

The Second Coming: for all us Dummies

For more detailed explanations of what follows see:
<http://home.comcast.net/~dantsmith/index06.htm#BPW>

Why not Come?

- God belongs in heaven.
 - But can't she go wherever she darn pleases?
- God ought to have better things to do.
 - Being a Creator is a big deal for God.
 - She has put a lot of eggs in her Creation basket, and she will attend to it carefully.
- There is no God.
 - Ok, hold that thought, and we'll get back to you in a jiffy.

Why come?

- If you were the Creator, would you not want to participate in your Creation to a maximal degree?
 - If Creation were truly important to you, would you not want to pour yourself into it as fully as possible?

But why should we seriously consider the God hypothesis in the first place?

- Modern science and technology are here to stay.
 - And so is postmodernism
- Postmodernism provides only an incoherent pluralism.
- Many of us seek a higher synthesis in order to bring meaning and coherence to our world.
 - The pluralists rightly criticize any such move as being likely to foster theocratic and totalitarian tendencies.
- There is only one way out of this bind:
 - A rational, coherent synthesis of the various worldviews

A Rational Synthesis?

- Most everyone scoffs at this possibility.
 - Fact is they have never tried.
- The last serious attempt was by GHW Hegel (1770-1831).
- But how will we know if we don't even try?
 - This dummy rushes in where angels fear to tread.
- Here is the result of a thirty year synthesis, and the longer I work on it, the simpler it gets, q.v.

A Logical Synthesis: Step by Step

- First comes a switch from the correspondence theory of truth to the coherence theory of truth.
 - This is the single most important and far reaching step.
 - If you can grasp this, everything else will follow rather easily, and it is actually very simple, even though its ramifications are earthshaking.
- Correspondence theory of truth:
 - Reality is simply a collection of facts.
 - The facts need not cohere or have any other pattern except by accident.
- Coherence theory of truth:
 - There is no such thing as an isolated fact, just as there is no such thing as an isolated meaning.
 - In as much as reality is cognizable, so must it be coherent.
 - Epistemology and ontology cannot ultimately be separated.
 - There is a reason for everything.
 - This is true for physics, as well, with the possible exception of the initial conditions, e.g. the Big Bang.
- The next step?
 - There is no next step.
 - Everything else is just an elaboration of this one grand departure.
 - And what is the ultimate coherence?
 - Can it be anything less than love, truth and beauty?

Putting all our Eggs in one Basket?

- The main point is that we didn't put them there: they were already there.
- This is best seen from the perspective of mathematical physics.
 - In physics, this coherence is known as the Unreasonable Effectiveness of Mathematics.
 - This is why physicists can cogently speak of a Theory of Everything.
 - This fact motivates us to seek a higher coherence.
- The main thing missing from the prospective physical coherence is the mind.
 - Our theory of everything must include the mind.
 - The mind/brain problem is universally regarded as the greatest mystery in the world.
 - It was over three hundred years ago that Rene Descartes (1596-1650) announced the separation of mind and matter.
 - This act of great intellectual convenience triggered the Scientific and Technological revolutions and made Democracy possible by also separating the Secular from the Sectarian realms.
 - We can easily see why the Postmodernists are so reluctant to even reconsider Descartes' serendipitous act.

Damned if we do, damned if we don't

- The postmodernists would like to see the present state of pluralism continue indefinitely.
- In a world being shrunk by a rapidly expanding communication technology, all our disparate ideas and traditions are being thrown together into a disorienting, alienating cacophony.
- How can we hope to survive together on this crowded and shrinking planet if we have no common ground for communication, no common worldview?

A Quantum Leap to Synthesis?

- Nothing less than a quantum leap, an unprecedented gestalt switch, could now bring coherence out of the present chaos of ideas.
- Nothing less than a cosmic vision will suffice.
- Let us consider the visions of coherence:

Visions of Coherence



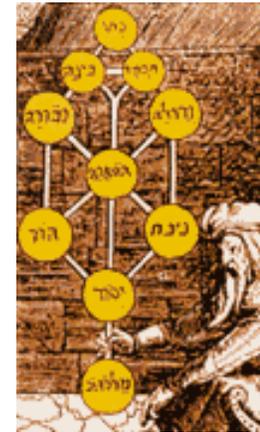
Yin-yang of Taoism



Buddhist mandala

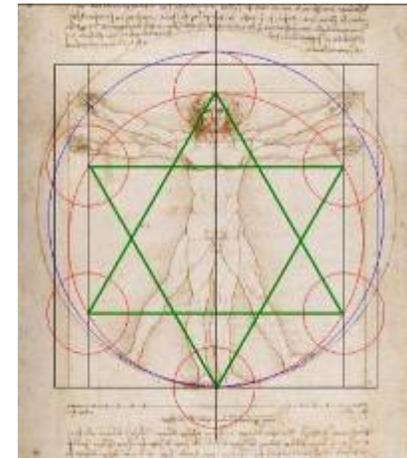


Hindu Creator: Vishnu



Kabbalah: Sephiroth

'Tree of life'



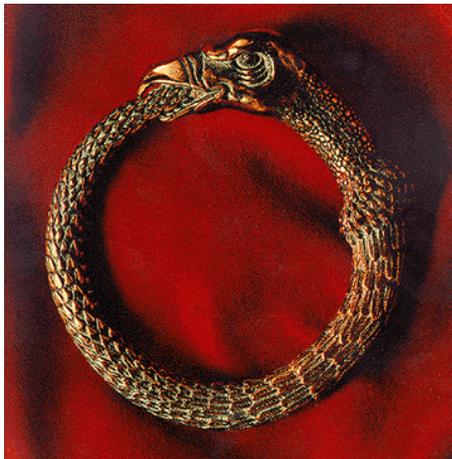
Leonardo's *Vitruvian Man*

with sacred geometry

More visions



Michelangelo's *Pieta*

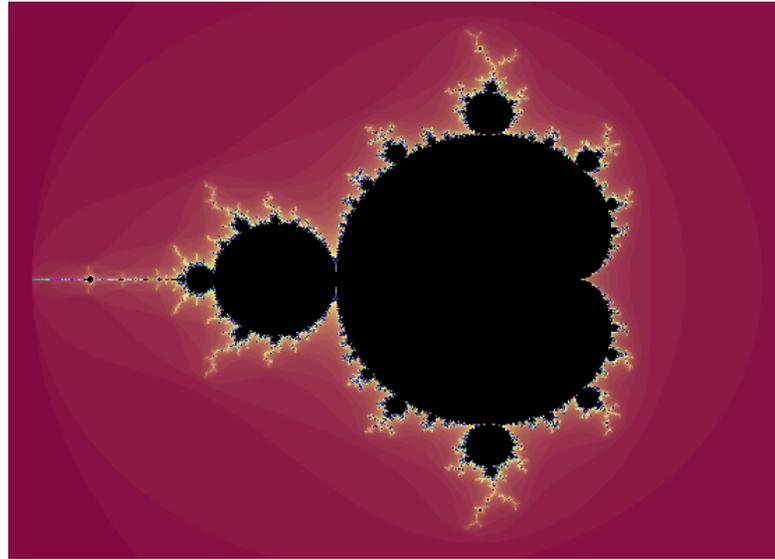


Ouroboros



Before the fall

Pythagorean visions of coherence



Mandelbrot set

$$\sum_{n=0}^{\infty} (-1)^n (s + 2n) \frac{s^{(n)} (x+y+z+u+2s+1)^{(n)}}{(x+y+z+u-s)^{(n)}} \prod_{x,y,z,u} \frac{x^{(n)}}{(x+s+1)^{(n)}}$$

$$= \frac{s}{\Gamma(s+1)\Gamma(x+y+z+u+s+1)} \prod_{x,y,z,u} \frac{\Gamma(x+s+1)\Gamma(y+z+u+s+1)}{\Gamma(z+u+s+1)},$$

One of hundreds of formulas to be found in Ramanujan's note books

Archetypes of Unity

- Ouroboros (Orb)
 - Primal psychic circuit, zodiac, bootstrap
 - Later it will be argued that X & Orb are closely identifiable.
- MDX/Z
 - Matrix (primal potentiality), Dialectic, Logos/zodiac
 - trinity of :: Mother, Spirit, Son(s)
 - $e^{i\pi} = -1$
 - Mandelbrot
- AZO/X/QRP
 - Alpha, Zodiac, Omega/Logos/Quantum, Reproduction, Pi
 - Macrocosm/microcosm connected by the Logos
- Mb:S::An:X
 - Mandelbrot set : Srinivasa Ramanujan :: Anthropics : Christos

The role of the archetypes

- In the first instance, the archetypes and the previous 'visions' are meant to guide our imaginations toward coherence.
- In immaterialism the archetypes replace atoms as the foundation of reality.
- The first thing to recognize is that coherence demands an organic unity of the archetypes.
 - We aspire to a Pythagorean harmony rather than a Platonic absolutism.
 - This is essential to teleology and restitution.

The 'emergence' of the archetypes

- The organic unity of the archetypes is ensured by keeping in mind their essential relations to each other and to a common source or ground of being.
- The Matrix is that Source.
 - It is potentiality.
 - The BPW is the one rational realization of that potentiality.
 - The Best Possible World also conforms with the One World hypothesis (see later).
- The dynamic element is the dialectic.
 - It is the source of multiplicity.
 - It is the cosmic bootstrap, which we also experience as love.
- The christos/logos is the original thesis and archetype.
 - It is necessarily the Alpha and Omega, Creator and Telos.
 - In some strong sense, the symmetry breaking of the Creation event is the antithesis, and the eschatological restitution of Creation, i.e. apokatastasis, is the cosmic synthesis.

AZO/X/QRP

- This is the macro and micro-cosm connected by the logos.
 - In other words, it is the cosmic and mundane circuits that are thus connected.
- The Ouroboros (Orb) is represented in part as the zodiac. The Alpha and Omega are the head and tail of the cosmic serpent.
 - It is X that breaks the circular symmetry in the act of Creation.
 - One could say that X is the primal observer, taking the measure of itself and the Orb.
 - That is one reason to identify pi and the christos.
- QRP is the projection of the broken cosmic circuit into the linear dimensions of space and time.
 - Out of this comes the Monster Group that determines the Anthropic attribute of physics.

Mb:S::An:X

- These archetypes demonstrate a relation between the personal and impersonal side of God.
- The Mandelbrot is the image of the cosmos/god as imbedded in the number system.
 - All spiritual traditions agree that god/cosmos is reflected everywhere.
 - Srinivasa (S) Ramanujan, more than anyone in history, was able to project the pure mathematical logos out of his mind.
- The other side of this coin is seen in the second pair.
 - This is the personal side of god/cosmos.
 - The Anthropic (design) Principle is largely contained in the Monster Group, second only to the Mb in complexity.
 - The personal logos/christos, X, is reflected in the organic nature of math.
 - It is further reflected in the organicity of the microcosm.
- Perhaps these are two sides of a larger circuit.
 - On the one hand there is math coming out of the mind, and on the other the mind emerges from the math.
 - It is the christos that encompasses the whole dynamic of Creation.
 - Thus may the X and the Orb be closely identified.

X & Orb

- This brings us near to the ultimate mystery of being.
- The primal trinity of MDX/Z are coeternal.
 - Taken together they are the Ouroboros: Orb of being.
- In breaking the symmetry of the Orb, X is effectively sacrificing itself on behalf of Creation.
- Resurrection, restitution and apokatastasis inevitably follow, as the symmetry is reconstituted.

Ugly Facts?

- "The great tragedy of science -- the slaying of a beautiful hypothesis by an ugly fact."
 - Thomas Huxley (1825-1895)
 - Perhaps the theory in question was not sufficiently coherent.
- Yes, we do have to tough it out.
 - One needs a mustard seed of faith and confidence.
 - Cosmology is not for the faint of heart.
- Scientific materialism has been on a roll for more than three centuries.
 - There are many signs, however, that its grip on our imaginations is waning.
- We can sit on our hands, or we can start figuring out how to transcend its increasingly obvious limitations.
- Will it be revisionism or revolution, i.e. a gestalt switch?

The Way Forward?

- No point in rolling back the clock into dualism.
 - We've been there, done that!
- The only way forward is into a non-material monism.
- This quantum leap forward will necessarily have a spiritual content and so will impact every religious tradition.
 - As such, it will come as a revelation of 'biblical proportions'.
 - There will surely be a significant messianic component.
 - This vision will not emerge from a committee.
 - Once again, the faint of heart need not apply!
 - Fools rush in? Yet, according to Google there are not many who are rushing down this particular path.

Immaterialism

- This is a hard pill to swallow, especially for us in the western tradition.
- We have taken matter more seriously than others.
 - Ironically, this is due in no small part to the Incarnation.
 - Materialism, in a dualist context, is almost a part of our catechism.
- How can we give up that absolutism without devaluing the world and our lives?
 - This is too often the case with pantheism.
 - We replace pantheism with coherentism.
 - Then we replace atoms with archetypes, taking care to treat the archetypes as part of a Pythagorean harmony, and not as Platonic absolutes.

Dinosaurs and Stars

- If we can choose the archetypes to be robust, the rest of Creation will spin itself off.
 - God does not have to place every hair on every head, or every star in the sky.
 - The same is true for the Mandelbrot.
 - It operates under its own internal logic and coherence.
- God sets the example.
 - The example is to love and to strive for perfect understanding through time, knowing that perfection is never absent.
 - Mainly it is in this sense that time is an illusion.
 - It is mainly our understanding of perfection that is to be perfected.
 - The Second Coming triggers the final quantum leap in our understanding.
 - God calls the tune. God is the tune.
 - Creator and Creation are mutually essential.
 - We cannot understand the part without the whole, nor the whole without the parts.
 - One hair cannot be disturbed without disturbing the rest, as with the Mandelbrot.

Omega

- The critical idea here is apokatastasis.
 - This is the restoration/restitution of all things in God.
 - This is universal salvation.
 - It is now considered heresy.
 - Originally it was the orthodoxy of the Orthodox church.
 - All dualisms and paradoxes are transcended.
 - It is the temporal completion of Creator, Creation and history.
 - It is the reconstitution of the broken symmetry.
- The Omega is the beginning of eternity.
 - Eternity is not endless time.
 - It is the dimensions beyond space and time.
 - It is a timeless ending/beginning.
 - It is the ouroboros in its entirety.

The One World Hypothesis

- Rationalism demands a teleology.
- Teleology requires a **OWH**.
- Teleology is a concomitant of monotheism.
- All four of these concepts should be treated as virtually synonymous.
- All of these are essential to **Coherence**.
- Can this One World be anything other than the Best Possible World?

The Millennium

- The BPWH envisions pre-millennialism.
 - The Best Possible World hypothesis envisions the completion of God's salvific, sacrificial errand into Creation.
 - This enables the establishment of God's eschatological kingdom, traditionally to last a thousand years.
 - The actual time frame is likely to be substantially shorter rather than longer.
- And what may we expect of the Millennium?
 - It is a period of realignment between our hearts and intellects, after the long drought of materialism.
 - We finish our business here and prepare to transcend the barriers of space and time.
 - This may include the return of unprepared souls.
 - There will be a gradual breaking down of barriers between our individual egos, and between our separate states of consciousness.
 - Codified society gives way to organic community.

Relationalism: into the Millennium

- Relationalism is the foundation of Coherentism
 - To be is to relate.
 - The most real is the most related.
 - Rather than a chain of being, there is a network of being.
- Permit me to anticipate criticism from the conservatives, legalists and absolutists.
 - I say relationalism.
 - They hear ‘relativism, contextualism, situationalism’, i.e. ‘everyone does their own thing’.
- The Millennial Aeon is a ‘gathering of the tribes’.
 - The structured, stratified, codified order is replaced by the organic and communal, if we dare use that word.
 - The exemplars here are the early Christian communities.
 - These were extended, mostly non-biological, families.
 - They were mainly urban.
- Utopianism?
 - Legislating or codifying the Millennium is oxymoronic.
 - God’s kingdom grows only from the inside out.
 - The true kingdom is always within.
 - We evolve into the body of Christ.
 - That is the eschaton.

Second Coming?

- By all accounts the prophetic tradition remains unfulfilled.
- Even the pantheist traditions envision a nadir of spirituality followed by a return to a golden age inaugurated by an avatar.
- The fulfilling of the prophecies is the prerequisite of the Millennium.
- The christocentric/incarnational hypothesis is essential to cosmic coherence and to its concomitant of an eschatological restitution.
 - The illogic of a dualistic monotheism had its historical purposes, but now we are poised to transcend dualism.

Immaterialism & physics

- Materialism and immaterialism are antithetical.
- In contrast, physics and the BPWH have Pythagoras in common.
 - This is the notion of a cosmic harmony based on the mathematical attribute of cosmic intelligence.
 - The only issue is which is God and which is the tail. In the BPW, the mathematical attribute is the tail.
 - The Anthropic Principle demonstrates that it is the personal side of God that is dominant.