



A Donor Traverses Dimensions

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The Donor tumbled forward until he felt something translucent and mooky enter his nostrils, his mouth, his eyesockets. The substance was cold, at once alien. He caught a whiff of something he was unable to recognize as asphalt, diesel, road slime.

“You have stepped out of bounds...” boomed a unisex voice. “Please back away from the edge of the universe.”

The Donor gasped and reversed his motion quickly, even though he understood only the tone, rather than the words. He’d fallen from a flying carpet capsule, was what he remembered, the inertia propelling him from the earthly dimension and into the wall of slime. It was as a dream. After he cleared his face of the mook with his small hands the Donor could see scores of tiny light beings, which were level to his eyes and about as large as his fingertips.

The light beings swarmed and hummed to create this newsmedia footage from an adjacent universe: “A giant nose was spied in the sky today! The nose was allegedly visible between Stickville and Capitol City and several motorists snapped photos and called police officials to report the strange phenomenon.”

“Juice,” stammered the ignorant Donor, thirsty.

“Drama!” countered the light beings. In a whirl, they distinguished themselves into nine colors, each with an apt voice, to put on a play*:

IN UNISON: Just as every portion of a hologram contains the image of the whole, every portion of the universe enfolds the whole... which gives new meaning to Walt Whitman’s phrase: “A vast similitude interlocks all.”

BLACK: The main architects of this astonishing idea [of a holographic reality] are... quantum physicist David Bohm... and Karl Pribram, a neurophysiologist.

RED: Our current understanding of reality, the solid and comforting... picture of the world we all learned about in high school, is wrong.

ORANGE: You do not even need a background in science. All you need is an open mind.

YELLOW: So don't be afraid. Once you overcome your fear... you'll find that... quantum physics' strange and fascinating ideas [are easy to understand].

GREEN: The holographic model... is highly controversial... [Yet] many important and impressive thinkers do support it and do believe it to be the most accurate picture of reality we have.

BLUE: Because paranormal events cannot be accounted for by our current scientific understandings, they cry out for a new way of looking at the universe, a new scientific paradigm.

INDIGO: We view scientists with a bit of awe, and when they tell us something we believe it must be true. We forget they are only human, and subject to the same religious, philosophical, and cultural prejudices as the rest of us.

VIOLET: A few of these ideas might... change the way you look at the world. In fact... the ideas... will change the way you look at the world.

WHITE: Our world and everything in it—from... falling stars [to] spinning electrons—are... projections from a reality so beyond our own it is literally beyond space and time.

BLACK: The main architects of this astonishing idea [of a holographic reality] are... quantum physicist David Bohm... and Karl Pribram, a neurophysiologist.

Neurons possess branches... and when an electrical message reaches the end of one of these branches it radiates outward, as does a ripple in a pond. Because neurons are packed together so densely, these expanding ripples of electricity... are constantly crisscrossing one another... creating an almost endless and kaleidoscopic array of interference patterns.

Any wavelike phenomena can create an interference pattern, including light and radio waves.

Because laser light is an extremely pure, coherent form of light, it is especially good at creating interference patterns.

A hologram is produced when a single laser light is split into two separate beams. The first beam is bounced off the object to be photographed... Then the second is collided with the reflected light of the first, and the resulting interference pattern is recorded on film.

To the naked eye, the image on the film looks nothing at all like the object being photographed... it looks a little like the concentric rings that form when a handful of pebbles is tossed into a pond... But as soon as another laser beam or... light source is shined through the film, a three-dimensional image of the original object reappears... You can actually walk around a holographic projection and view it from different angles... [but] if you reach out and try to touch it, your hand will waft right through it.

Unlike normal photographs, every portion of a piece of holographic film contains all of the information of the whole. Thus if a holographic plate is broken into fragments, each piece can still be used to reconstruct the entire image...

...although the images will get hazier as the [pieces] get smaller.

Pribram realized that if the holographic brain model was taken to its logical conclusions, it opened the door on the possibility that objective reality—the world of [doors and windows, vistas and trails, ponds and pebbles]—might not even exist, or at least not believe in the way we believe it exists.

[Knowing] that the [parameters of his theory] might lie outside the province of his own field, he went to his physicist son for advice. His son recommended he look into the work of... David Bohm... According to Bohm, the entire universe [is] a hologram.

How is our brain able to fool us into thinking that [the person is] located beyond the confines of our gray matter?

RED: Our current understanding of reality, the solid and comforting... picture of the world we all learned about in high school, is wrong.

We... have two very different aspects to our reality. We can view ourselves as physical bodies moving through space. Or we can view ourselves as a blur of interference patterns enfolded throughout the cosmic hologram.

The path that led [David] Bohm to the conviction that the universe is structured like a hologram began at the very edge of matter, in the world of subatomic particles.

[His] fascination [is easy] to understand. The strange... land... found lurking in the heart of the atom [contains] things so contrary to common sense... [that it seems] more like... sorcery..., an Alice-in-Wonderland realm in which mystifying forces [are] the norm.

One startling discovery made by quantum physicists was that if you break matter into smaller and smaller pieces you eventually reach a point where those pieces—electrons, protons, and so on—no longer possess the traits of objects. For example, most of us tend to think of an electron as a tiny sphere... whizzing around, but... it literally possesses no dimension.

Another discovery that physicists made is that an electron, like some shapeshifter out of folklore, can manifest as either a particle or a wave.

This chameleonlike ability is common to all subatomic particles [and] all things once thought exclusively to manifest as waves. Light, gamma rays, radio waves, X rays—all can change to waves to particles and back again. These [subatomic phenomena] are called quanta*, and physicists believe they are the stuff from which the entire universe is made. (*Quanta is the plural of quantum. One electron is a quantum. Several electrons are a group of quanta. The word quantum is also synonymous with wave particle, a term that is also used to refer to something that possesses both particle and wave aspects.)

Perhaps most astonishing of all is [the] compelling evidence that the only time quanta ever manifest as particles is when we are looking at them.

At all other times they behave as waves.

Bohm began by assuming that particles such as electrons do exist in the absence of observers. He also assumed that there was a deeper reality... a subquantum level... Bohm called his proposed new field the quantum potential.

As he looked more carefully into the meaning of the quantum potential he discovered it had a number of features that implied an even more radical departure from orthodox thinking. One was the importance of wholeness. Classical science had always viewed the state of a system as a whole as merely the result of the

interaction of its parts. However, the quantum potential... indicated that the behavior of its parts was actually organized by the whole.

At the level of our everyday lives things have very specific locations, but Bohm's interpretation of quantum physics indicated that at the subquantum level... location ceased to exist. All points in space became equal to all other points in space, and it was meaningless to speak of anything as being separate from anything else.

Indeed, because the quantum potential permeates all of space, all particles are nonlocally interconnected... The picture of nonlocality Bohm was developing was... one in which all things were part of an unbroken web and embedded in a space that was as real and rich with process as the matter that moved through it.

The existence of a deeper and holographically organized order also explains why reality becomes nonlocal at the subquantum level... When something is organized holographically, all semblance of location breaks down [and] is distributed nonlocally.

[According to Bohm,] consciousness is a more subtle form of matter, and the basis for any relationship between the two lies... deep in the implicate order.

Considered together, Bohm and Pribram's theories provide a profound new way of looking at the world: our brains mathematically construct objective reality by interpreting frequencies that are ultimately projections from another dimension, a deeper order of existence that is beyond both space and time.

[According to their theory, an] almost universal tendency to fragment the world and ignore the dynamic interconnectedness of all things is responsible for many of our problems, not only in science but in our lives and our society.

Our current [mode] of fragmenting the world into parts... may even lead to our extinction.

ORANGE: You do not even need a background in science. All you need is an open mind.

The ebb and flow of our consciousness is not precisely definable but can be seen as a deeper and fundamental reality out of which our thoughts and ideas unfold...

These thoughts and ideas are not unlike the ripples, eddies and whirlpools that form in a flowing stream, and like the whirlpools in a stream some can recur and persist in a more or less stable way, while others are evanescent and vanish almost as quickly as they appear.

The interconnectedness of all things [is fundamental to] the holographic model...

The Donor withdrew his noncomprehending mind from the drama. This was all too much; he'd been denied language education, because of the locale he'd traveled out of. And he'd also been denied much variance in tone of the limited language he had learned. Or maybe it was because as a diminished man he was too stupid to comprehend the content of a paradigm? He fell asleep.

When he awoke, the play was over, the stage dark. He craved "a sleeve" to ejaculate into, having gotten used to daily sperm donation for the females who had held him captive and apart from his fellow men. He wandered until he located a light being, then requested a sleeve.

The light being acted confused. It said: "You had a dream each of us were eating bits of metal together. Our kind is inedic, meaning we exist on only air."

The Donor wished he could draw like Pearl Pearlbody could.

*The light beings' color drama (excerpted above) is from
The Holographic Universe by Michael Talbot, 1990;
verbatim text excerpts were arranged by Beach.