

This book introduces a radically new cosmology of cosmologies based on the Four Spheres of Numinosphere, noosphere, biosphere, and hylosphere. These correspond in reverse order to Pierre Teilhard de Chardin's four stages of evolution: physical, biological, mental, and spiritual.

For as evolution has become increasingly conscious of itself within us human beings during the past 25,000 years, we have learnt more and more about what the Universe is and how it is designed. This has happened because *Homo sapiens sapiens* 'wise-wise human' has been given the great gift of Self-reflective Intelligence, the Divine quality that distinguishes humans from the other animals and machines with 'artificial intelligence'.

But in recent years, scientists and technologists have been predicting that they are about to build robots and computers with general superintelligence, far exceeding any level of intelligence that we humans might aspire to. Is this possible and whether it is or not, what are the long-term psychological and economic consequences of humanity's growing dependency on information technology?

This is but one of a number of existential questions that this book provides an answer to, inspired by the most critical unanswered question in science: "What is causing scientists and technologists, aided and abetted by computer technology, to drive the pace of evolutionary development at exponential rates of accelerating change?"

The principal reason why this unsolved problem is not at the top of scientists' research programmes is that it cannot be solved within the cognitive framework provided by mathematical logic, materialistic, mechanistic science, and monetary economics. To answer this question, realizing our fullest potential as superintelligent, superconscious beings, we need to follow Albert Einstein's advice at the end of the Second World War: "A new type of thinking is essential if mankind is to survive and move to higher levels. ... Past thinking and methods did not prevent world wars. Future thinking *must* prevent wars."

So the great existential challenges facing humanity today are not ecological or economic; they are psychospiritual. Therefore, to turn these problems into opportunities, we rationally and intuitively need to bring objective introspection into science and business, synergistically accelerating the great work that many millions of spiritual seekers are engaged in today.

However, as most of us are still being held back by old ways of thinking—by mechanistic cultural and personal conditioning—this book proposes that we cocreate the Alliance for Mystical Pragmatics with the motto 'Harmonizing Evolutionary Convergence'. The purpose of the Alliance is to provide a nurturing environment where it is safe to question the beliefs and assumptions that have been passed on to us by our not-so-awake parents, teachers, and other authorities in our lives.

This is absolutely essential for we often use such conceptions to provide ourselves with a precarious sense of security and identity in life. These need to be swept away if we are to rise above the level of our machines, fulfilling the prophecy that Teilhard made in *The Human Phenomenon*: "The way out for the world, the gates of the future, the entry into the superhuman, will not open to some privileged few, or to a single people, elect among all peoples. They will yield only to the thrust of all together in the direction where all can rejoin and complete one another in a spiritual renewal of the Earth."