

The Presence of Wholeness

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Abstract. This article outlines how I have been carried Home to the Presence of Wholeness, by bringing universal order to the chaos the world is in today. Indivisible Wholeness is the Genuine Identity of every one of us, as I have realized by standing outside myself with Self-reflective Intelligence. It is only from the vantage point of Wholeness, free of narrow egocentric, ethnocentric, anthropocentric, and geocentric standpoints, that we can understand what it truly means to be human and of our place within the overall scheme of things.

Looking at ourselves from the perspective of Wholeness is absolutely essential at the present time, as we face the near-term extinction of our species, biologically typed as ‘wise human’. For humankind is not special and therefore not immortal. Like all other structures in the world of form, *Homo sapiens* is born to die. So, one day, much sooner than most are willing to face, a generation of children will be born who will not grow old enough to have children of their own.

For myself, I was not aware of this inevitability in my twenties, when I got married and had children in the conventional manner. It is only since I was thirty-nine, in the middle of the Falklands War, that this insight has governed every moment of my life. At first, I hoped that by understanding what is causing the pace of evolutionary change in society to accelerate exponentially, a few more generations could thrive within the eschatological Age of Light.

However, it was not until my late sixties that I became fully aware of the intransigent depths of the cultural conditioning that people share with their families, friends, and associates, especially their attachment to money, as the primary immortality symbol. So, I spent my seventies in solitude, joyfully learning what my teachers could not teach me during my formal education. Now, all that remains at the end of time is to dwell in Inner Peace, free of the long-running war between science and religion, having fulfilled a boyhood dream.

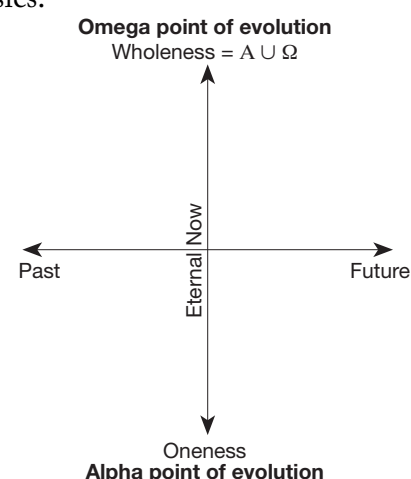
During the past forty-three years, I have been guided to integrate all knowledge in all cultures and disciplines into a coherent whole, as the solution to the ultimate problem in human learning, which Albert Einstein spent the last thirty years of his life struggling to solve, mistakenly believing that this astonishing achievement could be accomplished within the superficial confines of physics.

This has happened because at 11:30 on 27th April 1980, when seeking to understand what it truly means to be human—compared to machines, like computers—a big bang erupted in the utmost depths of my psyche, taking evolution in a radically new direction—from the horizontal to the vertical dimension of time. I have thus been carried from the Alpha to the Omega Point of evolution and back again, as this diagram illustrates.

There is nothing actually new in this marvellous life experience. In Reality, evolution can only ever take place in the Eternal Now—in the Presence of Wholeness—as the creative power of Life emanates from the Divine Origin of the Universe, like a sparkling fountain.

For Wholeness is ever-present, as we can see from the root of *Presence*, which means ‘prior to existence’ or ‘before being’, from Latin *praesentia* ‘presence’, participle of *praesse* ‘to be before’, from *prae* ‘before’ and *esse* ‘to be’. So *Presence* is synonymous with *Absolute*, as Nonduality, as the Divine Essence or Soul of the Universe, which many experience as Love.

Furthermore, as Wholeness is all-inclusive, by definition, there is nothing and no one outside Wholeness. Wholeness is beyond compare, embracing all opposites, whether they be complementary or contradictory. So, as duals are never separate from each other in Wholeness, this means that our unique



human souls are inseparable from the Divine, exquisitely experienced as Gnosis, as Inner Knowing, beyond conceptual, symbolic knowledge.

Our chaotic society

However, even though none of us is ever separate from the Immortal Ground of Being we all share, such beautiful mystical experiences are not widespread within the populace, as a whole. The root cause of the chaos society is in today is the one-sidedness of human learning during the past few thousand years, since evolution became more cognitive than biological.

When the first civilizations emerged at the dawn of recorded human history, we can contrast the Sumerians living in Mesopotamia and the Egyptians living in the Nile valley with the Rishis living in the Indus valley. All would have had a pristine view of the night sky, unsullied by the light pollution most of us suffer from today, but they developed quite differently.

On the one hand, the Babylonians and Egyptians gazed at the stars in wonderment, finding many patterns in what at first sight looks like a bewildering muddle, thus founding the science of astronomy, often called astrophysics today. On the other hand, the Rishis ignored the night sky and looked inwards, discovering an utterly different Universe, one in which there is no division between humanity and Divinity.

However, both sides of this split between science and mysticism are one-sided, inhibiting us from fully understanding what it truly means to be human. In 1758, Carl Linnaeus named the human race *Homo sapiens* ‘wise human’ in the tenth edition of *Systema Naturæ*. However, this biological species has since split into *Homo noeticus* and *Homo divinus*, with members of neither able to answer the most fundamental 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?*

There are two major reasons why this fundamental question of human existence remains unanswered by both *Homo noeticus* and *Homo divinus*, with the former being predominant, especially in the West. At the core of our inability to understand ourselves is an experiential and cognitive split that opened up between humanity and Divinity at least five to six thousand years ago, as we see in the roots of these words.

First, *human* derives from Latin *hūmānus* ‘human, relating to humans’, from *homō* ‘man, person, human being’, from Proto-Indo-European (PIE) base **dhghem-* ‘earth’, root of Latin *humus* ‘ground, earth, soil’ and *humility*. In contrast, *Divinity* derives from Latin *deus* ‘god’, from the PIE root **dyeu* ‘to shine’. These etymologies show that our forebears conceived of humans as earthlings in contrast to the divine residents of the heavens, as Calvert Watkins explains in *The American Dictionary of Indo-European Roots*.

Mystics through the ages, as members of *Homo divinus*, have been able to heal this split by transcending the conceptualizing mind, releasing the Divine Light that is radiating within us all, providing we can disperse what an anonymous fourteenth-century English mystic called the ‘cloud of unknowing’. For instance, the Sufi poet Rumi wrote, “Love is the sea of not-being and there intellect drowns.” Similarly, Meister Eckhart, the pre-eminent Christian mystic, said, “The eye with which I see God is the same as that with which he sees me.”

However, while such Gnostic experiences help us to find Inner Peace in our troubled world, they do not explain what has caused evolution to degenerate into chaos in recent years, as it has accelerated at unprecedented rates of exponential change. This has happened because, during the past fourteen billion years, evolution has been more divergent than convergent, as we see in the atoms and stars in the hylosphere, the plants and animals in the biosphere, and the concepts and ideas in the noosphere.



Our minds have thus become deeply fragmented, leading to religious demarcations, academic specialization, and the division of labour in the workplace. Unless bifurcating evolution transforms divergence into convergence at its glorious culmination, we are unable to see the Grand Design of the Universe, how all the various specialist disciplines fit together as a coherent whole.

Our fragmented minds and split souls lie at the heart of our cultural conditioning, which has constructed the educational, medical, economic, political, and religious institutions that govern our lives. As a consequence, for dozens of generations during hundreds of years, most have mechanistically learnt what their parents and teachers have wanted them to learn from infancy onwards. So, by the age of seven, most are so deeply enculturated, they are not aware that there is a life-enhancing way of living peacefully and harmoniously with each other, as a few leading figures have shown us over the years.

For instance, Vimala Thakar highlights the perilous situation we live in today in the opening paragraph of *Spirituality and Social Action: A Holistic Approach* with these wise words: “In a time when the survival of the human race is in question, continuing with the status quo is to cooperate with insanity, to contribute to chaos.” She therefore asks, “Do we have the vitality to go beyond narrow, one-sided views of human life and to open ourselves to totality, wholeness?” For as she says, “The call of the hour is to move beyond the fragmentary, to awaken to total revolution.”

Vimala became liberated from her cultural conditioning in her thirties, much helped by conversations with J. Krishnamurti, saying, when she was forty, “Everything that has been transmitted to our mind through centuries will have to be completely discarded. We will have to deal with it in a total way. I have dealt with it. It has dropped away. I have discarded it.”

Krishnamurti, in his turn, was much concerned with helping to liberate pupils from their cultural conditioning, setting up several schools to do so. To explain the aims of these schools, in *Education and the Significance of Life*, he wrote, “Intelligence is the capacity to perceive the essential, the *what is*; and to awaken this capacity, in oneself and in others, is education,” and “Can any specialist experience life as a whole? Only when he ceases to be a specialist.” Regarding the relationship of sages to society, as a whole, he wisely said, “It is no measure of health to be well-adjusted to a profoundly sick society.” For, as Erich Fromm pointed out in *The Sane Society*, normality is pathological.

Turning to scientists, Krishnamurti met David Bohm in 1960, when they were drawn to each other by the notion that the observer and observed are one, a principle that lies at the heart of Self-reflective Intelligence, the quality that most clearly distinguishes humans from the other animals and computers, claiming to possess artificial general intelligence.

Most notably, Bohm, my principal scientific mentor, was much concerned with healing the fragmented mind, writing in *Wholeness and the Implicate Order*, “Fragmentation is now very widespread, not only throughout society, but also in each individual; and this is leading to a kind of general confusion of the mind, which creates an endless series of problems and interferes with our clarity of perception so seriously as to prevent us from being able to solve most of them.” Then, in the mid 1980s, he said that if we do not question the fundamental beliefs and assumptions of the cultures we live in, then humankind is not a viable species.

In turn, Einstein, who was a friend and colleague of Bohm after the Second World War, made an address at the fifth Nobel anniversary dinner in New York on 10th December 1945, saying, “The war is won, but the peace is not. The great powers, united in fighting, are now divided over the peace settlements.” To cocreate World Peace, we need to follow Einstein’s observation that you cannot solve a problem with the

mindset that created it. This is one of many paraphrases of a statement he made in an article titled 'The Real Problem Is in the Hearts of Men', published in the *New York Times Magazine* on 23rd June 1946, which began with these words: "Many persons have inquired concerning a recent message of mine that 'a new type of thinking is essential if mankind is to survive and move to higher levels'." He then went on to write, "Past thinking and methods did not prevent world wars. Future thinking *must* prevent wars."

Questioning everything

For myself, I became aware that a new type of thinking is needed in 1949, when I was seven years old. Having been born in a world at war with itself, I set out to find the root cause of conflict and suffering by reconciling the concepts of God and Universe, which provide the overall context for religious and scientific studies, respectively. For, as we can only determine the truth of something within context, if science and spirituality do not have a shared common context, we have no way of determining whether what we are taught is true or not. Most significantly, we cannot find Inner Peace while there is a war being waged between scientific and spiritual worldviews, still being fought today in such books as *War of the Worldviews: Science vs. Spirituality* by Deepak Chopra and Leonard Mlodinow.

So, as my teachers could not tell me what this Cosmic Context might be, I began questioning everything I was taught at a comparatively early age, much as my teachers later in life advised. For, as I can see today, I never lost my innate sense of the Presence of Wholeness, which is so often stultified by the conservative education system, tasked with maintaining the status quo. Most especially, a teacher's fragmented sense of identity can feel threatened by intelligent students, who ask questions that they are unable to answer because of their cultural conditioning.

As an exercise in communications, I feel that I have taken this article on 'The Presence of Wholeness' as far as is necessary at the present time. As Wholeness is beyond compare, if I compare my ontogeny to that of my contemporaries, educated in the conventional manner, communications break down. So, although none of us is ever separate from the Divine, to describe the way that I discovered during my formal education that religion, science, economics, mathematics, and logic do not make sense as a coherent whole, as I have done many times before, is unlikely to help anyone else with the awakening of intelligence.

Starting afresh at the very beginning

If I were to continue writing this article, I would need to describe what happened to me in my late thirties, when I realized that the global economy holds the seeds of its own destruction within it, when developing an innovative marketing programme for Decision Support Systems while working for IBM in London. In particular, what led evolution to take a radically new direction within me was a study of the way that mathematical functions, corresponding to procedures in the workplace, are implemented in computers.

For, while humans view functions as a well-formed string of characters, typically encoded in Unicode, instructions to the central processing unit of computers are encoded in a quite different way. This observation led me to ask whether a computer function could dynamically create a new function from a string of characters without the involvement of a human programmer to write the initial function. In particular, as human-readable functions become executable through the execution of other programs, like compilers and interpreters, where did the first program come from?

This question led me to visualize a very long cause-and-effect chain, which began at what Aristotle called the 'Unmoved Mover', which I know today as the Presence of Wholeness in the Eternal Now. With humankind about to become extinct because of abrupt irreversible climate change, living in Love, Peace, and Stillness is all that matters at the end of time.