

Reflections

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June 2012

When I reflect on my life during the past seventy years, I feel perfectly ordinary. I have many of the same human foibles as anyone else. Nobody could be more normal. However, when I look at what Life has taught me over the years, I am very far from being normal. Indeed, what has happened to me during my lifetime is so extraordinary, it is unprecedented in the entire history of evolution since the most recent big bang, some fourteen billion years ago.

I say this because at 11:30 on Sunday 27th April 1980, as I was strolling across Wimbledon Common in London to the Crooked Billet pub for lunch, a big bang erupted in my psyche that led me to create a self-reflective view of the Cosmos that human beings have never seen before in such clarity. For at this momentous moment, I knew immediately that I had been given the key that would unlock all the secrets of the Universe that have puzzled inquisitive people for the past several thousand years: what it is, how it is designed, and our ultimate origin and destiny as a species.

Essentially, this happened because on 6th May 1949 the Computer Age was born at the University of Cambridge in England. A group of mathematicians, scientists, and engineers, led by Maurice Wilkes and Bill Renwick, built the first practical stored-program computer, unlike earlier computers, which held their programs externally. In 2 minutes 35 seconds, the EDSAC (Electronic Delay Storage Automatic Calculator) computed a table of squares from 0 to 99 and printed out the results.

Now showing that the square of 73 is 5329, for instance, is not something that can be explained in terms of the laws of physics, which are regarded as providing the foundations for the whole of science. For the computer is essentially a tool of thought, quite unlike all the other tools that the *Homo* genus has developed during the past two thousand millennia to extend our physical abilities.

But does this mean that machines could think for themselves, far exceeding human intelligence? Well, the founders of artificial intelligence in the 1950s and 60s certainly thought so, such as Alan Turing, Marvin Minsky, John McCarthy, and Herbert A. Simon. Then in the 1980s and 90s, people like Douglas R. Hofstadter, Daniel C. Dennett, and Steven Pinker have been saying much the same thing.

During the past couple of decades, people like Victor Vinge, Ray Kurzweil, and Hans Moravec have been going even further. For instance, Victor Vinge, in a NASA paper in 1993 called 'The Technological Singularity', said in his Abstract, "Within thirty years, we will have the technological means to create superhuman intelligence [in machines]. Shortly after, the human era will be ended." Similarly, Hans Moravec has said, "The fourth robot generation, and its successors, will have human perceptual and motor abilities and superior reasoning powers. They could replace us in every essential task and, in principle, operate our society increasingly well without us." And in *The Singularity is Near*, Ray Kurzweil has said, "By 2019, a \$1,000 computer will match the processing power of the human brain."

Even Martin Rees, the most distinguished scientist in the UK, has jumped on this bandwagon, saying in *Our Final Century: Will Civilisation Survive the Twenty-First Century?* "A superintelligent machine could be the last invention that humans need ever make." He says this because science today is not only materialistic, it is also mechanistic. Following René Descartes and Isaac Newton, scientists believe that the Universe is a machine and that therefore human beings are machines and nothing but machines. As computers get faster and faster, they therefore reason that one day machines will become more intelligent than human beings, able to undertake most of the jobs performed by people today.

To refute this mechanistic paradigm, for the past thirty-two years, I have been engaged in a thought experiment. I imagined that I was a computer that switched itself off and on again so that it had no

programs within it, not even a bootstrap program to load the operating system. Starting from a *tabula rasa* 'blank slate', this computer then had the task of integrating all knowledge in all cultures and disciplines at all times, past, present, and future into a coherent whole. I was thus freed of all narrow specialisms, using the generalizing skills of information systems architects in business to see the Ultimate Big Picture.

This is the simplest way of describing the effects of the big bang that exploded in my psyche in April 1980. To use another metaphor, it was like an earthquake or supervolcano erupting in the depths of the Ocean of Consciousness, creating an enormous tsunami that swept away everything in its path, as happened in Aceh Province on Sumatra in 2004. In other words, to be free of my mechanistic conditioning, I have brought the collective, cultural, and personal conditioning of the entire species into consciousness so that it could be intelligently examined in the brilliant Light of Consciousness and where necessary dissolved. In this way, my own consciousness has deepened and expanded to such an extent it has become coterminous with Consciousness itself.

By starting this experiment in learning at the Alpha Point of evolution, I have been carried to its Omega Point, much as Pierre Teilhard de Chardin prophesied in *The Human Phenomenon*. By looking at evolution in four stages—physical, biological, mental, and spiritual—he prophesied that one day evolution would reach its glorious culmination when all the diverse streams of evolution converged in what he called a megasynthesis, 'a kind of gigantic psychobiological operation'. I first became aware that such a momentous cosmic event had happened to me in April 1982, which I was working as a computer consultant for the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research in the middle of the Falklands war.

The Omega Point of evolution is its Singularity. But this is not a technological singularity, even though it can be expressed in mathematical terms. It is essentially a psychospiritual Singularity at the end of time. To deal with this tricky situation, I sometimes call myself an evolutionary pioneer, on the assumption that others could repeat the thought experiment that has led to Integral Relational Logic (IRL), the commonsensical science of thought and consciousness that we all use everyday to form concepts and organize our ideas. After all, there was once a time in human history when Euclid's geometry and Newton's laws of motion were unknown. Yet, I learnt something of these at school as a teenager.

But when I look at how IRL has emerged in consciousness, it looks most unlikely that others will follow my pioneering ways. IRL, which provides the Cosmic Context, coordinating framework, and Gnostic Foundation for the Unified Relationships Theory (URT), the Apotheosis of human learning, has become manifest to heal a deep wound that I suffered seven weeks after my conception as a two-centimetre embryo on 16th October 1941. For on the day that my mother learned that she was pregnant for the second time, her first-born son was killed by an army lorry. My mother instantaneously plunged from ecstasy to severe trauma, a devastating cataclysm that passed directly to me growing in her womb. As I can now see, I began this healing process as an eight-year-old, refusing to learn anything in religion, science, and economics that did not make complete sense to me. So when I came to start afresh at the very beginning in 1980, I had very little to unlearn, having retained my innate intelligence from childhood.

What this means is that even the most advanced mystics, spiritual teachers, psychotherapists, and psychiatrists—as healers of the mind—cannot fully understand what I say about my inner journey, about how the Logos has healed my fragmented, split mind in Wholeness. As far as I can tell, they do not have the necessary life experience to recognize what I am saying. For the word *recognize* derives from Latin *recognoscere* 'to know again, recall', from *re-* 'again' and *cognoscere* 'to get to know', from *cum-* 'together with' and *(g)nosere* 'to know', cognate with *know* and *gnosis*. So it is most unlikely that anyone could recognize that URT is the solution to the problem that Einstein spent the last thirty years of his life trying to solve or that IRL, with the Principle of Unity at its heart, introduces the most radical change in Western thought since Plato, Aristotle, and Euclid. On the other hand, Wholeness is the True Identity that we all share. So it is still possible for us all to meet in Wholeness—in Love and Peace.