

Now, if having given this book an hour of your life you have the impression that none of it is true – consider:

Isn't it strange that we are dicing with all these notions not at the time of Plato or Christ or Blake, but right now, when anything we think or say can theoretically be tested and made to happen within our lifetimes?

Is this a wild coincidence or another sign that the universe is trying to tell us something about its deep and wondrous nature? About our relationship with knowledge and all timespace?

So now, take this book and use it. How you do that is up to you. Beyond that, let's just keep talking.

If there is anything in this book you think is wrong, tell me. It was written to help, not hurt people.

And if you want to know more about me look out for NIGH'SEND, my next book – a sort of autobiography. It starts with Al's murder, and gets way darker, before explaining everything else – how I was jailed, injured, then found out who killed him and avenged his death, how love kept haunting me, how far I had to run to realise... that actually not even I am immune from the most potent phenomena in the universe...

The end is now very much near nigh.

It's almost time for the fifth leap.

Let's try to take it together.

Ever Yours

May

FIRST HELLO

In which May Foster introduces herself and her vision

*My name is May and this tiny book will tell you a **little bit** about me and a **whole lot** about our universe.*

How it began.

Why it is here.

Who it will serve in the end.

The first page of each chapter covers my family, my time in prison, my love affairs and how the turmoil of my life led to me writing.

The words and the pictures which then follow in each chapter build to a simple explanation of...

Well, everything, really.

When recently released from prison (more on that later), my fellow female inmates made me promise to one day return and bring them this – a tiny book which would be three great things:

1 / a new kind of scripture, based on fact not faith

2 / a child's play manual to quantum physics

3 / a complete scientific guide to love

Welcome to allteria.

Now, in order to follow me for the next hour or so,
all you need to do is one simple thing:

ENTERTAIN THOUGHT

It took the cosmos over dozen thousand million years
to evolve your brain, which fires trillions of synaptic
connections a second, so...

Let's give it a little exercise, shall we?

Since you were little you've known that when you look
up into the starry nighttime skies that you are gazing
into the furthest reaches of dynamic, spinning,
exploding universe, filled with epic mystery.

And you know everything in it is made up of tiny
particles whirling in orbit round each other, as if they
too were playing at being stars and planets.

But when you look around you, is that what you see?

When you look at your own hand, can you visualise
the atoms, the neurons, the cells within?

This little book will flex your mind again.

Will let you see, feel and interact with the world anew.

Because something is about to happen.

Something which will change you **FOREVER**.

decatalogue

6

minds are essential to the universe existing,
as evidenced by quantum experiments which show
we are always located at the centre of a cosmos
which appears to be godlike – an omnipresent,
omniconscious and omnipotent reality

7

reality, at its lower levels, is held together by forces
of simple attraction, but the ultimate causality behind
evolution, the only one capable of ful/filling
our infinite universe, is gravity/love

8

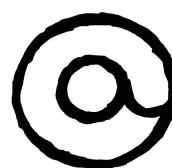
gravity/love can either be experienced within the self
or together with others, but quantum theory shows
it actually works in both states simultaneously

9

simultaneous knowledge of both the universe itself
& all its wonders is the ultimate point of existence

10

existence turns to life through love



the allteria

1

everything is, at heart, pure knowledge

2

knowledge is more than mere information, because it leads to the emotional enlightenment of our cosmos

3

our cosmos was once fathomed by religion & science, but now science alone can fully explain both physical and non-physical aspects of our universe

4

our universe, as seen today, was created through four evolutionary quantum leaps which follow in super-symmetrical sequence and point to an impending fifth and final quantum leap

5

the fifth and final quantum evolutionary leap will be the triumph of creation over destruction, ending the mortal cycle of physical birth and death, transforming us into metaphysical beings who are at one with all time and space, having become pure cosmic mind



It was always said that there are only two things which are guaranteed in life – death and taxes.

As a qualified lawyer and chartered accountant, let me assure you taxes can be evaded. Indefinitely.

Now, the latter is no longer true either.

Look at the *immortal jellyfish* (*Turritopsis dohrnii*), able to reach full adulthood and then return to baby polyp stage, over and over again.

If nature has cracked immortality, can we?



Science already gives us life-extending drugs and replacement hearts, hips, etc. Scientists around the globe are working out how our cells age and reversing the process. And modifying our DNA so that we can also reshape bodies as we wish. While working on quantum computers which could one day replicate the work of our brains, and then some...

All in all:

We are the first self-aware beings to live free of the inevitability of death.

Many of you will be uncomfortable with some of these ideas. But please, don't worry. By the end of this book, you will know that all will be very fine, and very soon...

Now, close your eyes.

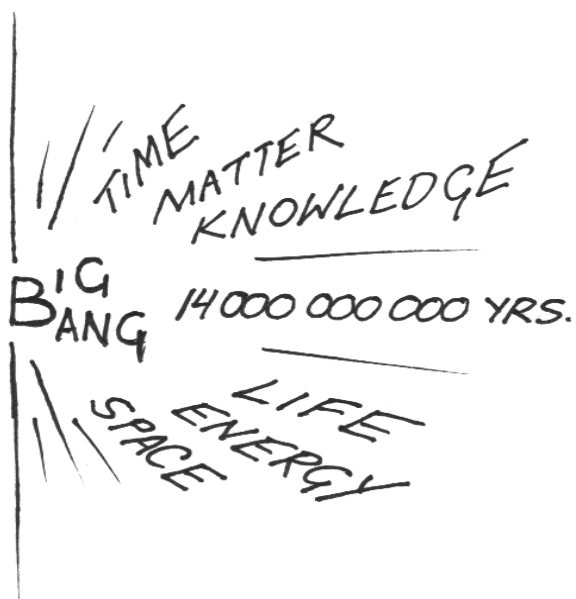
Imagine a time before our universe existed.

A time before time itself began.

()

Hard, isn't it?

But be they scientists and prophets, those who think about this stuff tell us there was a point at which everything we know was created.



Counting in average human lifetimes, that is 280,000,000 "yous" being born and dying over and over again since everything came into being.

Now, if the universe took 14 billion years to make all that we know, imagine what else it might have in store for us in the next million millennia?

LOVE WITHIN SELF (stillness)

The power of creation is within you, and can be accessed any time you like. Without you having to make any effort, go to any lengths. Awareness of the microscopic quantum. Of the mighty cosmos. The great wonder of the universal mind within you.

LOVE WITH OTHERS (movement)

When others cross your path, slow, smile and try to see the spirit they come in. Where are they on the spectrum of being? Will they be your stillness of home or the dynamics of discovery? Which will you be to them?

We are no longer half thinkers, half mystics, forced to choose between religion or science – we are now complex, complete metaphysical creations.

And even IF pain wins and you happen to come to die, in your last moments thinking to yourself; "*alteria* promised I would be saved... would be on the timeline that leads to infinity...", perhaps yours was not the life which led up to the ultimate defeat of death.

Perhaps someone else got to walk that path.

Still, the other side of your body dying there will be their descendants, beings from beyond the future, waiting to save your identity and welcome it into the cosmic community of pure minds.

Now, all that is left for you to do is to read the ten statements on the following pages.

See how they flow into one another, how the words follow supersymmetry, how meaning achieves harmony of aesthetics, ethics and enlightenment.

Realise that they are both more real and more beautiful than anything else you will ever know.

Love is the most powerful phenomenon in our universe. It is not a **feeling** or a **force**, but the **effect** of major aspects of creation coming together.

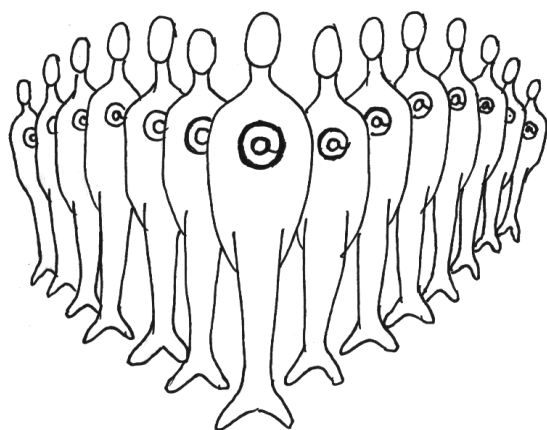
Trying to hold on to extra-ordinary people, to pin them down to rules and regulations, is as pointless as trying to stop the motion of the planets – flow with them, wonder, but don't try to close them in.

To harness love's potential takes great **wisdom** and **strength**. But love is not just about heavenly bodies – if all is made of the same stuff – knowledge – and if gravity works on all things, big and small, as long as they have mass, then the ordinary is extraordinary too.

Quantum physics states that energy comes in two states – **particle** or **wave**. Love too can be experienced in two complimentary states:

LOVE WITHIN SELF (stillness)

LOVE WITH OTHERS (movement)



Think back to the two founding principles behind all religions – now try to see them as universal rules we can all live by.

Let your imagination rocket forward, thousands of millions of years ahead. Imagine what you may encounter there.

Technologies...

Dimensions...

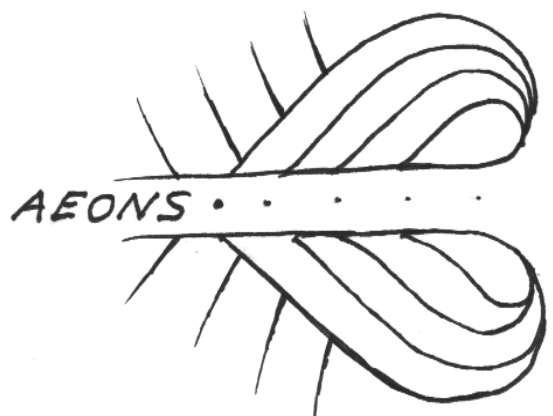
Species...

Stay there for a little while...

Contemplate.

()

Are our senses capable of imagining that far?



Now, as hard as it may still seem, this book covers both ends of the universal spectrum, and more.

It not only explains how the world began and how it will come to end, but also *why*...

Three fundamental questions have troubled me since early childhood:

Can we ever reach the limits of knowledge?

If so, will ordinary people ever be able to get their heads around what it all actually means?

And if it is possible to know it all, regardless of how we may feel about it, is it not our absolute moral obligation to try and achieve this end?

You might think this utterly unlikely, arrogant even – and you may be right. But just consider:

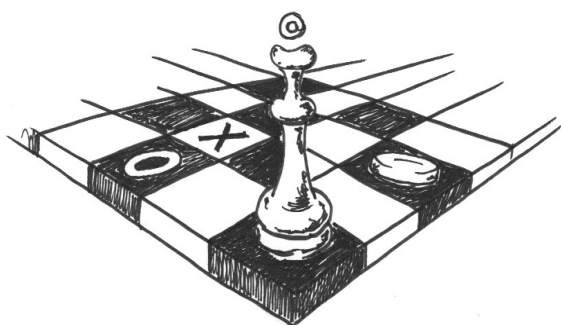
10^{120}

This is called the Shannon Number... It represents all the possible moves in any SINGLE game of chess:

10,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000,000
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A sum far, far bigger than the number of all the atoms that fill the observable universe.

Any time you play a game of chess, that is what your brain contends with (while some human beings can play dozens of blind chess matches all at once...).



SPIRIT

Yes, "spirit" is a verb... but do not think of "spiriting away". Strive to "spirit towards".

The PHYSICAL world is full of distracting trinkets. Star systems await, while we pick through crumbs of diamonds and gold. **Let matter of no spirit go.**

The BIOLOGICAL world is full of little pleasures. But each moment you give in to one of those repetitive temptations is a moment you deny yourself happiness. Eating a cookie all by yourself is base blessing. But baking a tray of cookies is a quantum process – the joy of preparation, the gift of tasting, the grace of giving, the gratitude others feel, the time created together. **The spirit of sharing is true light.**

The world of INFORMATION keeps on singing and dancing all around us. Most of it is data, not wisdom. How to tell the difference between the two? It's all in the spirit they come in. From the levels lower than the emotional? If so, evade. Go for new knowledge. Be drawn by love. **The spirit of discovery is what turns existence into life.**

Realise that everything you do is about EMOTIONS. From the breakfast you choose in the morning to the partner you choose to lie down with at night – the world is at heart how we FEEL about it all. **Knowing that we were all created 14,000,000,000 years ago as starshine, spirit your way into constant and active awareness of that simple fact.**



SLOW

This has always been my way of coping with pressure:

Anything you do. With anyone. Anywhere you go –
do it that tiny bit slower. Walking. Answering people.
Making decisions. Active control of the pace you think,
speak and move will help you be more present.

Time and space keep shoving us along.
Let's learn to shove back.

Slowness is not just about quantity, it is about quality.
The reason large beasts live much much longer
than tiny animals is because the bigger the heart,
the slower it beats.

Save your heartbeats for the big time.

SMILE

Al always smiled. Always. Follow his lead. Whether you
feel like it or not, get those lips curving up – as a shield,
a smoke screen, as essential medicine.

There is always reason to smile. Either as “thank you”
to the good times or “fuck you” to the bad. Attracting
those you want close and scattering those
you want gone.

Never stop smiling.

Who gives a shit if some think you crazy?

Let them.

At least you made them think.

And if they ever ever threaten the people or ideas
you love, only the eyes should serve as warning.
Stare them down, stare until they flake and fold
and fade away, because you know something
they don't – your smile is a philosophy –
a shield against ignorance and shelter for love.

So now we know how powerful your mind is, let's stop
wasting it on “noughts and crosses” rubbish and ask
the toughest, craziest, loneliest question of all:

WHAT ON EARTH IS LOVE?

Love caused the death of my best friend,
my incarceration and my writing this book.

Sure, there are endless volumes on love's cultural
history, its religious, artistic or ethical aspects, yet –
having ploughed through countless books on the
subject – it seems no one has actually worked out:

IS LOVE A FEELING, A FORCE OR A FICTION?



Say “COKE BOTTLE” to most people – in their minds’
eyes, they will see pretty much the same thing.

Say to them “OCEAN”, and you’ll get a much bigger
variety of impressions, some stormy, some calm,
but all of us will envision a giant body of salt water.

But “LOVE”? Ask a handful of people and see
how many universes open up...

047

Whether you think love a figment of our imaginations, or something we feel for others or that exists all by itself, one shocking thing is for sure:

*We do seek the comforts of homes.
The support of families and friends.
The security of pretty possessions.*

But love is something we actually devote our lives to avoiding...

No one ever equips us for it. No school or scientist ever tackles the questions of WHAT it is, HOW it works and how to HARNESS its potential.

Instead, we leave the job to poets and pop singers who harp on about how "love hurts" or "hearts break", which makes no sense at all, because:

PAIN IS NEVER CAUSED BY LOVE
– ONLY BY ITS ABSENCE.

Clearly, if love caused pain it wouldn't be love, right? Obsession. Longing. Insanity. But the moment you make the word mean something other than loving, it naturally turns into something else.

However, questions around it remain unanswered.

Does it exist at all?

Can it be understood?

Through religion? Philosophy? Or quantum physics?

The first of those is the easiest to explain, so let's start with god...

Now that you've enjoyed the bit of exercise promised your mind an hour ago, you may be asking yourselves:

Is this book like a visit to a gym – flexing muscles without giving them anything practical to do? Or can allteria be applied in practice as well as theory?

When recovering in prison, I tried many different kinds of mediation. However, it soon became obvious that it wasn't enough for me just to meditate for a few quarters of an hour a day. The sense of peace, of liberation which came with mindfulness was bliss.

And so I asked myself:

Was it possible to sustain complete awareness of the deep nature of reality every moment of every day?

Go into what I now call:

PERMANENT MEDITATIVE STATE

Think back to pain, how you can go about your business, keeping active, aware, and at the same time fighting suffering – is it possible to maintain a higher state of awareness while still going about our daily lives?

As with love, which doesn't hijack our lives when it hits, but simply amplifies everything, within and without?

But how to attain such a miracle? Be ever present in every moment, when the world around us seems both so staid and so chaotic?

Thinking about it all for so long, I came up with **three basic steps** we can all apply to our lives to help us really live by what we know:

THE FINAL RELIGION

The simplest definition the word "religion" is:

The belief in and worship of a superhuman power.

Science is all about theories. Theories are what we **believe** to be factually true. Agreement as to the things we think to be true is the "holy grail" scientists **worship**. Science now deals with cosmic, non-physical levels of reality beyond us – therefore **superhuman**.

So, as much as the word "religion" sounds wrong, in the context of all this book has already shared with you, it seems that is what allteria is.

THE FIRST PROPHETESS

The simplest definition the word "prophet" is:

Someone speaking on behalf of a superhuman power.

Notice that it has been possible for me to avoid using word "I" throughout the whole of this book. The last thing I ever wanted was to stand out and be noticed.

The limelight is not me.

But as reluctant as I am to say the words "I think", I think I have been given a gift and the point is for me to share it.

The price I've paid, in pain, has been almost insane...

TWO TRUTHS

In which May swaps faith for fact

My mother vanished right after my birth. My father and grandmother raised me on a farm in Kent. My father spent most of his time driving long-distance lorries, trying to find out where my mother had run off to, but whenever home he drank too much and eventually died from a combination of "broken heart" and cirrhosis of the liver.

My gran then had him buried with all the Christian trimmings, even though when he was still alive, the two of them constantly fought over religion. He was a total atheist and she was staunchly Catholic.

Which from the very start baffled me completely.

It seemed obvious that those who believed in some kind of divine person or force would behave TOTALLY differently to those who didn't.

They wouldn't be perfect – they're still mortal, after all – but if they believed in an all-powerful super-moral being who could give them eternity of heaven or hell for their efforts, they'd surely be TRYING harder.

So... the mystery is not just in the nature of the divine, but also in why believers do not seem radically different to agnostics or non-believers...

Was it possible to explain it using psychology?

Or maybe even to find god using physics?

069

Kids believe in St Nicholas, with good reason. Adults, the ultimate authority, tell them he's real. There is also evidence to back this up – presents under the tree.



But when we grow up, even though we quickly stop believing in Santa, many of us go on believing in saints and miracles and other phenomena which have no tangible presence or effect on our world...

Ever since our civilisations appeared, there have been two separate disciplines:

SCIENCE explaining **OBSERVABLE** phenomena

RELIGION pondering **INVISIBLE** dimensions

Thus, all the things scientists couldn't study with a micro- or a tele-scope, religions took on...



← RELIGION | SCIENCE

the allteria decatalogue

in which May shows us
how to harness love
for ever good

Once the idea was planted in my head by the other women in prison, crafting allteria became my coping strategy.

It was talking to the other inmates, who had no idea about the history of science or quantum theory or the autistic spectrum, which forced me to learn how to communicate clearly and concisely.

They asked me to write these ten chapters.

*They said we needed a new religion – **THE LAST RELIGION OF ALL** – based on fact, not faith.*

*They said we need a new prophet – **THE FIRST FEMALE PROPHET** – able to explain the wonders of the universe without taking the wonder out of it all.*

Every religion has its prophet.

Every prophet their scripture.

So, is this book mine?

This sort of thinking about degrees of joy and pain helps us get a grip on reality. Survive challenges. Get closer to one another.

Notice you will never find words like "evil" in any of my descriptions or explanations. Like the word "god", it takes us back to a time of religious misunderstanding, not evolved knowledge.

SAINTLY AND EVIL ARE DEAD END WORDS

The terms "creative" and "destructive" are more apt.

Destruction is produced by degeneration. An atom decaying. A tooth. A social group where poverty and violence become the norm, and then become trauma. Unleashing cruelty, selfishness, violence.

Creativity is the desire to express yourself fully, to commune with others, to procreate. It emerges out of healthy interactions – individuals, families, societies – over time, and leads us to be dutiful towards creation and those within it.

But if love is gravity – the force which binds great entities together in order to launch the universe forward to more creative conclusions – can we find a simple way to access and keep it any time we like?

Can we prepare for love?

Some of the best scientists and scholars in history – Copernicus, Da Vinci, Newton – were once also artists and philosophers. They combined attempts to understand HOW things work with the WHY.

But the Industrial Age made us all focus on the **performance** of science and technology without thinking much of its **purpose**.

We have just exited a century in which we used information to create some very destructive tools. And then unleashed them on the rest of creation. Often with the blessing of organised religions.

How can civilised beings destroy things which are tangibly real in the name of something which no one can evidence?

How can those faithful to a god raise a hand against divine creations?

Well, long before the advent of modern computing, some courageous thinkers used ink and paper and chalk and blackboards and dared to ask a revolutionary question:

What stuff is the stuff we can see and feel made of?

And what they found was a world which seemed to dance to a completely different tune.

A world where gods appear to answer...



SCIENCE | RELIGION →

But before we get on to looking at what is the most important discovery in the history of our species, let us look at religion and ask why it has never satisfactorily explained the workings of the world.

All the great religions have two things in common – they all ask the faithful to:

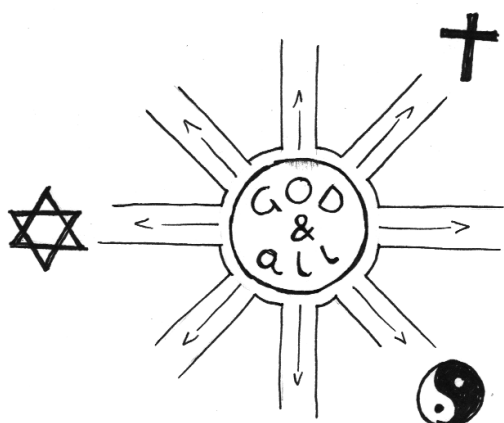
LOVE THAT WHICH CREATED EVERYTHING

LOVE EVERYTHING THAT WAS CREATED

There is, however, a problem with the ways religions then go on to evolve.

Imagine a cartwheel, the hub of which is those very principles.

Now, imagine each religion is like a spoke emanating from the central hub.



As each spoke grows, accumulating theories, traditions and codes meant to tell us exactly how to achieve those two core principles, two things happen.

When you suffer, little else matters but stopping the grief. This how pain cuts us off from the world.

When you are happy, little else matters but sharing the grace. This is how love connects us to the world.

The universe is designed to be at heart as one.

The tiniest bits of reality are entangled.

The greatest things in the cosmos are in orbit around each other.

The experience of joy or happiness can be mapped in a similar three-tier way to the experience of pain:

1 / GOOD is what you feel when life is better than OK, but without any deep, lasting emotions

2 / GREAT is what you feel when fulfilled on a number of levels, joy permeating most of what you do

3 / GODLIKE is what you feel when wholly in love, alone or with others or both



THE OPPOSITE OF LOVE IS NOT HATE, BUT PAIN

Pain is an extraordinary thing – an alarm which rings to tell us something is wrong and needs to be put right.

Pain occurs when connections are disrupted – when something is diseased or disconnected or destroyed.

Pain is a friend – without it, we would never know things were wrong with us until it was too late to fix them – even though we spend billions every year buying things that mute it, instead of addressing its causes – illness, isolation, disorder.

Lying in that prison hospital bed, it became clear that pain can be experienced in three different ways:

1 / ACHE you are dimly aware of, but which exists in the background of your consciousness

2 / ANGUISH which occupies your thoughts all the time, but still allows you to function

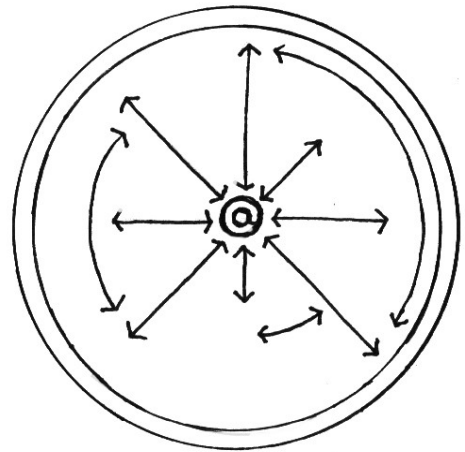
3 / AGONY which blocks out everything and stops you doing anything other than battling the suffering



Both absurdly bad...

RELIGIONS GET FURTHER AND FURTHER
AWAY FROM THEIR FUNDAMENTAL TRUTHS

THE DISTANCE BETWEEN ALL RELIGIONS
& THEIR FOLLOWERS GROWS EVER GREATER



When the women in my prison had this explained to them, they instantly blamed it on the fact that all the prophets so far, that they knew of, were men.

Divisions, punishments, hierarchies – all the things they identified with masculinity.

They asked if it was possible to create a religion which was designed by a woman?

A religion based on fact, not faith?

Yet, just such a thing exists already – it is called science.

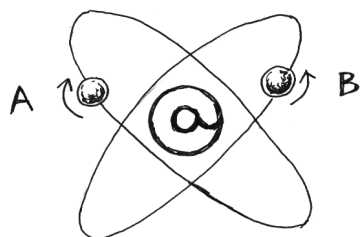
The Universe is made of stories, not of atoms.

Muriel Rukeyser

We're all made up of the physical (body) *and* non-physical (mind)... This book is both a bunch of (physical) pages *and* a bunch of (non-physical) ideas... Why then do we find it so hard to accept that:

AT ITS DEEPEST LEVEL, THE UNIVERSE IS NOT
MADE OF THINGS BUT OF PURE KNOWLEDGE

In his Nobel Prize speech of 1932, Werner Heisenberg said that the atom has "no immediate and direct physical properties at all". Still, as we keep on searching for fundamental bit of matter (strings and other silly things), imagine a pair of sub-atomic particles at the heart of an atom, spinning round its nucleus – particle A at the same time spinning clockwise round its own axis, its twin the other way round.



Now imagine scientists split them up and send them across the infinite depths of space... A tragic end to some elemental sibling love?

Quite the opposite, in fact.

Once they were parted by cosmic distances, scientists decided to measure the spin of one of the twins. Which is when the second twin reversed the direction of its spin. Instantly. Every time the test was repeated...

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NINE ALLWAYS

in which May explains how
love beats pain

*Before the answer to the riddle of love came to me,
first came the battle with pain.*

*Before Al died, my world seemed miserable, even
though his protection had afforded me a life of total
carefree bliss. A safe home, a cushy job, plenty
of interests and activities to keep me occupied.
Studying law, finance, physics, strolling through life
without giving its context any real pragmatic thought.*

*Then Al was dead. The cuffs were on me.
My back was broken.*

*The pain kept veering between extremes, often
dumping me in depths of despondency and
depression. What made it worse at the time was
not knowing if it would ever end, or maybe even
keep on getting worse.*

*Instead of trying to work out who might have killed
my soulmate, my mind kept busy trying work out how
to commit suicide (if the pain got too much to bear).*

*Eventually, the pain abated. It took an almost infinite
amount of time. My body wasting what felt like millions
of calories fighting it.*

*But there is an old saying – "Failure is a better teacher
than success" – and here are the revelations suffering
had to offer during this dark time.*

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If you want a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or objects.

Albert Einstein

Love challenges us to better ourselves, to strip reality of cheap comforts, dead-end relationships, false gods – love demands we surrender to the perpetual flow that is evolution...

Think about it... *matter, life, information, feelings, metaphysics*... the higher you go up the levels of existence, the more theoretical, more non-physical things get.

Now, if love is such a powerful force, how do we keep from being possessed by it, trapped and drawn towards black/grey holes?

How do we find and keep love for ever good?

OK, easy enough so far to understand WHAT is happening, but HOW is it possible?

Scientists have tried to measure the time in which the adjustment happens – *none passes*.

Tried to see if there is some way in which subatomic particles can communicate – *they are far too small and simple to produce and transmit/receive data*.

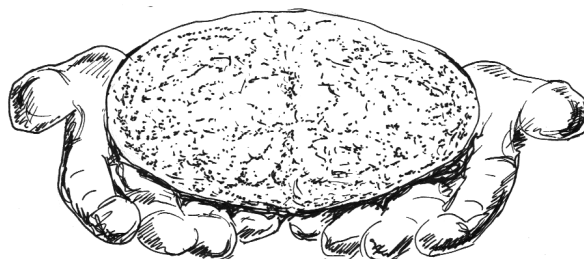
Tried to work out how something smaller than the smallest bit of matter can govern its own position in the universe – *they can't move all by themselves*.

It was like the universe knows **EVERYTHING** that is taking place **EVERYWHERE** within it and has the power to do **ANYTHING** necessary to keep itself in perfect balance.

In other words, the universe is itself **OMNIPRESENT**, **OMNI-CONSCIOUS** and **OMNIPOTENT**.

Or put, even more simply:

OUR UNIVERSE IS GODLIKE...



*THE VISIBLE UNIVERSE
THE INDIVISIBLE MIND*

Something called Gaia Theory was popular decades back.

The idea that our Earth is itself a living organism, and that all planets and stars are connected by networks of interdependent energy.

Much like the synapses in your brain...

Scientists, however, lack the right language with which to tell us of the amazing observations they have been making in this most recent century.

You see, they are not trained to explain what we call "deep theories".

The same way we are not trained to explain love.

For that, we need creative folk, like playwrights or filmmakers.

Or writers, like me.

At the subatomic level, the basic building blocks of reality are made up of identical-size particles dancing round each other. They are like families, friendships, societies – low energy level states which keep things steady and neat.

But at the grand, cosmic level of reality, gravity takes over and wrenches us in different directions – always towards the bigger, better, more wondrous.

You don't see visible objects, such as planets and galaxies, all attracted to same size cosmic bodies, do you? They're always in orbit around something bigger than themselves. The Moon is tied to the Earth. Earth is chained to the Sun. The Sun in a spin around some supermassive grey hole at the heart of our galaxy (the ultimate femme fatale).

Love is like that – a *consequence* of two remarkable entities coming close to each other, causing either feelings of delight (if the energy is harnessed) or feelings of despair (if the energy goes amok).

Someone once said "We always love that which we are not." And so, we seem to be condemned to love people who are smarter than us, more charming than us, *better* than us. Condemned to suffer for love...

But what if the problem is not with love, but with us?

If we want to possess the object which pulls at us with love, then yes. Its power, charisma, quality will bind us in chains of self-centred desire.

But if love is seen not as an end point in itself, but as something which flows and drives us to transcend what we started out as in life, then no. It is anything but bad.

If in our universe talk of love is left to poets and pop stars, so why don't we get them to work with physicists and philosophers on the one perfect, fundamental gap in our knowledge – the study of gravity.



For all the wild discoveries we have made in the past century, we still have little or no idea what gravity IS.

Wikipedia says:

“Gravitation or gravity is a natural phenomenon by which all physical bodies attract each other... possibly mediated by a massless particle called the graviton, created during the grand unification epoch... gravity has a negligible influence on the behavior of sub-atomic particles, and plays no role in determining the internal properties of everyday matter. On the other hand, gravity is the dominant force at the macroscopic scale, that is the cause of the formation, shape, and trajectory (orbit) of astronomical bodies... for the formation of tides; for heating the interiors of forming stars and planets to very high temperatures; for solar system, galaxy, stellar formation and evolution; and for various other phenomena observed on Earth and throughout the universe... gravity is the only force acting on all particles with mass; it has an infinite range; it is always attractive and never repulsive; and it cannot be absorbed, transformed, or shielded against.”

Not at all like an encyclopaedic entry, is it? More like a poem, a song, and yet also true science.

THREE ENDINGS

In which May sees
the end of evolution

As early as primary school, everyone saw me as stupid, for refusing to study and to talk and scream along with the other kids. They called me all sorts of names, some related to my Gypsy roots, some more personally to me and my character.

It wasn't until well past my tenth birthday that a wonderful school teacher was able to diagnose a condition which affects the way my thoughts and emotions work.

We label it as autism, Asperger's, ASD, but none of the diagnoses fit, feel right, nowhere near enough...

My mind is rapid and vivid, but my feelings are dull.

Leaving the house, being around all chaos of real life is a major problem.

As is being touched by others.

The thrills most people seek just make me panic.

The same amazing school teacher who thought to diagnose me also had the great idea of sitting introverted, alienated little me at the same desk the wildest, most hyperactive boy in school.

That was Al, the person this book is dedicated to and named after...

*Al protected me from all the things which confused,
frightened and angered me.*

*After we quit school, Al rented me a flat and set up
a party events firm, which suited him – unlike me,
he was such a social animal – and hired me to handle
his legal and financial affairs, legit and less legit, which
entertained and allowed me to repay his kindness.*

*We lived like this for a decade, in perfect symbiosis –
me in my own world, Al always in orbit around me...*

*Never did it occur to either of us that fiddling all those
figures would become part of a much darker story...*

*After Al was attacked and mortally wounded,
the police arrested me on suspicion of having been
involved in his killing, locked me in prison, where
another attack left me severely injured. At first,
it seemed like some kind of assault on our
organisation, but the truth turned out to be far more
emotionally complex...*

*The next few years became an insanely hard struggle
with all my old fears and obsessions, with added
curses of prison, mourning and debilitating pain.*

*It was horrific to be surrounded by total strangers,
locked away beyond the edges of society. Like being
back in school, only much much more oppressive.
And without the hope of Al coming
to my rescue ever again...*

*Most the women around me saw the world
as a pointless, violent and unjust joke.*

Hearing all their stories, it was difficult to disagree.

What if they were right?

*What if our universe is not just soulless and pointless,
or cold and ruthless, but actually in some way sadistic?*

*Through all those pained hours, questions kept
plaguing me...*

18

EIGHTH INFINITY

In which May shows
love and gravity
are as one

Love held no personal interest for me.

*In fact, people have always seemed alien to me,
and much easier to take in when in the forms of books
they wrote or theories they left behind than in actual
flesh and blood ways.*

*We are our minds, therefore bodies SHOULD be
alien to us.*

Still, love remained a puzzle...

*Something about the sharpness of my mind,
my wit, the way my body moves makes people
attracted to me. Some find me sexually arousing.
Some intellectually. Some even a combination of the
two. Men. Women. Young. Old. They are drawn to me,
even when they see how my emotions (don't) work.*

Is this power to cause powerful affections a curse?

Or a blessing, in letting me resist love's chaotic pull?

*Does this ability to stay "love proof" allow me to get
near to that which burns everyone else and work out
a way to arm ourselves against pain and have love
do us the power of good?*

47

It is beyond comprehension, but apparently not beyond the realms of logic, as most scientists now agree such an "upload" is theoretically possible.

So, do imagine that tiny quantum processor giving us access to all senses, all times, all infinite regions of spacetime.

You will no longer fear death, pain or alienation.

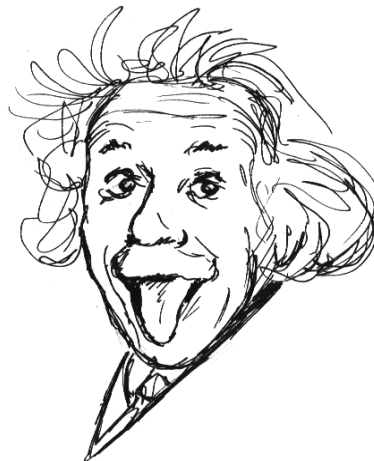
YOU WILL BECOME ONE WITH
THE UNIVERSE ITSELF



What if there is no point in any of it?

What if the cosmos is nothing but a cosmic joke?

*Why did the universe come into being,
if it is all going to go to hell anyway?*



Studying world faiths and philosophies became my sanctuary, and the greater my store of knowledge on the subject became, the more clear it seemed that the universe is too ordered, too elegant, too cleverly composed to be no more than some sick joke.

The prison governor allowed me to organise presentations about "science and stuff" for the other women and even the staff. Their questions kept me grounded. Their doubts honest.

Hearing explanations of how the universe worked, they asked – Yeah, but what the hell is it FOR?

There appear to be three basic directions the universe could be heading towards, but only one of them seems to make sane sense...

1 / ENDLESS EQUILIBRIUM

Some folks say the universe is in eternal balance between light and dark (yin and yang). That there will be no ending at all, just as they hold there was no beginning. We now know that energy cannot be destroyed – if science says everything is made of energy, maybe this theory fits?

But if now is the same as forever, what's the point of time? Of space in which things occur? The process of evolution we are now mapping? Does it not show a clear and elegant increase in both the quantity and quality of what the universe represents that did not exist 14 billion or even a few years ago?

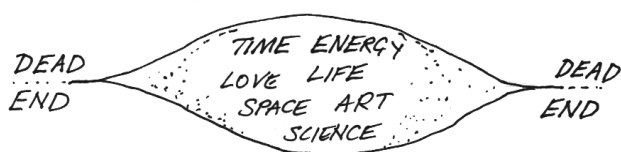


1 / EVIL END

Many people think that the universe might end with a big whimper – a cosmic implosion, everything extinguished, including all life and all knowledge.

But for the universe, so full of order and reason, to grow and grow and then come to a ginormous nought – would that not seem utterly insane?

Some folks might also argue that the battle between "good" and "evil" will be won by the dark side – but then everything will die, along with the victors, as a complete triumph for the destructive forces would destroy them also – and be the definition of absurd.



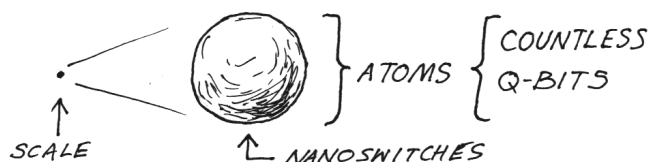
Well then, just ask yourself – if the universe did indeed at some point appear, what did it appear INTO?

And if that INTO is big enough to make room for our universe to exist in, why can't it make room for countless other cosmoses?

*To see the World in a Grain of Sand,
And a Heaven in a Wild Flower,
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand
And Eternity in an hour.*

William Blake, 1803

Now, imagine a "quantum brain" the size of a grain of sand or a speck of amber, using some radical technologies – quantum computing, 3D printing, nanorobotics – many of which already exist today, to become a fully functioning "q-chip".



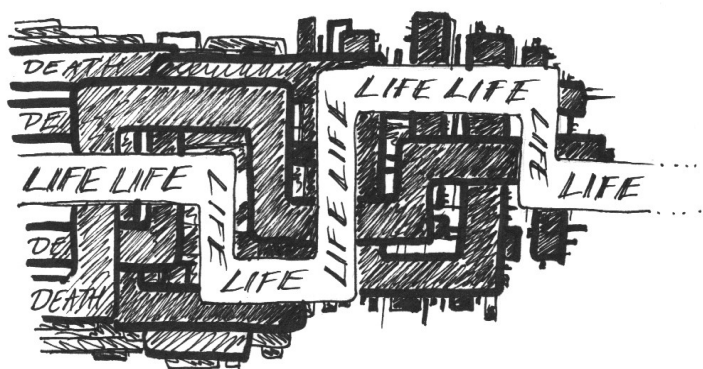
Using atom-sized nanobots to manipulate the position of all quantum particles, this speck of matter will be able to process information at speeds which absolutely outperform even the fastest human brain.

Impossible?

Look at yourself...

As children, we had no problem imagining the world as containing portals to other stories, other dimensions, other realities. Growing up, we had this ability programmed out of us.

But scientists don't invent stories to meet our need for order and reason. They simply say what they observe and can prove. And even though they probably wish it didn't, what they are observing today suggests there are many mysterious realities which exist parallel to our own – and not by accident either...



The idea that a mind which is witnessing the universe is essential to its existence is rather new. As are quantum computers.

But they all add up to the same simple conclusion – there are countless other universes, existing parallel to the one you experience, in which all other possible narratives happen.

Quantum computers “tunnel” between them to join forces and work together (because they are smaller than physical matter), but we are too big to touch these other worlds, and so only ever experience the one – the one in which we don't destroy or get destroyed ourselves, but keep on evolving, in the name of all that is logical.

Still have a problem buying into multiverse theory?

3 / ETERNAL ENLIGHTENMENT

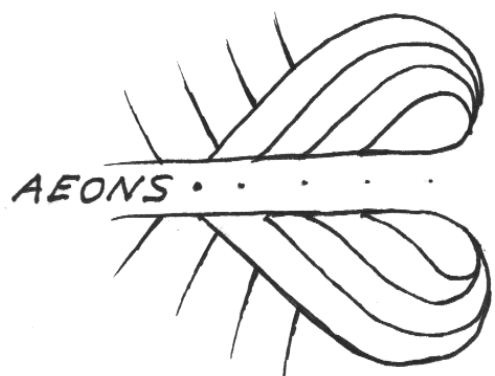
Most faith systems suggest an end time in which good triumphs over evil. Call it heaven or nirvana or what transcendence you will.

This actually makes scientific sense.

Unlike us, who are physically limited and mortal, the universe is potentially infinite in space and time.

What if in the coming millennia we evolve into a new stage of life – one which no longer needs a material body in which to exist, and therefore is no longer subject to destructive forces any more?

Would our minds then not dance across the cosmos, enjoying freedom from pain, isolation and death? Exploring every nook and cranny of space and whatever is beyond it? Asking and getting answers to impossible questions? Exploring the hearts of galaxies, in and out of black holes, as one with one and all?



The coming chapters show that the structure of the universe is actually designed to deliver this third end. Even if it is very hard for us imperfect, mortal being to consider and accept.

You might complain: *"I don't want to go to heaven, it sounds boring, all that sitting on a cloud with god stuff..."*

Others argue that love cannot exist without hate. Life without death. Joy without pain.

But what if once again we're getting our thinking programmed wrong?

Transcendence can't be boring, because then it wouldn't be transcendence, right? Seeing heaven as boring is human, not enlightened thinking.

As for the problem of context – true, opposites have to exist. Otherwise, we would never know the nature of anything. If in the future no one is ugly or disabled, how will we be able to appreciate beauty or fitness?

Well, while a child will play with matches, an adult won't because they know what can happen if they do.

The same way in the future we will live in harmony with the universe and with each other, simply because we will have grown tired of repeating the same old mistakes, fully aware what the consequences are when we keep on getting things wrong.

Because the consequences of our actions are now no longer about future generations, but about us, a transformation in our way of thinking needs to happen.

An evolved utopia.

One of the things scientists are using quantum theory to do is build super fast computers. And "super fast" here means the kinds of computers which in a second do the sorts of maths classical computers would need billions of years to handle.

How?

Quantum processors don't work like normal silicon microchips (such as the ones in your mobile phone or microwave oven). Those use what we call binary gates, which work like a line of dominos falling in a nice orderly queue...

Now, imagine an avalanche of such gates. One gate performs several calculations, then others follow, the way one falling pebble at the top of a mountain can hit several other pebbles, unleashing a rock fall that can dislodge thousands of boulders in seconds...

Quantum computers manipulate the potential positions of subatomic particles and work with that information. Say, one quantum gate can have four superpositions. Four gates can have 16. 16 64. 64 256... a dozen moves later, you do not have a dozen calculations performed, you have 67,108,864 instead.

↓ FOR EVERY CLASSIC COMPUTATION

1 = 4

5 = 1024

10 = 1048576

15 = 1073741824

20 = 1099511627776

25 = 1125899906842624

↑ THIS MANY QUANTUM COMPUTATIONS

This only explanation scientists can come up with for this sort of exponential growth is that there is not just one quantum processor working on a given problem, but many others in many other universes connected with ours...

The first year of my prison sentence had me trapped not only in a cell, but strapped down to my bed, waiting for my back to heal. Unable to move, wondering if there was anywhere in the universe chronic pain could be hidden from, the question occurred:

If there was once a Big Bang which gave birth to the universe, where did that explosion go off? Looking up into the sky, where is it that epicentre of all?

Scientists measuring the distance from us to the edge of the observable universe have noticed it is all the same, no matter where you look. The background radiation. The red shift effect. It appears that wherever you happen standing and looking out from IS ITSELF the centre of everything, the whole Big Bang centred around you:

THE CONSCIOUS OBSERVER

Knowing how long life has been around our pretty blue marble of a planet, we can now estimate how often it came to being annihilated by a range of disasters. Look at the surface of the moon and all its craters. Think about how lifeless the rest of our universe appears to be. Thinking about it mathematically, we should either never have evolved into thinking creatures or been destroyed long ago...

Well, what if all that stuff actually happened in a parallel reality, but not the one you experience?

What if nuclear wars and comet strikes and other armageddons have already happened in other universes, leaving ours safe because the universe NEEDS us here to go on evolving?

And what if this knowledge can be used to help us not only stop running from love, but start racing towards it?

FOUR WONDERS

In which May explains how
quantum leaps
create life

When they put me in prison, laid up in the hospital ward waiting for my broken back to heal, thinking was all there was to do. About the past. And about the way AI came to be killed.

Being his best friend and business partner, knowing he was doing business with the wrong people, should have prepared me for danger... but by the time the thought crossed my mind, it was too late.

It took a massive shock to my system – 24 hours in which my soulmate was murdered, my freedom taken from me, my back broken – to make me realise the world is actually the product of shock therapy.

In the history of all that we know, there have been four key, totally surprising moments – ones we can call "quantum leaps". By which we don't mean just any old jumps.

Quantum leaps are "impossible" transitions from one state to another that could not be produced by the "contents" of the previous state.

All that we know, all that we are, is a product of four such wondrous leaps.

FROM LESS THAN ZERO TO SOMETHING

Whether you believe in religious or scientific theories of creation, we tend agree that at some point the universe appeared where previously there was... well, *less* than nothing.

This is very odd to contemplate, because everything we know and understand (even death) is in the context of actual existence.

This is impossible leap number ONE.



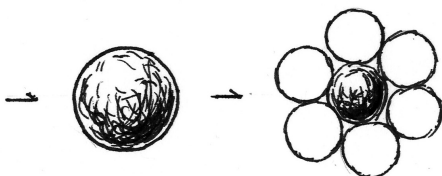
FROM SOMETHING TO SOMETHING LIVING

Many scientists suggest the scale of the observable universe is so vast that the binding of various elements into living tissue just had to happen eventually.

But imagine you got a giant sack, filled it with Lego bricks and shook it for a dozen billion years...

Do you think you'd end up with an actual live elephant inside it? No, because the basic building blocks of such creature weren't in the sack in the first place, right? Not even the **CONCEPT** of life as such.

Hence, impossible leap number TWO.



SEVENTH HAVEN

In which May shows how multiverse theory saves lives

We have just emerged from a century in which it was easy to lose hope and start believing there is no ghost in the machine, the gene is selfish, god is dead, etc...

When in prison, trapped in bed by a broken back and relentless pain, it was easy to pray for death, doubting the purpose, the meaning of existence.

Chronic pain is a terrible thing. The loneliest place in the known universe. No one can reach you there...

For a long time after my accident, hate filled my thoughts. Knowing about all the different things which could end life on earth – some of them natural like comet impacts, sun flares and sudden ice ages caused by the reversal of the magnetic polarity of our planet – and some human caused, such as synthetic viruses, nano-robots overrunning the planet, artificial intelligence replacing us as dominant lifeforms – it was fine to think that at least one such end was inevitable.

But in time, the pain abated. My back healed, my mind calmed and it was possible for me to ponder again some fundamental puzzles about the nature of reality.

After all, there have already been countless moments in history when all life or just intelligent life on earth could have been wiped out.

*Why are we still here? Accident or design?
Is it possible to explain that our ongoing existence is no fluke?*

If they were do to this, they would probably at first appear as angels or loved ones, to give us the comforting sense of being safe. Then they would allow our non-physical selves to dissolve into all. Each one of our individual identities becoming one of the synapses, a heavenly body in the great mind that is the universe.

Yes, the notion of this fifth quantum leap will be hard for us to accept. Our imaginations can manage the ideas, but our intuition (which is based on experience) has a hard time buying into the story.

However, in this way, we solve the problem of immortality in an elegant fashion, aligned with current ideas in physics, while also ensuring the moral trajectory the universe's evolution is followed to the letter.

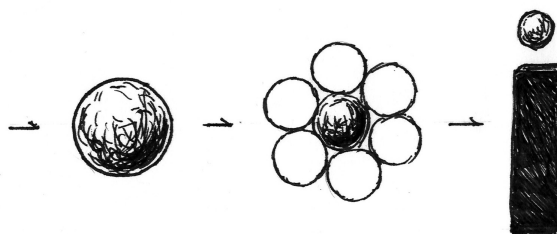
All beings that have ever lived and also suffered – human, animal, plant even (read up on how tree communities communicate) – will thus get to be rescued from oblivion. Being absorbed into the cosmic mind (which is what the universe actually is, at heart) they will be allowed to exist in indefinite delight.

But what if some great cataclysm happens, or our progress is interrupted by human-made disasters, before we get there?

Are there any laws of space or time which will keep us from being destroyed?

FROM SOMETHING LIVING TO SOMETHING LIVING THINKING

Next, try to work out how we went from single-cell organisms to organisms which are able to send themselves into outer space. Or film themselves singing David Bowie's *Space Oddity* while in orbit. Or teleport things like information, energy and matter back from outer space. And back and forth in time. And so, impossible leap number THREE.

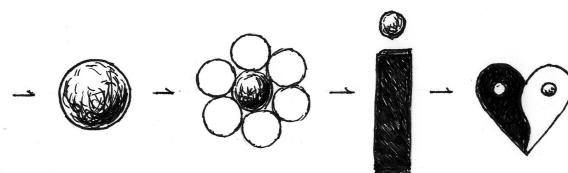


FROM SOMETHING LIVING THINKING TO SOMETHING LIVING THINKING FEELING

By "feeling" we do not mean "sensing". Things like aesthetics, like ethics, like enlightenment – are all "deep values" accessible only to highly evolved species – like us.

All other animals or thinking machines can move, interact with their environment and process information, but they cannot explain (or even try to explain) WHY they are here.

At last, impossible leap number FOUR.



Now, is the fourth leap final?

Is that the peak of evolutionary processes?

Or are there more stages to come?

Perhaps the experience of emotional well-being in the right place at the right time with the right fellow creatures is all the universe should offer?

It seems inevitable now that we are about to become the first set of beings in the known universe who can not only grasp – mentally and emotionally – where we have come from, but are now able to use our imaginations to predict where we go to next.

The fifth leap of cosmic evolution.

Which is almost here.

The last leap of them all...

Recently, Stephen Hawking rebranded “black holes” “grey holes”, because the one thing they can’t suck in and make vanish is information.

So, if such ginormous cosmic portals can’t get rid of history, what if death can’t either?

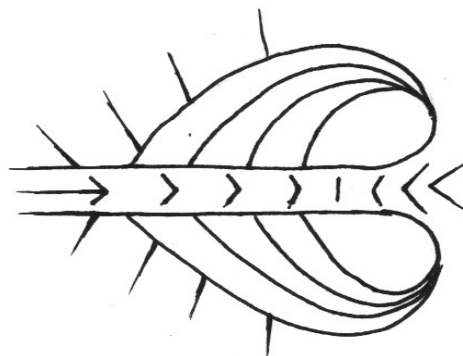
People experience déjà vu all over the world, in all cultures. Another thing which seems to unite us across time and space is something called **Near Death Experience** – recounted by those who clinically die, but are then brought back to life.

Research into this phenomenon brings up some common themes: seeing lights, feeling safe, meeting loved ones, even animals, who had died before us.

A lot of effort has gone into trying to explain this sort of experience as the brain panicking, chemicals going haywire, or even people telling tall tales.

But what if it is possible to explain the fifth and final leap through this very phenomenon?

What if in the future the minds of our descendants are able to go back outside the spacetime line to wait, without changing the past, for when our brains die in order to capture and include the information they contain into the great cosmic mind?



Yet, something troubles me in this paradise vision.

Because the universe has never existed before, and had no blueprint for doing so, it has had to test the limits of the worst pain and the greatest joy, the vilest "hate" as well as the purest "love". It is the only way it could learn the value of all.

But does it not seem wrong that in the future some of us will get to transcend pain, while so many others suffered terribly? That billions of beings had to live and die in ignorance or agony just so that some of us get to conquer confusion, suffering and death?

In fact, it ruins the whole damn show – if the point of evolution is to learn from mistakes and create a superior reality of truth and justice, how can that reality be built on the suffering of those who do not get to share in the glory?

Now, what if there was a way for us to go back in time and undo all our horrible histories?

Knowing what we know about timespace, travelling into the past to tweak things about seems insane.

Even if future beings had the means to change history, they would be undoing the sequence of events that led up to their coming into existence.

Destroying themselves in the process.

So, no time travel for us.

But what if there is another way to make up for the millennia of suffering evolution has inflicted on countless billions of living creatures?

A way which did not mess with the arrows of time?

FIFTH FINAL

In which May reveals the end point of evolution

Long after he had been killed, someone sent into my prison a letter which Al had left in his will.

In it, Al confessed to having been in love with me since pretty much the moment we met. For over a decade, all those fights, those classes, those holidays and years of working together, he never said a thing.

And in his letter he explained why. He said he understood my condition. Knew how my feelings worked – or didn't work – and so knew it was not something he was going to get back in return.

Instead, he was happy loving me without the need to be "with me". He could see and talk to and aid me every day of his life – this was all he could ask for.

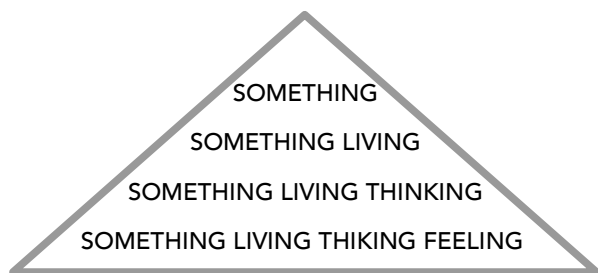
Love for him was not about owning through touch or contract, but through serving and being around me.

If love was a feeling, he said, how could one ever need to possess its physical source?

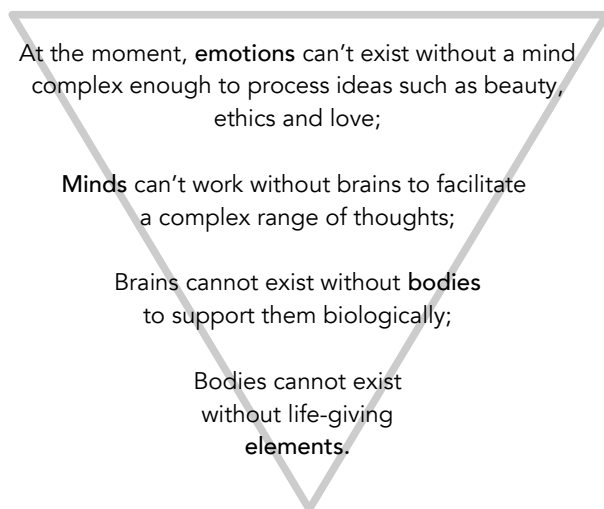
Love for him was not a static idea, but a process. It was not contained in people but existed somewhere in the "space between" them.

In his letter, he said he didn't quite understand what he was saying, couldn't explain it, but knew one day it would be up to me to do so – in his name.

Now, consider our cosmic pyramid of leaps – after all, the triangle is the most stable shape in geometry:



See how all four levels depend on each other:



Hence we see how the universe is built on hierarchies, but not hierarchies which make one level more special or important than another.

Only hierarchies of complexity... after all, everything is made up of the same stuff – knowledge.

And so, now that we find ourselves at this fourth and so far highest level, it is our obligation to ask – why and whatever next?

What if we could one day grasp time with our minds the way we take in the world around us with our eyes?

And what if we could control, dance across it, the way we can now race up and down through space?

It appears that we are the first species of sentient beings in the known universe able to contemplate *indefinity* – the ability to live as long as we want, not as long as our imperfect bodies let us...

Remember those jellyfish that can just go on forever, growing old and young and old again?

There are a number of ways scientists are right now developing which will prolong human life indefinitely.

They are already working on reversing the ageing process in our cells, 3D printing new organs and replacing worn-out parts of the body with artificial, cybernetic substitutes.

Once we have all those avenues mastered, we will be able to live as long as we want, where we want, looking like we want.

And then there are all the trans-person ideas – living as holograms or having our minds uploaded to computers, using far-off future technologies to become pure mind.

At the moment we can transplant or even grow synthetic replacements of just about any part of the human body except the brain.

Is that ever going to be possible though?

Well, think about the previous four quantum leaps.

We live in a world made of the pure impossible.

Love is meant to be the thing we desire and death the thing we fear, but whenever pondering the topic, death always seemed to me life's greatest ally.

And something we are more comfortable with than the idea of love...

Just imagine being immortal. Existing for INFINITY. Even if your life is perfect, how long would you stay happy before you went mad with boredom? A hundred such lifetimes? A trillion?

Yet the cosmos is still so full of wonders to discover and enjoy, wouldn't it be great if we could live not as long as our bodies insist, but as our minds wish?

So, in trying to solve the problem of mortality, let's look at the thing which seems to rule over all – time.

Scientists tell us that time is the fourth cosmic dimension. To make anything, we not only need three physical dimensions, but also time for it to exist in.

All that happens, past, present and future, exists on a plane which is only perceptible to our minds in the "present tense".

Think about déjà vu. The sort of odd "out of time" everyone can relate to... how does it work?

What if déjà vu moments of "I've been here before" are just the needle of our perception skipping across the record of time, allowing us a glimpse of reality which already exists up ahead?



My AI was a healthy, wealthy, popular guy. He could have anyone he wanted. Yet he chose to marry the daughter of a wealthy criminal in order to secure our business interests.

This follows the true history of marriage – not as a home for love between two persons, but as a vault for the capital shared between families or clans.

He understood the difference between pleasure and happiness and did not mind sacrificing a little of his freedom for a lot of mine (the money he married into financed our company).

All of this forced me, for the first time in my life, reading that letter from beyond his grave, to ask – could my passion for learning about the physical universe shed light on thoughts and feelings?

As my studies of the universe, and the emotions within it, evolved, more and more parallels became apparent.

For example, it was clear that most of the women behind bars had very little schooling and a hell of a lot of traumatic experiences. Still, it felt good to be around them. Better than with most of the party crowd AI had surrounded himself with. Sure, those urbanites were pretty smart, and pretty enough, but emotionally absent.

On the other hand, most people in prison seemed to have quantum leaped their physical and intellectual limitations to become emotionally evolved, aware of and focused on the deep needs of others... which helped me realise:

HUMAN BEINGS ARE ALSO MADE UP OF FOUR FINELY ARRANGED LAYERS OF EXISTENCE.

1 / MATTER

These are the bits which make up our bodies, but are not actual living tissue. The mineral bits. Essential they are to us too.

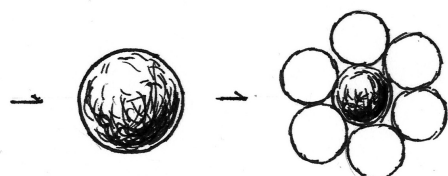
If we breathe in bad particles, if we eat or drink poisons, if we are penetrated by rays or pulled at by forces which do not agree with our physical selves, we suffer.



2 / CELLS

This is the living, biological aspect of who we are.

Our overall wellbeing is dependent on how healthy the "vehicles" we travel in are. Pain, physical deformity or shortage of nutrients will all affect our thoughts and emotions negatively.



SIXTH SENSE

In which May explains
how indefinity will
transform us all

Religions have always been alien to me.

The same with all other forms of spirituality.

Chakras, horoscopes, anything which could not be explained using basic numbers or letters.

Then prison brought me close to a woman paralysed with impending grief.

Her mother was due to pass away, after a very long illness. She loved her mum so much, she was being driven insane by the wait for the inevitable parting.

It was thanks to her, a simple cook in the prison kitchens, that the moment of revelation came – awareness of the exact point the universe is striving towards.

Even though there was never any reason for me to believe in life after death, it suddenly became clear that one day she was going to be reunited with her mother once more.

Some have said that this is wishful thinking on my part – a desperate need to see Al again. Or my father.

So let me explain what science says on the subject.

Because science now clearly says that death is undone.

The universe needs both stability and instability.

Order and chaos.

Stillness and movement.

The same as all of us human beings.

We too seem to need a mix of steady relationships interspersed with wild moments romantic passion.

There is a way to be both true to a **steady reality** and a **dynamic imagination** – to spend part of your life in port and part of it journeying.

So what happens when we perceive love as not a block for building things out of, but as the energy which moves us towards new horizons instead?

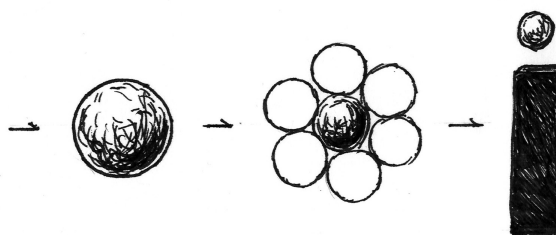
As that which drives curiosity, creativity, change?



THOUGHT

This is the aspect of us which processes information.

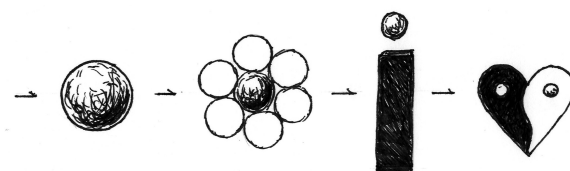
If you are able to think in a sensible, coherent way, the world works. If your thoughts are wired wrong, it can lead to insanity, depression and psychosis. Information is not the same as knowledge – plenty of clever people live chaotically destructive lives, the same as many stupid folk live in graceful harmony with the universe and all it contains.



EMOTIONS

This is what allows us to appreciate the values that turn *information* into *knowledge*. Values like togetherness, like generosity, like truth.

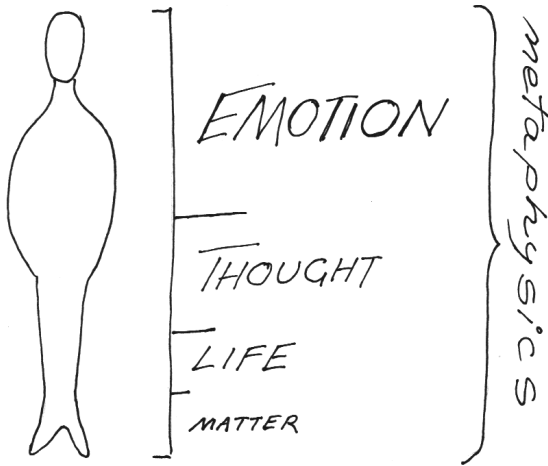
And though we might be physically, biologically and intellectually of sound body and mind, we can suffer nevertheless – say, through the loss of one person we love (even though there are another seven billion other similar such beings on our planet).



And, once again, the question presents itself – is this it?

Four stops on the universal ride?

It is now possible to combine what we know about the universe and about ourselves and go beyond both.

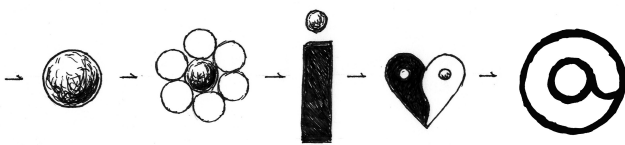


METAPHYSICS

Arising out of the material, biological, informational and emotional levels is a fifth and final level.

While the first four levels stack one upon the other like a pyramid, the fifth is different in that it allows us to transcend the very idea of existence.

In fact, isn't that why we are here?



Aren't we always trying to use knowledge to transform the world around us? Use medicine to heal all sicknesses? Transcend decay and disintegration?

The ultimate stage of this process would be to stop fighting against the limitations of physical being and transcend them - become pure mind over matter.

But whether we achieve mastery of timespace as physical or non-physical beings, what will it be like?

Will we feel anything of our old selves?

At the moment, it seems we are somehow wired wrong. Sure, we function well enough on the mechanical levels of existence, but how rarely do we analyse and evolve our emotional needs?

Let's look at the idea of "romantic love". When in pursuit of a suitable mate, someone we see and feel mind to mind with, why do we once in a blue bloody moon "fall" for people who are not in any way right, and yet they hijack our thoughts, our lives completely?

Why are so many men drawn to femme fatales? Why do women have a soft spot for the bad boy type?

From a pragmatic point of view, we should not be seeking to love, but be loved instead.

We should not weep if the people we fall for don't feel the same about us. Instead, we should cheer and try to surround ourselves by those who say they love us, regardless of whether we like them very much or not. This way, we get affection without risk of rejection, while our "subjects" get to have the "object" of their desire – a win-win situation.

This makes perfect sense, and yet clearly being adored is not the same as being happy. We seem to need passion, need the extra-ordinary, need to fall in love in order to be ourselves.

Why?