

The Art of Paralogical Reasoning

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Although it might appear that paralogical thinking and reasoning is countercultural, *Integral Relational Logic* is actually *transcultural*. For this universal system of thought has evolved from the abstract modelling methods underlying the Internet, which are of such great generality that they are applicable in all cultures, disciplines, and industries, as we can see clearly from the World Wide Web.

I first came across the word *paralogical* in 2017 in Tim Freke's *The Mystery Experience: A Revolutionary Approach to Spiritual Awakening*, where he introduced the term *paralogical thinking* to denote our ability to see both sides of any situation with our innate Self-reflective Intelligence, the Divine quality that distinguishes humans from the other animals and machines, like computers.

As Tim says, "We see the paradoxity of something when we understand it from two opposite perspectives at once." He aptly uses the simple word *WOW* to denote such an awakened state of being, at the pinnacle of human experience. Not surprising, this is something "everyone is searching for," as Tim says.

The word *paralogical* resonates deeply in my soul because I recognize that I have been a paralogical thinker since I was seven years of age in England in 1949, when I set out to find Peace by ending the wars between science and religion and all the religions being fought in the world around me. For the end of the Second World War, which deeply troubled me in early childhood, had not brought Peace to the world.

In the event, I made very little progress with this life-stimulating endeavour during my formal education. As I discovered at university, even the beauty of pure mathematics, as it was being taught to me, could not end the war between spirituality and science, which is needed to bring light into the darkness.

So, in early adulthood, I abandoned my search for Love, Peace, Wholeness, and the Truth to get married, have children, and pursue a business career in the conventional manner. I did not return to my search for Inner Peace and hence World Peace until my late thirties, when I saw that the conflict-ridden global economy holds the seeds of its own destruction within it and that my children were not being educated to live in the world that they would be living in when they were bringing up children of their own.

As neither my colleagues nor I had much understanding of what it means to be human, compared to machines with so-called artificial intelligence (AI), I set out to answer the most critical unanswered question in science: *What is causing scientists and technologists, aided and abetted by computer technology, to drive the pace of scientific discovery and technological development at unprecedented exponential rates of acceleration?*

This question is not on the agenda of any scientific research institute in the world because what is causing change in society cannot be explained in terms of the laws of physics, which associate *energy* with *matter*, as we see in Albert Einstein's famous equation $E = mc^2$. There are creative energies within us all that are not a function of mass. For, how else could Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart have composed his last three magnificent symphonies in just six weeks in the summer of 1788? Similarly, we information systems technologists are not driving the pace of evolutionary change in society at exponential rates of acceleration as a property of the weight of our bodies or through our magnetic attraction!

By studying the way that humans interact with computers in timesharing systems, I obtained my first glimpse of what is causing some 13.8 billion years of evolution to accelerate within us all in 1980. When puzzling about computers' apparent ability to program themselves at the end of a long cause-and-effect chain, I realized that data in both humans and machines is synergistically causative and hence energetic.

Accordingly, I resigned from my innovative marketing job with IBM in London in May 1980 and set out to develop a cosmology that would unify the psychospiritual energies within us all with the four principal energies in physics: gravitational and electromagnetic fields and the weak and strong nucleic forces. And that would require a system of thought that is quite different from what we have inherited from Plato, Aristotle, and Euclid, which Einstein called for in 1946, writing, “Future thinking *must* prevent wars.”

I felt the energy that I needed to create such a cosmology of cosmologies streaming irrepressibly through me directly from the Divine Origin of the Universe. In Western terms, this is best explained with what Heraclitus, the mystical philosopher of change, called the *Logos*. This Richard Tarnas defined as the “immanent conception of divine intelligence” signifying “the rational principle governing the cosmos” in *The Passion of the Western Mind: Understanding the Ideas That Have Shaped Our World View*.

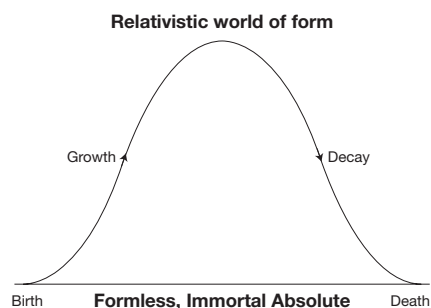
This is the mystical meaning of *Logos*, in contrast to the many mundane meanings, such as ‘account’ or ‘word’, as we see in the opening words of the English translation of the Gospel of John. It is the *Logos* that has naturally created Integral Relational Logic, as the commonsensical art and science of reason that we all use to form concepts and organize our ideas. I call its primal axiom the *Cosmic Identity* or *Principle of Unity*, which states *Wholeness is the union of all opposites*, the fundamental law of the Universe.

Heraclitus, called the ‘Obscure’ by his contemporaries, called this universal law the *Hidden Harmony*, saying, “The Hidden Harmony is better than the obvious,” and “Opposition brings concord; out of discord comes the fairest harmony.” However, Aristotle rejected Heraclitus’ wisdom, saying in *Metaphysics*, “It is impossible for the same attribute at once to belong and not to belong to the same thing and in the same relation ... as some imagine Heraclitus says.” This statement is known today as the Law of Contradiction, the implicit axiom for deductive logic and mathematical proof in the horizontal dimension of time, which ignores the vertical, as the Eternal Now. By denying the irrefutable truth of the Hidden Harmony, Aristotle thus took Western thought into the evolutionary cul-de-sac it finds itself in today.

We can see that Aristotle was following the collective attitude of the ancient Greeks from the root of *paralogical*, from *paralogos* ‘unreasonable’, from *para* ‘beyond’ and *logos* ‘reason’. So, today, dictionaries define *paralogism*, from *paralogizesthai* ‘reason falsely’, as ‘a piece of illogical or fallacious reasoning’. But this ignores the function of the *Logos* in our thinking and reasoning, a denial that arises from the experiential and cognitive split between humanity and Divinity, which arose thousands of years earlier.

As the result of a lifetime of paralogical thinking and reasoning, I am both Wholeness, with no one and nothing outside me, and just an ordinary guy with the same basic physiological and psychological needs as any other. Nevertheless, as someone destined to complete the final revolution in science, like Isaac Newton in 1687, I am well aware that my exceptional experiences are atypical of the general population.

To enjoy Aloneness, Life has guided me to follow the universal spiritual journey, recapitulating what Joseph Campbell called the ‘Cosmological Cycle’, illustrated here. As he said in his popular book *The Hero with a Thousand Faces*, “A hero ventures forth from the world of common day into a region of supernatural wonder: fabulous forces are there encountered and a decisive victory is won: the hero comes back from this mysterious adventure with the power to bestow boons on his fellow man.”



That boon is a both-and, paralogical approach to life, essential if we are ever to live in love, peace, and harmony with each other before our inevitable demise as a biological species. For, it is only when we live in union with the Divine, as the Immortal Ground of Being that we all share, that we can face death in all its forms with joy, equanimity, and serenity. At these end times we live in, nothing is more important than realizing that opposites are never separate from each other in Reality.