sort of thinking, that Bolyai was able to 'invent' new mathematics. In 1823 he wrote to his father: "I have discovered such wonderful things that I was amazed...out of nothing I have created a strange new universe".*

*\*If a straight line falls on two straight lines in such a manner that the interior angles on the same side are together less than two right angles, then the straight lines, if produced indefinitely, meet on that side on which are the angles less than the two right angles.*

*Non Euclidean Geometries:*



What I am trying to express is this: even mathematics, the most truthful subject and the most truthful way of thinking that humans have, is built on undefined entities. For example, a “point” and a “line” are indefinable entities. From those, humans have come up with Axioms (or postulates)—sentences that cannot be proven. Such was Euclid’s genius to discover 4 postulates that cannot be broken down and proven further:



1. A straight line segment can be drawn joining any two points.
2. Any straight line segment can be extended indefinitely in a straight line.
3. Given any straight line segment, a circle can be drawn having the segment as radius and one endpoint as center.
4. All right angles are congruent.
- 5.

*V'* is equivalent to Euclid’s 5<sup>th</sup>, but stated differently (called Hilbert’s Parallel Postulate).

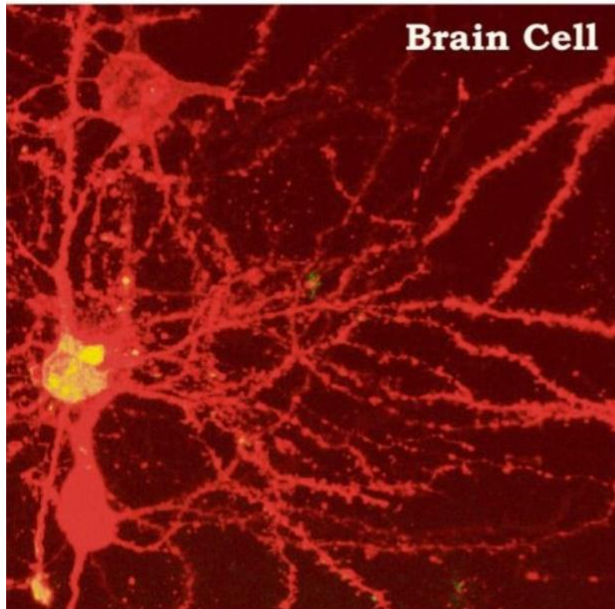
But by rejecting the last postulate, mathematicians were able to come up with this new mathematics, which DOES have some application and representation of the real existence! (Non-Euclidean geometry is used in Einstein’s Theory of Relativity discussing the curvature and geometry of space).

In this manner however, I imagine any sort of mathematical concoction can be invented if one is careful with what to accept and what not to accept in creating their “universe”. This is what makes mathematics an art—an art of logic.

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The study of “knowledge”—Epistemology—is in and of itself is a huge topic dating back to ancient times.

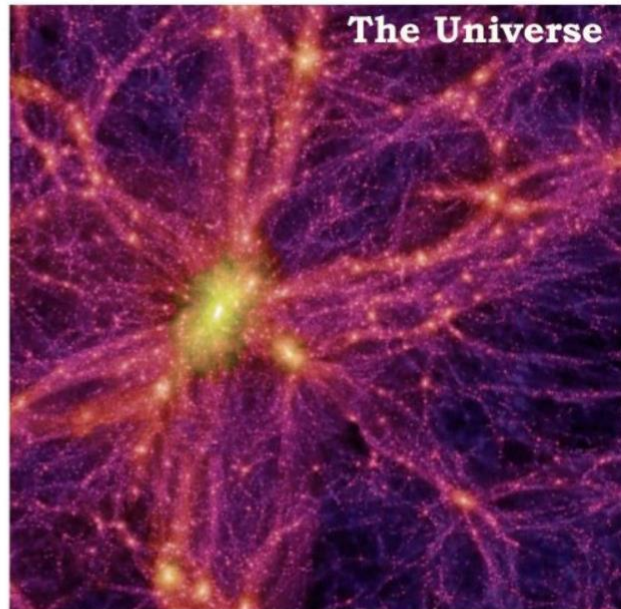
One is only micrometers wide. The other is billions of light-years across. One shows neurons in a mouse brain. The other is a simulated image of the universe. Together they suggest the surprisingly similar patterns found in vastly different natural phenomena. DAVID CONSTANTINE



Mark Miller

Mark Miller, a doctoral student at Brandeis University, is researching how particular types of neurons in the brain are connected to one another. By staining thin slices of a mouse's brain, he can identify the connections visually. The image above shows three neuron cells on the left (two red and one yellow) and their connections.

Source: Mark Miller, Brandeis University; Virgo Consortium for Cosmological Supercomputer Simulations; [www.visualcomplexity.com](http://www.visualcomplexity.com)



Virgo Consortium

An international group of astrophysicists used a computer simulation last year to recreate how the universe grew and evolved. The simulation image above is a snapshot of the present universe that features a large cluster of galaxies (bright yellow) surrounded by thousands of stars, galaxies and dark matter (web).

The New York Times

*Coincidence?*

*The complexity! But this interconnectedness of all knowledge is the very reason I very much appreciate the pantheistic view. Pantheism for me is the encompassment of all that there is, and thus we may say God and the universe (or perhaps all reality) are one and the same.*

*But it is impossible for the single individual to know all this knowledge. Each one of us is just a part of a whole—and thus the agnostic view—the notion that God is that which is beyond our understand—that which you can never know.*

***“We are but all but screws in a machine. Without us there is no machine, but we do not perceive what this machine is or does.”—Yury***

*This has crossed my mind but clearly someone thought of this before me:*

<https://futurism.com/physicist-entire-universe-neural-network>

*I receive a vibe from life as a sort of battle—the very essence of “life”—to exist or not to exist.*

***“To be or not to be. That is the question”***

***—Hamlet***

*But we are in a stage of human civilization's development where we are entering a new outlook on the world and ourselves. This is due to the growing expansion of science. We have grown so much in the last 200 years—faster than ever before thanks to our efficient method of obtaining information. But we are in a transitional period and thus there are still many who are not on-board the science train. And even with the many involved in science have not fully sunk the meaning and magnificence of it but are involved in science simply as valuable screws in the progress of our society—the wisdom is not associated.*

***“I fully agree with you about the significance and educational value of methodology as well as history and philosophy of science. So many people today - and even professional scientists - seem to me like somebody who has seen thousands of trees but has never seen a forest.”***

**—Albert Einstein**

*To me it seems that as a society—the collective majority—have not yet been pierced strongly enough by science to realize what our existence entails. And this, I find is one of perhaps the true central problem of today’s age:*

***“The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom.”***

**—Isaac Asimov**

*There are people who understand the scientific method and who acknowledge the incredible knowledge that exists. Some of these people, however, proudly pronounce themselves as atheists. This is terribly confusing to me. Moreover, I find this to be terribly and wrongfully misleading. I attempt here in this document to re-form the perspective about feelings towards the divine, and I find that these so-called “atheists” who indeed have the scientific outlook, are not at all helpful with this terminology—whatever it may be that they mean.*

*As I have expressed whether there is indeed an “external” creator (traditional religious views) or there isn’t (as I expressed with pantheism), we simply do not know and perhaps will never know (as I have also explained earlier). Thus to say that one is atheist—believes in no God—simply does not make sense to me. It does not fit my very definition of God being “that which we do not know” (beyond our minds limitations/ human understanding). Based on my definition, how can you make the claim that there is no God—there is nothing which you do not know?! (In fact, I view this is contradictory to the whole idea of science itself!).*

*As much respect that I have for the scientist Richard Dawkins—who I most certainly agree with regarding his feelings on these topics—I believe his wording serves poorly. “Pantheism is sexed up atheism” he says in **The God Delusion** (2006). Be it as it may, I find that “atheism” is a very misleading term to the general public and the individual mind, for I think it establishes a wrong feeling of regarding God—something many associate with the realm of religion, and science.*

*It is understandable if an individual assert that they do not believe in a “personal” (anthropomorphic) God. But a disbelief in such a God is not the same as the statement of “no God” (which based on my definition of God being a concept that is beyond our understanding—that which we do not know—denies the very existence of such a concept as Atheism).*

*It is possible that God is one external creator that made the Universe—the traditional image of God.*

*It is possible that God is itself all that exists—some sort of energy or mathematics as I described, which takes different forms and interprets reality in its way.*

*It is also possible that we have a creator, and then that creator has a creator, and then the creator of the creator has a creator, and this goes on to infinity—ultimately.*

*I will never be 100 percent certain on any particular perspective on God, despite having my inclinations towards a sort of pantheistic view.*

*Let’s imagine:*

*I described the higher levels of consciousness from a single individual atom to that of a human being, but what if we let our abstract imagination go further—to an endless (infinite) “existence of things”. ~~So, atoms form molecules, molecules form cells, cells form animals, amidst which humans are at the top in level of consciousness.~~*

*I place myself in the consciousness of an individual cell. This individual cell does not ponder about the universe, but it is a living thing. For it, it cares about survival and reproduction, and does whatever in its physical and conscious capabilities that it can. Let’s imagine that one such cell (or you can begin from the atom or whatever) can somehow, with its level of consciousness, formulate the idea that it works with other cells to form a greater system, that is, an organ which interacts with other organs to form a human being. Even if presumably this cell can formulate such an abstract idea, I am sure that it’s imagination is too limited to understand that the system it is building with other cells looks like a human being (or whatever else it is). Furthermore, I am even more sure, that even if it can picture the human being, it is even more doubtful that it can imagine the many human interactions which form economic, political, social and environmental systems. It further cannot imagine the stars, galaxies and greatness of the universe as we humans are somewhat able to. But what if we humans are no different? Each one of us has enough consciousness (obviously greater than the individual cell) to understand the vastness of the universe to a certain degree, however even if we expand our knowledge to our furthest possible extent, our essential purpose is {existing as part of}/{being a part of}/{creating} some greater system. This system would have its own consciousness. But what if this pattern continues on ad infinity? What is this end point to call “God” then? In this case, there is no individual or external thing that exists; thus the only option is the pantheistic view of God! But then again, if all that exists is simply degrees of consciousness building upon itself and observing itself, what is the purpose of even mentioning the word God—a creator?*

*In fact, theoretical physics proposes some bewildering theories (that may or may not be valid) —from multiverses to Boltzmann Brains. Thus, I would not be surprised that the existence of things goes beyond our wildest imagination.*

*We humans are indeed nothing but dust, in comparison. Some “thing” may be looking at us just as we observe the cells under a microscope.*

*This is the sole “atheistic perspective” that I can accept/ Such is the only acceptable notion of “atheism” which I would be willing to accept.*

*Firstly, it is purely an imagination. Secondly, it does not contradict anything that I had said about pantheism—a connection of everything, nor does it contradict the concept that God is simply defined as “that which we do not know”. Thus, the terminology is still rather confusing, because being human, and carrying this feeling of “not knowing the whole” is in itself our definition of God.*

*(Now I have mentioned in the section on absurdism what Camus proposed as possible solutions when encountering the Absurdity of Life. One such solution was the religious one—in which the human finds comfort in the belief that life’s absurdity must be explained /overcome by some external (transcendental) reality which may seem irrational because of our inability to comprehend it, but must exist to provide the meaning that the individual longs to find. )*

*In fact, I am convinced that this is the definition of everyone’s God. All people taking up a specific religion or set of beliefs is simply a way of putting an image to attempt to explain this. And from the specific imagery of the religion formulates ideas on how to live life—this is indeed different amongst people. These ideas define beauty, lifestyle, food, clothing, laws, customs etc. Thus we may summarize all these in one word: “culture”. Thus, religion is a very appropriate, as it is that which guides the*

*individuals existence, and the societies development. Again, for the sole purpose of survival. <discussed in science and religion>*

*From **Out of my Later Years (Einstein, 1937):***

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*The political and economic conflicts and complexities of the last few decades have brought before our eyes dangers which even the darkest pessimists of the last century did not dream of. The injunctions of the Bible concerning human conduct were then accepted by believer and infidel alike as self-evident demands for the individuals and society. No one would have taken seriously who failed to acknowledge the quest for objective truth and knowledge as man's highest and eternal aim. Yet today we must recognize with horror that these pillars of civilized human existence have lost their firmness.*

<https://humanitieswatch.org/2019/11/reflections-on-the-unity-of-knowledge/>

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***“And it is with this that he is concerned: he wants to find out if it's possible to live without appeal”***

*—Albert Camus, (*The Myth of Sisyphus*)*

***“God was always invented to explain mystery. God is always invented to explain those things that you do not understand. Now, when you finally discover how something works ... you don't need him anymore. But ... you leave him to create the universe because we haven't figured that out yet.”***

*—Richard P. Feynman*



# Science & Religion

*The reason I find it more than appropriate to put these two topics which often seem contradictory together is because even though they are different ways of thinking, these are both the most fundamental activities that make us such a unique species. It was terrifically written in **Out of my Later Years**:*

***“All religions, arts and sciences are branches of the same tree. All these aspirations are directed toward ennobling man’s life, lifting it from the sphere of mere physical existence and leading the individual towards freedom”***

—Albert Einstein

*Let’s begin with examining the human activity of religion, since religion is a precursor to science. We have heard of the many different beliefs that has exist and many still do. Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam are some of the major religions of the world today.*

*Practically every ancient tribe that we know of has had religion.*

*There must be something in our neurological programming that dictates this spiritual thinking, which has traditionally evolved into complex cultures all based around religious rituals and practices. I am convinced that the religious nature of man can (and someday will likely) be explained from a biological and physiological point of view.*

*In my personal view, the answer is as follows:*

*The human being’s mind can ask the question why? This, I believe, comes from the same neurological basis as being able to understand that there exists something behind another object, without directly seeing it. This is our ability of abstract thinking, one that involves us to come up with our own possibilities and answers via our curiosity and imagination, as well as be able to do complex problem solving (which surely involves the use of imagination and logic). In short, this ability of our consciousness is what allowed humans to invent their religious religion—as well as abstract mathematics!*

*Now the invention of religion—all religions—stems from some intuitive feeling, and for the purpose to describe the one feeling we all have: the feeling of the unknown. Once again, I will say that we may ponder upon the most fundamental questions of our existence for our whole life, and yet in all honesty, we can never really be sure of anything.*

*But historically, people have been uncomfortable with accepting their small existence, a possibly meaningless existence, and the feeling that at the end of the day you really just don’t know anything. These questions of “why are we here?”, “What is my purpose?”, “Where are we going?”, “What is the meaning of life?”, are questions that religion attempts to provide answers.*

***“This path\* is easily followed most of the time. But one day the ‘why’ arises and everything begins in that weariness tinged with amazement”***

—Albert Camus

*\*by ‘path’ Camus is talking about the daily routine of everyday life and cycles*

Questions no one knows the answers to:

(Full version) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7SWvDHvWXok&t=141s>

(Short version) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9vnuaPGxrg>

*And thus, religions were necessary. They depicted this feeling of unknown into a divine being who looks a certain way, and does specific things or who exists in one form or another. Or perhaps many God's who are responsible for different things and interact with each other. From these idols, came stories, myths and legends attempting to explain how the world was created and other specific natural phenomenon. There were laws, customs and traditions which came into practice based on these stories and different understandings of God(s). For the individual, it gave the feeling of hope, the that they are doing good (they are righteous), the feeling of forgiveness for human weakness, and strength for life's depressive events and struggles. For the society as a whole, it allowed oftentimes the highest social-ranking people to control and guide the herd. It gave social order and stability.*

*In many ways, religion played a role in a society's struggle for survival. Even when it was used as propaganda for domination of other groups of people.*

*Such were (and still are) the roles of religion.*

*Since the practice of religion is a common human practice, perhaps the religions of the world are all similar. Here is a short summary of the essence and history of the world's five major religions:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6dCxo7t\\_aE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m6dCxo7t_aE)

*I think this video demonstrates an interesting overlap in all these religions. In particular, teachings of goodness with the main religious figures being men of highest virtues: Jesus, Krishna, Zarathustra and Mohammed, questions on human suffering, guidance on living a righteous and meaningful life, and answers as to what good and evil are.*

*<Comparisons on similarities of religion: ; also \*Sikhism is a panentheistic religion with one God\*>*

*Each religion answers fundamental questions slightly differently, although I do acknowledge that there are major resemblances between all of them (such as the fact that each one believes that they are the chosen one—● ).*

*In summary, I see more similarities among humans than differences. The real differences are those that are on the surface—the customs, laws and stories. Fundamentally however, we are all human beings; and therefore, we face life with similar questions, face similar struggles, and carve out relatively similar solutions. We can all relate on what it means to be human.*

*In one phrase: we are fundamentally unified in purpose, though varied in social practices and interpretations.<sup>2</sup>*

*I was especially faced with this confusion on the differences of humans as a young teenager: I imagine myself having been born into an entirely different family from a different country to another religion completely. My perspective of the world and many explanations of the world would be wildly different compared to who I was then in real life. This immensely disturbed me because it made me question my own system of beliefs and views. And I then placed myself externally from who I was—I could not accept that my faith was correct, and yet the other teenage boy whose environment was completely different therefore having different views, was wrong. Surely there had to be something fundamental. And I genuinely believe that if the child grows with the ability and encouragement to question, then as they*

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<sup>2</sup> The Bahá'í Faith is a religion who's essence is just that: the unity of religions. In fact, their main principles are: the unity of God, the unity of Religion, and the unity of Humanity.



mature, no matter the religious context that they grew to understand, they would certainly be able to relate about life's fundamentality's to a man of a different culture or religion. This I am very confident in.

I am at all not anti-religion. But what which I am strongly opposed to is when individuals do not question and challenge the beliefs of their societies and of their own conclusion. This is my definition of ignorance. The fanatical following of dogma's with not even the slightest acknowledgement for other possible solutions or perspectives is in my view very unfortunate.

In fact, the enlightenment philosopher Immanuel Kant defined Enlightenment as the ability and opportunity for people to think freely and for themselves—without an authoritative reliance.

A very short reading: <http://www.columbia.edu/acis/ets/CCREAD/etscc/kant.html>

or slightly different: [http://cnweb.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/What\\_is\\_Enlightenment.pdf](http://cnweb.cn.edu/kwheeler/documents/What_is_Enlightenment.pdf)

And this is where I will introduce science.

Science is the method that many wise philosophers invented by which knowledge can be gathered and filtered. By not accepting anything as a truth without challenging any idea to the maximum possible way, we thereby reduce the chance of it being flawed (but always keeping a skeptical attitude in the back of the mind!).

Thus, the difference in the ways of thinking between these two realms of human endeavor is that, as Richard Feynman put it, "Religion is a culture of faith; science is a culture of doubt". In short, science and religion both do the same—explain the world and our nature, simply through different ways of thinking. And I have little doubt that they are both essential for our survival.

***"Western civilization, it seems to me, stands by two great heritages. One is the scientific spirit of adventure — the adventure into the unknown, an unknown which must be recognized as being unknown in order to be explored; the demand that the unanswerable mysteries of the universe remain unanswered; the attitude that all is uncertain; to summarize it — the humility of the intellect. The other great heritage is Christian ethics — the basis of action on love, the brotherhood of all men, the value of the individual — the humility of the spirit"***

**—Richard Feynman**

There is not much more I can think of what to say when relating science and religion. I think many people have put these ideas into words much better than I have. Thus, I present below two quotes by two of the world's greatest physicists who have ever lived:

***"Both Religion and science require a belief in God. For believers, God is in the beginning, and for physicists He is at the end of all considerations... To the former He is the foundation, to the latter, the crown of the edifice of every generalized world view"***

**—Max Planck, Religion and Natural Science (Lecture Given 1937)**

***"Scientific research can reduce superstition by encouraging people to think and view things in terms of cause and effect. Certain it is that a conviction, akin to religious feeling, of the rationality and intelligibility of the world lies behind all scientific work of a higher order. [...] This firm belief, a belief***

*bound up with a deep feeling, in a superior mind that reveals itself in the world of experience, represents my conception of God. In common parlance this may be described as “pantheistic”*

—Albert Einstein

*I would like to conclude this topic with this video, which is an excerpt from Carl Sagan’s book:*

\*\*\*\* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clANk7zQ05w> \*\*\*\*

**PART II:**

**Human Nature**

# On Slavery, Capitalism, Socialism and Marxism

*“Man is born free, and he is everywhere in chains”*

*–Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Social Contract*

*PRE-NOTE: I am no economist or political theorist. What I discuss here is the tiny bit of knowledge that I have come across in my life and pieced together, to form the best understanding that I could of the central/main ideas of these topics. Here, I summarize the layman-views of how human society has evolved politically and economically based on my simplified and generalized understanding.*

*There is a continuous battle for freedom. A struggle between the elites and the herd.*

*Such is the opening line in **The Communist Manifesto**:*

*The history of all hitherto existing society is the history of class struggles*

*In ancient times (until quite recently actually) there were the lowest class—the slaves—ruled by the upper classes which grew on the hierarchal ladder all the way to the Kings and queens. Slavery turned into feudalism. In this economic system, the peasants—called serfs—were ruled by the Lord’s—the landowners. These serfs had the right to their own individual life unlike the slaves, but they were still heavily stripped from their freedom as they worked the Lord’s land and thus were tied to the rules that the Lord imposed. So in a way, it seems to me as a sort of “upgraded slavery”—a modified version. Fast forward in time and we arrive to the Industrial Revolution, beginning in England in the 1700’s. With the remarkable progress of technology due to scientific thinking, we begin to see the invention of machines. With the aid of the machines, it would now be possible to increase production of an item tremendously. Thus, began the modern form of slavery—a system we call capitalism. In this economic system, we see the ruling class, called the Bourgeoisie, and the ruled class, called the Proletariat. The bourgeoisie (i.e. the capitalists) owned the major sources of production—your big companies and factories, while the proletariat were the workers in those factories. The purpose of the capitalists was to maximize profit, thus they disregarded the health, safety, and wellbeing of the proletariat class. In other words: one class was exploiting the other. This is, therefore, a modern form of slavery. The proletariat indeed did not belong to the capitalists, as traditional slaves were, nor did they even have to work at these factories. They were “free” to leave the job, and find another one, thus it was a bit more freedom, per se, than that of the feudal system.*

*But they were not truly free. The rise of this system meant that any job you received, you had to face awful conditions: 12-hour work days, assembly-line work with minimum pay, and absolutely no benefits. ~~In fact, this wage labor has even been called wage slavery.~~*

*You’re a woman in need of maternity leave, forget about it.*

*You’re a man whose hand got chopped off by one of the machines, forget compensation that’s your problem.*

*You’re getting old and you can’t put in the same work as you once did, you’re useless for profit making—fired (with no “pay while you try to find another job”).*

*In short, you are merely there for the purpose of exploitation. The first time I realized such awful lives that workers lived was while reading **The Jungle** by Upton Sinclair. Although a fictional book, it’s written by this journalist in 1906 describing much truth of this time.*

*In fact, the exploitation of this class resulted in many unhealthy societal problems that can be analyzed—in particular the problem of alcoholism and domestic violence. The former problem led to prohibition in the 1920's, while the latter led to the first wave of feminism (and such was a reason for the birth of women's rights).*

*It was during this time (around the early 20<sup>th</sup> century) when “the people” (i.e. the proletariat) were tired of being exploited. As a result, reforms were being called for.*

*Many of these reforms we take for granted today. It includes:*

- *Minimum Wage*
- *Paid vacation leave*
- *Sick Leave*
- *Maternity Leave*
- *Social security and retirement plan*
- *Life, Dental and/or Health insurance*
- *Shorter working days*
- *Liability of companies and minimization of Hazardous conditions*

*The capitalists didn't care to bring these things to their workers. This was achieved by this class struggle, that exists between the classes. This struggle exists through the labor movements and strikes that occurred throughout the early half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. ~~These strikes were a collective gathering of the workers calling for the reforms as mentioned above.~~*

*But that's not all.*

*Further social improvements had been implemented. The Jungle was originally written with the purpose of describing the meat industry—which was disgusting by today's standards. The reason for this is that products went unregulated when they were sold back to the working class, and this was especially problematic with meat, a source of possible disease. Thus, this problem was addressed by society in creating new agencies which would inspect and implement regulations on companies. Regarding meat, a Meat Inspection Act of 1906 was passed in the U.S along with the creation of the FDA the same year.*

*Other societal changes occurred in retaliation to the unregulated wild capitalism that existed at the time. Most notably, the government began to close down on merging corporations via Anti-Trust Laws such as the Sherman Act of 1890, and the Federal Trade Commission Act of 1914. (This was a big problem in the 1910's with Standard Oil).*

*The capitalists retaliate as well, to keep their power.*

*They began to exploit other groups of people. One such group were women. In fact, I find that this example with women is a great way to see how capitalist forces work. Capitalists realized that women could be exploited—they were willing to work for less pay than men (and many times were better suited for the work, especially the textile industry). I find it interesting however that it seems to me as though Feminism and Women's Rights resulted both as a direct thanks to capitalist economic motivations, and (developed) as a result of the negative (in retaliation) to capitalism (as a socialist movement/reform) (i.e. because of domestic violence, as well as the unequal pay and further inequality within the society).*

*Women's Labor Article:*

<https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/us-history/the-early-republic/culture-and-reform/a/women-in-the-workplace-and-household>

*There is a very rational reason why production in many western countries has ceased—they all have been*

*moved to poorer underdeveloped nations because the capitalist class realized that they can exploit other people.*

*I must say that I try to present a somewhat linear understanding of the class struggle. In truth however, there was a lot of overlap and complex social and economic movement occurring throughout these past two hundred years. It depends on the country, and the events that were occurring, but I hope I explained well (and understood properly myself) how exactly these events shaped society in economic and social contexts.*

*But all these things that I describe, in my view, are aspects which have lead to (first,) a more regulated capitalist society, and eventually to a socialist society. Socialism can be thus regarded as a transitional period to the ultimate goal of communism.*

*I find that too many people misunderstand this terminology, largely due to the historic uses of the terms. The two most powerful empires in the past century—the Soviet Union and the United States of America, have used the words ‘communism’ and ‘socialism’ as propaganda each for their purpose. However, both are misguided and inaccurate definitions. Thus, in my experience, it is important to understand in what context and in what way these terms are being used.*

*The accurate definition of socialism:*

*Socialism is the idea that advocates that the means of production, distribution, and exchange should be owned or regulated by the community.*

*Thus, it is the majority of the community—the people as a whole—which decide what their community needs, and how it will be distributed. In essence, socialism is working people have to be in control of production. The people are in control of their own lives. Power to the people—not a “top 1%”.*

*“The distinguishing feature of Communism is not the abolition of property generally, but the abolition of bourgeois property” (Communist Manifesto, 1848).*

*What socialism truly means? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZBXUBYEHhk> ; <https://chomsky.info/1986> /*

*On Marxism: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy\\_ilcc&t=5s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fSQgCy_ilcc&t=5s)*

*The main idea that Marx was pointing out was the this struggle in the hierarchical system of humans was the driving force of history—social changes, revolutions, etc. He described that this struggle results in the evolution of human civilization. The stages of development as described by Marx:*

*Primitive communism: co-operative tribal societies.*

*Slave society: development of tribal to city-state in which aristocracy is born.*

*Feudalism: aristocrats are the ruling class while merchants evolve into capitalists.*

*Capitalism: capitalists are the ruling class, who create and employ the proletariat.*

*Eventually humans will reach the stage of socialism and transition into the ultimate utopia of communism.*

*It’s so remarkable, quite ironic really, that what appears to be a sort of “evil”—capitalist exploitation—works for the eventual progress of everyone. That is, the very exploitation of class allows for the better economic prosperity of a nation, and with better economic prosperity comes further developments in science and eventual social reconstruction.*

*Continuing from what I was discussing earlier—how exploitation shifts from one group of people to another—it continues to do so on a global scale. The bourgeoisie has off to exploiting other nations—particularly the eastern world of China and India. It seems indeed awful to the westerner how people in underprivileged countries work for unfair wages and unfair work hours. But since about the 1980's, China has been the fastest growing economy in the world, averaging a growth rate of about 10% since it's 1978 economic reform into a mixed economy. Today, the United States and much of the western world is regarded to have "service economies", since it is China that does the production of physical stuff. But today, cities in China are slowly turning into a service economy as well.*

*To me it seems that this is the general trend, and eventually China too will be free from the capitalist exploits and will too turn into a service economy. At this point, China (along with the rest of the eastern world) will be at a level of economic freedom that will lead to social reforms which I described earlier (wage-reform, social benefits, etc.). The next in the series of exploitation will be the remaining underprivileged societies—most notably Africa (in fact they are already being exploited heavily).*

*Check out this episode of the Netflix series "Rotten": <https://www.imdb.com/title/tt11064630/> (**Bitter Chocolate**). You'll perhaps appreciate the extent that some people go through in order for you to enjoy this delicacy.*

*But a day will come when African nations too will begin to attain economic prosperity leading to social reforms (which are essentially anti-capitalist ideas, i.e. the class warfare described by Marx). And so, these underprivileged nations will become free states—democratic, scientific, and prosperous. Eventually the entire world will be described as such.*

*As I see it, there are three agents in the society—science, business, and government. The science involves the people who research, invent, and develop technology through the means of gathering information of our environment (whether its service like the internet, technology for mass production, or ways to make a product better). Business takes this information and finds ways to put it into practice—develop it for the masses. Government seeks to regulate. It funds science to help businesses, and it regulates businesses for social law and order, and it taxes people to fund the very science that helps the people. The various interactions of this cycle and system are topics which are studied in heavy detail in economics and business, politics and law, or science.*

*And whatever it is that you studied in college—study it to simply be another screw in the system, performing the tiny function to make this all work. In the words by my favorite band, "you're just another brick in the wall".*

*What's interesting is that we have done this since our beginning—our very ancestors have done the same thing: gathered information of their environment, used it for practice and the benefit of all by developing governments to decide who gets what and how much of it. It's just that "science" was not such an exact method of gathering information as it is today, and business and government was much more primitive than it is today.*

*That being said, there are of course problems that we all consciously be wary of. I don't see a particular problem in the gathering of information, that is, science, so the fight between the exploiters and the exploited reveal themselves through government practices. In essence, when business begins to take over government, then it becomes a problem.*

*The topics we discuss daily regarding business, politics or science is you fulfilling your role as a screw by aiding to the mass opinion which will guide society in one direction or another. So make wise choices, as there will be repercussions. ●*

*Thus, despite the nature of man to exist in a hierarchical system, I think positive steps have indeed been made in directing society towards an equal society—a Marxist society. Marxism, in my view, provides an outline of societal evolution, and shows that it may very well be possible for humanity to reach a Utopian state.*

*Most importantly, I find that when analyzing today's society—whether on a grand scale or a feature (a reform, a movement, a law etc.), it is better done just by even attempting to view society and how it works with a holistic perspective—trying to see how social changes are driven by economic forces through history and what outcomes they may lead to in the short and long term.*

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*Capitalism in the 1800's and today is much different—in the western world where it had originated. American philosopher John Dewey even called capitalism as “industrial feudalism”. (What I had described earlier).*

*He pointed out as long as we have this industrial feudalism: private power controlling production and commerce, democracy will not exist. He said “until that happens, politics will be the shadow cast over society by big business”.*

*In many ways, the ideas of socialism is to create a society based on cooperation rather than competition.*

*Notes on Anarchism: <https://chomsky.info/state01/>*

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***“At his best, man is the noblest of all animals; separated from law and justice he is the worst”***

**—Aristotle**

***“God made man on the sixth day, when he was tired”***

**—George Carlin**

## **Human Nature**

*“Mother died today. Or maybe yesterday, I don’t know.”*

*That is the opening line to Albert Camus’s book *L’Étranger* (*The Stranger*, 1942). This line sets the tone and the main idea through the book. When you read this, what did you think? How do you feel? Probably not very comfortable. How hideous in character must a human being be to not even know when their mother died?!*

*(Spoiler Alert!) Towards the end of the book, the protagonist of the story was condemned by the people in the court for his lack of feeling towards his actions, and especially to the death of his mother.*

*As I understand Camus, he has a very good point which he attempts to demonstrate with the main character. That is: you are playing your part as one individual human being. You are made to feel sorrowful when someone you love dies. You are made to have an opinion on what is right, and what is wrong. You are made to respond to events or ideas in specific ways.*

*The ideas that I have expressed up to now—the philosophies of Absurdism, Pantheism, etc. and the thoughts on reality and consciousness—are all thoughts that arise much easier when you attempt to disassociate from yourself. It’s difficult, as you are a human being of course. But if you just allow your imagination to freely flow, and be as objective as possible, thoughts can become really interesting.*

*For example, imagine witnessing a murder. Your natural instincts make you likely to react in a way that is shocking, frightening, worrying etc. But you must try to not let those feelings guide you. As far as it is concerned, murder happens. It exists. That is all we know “objectively”. If you say it is good, or it is bad, then you are limiting your mind—to the human state.*

*Do you cry over the death of a bug that you stepped on? Probably not. Cause it’s “just a bug”. But how can you be so sure, that that bug did not have a mate, or children, or a family who do not ‘feel sad’ over their absence? Especially if we use the example with ants—who have, as we know, a remarkable society with many aspects similar to our own. It seems that animals—dogs, cats, and other mammals, can express feelings of happiness or sorrow—associated with pleasure or pain.*

*Now in the grand scheme of things, the bug that has been stepped on—are you now a bad human being? At the end of the day, who the hell cares about this bug—except that maybe handful of his bug-family that weeps.*

*So then, the only reason murder of another human being is “bad” is essentially because we are on an equal footing. And the only reason you weep, is because you are a human being.*

*The main reason I say this, is because this mentality, I find has allowed me to analyze life in the most unbiased way that I can (of course I will still very much weep over the death of a loved one...). And it has allowed me to grasp a little more intuitively the ideas I mentioned early. I call this human-disassociated-perspective a sort of “divine perspective”, as it attempts not view the world through the lens of one of life’s existing entities—but rather an unbiased acceptance of existence.*

*One cannot go living like the protagonist of Camus’s story. This mentality may help when applied to life, but we are still human beings, and thus it is very difficult to even imagine “escaping” the human subjective mind.*

*This subjectiveness I find is most well explained by David Hume in his masterpiece A Treatise on Human Nature.*

*We may be intelligent creatures (despite the many dumb motherfuckers out there...)—given the ability to reason and rationalize—Hume believed that reason is not which guides us. Rather, he said: “Reason is, and ought to be a slave of the passions”. That is, feelings is what guides everyday thinking, and we are more motivated by that rather than rational investigations of facts.*

*I had mentioned earlier when discussing reality and consciousness about the idea of information. It is likewise applied to human beings.*

*Every human being is a collection, a sum, of the information they have ever gathered or come across.*

*Everything I write in this document—my deepest thoughts—are all a product of all the books I have come across, the films I’ve seen, the places I’ve been to, and the people I have spoken to. All the experiences I have had shaped me into who I am. This is the Law for all human beings (in fact, I think this is the law for everything in the Universe!). \*\*\*\*Thus you’re not in control of who you become, and you cannot expect people to be in control either—criminals etc.*

***“We are nothing but echoes. We have no thoughts of our own, no opinions of our own, we are but a compost heap made up of the decayed heredities, moral and physical”***

***- Mark Twain's Notebook***

*Every action, every thought, at each point in time, your mind is constantly processing information and reacting according to your previous information. It’s absolutely un-fucking-imaginable to the extent that this happens at every second. The reason I say this, is because even YOU—cannot EXPLAIN why you feel a certain way at a certain time. That is, you may only do so to a very LIMITED extent. You can imagine countless of examples. For example, we are talking, I may say something with one intent, but the simple choice of words that I use may trigger a certain negative response—as you associate some of the words I used with negative connotations because of previous experiences which has stored those negative emotions with those words somewhere deep in the subconsciousness. Or perhaps you hear a piece of music, and the song may not even be particularly good, but you recall (perhaps not even consciously) a good time from your childhood and it brings you pleasure. The reason I say its “un-fucking-imaginable” is because you’re mind is inputting so much information at each point—the colors you see, the smells in the air, the sounds all around you, the feeling of the air, etc. etc. And all that data is being processed by your mind and to inform back to you your current state and guide you into how to react to the*

environment and event present. And only a very small piece of you is able to consciously sense the data you took in.

David Hume in his *Treatise on Human Nature* (1739-1740) expressed regarding the Self:

**"When I enter most intimately into what I call myself, I always stumble on some particular perception or other, of heat or cold, light or shade, love or hatred, pain or pleasure. I never catch myself at any time without a perception, and never can observe anything but the perception"**

(This is known as Hume's Bundle Theory).

At this point, I want to show this presentation by well-known psychologist Steven Pinker. I attach this presentation below because the idea of Nature versus Nurture has been a long debate in human history, and I figure that while nurture is HUGELY important, nature plays a role—because your existence is already hugely defined by the information processed by the molecules (ex: DNA) and cells that have formed you before you were even born. You are a part of your nature, simply the next stage of evolution.

Steven Pinker's TED talk:

[https://www.ted.com/talks/steven\\_pinker\\_human\\_nature\\_and\\_the\\_blank\\_slate?language=en#t-139536](https://www.ted.com/talks/steven_pinker_human_nature_and_the_blank_slate?language=en#t-139536)

What about the questions of Determinism and Free will?

I have never really understood the debate on free will. I have always figured that it was quite obvious—we are free insofar as nature permits us to think so. In other words, we have only a degree of freedom.

**"Man can do what he wills but he cannot will what he wills."**

—Arthur Schopenhauer

Hume was a compatibilist—meaning he reconciled that free will and causal determinism is not in conflict with one another. (Causal determinism is that every effect has a cause, while logical determinism is the idea that the future is pre-determined). In my view, this seems to be true. For example, I have a choice to do one thing or another, but there are external factors in my subconsciousness (which is also 'part of me', but which I have minimal access to) which guides me to make one choice as opposed to the other. Hume argues similarly as Schopenhauer—that free will exists as a result of the individual being aware of what it is they want, but not being able to understand why they want what they want.

**"In the mind there is no absolute or free will; but the mind is determined to wish this or that by a cause, which has also been determined by another cause, and this last by another cause, and so on to infinity."**

- Baruch Spinoza

Regarding logical determinism, I have no idea. I don't think humans will, or even can ever understand the question of a pre-determined or a probabilistic universe.

Free Will: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fp02OJVGG2o> || [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_rZfSTpjGl8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_rZfSTpjGl8)

*This of course leads to the question of morality: what is morality? —and how can one then be held accountable for their actions?*

*I have presented the thought that everything is driven by a force that is fundamentally mathematical, and manifests itself in terms of physical, biological, neurological etc. laws. In my view, the law of the universe is TO EXIST. And this law exists within each individual entity—which assembles with other like-entities to form a newer/greater entity, whose purpose once again is to continue existing (i.e., to survive). Thus, I posit that everything is a calculation on how to survive and reproduce (the latter term is essentially surviving for the entire species). And thus, every thought and action is a subconsciously driving force—the desire to live. \*I explain how thoughts and actions that seem to oppose survival in a few paragraphs.*

*Thus, the idea of morality is formulated by humans for this very purpose of survival. In fact, the original traditional system which brings society an understanding and belief of specific moral actions—religion and everything that is not only associated with it, but stems from it (customs, traditions, laws, beliefs, theories of existence, notions of right and wrong etc.)—has also been formed by humans for the very same purpose.*

*It seems to me that all religions set up their moral code based on the what the collection of humans learned was beneficial or harmful—ensuring their survival. This is and has always been the hopeful feeling which is manifested in praising to the God(s).*

#### *Explaining Morality*

*Enter the “Divine Perspective”—imagine distancing yourself from the human subjectivity ingrained in the human mind and observe the system of existence as One entity working harmoniously together.*

*Take the vilest thing you can imagine and accept it as being part of the existence of things. Forget sympathy. Forget anger. Forget ideas of good and evil. For all these are humanly aspects. Take existence for what it is. Imagine being something greater than man—and look down at human activities the same way you would if one ant murders another ant—you don't really care.*

*In this realm of thought, morality does not exist.*

*The system of existence has in it both life and death of its forms. To exist and to cease existing are both properties of this universe. Humans die, ants die, stars die, ...everything dies (“And this too shall pass”). But think of it not as ‘death’—but as a transition of form. A fundamental law of physics is that Energy cannot be created nor destroyed. As I have mentioned earlier, everything is merely energy taking a certain form after a given amount of time. That form then falls apart and transitions into something else—a new form.*

*As I have already mentioned, from this perspective, whatever humanly thought or action comes to existence, can be explained by the law of cause and effect.*

*It seems therefore, that every event—no matter what we humans consider ‘good’ or ‘bad’ is a product that ensures some sort of balance of the system. That is, following some sort of laws that keep the system in Order, to ensure its existence.*

*But let us go down to the human realm of thought. Here, as I have stated, good and evil are a matter of survival: what is beneficial at the time for survival we consider good while evil is that which is harmful. Our ideas of this is manifested in various ways: survival for the individual, the whole of one particular society, or for the whole of a species (the idea of altruism in nature is interesting, but I won’t discuss it here—moreover, some intuitive notion tells me that there exists cases for and against altruism. Read *Selfish Genes* by Richard Dawkins as an interesting literature regarding altruism).*

*In any case, what blows my mind is the realization that what I consider good or bad is a relative matter depending on so many factors. The time period and society I live in, and other influences that exist that have caused me to believe in the moral code that I do (which is really just related to time period and society). I wish many more people of today’s society would have this realization, as then there would indeed exist a true sense of understanding and tolerance and can prevent major problems. \**

*For me, these indicate to me that its rather limited-minded grasping onto an idea of a right or wrong as being absolute—the conditions of today will shape one action to be good today, and the conditions of tomorrow will shape the same action to be bad. Moreover, both you and I are convinced by external factors that we are not aware off into thinking that something is good or bad.*

*A simple case is murder. Murder is considered bad by our society. You may consider it bad intuitively. But imagine there is you and another person—both starving of hunger—with only one piece of bread available. The act of murder will quickly change to being a ‘good’ act because it is a requirement to ensure for the survival of yourself and your type (your descendants) and ensure the survival of your species (both of you cannot survive on the one piece—its either you or them).*

*Such circumstances can be created to explain just about any ‘sin’ that exists or ever has exist*

*I want to present these thoughts within a specific example—war.*

*Warfare for example, is not good nor bad—it is an effect to a cause(s), and it is a cause to another effect(s). Tension between societies in an overpopulated world ensured the balance of the civilization and the environment for example world (maybe not the “reason”, but surely a possible contributing factor—I don’t think there is but one single reason). But as an individual human being, I am likely to consider warfare a bad thing—as it is likely to be detrimental to my family, my country and myself, and quite frankly the entire human species. Therefore, my morality says that war is an evil thing as it is “that which is harmful”. On the other hand (still with the feeling of a human being), I may also believe warfare to be a good thing in certain cases—my country is under attack, or a feeling of disrespect and abuse by another country thereby giving reason to begin a war—which would bring feelings of aggression, excessive patriotism, etc. and a feeling that would work towards this activity. In such a case, it is the subconsciousness of the individuals mind—the system (universe) is itself at work—that is guiding the individual as being part of the effect (going to war) to some cause (overpopulation etc.—who really knows?!). This is the realization that I am talking about: I am not saying to not take up a position in moral or political matters, but rather to be conscious of the fact that there are valid ‘reasons’ of opposing views, and that all views and positions are necessary to ensure a balance and harmony of a society. I*

*believe it will serve well for the world if all the people of this world will be aware of this fact. In any case, this for me indicates that morality is still formed as “that which aims to survive/is beneficial”—in this case of pro-war, it is the survival of a country. Yet at the same time there can exist an act which can be viewed as both “good and bad” simultaneously (depending on the position), implying that there does not exist an “absolute” form of morality.*

*Also, regarding warfare—it’s not solely a human activity, implying (time and time again) that humans are nothing more but a complex social animal.*

*These are two videos of a very well-done YouTube channel:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7\\_eoCA\\_nhaE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7_eoCA_nhaE) || <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cqECNYmM23A>

*\*To explain how the lack of free will, and the justice to hold people accountable coexists, we can look to a practical example—Norwegian prisons. In my view, these northern European societies—Sweden, Norway, Denmark, and Finland, are at the forefront in the development of an ideal society, and nations ought to learn from there. (They rank highly in various societal aspects—from education, to healthcare, to the overall happiness of its citizens, and in the level of crime). Understanding that an individual’s condition influences and shapes them to act the way they do implies that a criminal is simply a form of a computer who has learned primarily feelings of aggression, toughness, oppression, domination, and intimidation. How can one expect such a being to respond to the world with love and kindness?*

*Prison Reform:*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fb-gOS3p44U> || <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sCZt2Yipils>

*Thus, in order to improve the overall state of society, we must not go against human nature, but rather work with it.*

### **Commentary on today’s Era**

***“The most effective way to destroy people is to deny and obliterate their own understanding of their history.”***  
**— George Orwell**

*That being said, I find that you can essentially formulate just one main idea regarding morality: that is that everything ought to be in balance.*

*In my view, this is the essence of much eastern philosophy—primarily the teachings of Lao Tzu—the philosophy of Taoism. Once again, the Taoists are not really any different than much of the ideas I discussed earlier: the Tao, meaning “the way”, can be thought of as the force that guides the ever-changing universe... or as the One all encompassing which is eternal and indescribable and is the very universe itself. It is the beginning of all things and the way in which all things pursue their course... In other words, as I understand, its really synonymous to my notion of “God”. The central idea of Taoism is that one must “go with the flow”, as described by their concept of Wu-wei meaning “effortless action”. It is the idea that the Universe is already in harmony, and when one goes along with that harmony they can achieve better and more effortless results rather than having a will which counter-opposes the natural rhythms of the universe.*

Here is a video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tLAZvESoVgI>

This same idea of ‘balance’ in morality also goes back to Aristotle, who discussed the topic of morality in his Nicomachean Ethics. He essentially states that character arises from both an upbringing and the habits one chooses. As such, an individual is able to choose their actions which always fall in between a certain virtue and vice. A virtuous person is he who finds the perfect mean—the in-between. Below is his virtues-vices table:

4/6/2016

Aristotle's Virtues and Vices

**ARISTOTLE'S ETHICS  
TABLE OF VIRTUES AND VICIES**

<b>SPHERE OF ACTION OR FEELING</b>	<b>EXCESS</b>	<b>MEAN</b>	<b>DEFICIENCY</b>
<b>Fear and Confidence</b>	<b>Rashness</b>	<b>Courage</b>	<b>Cowardice</b>
<b>Pleasure and Pain</b>	<b>Licentiousness/Self-indulgence</b>	<b>Temperance</b>	<b>Insensibility</b>
<b>Getting and Spending (minor)</b>	<b>Prodigality</b>	<b>Liberality</b>	<b>Illiberality/Meanness</b>
<b>Getting and Spending (major)</b>	<b>Vulgarity/Tastelessness</b>	<b>Magnificence</b>	<b>Pettiness/Stinginess</b>
<b>Honour and Dishonour (major)</b>	<b>Vanity</b>	<b>Magnanimity</b>	<b>Pusillanimity</b>
<b>Honour and Dishonour (minor)</b>	<b>Ambition/empty vanity</b>	<b>Proper ambition/pride</b>	<b>Unambitiousness/undue humility</b>
<b>Anger</b>	<b>Irascibility</b>	<b>Patience/Good temper</b>	<b>Lack of spirit/unirascibility</b>
<b>Self-expression</b>	<b>Boastfulness</b>	<b>Truthfulness</b>	<b>Understatement/mock modesty</b>
<b>Conversation</b>	<b>Buffoonery</b>	<b>Wittiness</b>	<b>Boorishness</b>
<b>Social Conduct</b>	<b>Obsequiousness</b>	<b>Friendliness</b>	<b>Cantankerousness</b>
<b>Shame</b>	<b>Shyness</b>	<b>Modesty</b>	<b>Shamelessness</b>
<b>Indignation</b>	<b>Envy</b>	<b>Righteous indignation</b>	<b>Malicious enjoyment/Spitefulness</b>

Aristotle (1955). *The Ethics of Aristotle: The Nichomachaen Ethics*. (rev. ed.) (J. K. Thomson, trans.).

*Today we have in many ways a disbalance in my view. And therefore, we should be ready to feel the universe work its ways into rebalancing itself. The remarkable progress in the past century must with almost certainty cause a regress. The two dominant risks that are increasingly growing and pose a threat to our survival is a result of our very progress: changing climate, and the threat of a serious conflict that may lead to an outbreak of a major World war.*

***“I know not with what weapons World War III will be fought, but World War IV will be fought with sticks and stones.”***

***— Albert Einstein***

*I fear that if the 19<sup>th</sup> century was driven to a state of terror by the excessive right movement of Nazism and Tyranny, the 21<sup>st</sup> century will drive the world into an awful state by the far-left movement. Hopefully someday humans will find a peaceful medium.*

***“Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it.”***

**—George Santayana**

*I strongly believe that when politics begins to interfere into academia—into science—society is headed for disaster. Steven Pinker, the psychologist who’s video I attached a few pages earlier, mentioned his fear of receiving threats, exclusion from academic circles and overall negative reactions because of his (scientific!) controversial idea. For God’s sake, this sort of thing happened in the day’s of Galileo! Have we humans not learned anything—even with all our scientific progress and ingenuity?! (the fucking irony of man!). When scientific ideas—the greatest human activity for finding truth about our world and ourselves—becomes reliant, dependent and fearful in the face of political powers, then such a society is doomed. His quote in the end of his video by Chekhov is incredible.*

***“Whenever you find yourself on the side of the majority; it’s time to pause and reflect”***

**—Mark Twain**

*What is really ironic is how the ideas that are presented by the left are generally good ideas with good intentions—tolerance of peoples differences be it race, sexuality, freedom and expressions, ideas of equality and justice for all, reforms in healthcare and education, regulations against capitalist controls etc. But it’s politics are driven to such an excessive extent and with such huge force that, quite frankly, Newton’s third Law is going to be a real pain in the ass for people to reconcile with.*

***“God save us from people who mean well.”***

**— Vikram Seth**

***“Most of the evil in this world is done by people with good intentions.”***

**— T.S. Eliot**

***“Hell is paved with good intentions.”***

**— Samuel Johnson**

*I think that the problem lies in the very essence of man’s nature. Whether it is religion, politics, or drugs—people become addicted. Moderation and balance seem to be a real problem for the individual and for society.*

*Many times, in history are we presented with the case when “in the name of religion” horrific acts were carried out. (The same religions that would teach you to love thy neighbors). Political ideas are no different—they become obsessions—ultimate truths that whoever is against it is a source of evil that ought to be condemned and exterminated... actually wrong... even if you are not with the idea, then you are against us. (Mussolini said that once by the way).*

***"Fanaticism is when you are redoubling your effort when you have forgotten your aim".***

**—George Santayana**



Regarding the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it's ironic how the left idea of tolerance is so often today turned into an act of anti-tolerance—even if the idea is a scientific one.

I'll never forget the phrase I saw graffitied in the Piazza... "Bombing for peace is like fucking for virginity". The irony of man!

In the next century, no doubt there will be incredible and surprising changes. Major shifts in political power, and social order worldwide. I won't comment on anything in particular. But I find George Carlin to be perhaps the best comedian on the subject of human nature and politics:

George Carlin essentially expresses the same views as this next character—in a funny way though. But on a serious note, I recommend Noam Chomsky and his commentary, speeches, debates, books etc. The man is brilliant beyond belief...

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#### Quotes and Further Links on Human Nature

***"Man is the only animal that deals in that atrocity of atrocities, War. He is the only one that gathers his brethren about him and goes forth in cold blood...to exterminate his kind. He is the only animal that for sordid wages will march out...and help to slaughter strangers of his own species who have done him no harm and with whom he has no quarrel...And in the intervals between campaigns he washes the blood off his hands and works for "the universal brotherhood of man"—with his mouth"***

—Mark Twain

***"Christian, Jew, Muslim, shaman, Zoroastrian, stone, ground, mountain, river, each has a secret way of being with the mystery, unique and not to be judged"***

— Jalal ad-Din Rumi

***"Resolve to be tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving, and tolerant of the weak and the wrong. Sometime in life you will have been all of these."***

— George Washington Carver

***"The highest result of education is tolerance"***

— Helen Keller

***"Laws alone can not secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population."***

— Albert Einstein

***"In the practice of tolerance, one's enemy is the best teacher."***

— Dalai Lama

***“Yesterday I was clever, so I wanted to change the world. Today I am wise, so I am changing myself.”***

**— Rumi**

***“It’s an universal law—intolerance is the first sign of an inadequate education. An ill-educated person behaves with arrogant impatience, whereas truly profound education breeds humility.”***

**— Aleksandr I. Solzhenitsyn**

***“Religion is like a pair of shoes. ... Find one that fits for you, but don’t make me wear your shoes.”***

**— George Carlin**

George Carlin on Government Sketch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZivTgCJ8hRI>

George Carlin short Interviews:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVZMifGcW64&t=45s>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=i9CjBtv7j78>

Noam Chomsky:

Einstein on today’s Moral Decay:

<https://www.utne.com/science-and-technology/albert-einstein-state-of-humanity-zz0z1404zcalt>

Discussion with Albert Hoffman (referenced in another section, but covering topics related to here)

### **On Art, Science and Philosophy**

*Science, philosophy, and art are all branches of the same tree. The scientist, the philosopher and the artist all do the same thing—they take a step back and observe life for just a moment. It is so easy to be caught in the day-to-day work that unfortunately people forget to live. The scientist pauses and asks a question. Through logical thought he devises an experiment, collects data, and analyzes it to attempt to explain a piece of natural phenomenon.*

*The artist—writer, painter, director, musician etc.—pauses, and attempts to capture a feeling. A feeling and idea about an aspect of life. The painter will capture the image in their mind and paint it—expressing what they felt like in the moment. The painting may be as simple as an expression of a face, or the lighting of the setting—and you can look at it (100 years after it was painted) and have the same feeling translated into you. What a miracle!*

*The philosopher pauses, and tries to use the collected knowledge of science and art to attempt to answer life’s most abstract and perhaps-unexplainable questions.*

*At the end of the day, all these wonderful activities, can be thought of together, as endeavors that aim to answer the question: What is life?*

# On Education

What does it mean “to be educated”? In my experience, there are plenty of college-graduates who receive a so called “education” ~~yet are some dumb motherfuckers...~~

**“I never let my schooling interfere with my education”**

—Mark Twain

Therefore, I don’t think that a college degree is the appropriate indicator. I ask again: what does it mean to be educated?

I acknowledge that my intelligence is limited compared to some great minds that exist out there, but as I garnered more and more knowledge as a student, I noticed time and time again a certain change that has occurred in me.

These changes were pleasant moments when I had come to connect certain bits of knowledge together, allowing me to see how something works from the inside out and how it changes through time. They are the sort of ‘aha’ moments, if you will.

This understanding of how something works at its very core—the main idea, the essence of it—how it is connected to its environment and how it changes through time, I find gives rise to some sort of awareness that one develops of the topic when they understand something well enough. Now when you begin to not only dwell in the knowledge of one subject, but rather become interested in the various phenomenon which one encounters daily, you begin to connect pieces of information from one subject to another. And then I find that this is the point when you begin to develop an awareness that everything (all knowledge) can be related to each other.

This feeling of connecting bits of knowledge and seeing how they work together(\*Kant’s tomb in the cathedral was inscribed with the words (in German) “The starry heavens above me and the moral law within me, fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and the more steadily we reflect on them.”)—a feeling that is perhaps the best that there ever can be (~~maybe equivalent to sex even!... maybe... ●~~)—is my personal answer to the original question I asked above.

**“Education is what remains after one has forgotten what one has learned in school”**

– Albert Einstein

Indeed, so much of what we learn in school we forget. I struggled with this fact for some time, thinking that I perhaps study poorly or not enough, or maybe my memory is too poor. But I realized that the knowledge from my studying is still there, it simply lies dormant in my subconsciousness. The fact that I cannot recall a detail of knowledge about a specific topic does not strip away from the fact that all the facts my mind has ever inputted formulates a certain perspective on the world. I claim that it is this sort of perspective that is the mark of the education of a man.

**“Only the educated are free”**

—Epictetus

Indeed. The mind is such a miraculous. The ability to control it—having the proper flow of information to and from your subconsciousness—allows you to do wonderful things. Thus, indeed ability to attain information, process it, and analyze it, can make you feel—in one word—free.

*I wish that everyone would experience this feeling. I find that perhaps the biggest sorrow of the human being, and perhaps the most painful truth, is that too many individuals do not reach their full potential.*

*Despite the wonderful idea of “education for all” which the enlightenment philosophers such as John Locke and Jean Jacques Rousseau expressed (education before the enlightenment age was a privilege only for the noble), we must still work further to make a better system of educating people, and even more importantly, for society to understand what it means.*

*This “education for all” already is in play. That is, the purpose for a societal requirement that all children must go to school and study the various subjects is an idea that had begun with the enlightenment era for just that purpose—enlightenment for the human mind of their existence.*

*It pains me to hear young people express their ignorance by stating “when the heck am I ever gonna use this?”. If such is the case—it’s obvious that they didn’t get it. Poor soul.*

*In any case, progress has been made compared to the 1700’s: today all children learn to read and write for example. The incredible scientific progress in the past century that dominated the majority of the globe is an unarguable indicator of a learning civilization.*

*But I don’t think it’s enough. I believe our society must go back to the essential question of what it means to be educated, and after understanding this, incorporate a program which allows for the full potential of any human being to be unlocked.*

*So, the first problem of what it means to be educated is ought to be better understood by our society. I believe there have been improvements to this understanding, but there must be continued to progress. The reason I say that the idea of being educated is not understood to the extent that I believe that it should be is because of the fundamental attitude in which children from a young age are taught in schools.*

*This attitude is that of an authoritative figure who is essentially forcing the many youngin’s to complete government-standard required exercises and then be judged according to their fulfillment.*

*This is awful. In such a manner, the government has completely stripped away the liberty for the teacher to allow for the child to grow creatively and freely. The process of educating is a personal relationship between the teacher and student, and thus no government should interfere. ~~The government must leave the education system.~~*

*Societies must learn from one another. Proof of what I say can be found when observing the educational reforms taken in Finland. Read the Early Childhood education section in particular:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education\\_in\\_Finland](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Education_in_Finland)

*In short, it is crucial for a child to begin learning from an early age when they are best suited for acquiring information of the world. The parents and teachers must not formally attempt to insert information by dully forcing the child to use rote memory. Rather, the child must be free to learn what he or she wants to learn, and the educators must guide the child’s interest and develop that curiosity through encouragement and surprising aspects of the subject. In such a manner, all subjects will become interesting to the child, but the one (or a few) that will stand out in expanding their curiosity is the one in which they can explore their inner-genius—and the one in which they may ultimately benefit society.*

*As of today’s society, unfortunately, as the child matures into an adult, their creative nature has been beaten out of them by the formal teaching of our education system. This lack of imagination in adults is wonderfully described by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry in the first few pages of **Le Petit Prince**.*

*I recall my childhood:*

*I remember books having always been present—at school and at home. Books spark the imagination. I recall how I was particularly inclined in reading about the animal world, and on history. I remember the Science and Nature encyclopedias that I enjoyed going through, along with the DK Eyewitness books and this “Getting to know... Nature’s Children” series on animals. Greek Mythology (and then their culture, daily life, wars, history, and philosophy) was also something that I can distinctly remember how my imagination was captured. To this day, Greek thinking has profoundly influenced much of who I am and what is written here.*

**“Man is most nearly himself, when he achieves the seriousness of a child at play”**

—*Heraclitus*

*The truth is that everything is interesting. There does not exist “boring subjects”—only boring teachers. Such teachers lack education, and thus instead of teaching children—they end up training them.*

Algebra: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VW6LYuli7VU>

*I have discussed earlier, in the section on pantheism, the connectedness of all that exists. A good teacher, in my view, recognizes this, and therefore can teach the child about life in the form of a never-ending story.*

On Teaching: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BY6VntTmtlo>

*In fact, such was how Aristotle taught in his school—the Peripatetic school. “Peripatetic” means “of walking” in Ancient Greek. It is thought that Aristotle had beliefs that walking aids the thinking. (It makes sense why Einstein and Darwin loved their daily strolls.)*

*Imagine you are a child, and I am your teacher. I will begin to answer your question—why is the sky blue?*

*Can you answer this? A simple question really. You see the sky every day. But have you given it enough thought to appreciate its color?*

*There is light coming from the sun. You can imagine a light being like waves travelling to earth. Now the light from the sun is really a combination of all the colors—red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and violet. Each color has a specific wavelength that makes it that particular color. When we see any object that looks to be a certain color, it is because the object absorbs (takes in) all the light except one—this wave of light is scattered (bounces off the object) and reaches your eye. So, all these waves of colors hit these air molecules and blue—being the shorter than red or yellow—is scattered off these molecules the most. So, more blue reaches our eyes.*

*How many people are so into their daily activities that they go through life without even bothering to stop and ask such a simple question? A question that just by asking is an indication of your appreciation and awareness of life.*

*Of course, we can go on to ask further. After all, so many questions can arise from that simple explanation!*

*Perhaps the most fundamental of all however—the one that really pierces the heart of existence: But what exactly is light? Here's a short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXxZRZxafEQ>*

*Now this is a fundamental question that the entire subject of physics is dedicated to exploring: Light—i.e., energy. And it is this topic that has shook the world with its technological revolution in the past hundred years or so, and continues to do so. More specifically, the progress of physics began to really take off from the idea of what is called the First Law of Thermodynamics—or the Law of Conservation of Energy: energy cannot be created or destroyed, simply transferred into another form.*

*When you go on to explore from one single question, arising from a simple observation, you can go on to endlessly explore the world, and in all sorts of different directions. (And have an interesting conversation too!).*

*Quite frankly, these small conversations with children will grasp the interest of the child and spark their curiosity—and after that they will go on reading and learning as much as possible their whole lives. This is the purpose of the teacher.*

***“I am not a teacher, but an awakener”***

***—Robert Frost***

*I recall a most pleasant moment when my six-year-old cousin asked me a question about atoms—something I attempted to explain months prior. I figured that he had not understood and even forgotten but I could not be more wrong! One day he had suddenly brought it up to me, and re-explained to me in good detail! The fact that he remembered our conversation and showed an interest in the topic made me smile.*

*The most important job that we can have is the job of a parent—for the job of a parent is to be the sculptor of a human being.*

***“Do not train a child to learn by force or harshness; but direct them to it by what amuses their minds, so that you may be better able to discover with accuracy the peculiar bent of the genius of each.”***

***—Plato***

*Its unfortunate that many students consider math a boring subject. It wasn't so for me and my friends. I think it was largely because of the math contests that our schools provided since seventh grade through high school. And so, this sparked the interest of many students thus viewing the subject not as a laborious set of exercises to be done miserably at home, but rather as a mind-stimulating problem-solving activity in which any one can try and enjoy.*

*And mathematics is indeed marvelous! For those who have not studied it, imagine a world in which parallel lines cross or diverge. Mathematics allows for this! Or imagine the existence of infinities of different magnitudes! The possibilities are endless.*

***“The essence of mathematics lies in its freedom”***

***—Georg Cantor***

*I don't think that I am at such a level of mathematical understanding to fully understand the quote above, but I feel that I have had a tiny idea/taste of what the glory of math entails. ~~it means.~~*

*As I said, the same sort of fun attitude can be awakened in a child regarding any activity, if it is done in a playful manner where the imagination and wonder of the child can run wild and free, and properly guided by the awakener.*

***“Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once we grow up”***

***—Pablo Picasso***

*Now I mentioned how, when and if a child finds the one subject in which they become in love with, this is very good.*

*I must say however, it is in my view, still necessary to give such a child a taste of other things as well.*

*Furthermore, moral education must also be included. In Finnish schools, the early child learns how to cooperate and care for the other students. David Hume wrote about exactly this in his **Treatise on Human Nature**. He called it the education of the passions—which describes how morality is based on sentimental feelings such as sympathy, patience and benevolence, rather than through rationality. His famous declaration “Reason is and ought only to be the slave of the passions”. Thus, it is these positive feelings like sympathy which should be nurtured in the child.*

***“Compassion is the basis of morality.”***

***— Arthur Schopenhauer***

*Such an education—one which encompasses physical education, various traditional subjects from science and mathematics to music, art and drama, and a philosophical and morale, i.e. spiritual education, is what is called a holistic education. It develops the child's mind, body and spirit, and thus can truly unlock the full potential of a human being.*

*It is wonderfully described on Wikipedia a the education system that takes the premise that each person finds identity, meaning, and purpose in life through connections to their community, to the natural world, and to humanitarian values such as compassion and peace.*



*And that Holistic education aims to call forth from people an intrinsic reverence for life and a passionate love of learning, gives attention to experiential learning, and places significance on "relationships and primary human values within the learning environment".*

(Reference Book: *Holism and Evolution* by Jan Smuts: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holistic\\_education](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Holistic_education) )

*Unfortunately, our political and social system has turned many wonderful children into robotic machines—not creative individuals, but simply built for the purpose of serving the economy.*

***“The whole educational and professional training system is a very elaborate filter, which just weeds out people who are too independent, and who think for themselves, and who don't know how to be submissive, and so on -- because they're dysfunctional to the institutions.”***

—Noam Chomsky

***“A child educated only at school is an uneducated child”***

George Santayana

***“Education must not simply teach work – it must teach Life” – W. E. B. Du Bois***

*But we must return to this holistic view of life. We must develop the child into a “philosopher”—meaning “lover of knowledge”. I will repeat myself again: engage the child through games and stories, encourage them to formulate questions, and always tell them the answer to the question why do we learn this?*

*Answer: to contribute to your beautiful painting of what life is.*

*Aside from the education in which one has enough knowledge to witness the awe of life, I believe there is a vital component of spirit. What I mean by spirit is essentially the education of morality, as well as the spiritual nature of the human being. This is crucial as it guides the individual through life, having a set of values to which they are supported by.*

***“Intelligence plus character-that is the goal of true education.” – Martin Luther King Jr.***

***“To educate a person in the mind but not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”***

— Theodore Roosevelt

***“Education without values, as useful as it is, seems rather to make man a more clever devil.”***

— C.S. Lewis

***“Educating the mind without educating the heart is no education at all.”***

— Aristotle

*This I entirely agree, and I think that if more people understood this consciously, many things would improve for the better.*

*Thus, society must do two things: to come to an agreement on what it being educated means, and then investing in the development of the children—the future.*

### Further Links & Quotes

Note: There were some quotes that I had heard or read before, but when I googled to find more for this document, I came across so many wonderful ones. Unfortunately, I could not fit them all within the context, but as I did not want to let go of such well-phrased thoughts, I include a list below:

***“Wisdom is not a product of schooling but of the lifelong attempt to acquire it.”— Albert Einstein***

***“The educated differ from the uneducated as much as the living differ from the dead.”— Aristotle***

***“It is the mark of an educated mind to be able to entertain a thought without accepting it.” —Aristotle***

***“The noblest pleasure is the joy of understanding.” – Leonardo da Vinci***

***“All men by nature desire to know.”- Aristotle***

***“When you take the free will out of education, that turns it into schooling.” — John Taylor Gatto***

***“Never let formal education get in the way of your learning.” – Mark Twain***

***“Education: that which reveals to the wise, and conceals from the stupid, the vast limits of their knowledge.” — Mark Twain***

***“The more I read, the more I acquire, the more certain I am that I know nothing.” – Voltaire***

***“Education is the art of making man ethical.” – Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel***

***“Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom.” – George Washington Carver***

***“Education is helping the child realize his potentialities.” – Eric Fromm***

( <https://newlearningonline.com/new-learning/chapter-2/supporting-material-2/paulo-freire-on-education-that-liberates#:~:text=Freire%20saw%20the%20moral%20potential,education%E2%80%94the%20potential%20to%20liberate> )

# On Psychedelics

*I must admit that the little adventure-seeker in me, along with a bit of my curiosity, has led me to try psychedelics. I must discuss this here because I would be lying if I said that psychedelics did not play a role in formulating many of the ideas and thoughts that I have described here.*

*Despite it being looked down upon in the past half a century, I highly recommend the experience.*

*Due to their illegal status and little knowledge on how they work, there is possibly some risk attached with using this substance. I personally, have never received any “bad trip”, but it may be possible that an individual with a different mindset may experience negative effects. This is especially more likely if taken in a wrong environment, with wrong people, and with wrong dosage. I discuss specifications in more detail in a few paragraphs.*

*However, I do very strongly believe that in the future, society will have a similar attitude towards psychedelics as I do. In fact, I already notice a gradual shift, a more open and accepting mindset forming in both common and academic circles.*

*Firstly, government restriction on scientific research into these drugs has become more loose in recent years. For example, in 2018 the FDA allowed for psilocybin-assisted therapy to help treat depression. The **Center for Psychedelic & Consciousness Research** which announced its launch on September 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019 and has gather \$17 million from private donors will work on researching the potential benefits of LSD and psilocybin.*

*A video of Dr. Roland Griffiths, director of this center:*

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8i-v8ePXPd4&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8i-v8ePXPd4&feature=emb_logo)

*From personal experience, I am most convinced that psychedelics do indeed have incredible benefits and potential. The earliest research done in the 1940's and 50's (before being heavily banned starting in the 70's), seemed to indicate potential treatment against things like anxiety, depression and alcoholism.*

<https://www.beckleyfoundation.org/psilocybin-for-depression-2/>

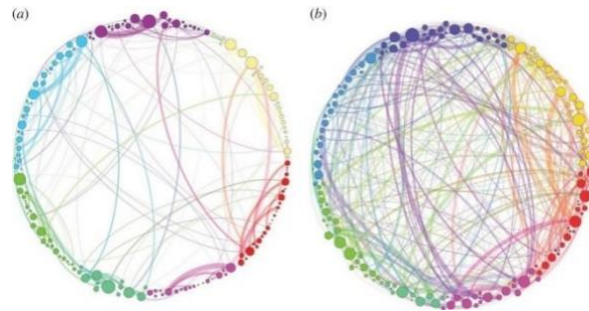
*There is further commentary on psychedelics by notable scientists such as psychologists Dr. Jordan Peterson, Dr. James Fadiman, Dr. Rick Strassman, neuropsychopharmacologist Dr. David Nutt, the “Godfather of Psychedelics” Dr. Alexander Shulgin, and one of the biggest proponents—Dr. Timothy Leary. I’ll let you google their research and commentary on the matter.*

*Here I want to share my related personal experiences, values and opinions, which are non-scientific, but I am sure as time progresses much of what I say will be validated by scientific research (and some ideas it already does in fact).*

*Aside from specific “treatment”, psychedelics can help even the healthiest minds to reanalyze the world in which they live in. One’s perspective can change, or perhaps enhance, in the most extraordinary way. Indeed, it is impossible to even describe the experience in words!*

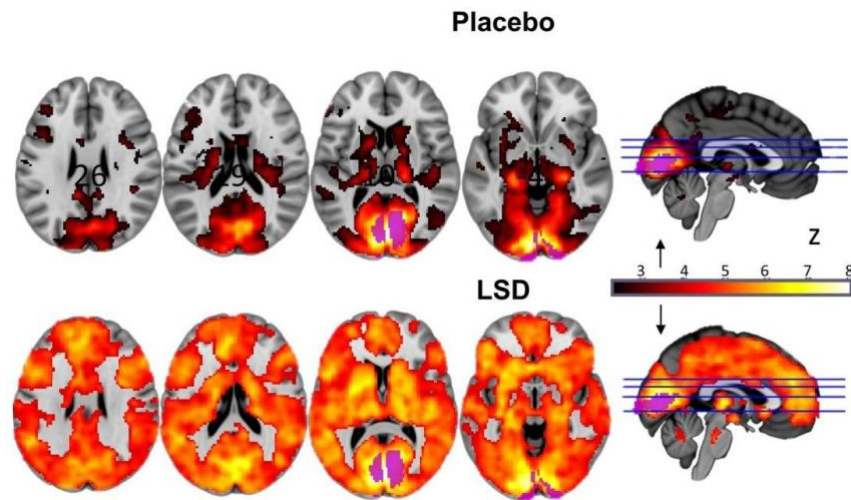
*I do not think that I have any psychological issues, and yet my perspective on the world was extremely enhanced. Much of what I describe in this document is somehow related to psychedelics (Of course, after all—everything is related!)*

*Psychedelics increase your mental function—the synapses occurring in your brain. Below is an image of fMRI scanning of the brain:*



Above demonstrates the connection of the brain without LSD (left) and with LSD (right).

<https://www.businessinsider.com/psychedelics-myths-misconceptions-mushrooms-lsd-2017-2>



<https://www.pnas.org/content/113/17/4853>

<https://www.beckleyfoundation.org/the-brain-on-lsd-revealed-first-scans-show-how-the-drug-affects-the-brain/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2016/apr/11/lsd-impact-brain-revealed-groundbreaking-images>

*What you will experience is much of who you are—an incredibly huge amount of information that is stored in your brain that you rarely access or access independently. But under psychedelics, areas of the brain that usually do not interact with one another suddenly do. In short, you will experience your subconsciousness.*

*Now these substances I do not believe make you see the world as I do necessarily. There are indeed some fundamental themes—such as the awareness of human nature, of human existence, generally more positive feelings etc. (you’ll know what I’m talking about if you ever do try it or if you have done so already), but the main thing that occurs is an overall awareness of **who you are**. This makes sense, since I had already expressed that like the computer that each one of us is—you input information and you respond to it as an interaction with the world. The information you are made of is the collection of all your experiences—good and bad. So if you are only interested in scrolling through your social media feed and watching made-up tv shows then I think that you make quite a lousy computer. Regardless of your nature, I believe that it will feel as though life makes sense. And even though you will still have many questions and uncertainties, you will realize a lot more about yourself and the world around you*

*guaranteed. It is a most positive experience (if done right!)—and you will gain some incredible insight that may promote you to change your lifestyle and perspective on life for the better.*

*Thus, the reason I say that many things I describe here are somehow tied in with psychedelics is because my experiences have been enhanced to an incredible degree. The experiences that I received as a child—the books and museums that sparked my curiosity in history and nature, my scientific education that I particularly got out of college—in particular the influence of physics, and my spiritual nature which was strongly formed as a child from my Jewish background, my readings in philosophy, and most importantly—my Father’s life lectures. As I see it, psychedelics was like the “cherry on top”.*

*I recall one particular trip especially when I had witnessed in front of me something like the video in the **Pantheism, Causality, Skepticism, and Empiricism** section about the story of the universe.*

*For example: in 6 min: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fdPKlrdUCow>*

*Except instead of just watching video, I felt that history flowing through me—with all my senses experiencing that history. I especially witnessed the growth and development of civilizations and went far beyond into the future. Of course, this was all my imagination—facts that I had once read, seen or heard, mixed with my emotions and desires about life, and how I wished the future would look like etc.*

*( 20 minute history of the world : TED ED: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yqc9zXo4DXs> )*

*Nonetheless it raises so many new questions and formulates new possible solutions to those questions. My thoughts of Pantheism, the mathematical universe, the common similarities of religions and the fundamental nature of the Human have all been understood at some fundamental core when I was on psychedelics—based on what I was told, what I had read and seen. I felt that I had more innately and more intuitively understood these ideas about religion and science when you feel it.*

*In short, psychedelics connected all that I knew to form the holistic perspective of life.*

*These are indeed very spiritual. I’d like to remark that when the first wave of psychedelics passed through our society—during the 1960’s, there was a growing interest in Eastern philosophy and eastern religions in the western world. The rise of Buddhism in the western world must surely be interlinked. Buddhism and Hinduism are religions that you may get a sense of what they are about through psychedelics. (This would make sense too since these religions are ancient, and psychedelic substances were used for trance and spiritual practices). However, no matter your choice of religion—you will find an essence and a meaning of it.*

*In my opinion, this growing interest in Eastern thought, along with the overall counterculture that was the Hippie Movement was driven by the open psychedelic attitude that existed among the youths of that decade. It seemed like an incredible decade—one that gave the world wonderful music like the Beatles, social movements like the Civil rights movements, Women’s liberation and the sexual revolution, and perhaps the strongest counter revolution against the establishment with the biggest anti-war movement ever in American history when the youth refused to go to war in Vietnam, with many young people collectively and actively attempting to promote a peaceful world.*

*On psychedelics, you feel this freedom. The possibility of a peaceful world, a connected world, a world with so much opportunities for imagination and creativity to thrive and flourish. You feel a part of the existence—a sort of belonging to nature and to human society. You feel a sensational feeling of how wonderful and great life can be. You realize that you can enjoy so many things in life that you have previously never thought of or you simply had fear ingrained in you because of socially-constructed*

restrictions. For example, nudity begins to be a wonderful thing—you see no reason to hide or be ashamed of your body.

You realize that you have more control over your life and mind than you have previously thought. For example, you begin to not be scared of any aggression that comes against you. You do not care that another human being can think or say something bad about you—its all simply thoughts and nothing more. Why let what someone else thinks hurt you? In short, you become shielded against hatred. You feel no fear. You don't fear to express yourselves. You understand that you, like all humans, are weird and mixed with good and evil alike. And thus, you fear no hatred towards you. Let it exist, and it will cease naturally—for you cannot fight hatred with hatred.

***“The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.”***

**— Franklin D. Roosevelt**

You may come to a conclusion that people today have their minds imprisoned. The race for a successful career presented with the amount and value of materialistic stuff, the constant distraction of the news and the social media, the mainstream thinking and often closed-mindedness of man, are all ideas you quickly begin to become aware of. Psychedelics will help liberate you from all this to feel as something special in the existence of things, and to appreciate more the little things in life that make you truly happy.

Most importantly, and overall, you develop an awareness about your existence, and the existence of everything that ever was, is, or will be. You have a chance to experience the Garden of Eden, before man hath eaten the fruit from the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

Of course there is another side of psychedelics. You can witness how you are merely a tiny insignificant part in the existence of things. You and I individually mean practically nothing. We are like the ant that you stepped on yesterday. The cries of the miserable and the suffering people can be felt. It can be frightening. You are part of everything—there is no you. You are free from yourself—a complete loss of ego. This can be very frightening. But nonetheless, I think that if you take a mentality in which you accept life and all it has to offer—good and bad--separate from your bias then it should be alright. What's funny is that for every awful and scary thought there too exists a beautiful and wonderfully pleasant feeling. And much of these are intertwined, for example—the thought that you and I mean practically nothing can be counter-thoughted as the most unique entities in the entire universe! What a miracle! You and I can each consciously understand this fact.

Eastern philosophy provides us the necessity to understand this (which I find is the reason psychedelics cause such interest in the eastern ideas):

***“When people see things beautiful, ugliness is created. When people see things as good, evil is created”***

**—Lao Tzu (Tao Te Ching)**

***“Being and non-being produce each other. Difficult and easy complement each other. Long and short define each other. High and low oppose each other. Fore and aft follow each other.”***

**—Lao Tzu (Tao Te Ching)**

All the feelings that you can feel have all been felt by some other mind at some point in time. All the experiences, ideas, thoughts, and emotions have been translated into the art and culture that humans create. Everything begins to be so mind blowing.

Taoism, whose primary book is the Tao Te Ching, has a few central words that describe some main ideas:



- ❖ *Muga: loss of awareness of oneself*
- ❖ *Wabi: satisfaction with simplicity and austerity*
- ❖ *Sabi: an appreciation of the imperfect*
- ❖ *Wu-Wei: Doing nothing/Effort-less action/ Doing by not doing*

*Every trip that I had took, I had learned something new. I saw things—myself, the people around me, ideas I had recently been exploring—life in general—in a new light. It had always been very insightful experiences.*

*I would like to share one of these trips.*

*There was one trip that if I had to associate one word to describe it, it would be irony.*

*How so?*

*Well part of the reason I wrote this whole document was due to some sort of spiritual drive that exists in me—a need to make sense of it all. I believe everybody has such a drive a part of them. For me, this spiritual aspect is applied to everything—finding life’s biggest questions, studying physics, enjoying music, staring at a painting, listening to a person, playing ball, dropping acid, etc. etc.*

*In any case, psychedelics—which emphasize much of who you are at that point in your life—brought me to this wonderful feeling.*

*I felt as though I had finally found it. After 20 years of living as a human being, I have finally figured out the very essence of life. It was right in front of me—like a cloud/ball of energy.*

*{Visually it looked something like this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k1RxjSOcfvI> }*

*But every time I went to reach for it—for the answer to Life—it disappeared.*

*And then again it appeared in front of me. I reached for it and again it disappeared. And so, I could never actually grab it—get a hold of the answer.*

*It felt so funny! I felt as though God was teasing me! Something that I was really striving for—and I just couldn’t get it.*

*It made me laugh a lot.*

*But I realized that there was some very interesting and abstract wisdom involved behind this ironic feeling about life.*

*I felt as though I had figured life out, but at the same time—there was nothing to figure out!*

*I felt as though there was no ultimate answer—but that that fact IS THE ANSWER!*

*I felt a very pleasant sense of freedom to come up with whatever answers in life that I wanted.*



*I felt as though I had figured life out, but if you asked me what's the answer to the question of life, I wouldn't be able to say anything. Because life is not something that you can understand—its something much bigger, more profound, and un-humanly-imaginable. But that is the whole fun of it—to try and guess the answer. Such for me, is the great IRONY OF LIFE.*

***“The world is a tragedy to those who feel, but a comedy to those who think.”***

**— Horace Walpole**

***“The highest forms of understanding we can achieve are laughter and human compassion.”***

**— Richard P. Feynman**

*Unfortunately, too many of the western youths of the 60's had begun to abuse the power of the psychedelics. I do not quite understand how they can be used for abuse, especially since psychedelics like LSD and mushrooms have been shown to not be very psychologically or physically dependent drugs. But I think that if it will be treated with utmost respect, then it should not be a problem. They were treated as such by our ancestors for thousands of years, using them as a part of their religious rituals and shamanic trances. Similarly, they must be used for personal development and insight, not simply for fun. The Hippie movement example that I provided earlier was the most recent and most obvious psychedelic-driven culture-change. However, I am thoroughly convinced that psychedelics have played a huge role in the formation and evolution of culture since thousands of years ago. And will continue to do so.*

*Psychedelics, when used appropriately, are something else. I am certain that there will come a day, when most of the society will view psychedelics as I do—as a form of psychological medication (something we all need once in a while in this crazy world), that allows one to reanalyze themselves and the world in which they live in.*

*I will go further to express that one day, I am convinced that it will be used in society as part of the educational process of an individual.*

*It is a gift that one ought to use to awaken themselves of the beauty of one's existence.*

*These are some common aspects of the experience that I believe we will all agree on.*

*I won't spoil it any further ●*

*Instead, if you are still not intrigued, here is a list of famous people who have used or tried Psychedelics, and their thoughts:*

<https://thethirdwave.co/famous-people-psychedelics/>

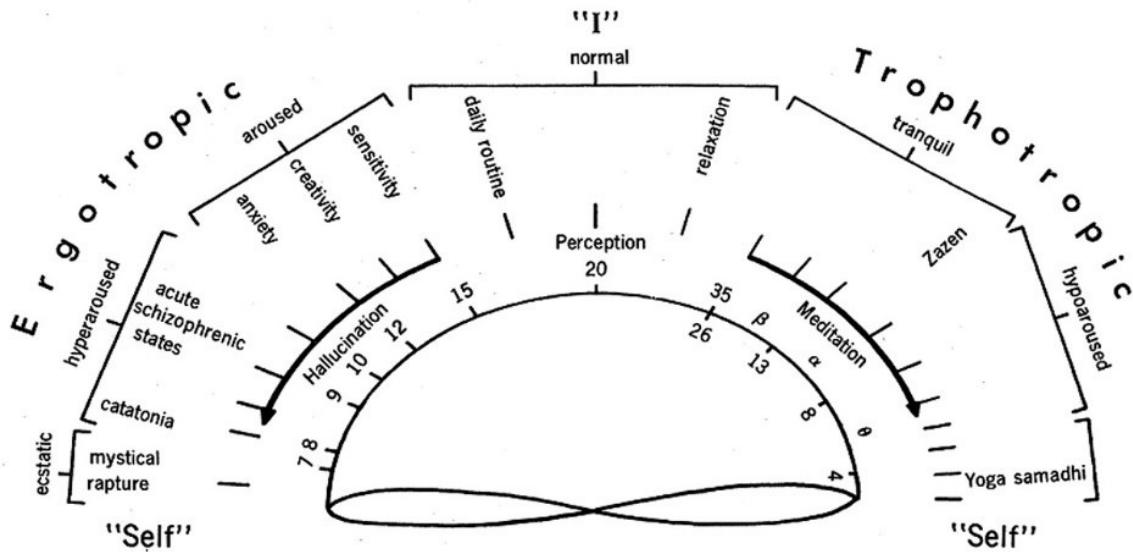
*(Above did not mention British biologist Francis Crick—Nobel prize winner in 1962 for his discovery of the double helix structure of DNA).*

*Netflix Original: The Mind, Explained (5 episodes, ep.5: Psychedelics):*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Mind,\\_Explained](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Mind,_Explained)

*Attached is a conversation with the superstar of Psychedelics—the creator of LSD—ma man Albert*

*Hoffmann: → <https://maps.org/news-letters/v08n3/0833ohof.html>*



A comparison of psychedelics to meditation: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311908.2019.1678556>

### How to use psychedelics...

*So smart or dumb, old or young, healthy or sick we are all similar and unique, with each one of us having our own unique story. We often forget to stop and appreciate the awe of it all in the struggle of our daily activities. Psychedelics allows you to appreciate the existence of it all.*

*If you want to experience life—all its meaning and beauty—I recommend you take it some day: take a day off, a Sabbath if you will, and dedicate it to the ennoblement and enjoyment of life—just a simple*

*Day in the Life*

*—The Beatles*

*I wish you a wonderful trip and I hope it will have the same profound effect as it has had on my existence. Enjoy the adventure. And see you on the other side.*

### Some Recommended Music

*Of course music varies by taste. But I would like to present some music that evokes certain feelings.*

#### **Bach: Cello Suite no. 2**

*Bach such as Cello Suite No. 2, Toccatta and Fugue in D minor, Mozart's Dminor fantasia, Handel's suite in d minor, hmw 437 III sarabande, requiem by mozart, Symphony no. 3 by brahms, parce mihi domine jan garbarek etc., , other albums (non-mainstream) by Pink Floyd, AI music, microtonal music, some really deep songs—Dust in the Wind, for psychedelic background: tomorrow never knows, day in the life, strawberry fields (a lot by the beatles—rest assured they've done psychedelics), here comes the sun—other psychedelic ones specifically dervish dream (for more deep and dark) as well as Rosetta for some more cosmic music and cum dederit, baba yetu and adiemus, Nachur album Cicada Sessions Im*

guessing are specifically made for a psychedelic trip—3 songs 20 minutes, within you without you, from the beginning and July morning, Bluebird by Alexis Ffrench is peaceful, Van Morrison philosopher's stone especially Not supposed to break down, wonderful remark, song of being a child

movie music—like Ennio Morricone (Love theme from Cinema Paradiso) and Amore Mio aiutami main theme by Piero Piccioni, Enya has got some good songs too (interesting sounds and nice vibe), peace in emptiness for a more subtle vibe; Well Tempered Clavier Bach >

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Quotes and Further Links on Psychedelics

***“Good god, how didn't I notice that before the earth breathes and its colors are constantly changing?  
Is that what you want to know?”***

**—Paulo Coelho**

***“Go to the meadows, go to the garden, go to the woods. Open your eyes!”***

**—Albert Hoffmann**

***“Evolution of mankind is paralleled by the increase and expansion of consciousness.”***

**—Albert Hoffmann**

***“Surrealism to me is reality. Psychedelic vision is reality to me and always was.”***

**—John Lennon**

***“It's a very salutary thing to realize that the rather dull universe in which most of us spend most of our time is not the only universe there is. I think it's healthy that people should have this experience.”***

**—Aldous Huxley**

***“The man who comes back through the Door in the Wall will never be quite the same as the man who went out. He will be wiser but less sure, happier but less self-satisfied, humbler in acknowledging his ignorance yet better equipped to understand the relationship of words to things, of systematic reasoning to the unfathomable mystery which he tries, forever vainly, to comprehend.”***

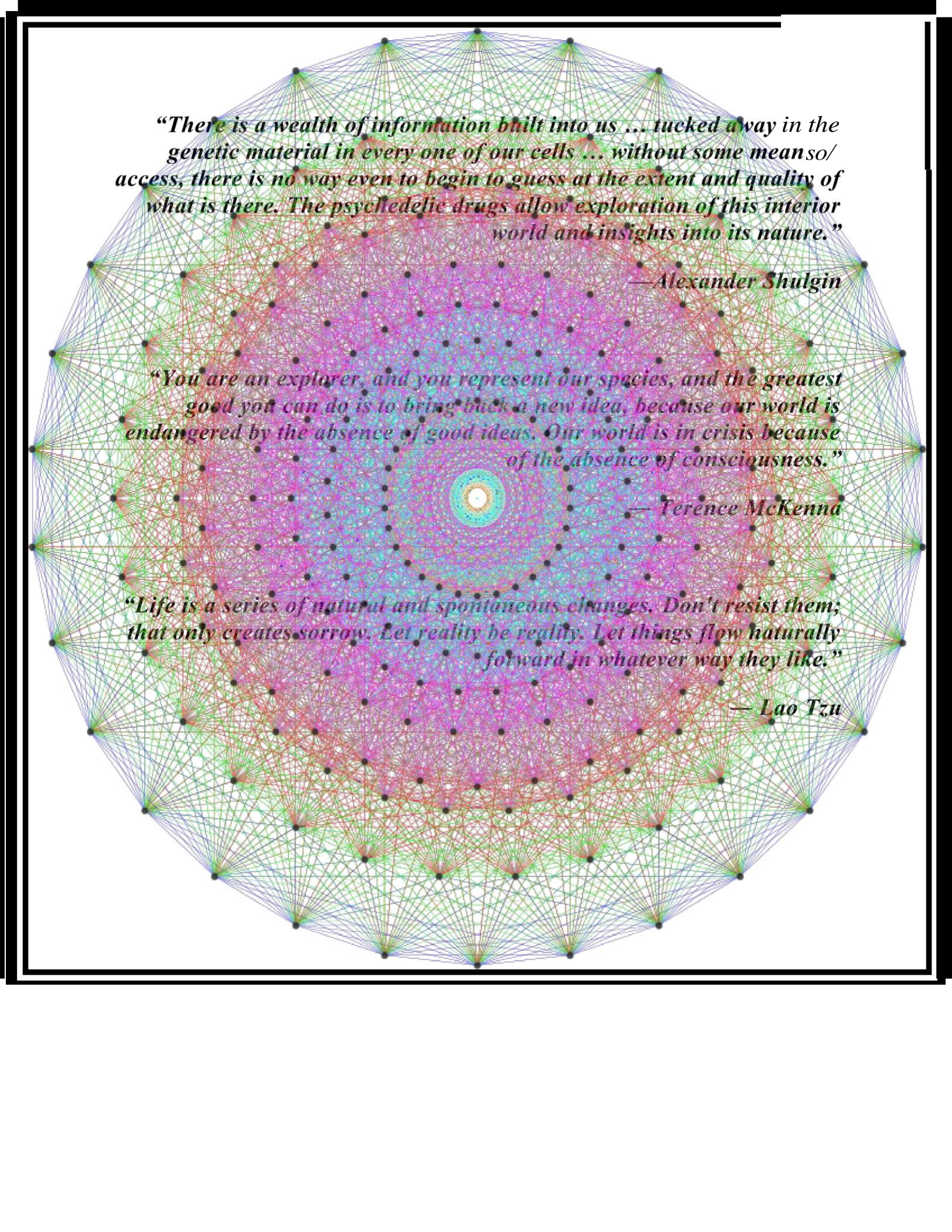
**—Aldous Huxley**

***“Taking LSD was a profound experience, one of the most important things in my life. LSD shows you that there's another side to the coin, and you can't remember it when it wears off, but you know it. It reinforced my sense of what was important creating great things instead of making money, putting things back into the stream of history and of human consciousness as much as I could.”***

**—Steve Jobs**

<https://thethirdwave.co/psychedelic-quotes/>





*“There is a wealth of information built into us ... tucked away in the genetic material in every one of our cells ... without some means of access, there is no way even to begin to guess at the extent and quality of what is there. The psychedelic drugs allow exploration of this interior world and insights into its nature.”*

*—Alexander Shulgin*

*“You are an explorer, and you represent our species, and the greatest good you can do is to bring back a new idea, because our world is endangered by the absence of good ideas. Our world is in crisis because of the absence of consciousness.”*

*— Terence McKenna*

*“Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like.”*

*— Lao Tzu*



# From Past to Future

***“Laws alone cannot secure freedom of expression; in order that every man present his views without penalty there must be spirit of tolerance in the entire population.”***

**—Einstein**

***“Science knows no country, because knowledge belongs to humanity, and is the torch that illuminates the world”***

**—Louis Pasteur**

*I believe that in the future, the thoughts that I have expressed in this document will form a sort of ‘mental framework’ that will belong to the majority of the population. To some extent, this sort of mental framework already lies dormant in the subconsciousness of many, but will only continue to be made more conscious by our species.*

*In the future, scientific research will demonstrate (as it already does) the “programmable nature” of man. ~~In other words, each human being follows a specific set of rules that guide each individual to be who they will result in being (I described this when I say that man is like a computer).~~ <-delete!>*

*These discoveries will shape the mentality of the population into becoming scientifically-based. Philosophy, arts, politics, social norms and customs, will all be driven by a more scientifically-minded way of thinking.*

*As the smartest ape once said:*

***“The whole of science is nothing more than a refinement of everyday thinking.”***

**—The Genius Ape**

*In fact I would argue that science itself will evolve. For example, I find it perfectly reasonable that the non-physical sciences such as psychology, sociology etc. will increasingly incorporate much more mathematics to attempt to describe human nature and society. That is, much more formulas to describe individual human and collective/societal patterns in time.*

*The ‘big’ ideas underlying scientific thinking which I discussed throughout the document—most notable is the interconnectedness of the universe and causality—will drive humans to reshape the conditions of society in order to achieve specific goals and beneficial results.*

*There are many problems today. The biggest problem, in my view, is the same problem that has always existed—the uneducated, dormant, and consciously-dead herd of people. I mentioned this in **Education**. I truly believe that it is a necessary duty for anyone who is more or less acquainted with this scientific and creative framework of the mind to promote it and spread it. This “distribution of scientific thinking” is already happening today, but I feel it ought to be done more and better. I do believe in the ability for the education of the masses.*

*I think that these “big” ideas benefit an individual on a daily basis. It allows an individual to appreciate a given moment—and be in the now—while concurrently imagine the evolution of yourself and your life.*

*It allows the individual to be more free: open to new ideas yet unafraid to select what they like and dislike not out of some external influence but simply because of the way they consciously choose to live their life. It allows the individual to be understanding about everything—for everything has a natural evolution which brings it to the state of existence in which it is in. It brings a certain meaning to the individual's life as it is a realization that you are a part of the story.*

*I described what I mean by education in that section. It will be childhood education that will become a priority of the future society because it is this which will most benefit our species. When this era will occur, that is when society will have attained the most important goal. This is the goal that Friedrich Nietzsche describes in *Thus Spoke Zarathustra* when he describes the Übermensch. The purpose of the education in society will have to be to develop each child into an Übermensch—for each child to grow up into their best possible potential—mind, body, spirit and character.*

(Übermensch : <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%9Cbermensch>)

*The people of the future will have both a specialization of a great extent—such will be required for the progress of science, but at the same time they will be free to evolve all their creative talents and not be merely a tool of society. The future man, the Übermensch will therefore have multiple careers, and will be involved in multiple jobs. They may have a career in music, as a researcher, and a ‘job’ at a construction site or as a waiter etc.. In general, work will be shared among all the citizens of the future society. Work regarded to be of lower class today—will be shared by the community as a ‘public service’ not as a fulltime job. Furthermore, there will be plenty of time allotted to live life.*

*The sense of **community** will be another utmost importance, for what is more pleasant than human connection and a sense of belonging? Cultural Centers will be constructed—places in which members of the community will be able to gather and take up new hobbies and activities. In such a way, the individual can develop their character, personality, and intelligence, while meeting new people and finding friends who share common interests. With these Culture Centers, individuals can live a more fruitful life developing their dreams and talents of being an actor, a writer, a painter, a musician, a dancer, a chess master, an athlete of a specific sport etc. etc. Furthermore, as is already seen today, all new ideas, inventions, art, discoveries, etc. will be done by ‘teams’ of people. The power of collaboration is man’s greatest gift.*

*Each individual will contribute in culture, science and public service to their community and to all of mankind.*

*Money will exist virtually. And eventually it will perhaps cease altogether. There will not be a need for it.*

***"From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs"***

***—Karl Marx***

*The Übermensch is a free human being. With their understanding, they are most free from their own mind. Thus the future human will be as free as their human condition enables them.*

***"To enjoy good health, to bring true happiness to one's family, to bring peace to all, one must first discipline and control one's own mind. If a man can control his mind, he can find the way to Enlightenment, and all wisdom and virtue will naturally come to him."***

***—Buddha, The Enlightened One***

*And so, the Ubermensch will not need excessive money—for he will not need to convince himself of his self-worth, and he will understand the pain of the one who has not even enough.*

*The domination of scientific thinking in our society today, and in this society of the future will result in a decline in traditional religious doctrines. There will simply be no purpose. I believe that the extensive sharing between cultures—the integration of cultures across the world—will make people realize that the fundamental teachings of all the primary religions of today are fundamentally similar. We humans are not much different. And with the continued scientific evolution of society, the religious dogma's will no longer be convincing. Thus, the only religion that will exist is simply the deeply personal spiritual connection with God and/or life that each human being will have individually. This spiritual feeling (which must also be part of the education of the child) is what will guide the being into finding their role in society and creating their own meaning to life (as Nietzsche describes the Ubermensch). Moreover, it is cultural activities that will ennoble the individual life and will (and ought to) replace religion (Nietzsche).*

*Quite frankly, I am not convinced that the ideas of all man will differ too much from one another. One of the main ideas of a meaningful life which many will (and perhaps many do already) agree on is living a life with in happiness.*

*The question of happiness has been pondered about for generations, and with all that humans have done and continue to do, surely, we must be learning.*

***“He is happy who lives in accordance with complete virtue and is sufficiently equipped with external goods, not for some chance period but throughout a complete life.”***

**—Aristotle (Nicomachean Ethics)**

*Thus, happiness is a state of mind in which all the natural conditions of the human mind are met. They are a sense of belonging (community), financial freedom and accessibility to all necessities, freedom of time, development of one's passions and goals, a sense for spiritual exploration (through art and philosophy). In such a way, the human civilization will exist to strive for happiness.*

***“Life is simple but we insist on making it complicated.”***

**—Confucius**

*Relating to money, the wisdom of the ubermensch understand that excess of anything does not lead to happiness. On the topic of money and happiness though, I would presume that future societies will be evaluated by its members by means of happiness over money. Who knows what ideas humans will come up with to do this, but I know today there has been suggestion of using GPI—genuine progress indicator—as opposed to GDP to evaluate a nations progress.*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happiness\\_economics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happiness_economics)

***“I think everybody should get rich and famous and do everything they ever dreamed of so they can see that it's not the answer.”***

**— Jim Carrey**

*Moreover, money will not be a driving entity for work. As my college math professor told me “we go to school to learn, not for the grade”. Similarly, we work to get enjoyment from the activity—it stimulates our mind—and it makes you feel your role in your existence. In fact, the very idea of money will bring more problems. When money would be abolished, inequality and any form of exploitation will follow.*



*Moreover, overproduction will be terminated for reasons already described, and thus significant harm and exploitation of our environment will also cease. As such, money will not be a necessity.*

*A global society with no money and no exploitation will cause the ceasing of countries. As such, empires will fall apart into smaller individual pieces. Small countries will form unions (like the idea of European Union today—in fact the United States of America began with a similar idea before the Federalist had won). Eventually these unions of countries will engulf the whole world and slowly borders will become transparent.*

*With this, governments will unify, and there will slowly these government will ‘cease’ and simply become more controlled by the people. Since huge countries will fall apart, it will be easier for the people to be extremely involved in the formation of their society (as evident in countries like Sweden and Norway, which are performing much better as a society than major empires like Russia and the United States, and even outperforming their larger European counterparts).*

*As science continues to learn in greater detail the nature of ourselves, I believe much of that knowledge will work its way into politics, social customs and norms, and our subconsciousness to form/build a collaborative-civilization rather than a competitive-civilization.*

*This sort of collaborative-civilization is exactly the ideas of Marxism. Such is the future society.*

*(SoL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=shaniOl7MyE>)*

*I have mentioned that the society will be guided by scientific thinking, but this was explicitly mentioned by others, including Marx and Engels. Engels used the term scientific socialism to describe Marx’s theory, however it was first coined by French 18<sup>th</sup> century anarchist Pierre-Joseph Proudhon in “Property is theft!”. Scientific socialism is the society that is ruled by a scientific government, that is, a government (elected by the people) that will create social and economic policies based on the use of the scientific method in investigating historical trends/developments.*

*Technological and scientific innovation will provide solutions, and new problems too. I think there will always exist major problems. That’s part of the game of life. Every generation will face a new set of problems in which they must work to solve. This goes back to the idea that good and evil coexist. The progress of science allowed us to harness incredible amounts of energy for comfortable living, while putting us at risk of major catastrophe—nuclear warfare, climate problems, etc. The incredible ability to transmit and store information also leads to a today’s major problem of misinformation. This fact should be consciously accepted by our civilization, and we should work in order to keep the balance I had described earlier.*

*The world will have grown even larger than what it is today. More people, new ideas and discoveries constantly being brought to life and shared with the other members of humanity. In fact, the human community will be so large that many ideas will be reinvented time and time again and in different locations of the world under different names.*

*At some point, far into the future, as our biology and physical structure evolves as well, perhaps even race will be naturally and slowly abolished. I personally find that this should happen. Society today has opened up in such a way that we see communities with mixed races going to school and working together side by side. Thus, citizens of a country will become heavily mixed in race (as already is the case in many ways today). Eventually, through the growth of all the race’s, and the sharing of one another’s cultures,*

*cultural practices will weave together overtime, until the identity of the individual will be classified by their nation (until even that will disappear). The close living and the continuous interracial and intercultural interaction must surely blend races on the biological level as well, such that (given a great deal of years!) all the races will eventually be blended. And soon enough, the individual will be without classification—simply a human being belonging to the human race.*

*Tolerance will be an understanding in the society (either consciously or subconsciously). Tolerance contributes to the ability of working side by side to build something that will benefit all, regardless of differences. Thus, tolerance of any form of religion, race, nationality, and other will evolve (until, as I claim, these will all be naturally abolished).*

*Hatred too will be tolerated a great deal. The irony! The reason I find this to be the case is because if an individual demonstrates any form of hatred, there must be an issue with the social environment for which the human came to such conclusions (causality). And thus, in order to combat hatred, it will simply be accepted as part of our existence, demonstrated with evidence on a scientific basis. It cannot be eradicated, all that you the individual can do, is simply not let it get to you.*

***“Choose not to be harmed —and you won’t feel harmed. Don’t feel harmed — and you haven’t been.”***

***– Marcus Aurelius***

*We already see improvements to such a world. There already exists all sorts of social programs and support have been created by our civilizations—welfare, health care, emergency support services, child support, unemployment help, rehabilitation centers, homeless shelters, mental health hotlines, and more. I describe this attitude when discussing prison reforms in **Human Nature**. And I believe that this attitude for the poor and unfortunate will grow. It must—because we are programmed to help our species (for the sake of our survival). Thus if society does not neglect the poorest, the most uneducated, the most miserable individuals but rather help them, it will serve for the benefit of the entire species. In such a way, I find that this nature—this “learning program”—is learning the power of collaboration over competition. (Depending on conditions of course).*

*And so with what I have described here, the idea of world peace—as described in John Lennon’s song *Imagine*—is an idea within reach in my opinion. I may be optimistic about human evolution, but I find that there is good reason (in my current opinion at least) to believe that man is striving (overlooking all of man’s activity) towards a world that we all subconsciously dream of—a world of peace and happiness. This world may arrive in a hundred years, a thousand years, or ten thousand years—who knows.*

*I am quite convinced that perhaps in the near future there will be major catastrophes and disappointments regarding our species. But what I am describing here is possible. And more importantly, there is good reason (in my current opinion at least) to believe that man is striving (overlooking all of man’s activity) towards a world that we all subconsciously dream of—a world of peace and happiness. This world may arrive in a hundred years, a thousand years, or ten thousand years, and after some major human catastrophe, but nonetheless it should not be let out of your imagination.*

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## **Further Links**

*Recommendation: Michi Kaku's Physics of the Future*

*More of Kaku:* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7NPC47qMJVg>

*Kardashev Scale:*

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kardashev\\_scale](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kardashev_scale)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S6RaWa7iM-l>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dqZ4RUwj4>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZL4yYHdDSWs&list=PLpizJBAE-OKItc2-Afql\\_We9koldvMRDm&index=69&t=0s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZL4yYHdDSWs&list=PLpizJBAE-OKItc2-Afql_We9koldvMRDm&index=69&t=0s)

*Surviving Progress (Documentary):* [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surviving\\_Progress](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Surviving_Progress)

### **On A.I**

*Sophia :* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=78-1Mlkxyql>

### **A.I and Art:**

*As has always been the case, science and technology shape the art and culture of the day. Today, much of society's popular music is heavily done by a computer. In the future, science will continue to effect art. Below is the integration of the future of computers—artificial intelligence—with art.*

- <https://www.designboom.com/art/refik-anadol-latent-being-kraftwerk-berlin-11-30-2019/>  
(video of above link; \*this is the sort of stuff you see on psychedelics btw)
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-EIVIHvHRM> (Refik Anadol: <https://refikanadol.com/>)
- <https://medium.com/design-ibm/the-role-of-art-in-ai-31033ad7c54e>
- *A.I Music:*
  - AIVA : <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebnd03x137A>
  - DeepBach: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QiBM7-5hA6o>
  - [https://www.ted.com/talks/gil weinberg can robots be creative#t-292071](https://www.ted.com/talks/gil_weinberg_can_robots_be_creative#t-292071)
- <https://www.bbvaopenmind.com/en/articles/artificial-intelligence-and-the-arts-toward-computational-creativity/>
- *Create your own image:* <https://deepart.io>

### **Risks & Ethics:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BrNs0M77Pd4&list=PLSiMP0aHnFv2ic9JcPj5UsnzPQd7rg-A3&index=1>

<https://artsandculture.google.com/project/ai-more-than-human>

<https://aiartists.org/ai-ethics>

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## References

***Find almost any book for free:***

<https://b-ok.cc/>

### ***Consciousness***

<https://qz.com/1184574/the-idea-that-everything-from-spoons-to-stones-are-conscious-is-gaining-academic-credibility/>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-is-consciousness/>

<https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/consciousness/>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Consciousness>

Ted Ed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lyu7v7nWzfo>

Ted Ed: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgOTaXhbqPQ> (Oliver Sacks)

Origins of Life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nNK3u8uVG7o> <delete?>

<https://aeon.co/essays/what-if-your-consciousness-is-an-illusion-created-by-your-brain>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/What\\_Is\\_It\\_Like\\_to\\_Be\\_a\\_Bat%3F](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/What_Is_It_Like_to_Be_a_Bat%3F)

<https://www.frontiersin.org/articles/10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02173/full>

<https://www.newscientist.com/round-up/consciousness/>

<https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/what-is-consciousness/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0GS2rxROcPo>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir8XITVmeY4>

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum\\_mind](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Quantum_mind)

### ***Psychedelics***

Papers:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6137697/>

<https://arxiv.org/ftp/arxiv/papers/1605/1605.07153.pdf>

Aldous Huxley's Essay: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Doors\\_of\\_Perception](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Doors_of_Perception)

Alan Watts: <http://www.psychedelic-library.org/watts.htm>

<https://qz.com/1196408/scientists-studying-psilocybin-accidentally-proved-the-self-is-an-illusion/>

My problem Child book: <https://maps.org/images/pdf/books/lsdmyproblemchild.pdf>

Ancient Greek Philosophy & Psychedelics:

<https://highexistence.com/hidden-psychedelic-influence-philosophy-plato-nietzsche-psychonauts-thoughts/>

Books:

❖ *The Psychedelic Explorer's Guide: Safe, Therapeutic, and Sacred Journeys Paperback* (2011, Dr. James Fadiman)

❖ [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The\\_Psychedelic\\_Experience](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Psychedelic_Experience)

V SAUCE: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U3lWVLuc6CE>

V SAUCE: DID THE PAST REALLY HAPPEN: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O2jkV4BsN6U> <DELETE?>