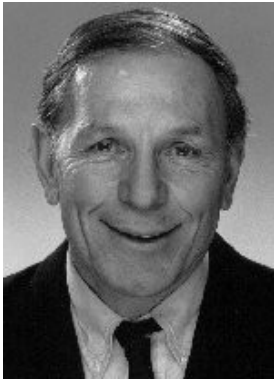


Reality as Knowledge

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Yesterday, we talked about reality as being. Actually, very often knowledge is much more complex and difficult than being. Humanity arrived at advanced being long before it arrived at anything that could be called advanced knowledge.

Let's start off with being. There was a certain kind of person known in central Asia as a *kusilapa*. A kusilapa was a person who reduced knowledge needed to the minimum so they could concentrate on realizing being.

A kusilapa was a person who only kept three practical interests left in life: eating, excreting and sleeping so everything else could be concentrated on being. But let's analyze it and see what he actually had to accomplish to support that endeavor. You get a little cave and you build a brick wall in front of it and people hand you over a minimum amount to eat (therefore your waste is quite economical). The time saved might be allocated to you doing 3 million repetitions - which are not repetitions of course. 'Ringing the deepening changes' on the mantra a more correct description. So there's eating, excreting, sleeping and doing the repetitions. However, that means a lot has to be known about food and diet. If you want to minimize this how is somebody going to live at increasingly high attention to subtleties from 2 to 3 years? Of course they could lose weight, they could do all sorts of things to slow their metabolism, but still at some point they have to survive.



Excreting. Well, it has to recycle somehow. It can't just sit there in the cave for a few years. It's ever increasing so they have to know something about this. Just think about the technical problems. Techniques introduce knowledge.

Sleeping. Well it gets cold in the high Tibetan mountains. Quite cold. Even if you are doing your heat yoga, you can only do it when you're awake—something you're doing consciously. So this minimum warmth has to be done. And furthermore this analysis isn't quite correct because they also have to do 'culturing'. That is, the local culture has to be convinced that it should do the work to produce food for them. It looks out for the shelter and actually says this cave could be yours. If it doesn't happen you might recall what happened to Milarepa. He was in his cave and he was a little out of touch with the local culture being a rabid individualist and some rough practical jokers came in and bounced him up and down off the floor for their amusement, so he had a somewhat difficult time. Then people have to check on what is happening: generally a guru makes a check every so many months to make sure somebody's still alive in there. There's no Western law and order: if somebody dies it's their fault or karma.. You have here a more objective society than our victim-loving society but nonetheless he has to know how to appear to be doing something for the culture and the culture has to think he or she is doing something for the culture for it to provide these essential services.

There has to be a certain technology that's involved in for example, keeping secure an area in which people can do this kind of thing. There has to be a technical way to insert this experimental apparatus into the local society, just as with any kind of laboratory.

There has to be a complex feedback system. After all, a kusilapa isn't some individual who just gets a breakthrough. There've been kusilapas for thousands of years and so forth so there must be a complex feedback system operating. 'Oh we did this and this for Joe Tibetii and this is what happened to him'. But times change and what happened before may not happen like that now with the change of economic and government systems.

There has to be some 'intelligencing'. Somebody actually has to check out what has happened at the end of 2 or 3 years. Mantrams are limited in time and power and to certain belief systems and so on. Furthermore, certain other exercises may be needed. So did Joe Tibetii actually achieve what he was aiming for and all these people that were involved in supporting him? What about the feedback system? Are we going to change the system? Maybe the Chicoms have come and we can't do it here anymore. How are we going to set this system up in a place like America or France? Or do we have to give up the kusilapa method?

So intelligence has to be involved in it. All of these – diet, security, culture, feedback and so on - are minimum *know-hows* involved in somebody who is trying to simplify the amount of know how required for them to continue to exist.

Let's think of 'involuntary' kusilapa. That is somebody who is thrown into a dungeon or a prison. Same thing. You have to keep them eating or else you might just as well have executed them. Also if allowed to fall sick, they might spread disease. How many of us have been in a cell? Some of us have at least briefly. The requirements appear quite minimal and yet a fantastic technical knowledge apparatus keeps this functioning. The point is, there's no way out of having some know how, not while we're in a human form on this planet or any other place. Even for people who have the best or the worst intentions at minimizing the amount of know how required to maintain a human's existence.

Let's start considering 'reality as knowledge' by going back to Roger Bacon who started the modern motivation to increase knowledge. Now this idea burst onto humanity like a bombshell. He said that *knowledge is power*. Before that it was not thought knowledge was necessarily power. In fact I grew up in a culture that thought knowledge was bullshit, good fertilizer if you knew how to compost it. Somebody that knew something not in daily use and verification was called a know-it-all and was generally worked over. It was called 'learning them a lesson'. I had a freakish interest in such offbeat things and managed to accumulate and involve a certain amount of knowledge relatively safely only because I played first string football, basketball, went out for track and because I was checked out and taught a lesson in discretion three or four times and because I could throw bales of alfalfa longer than some other people could, I was accepted. My thing about knowledge was considered an interesting idiosyncrasy, as long as I did it mostly in my spare time.

Bacon's idea was extraordinary. Power to do what? To comprehend, which means to 'take with'. So a certain kind of knowledge enables us to take with us all kinds of things, all kinds of relationships, patterns, which we call know how. Also, to contemplate—a template is something you can put say on a piece of steel and cut it out. Contemplate like is taking a template out of appearances.

So one can contemplate. For example, one can contemplate let's say, an area. So we can template it with Euclidean geometry, fractal holography, etc. This gives the power to contemplate, to compare what's in that area with other comparable areas, say, square miles of New York City.

You have to contemplate *something*, mind you. So you can contemplate appearance, that is *being*. And this might give you a great deal of personal power or whatever but knowledge in itself is impersonal power and is *to make do*. This word has practically been eliminated from modern American English. Does it exist in British English? Yeah, maybe, but in a hesitant tone of voice.

Well, to make do used to be said in a special proud tone of voice. 'Well, how are you getting along with so little money and resources?' 'Well, you know, we make do.' Making airplanes, making cars, making this, making that, but the generalized verb is to make do.

Savoir faire means to 'know how to do'. Now make do leaves out the how but it implies the how. It's even more direct. *Savoir*—to know how to do implies you may or may not do it. To make do implies that you already know how to do it *and* you're going to do it. You're going to make the doing.

There is also the power 'to regulate'. Take a steam engine. It has a regulator on it. So you could make something that would operate with steam but you need to regulate it. Now this gives a number of powers which can operate or which can be operated at different levels.

The first power that we know was the know how to make a tribe—socially. Before that, it was a clan. But a clan we can see intimated, maybe more than intimated, in a baboon troop or a chimpanzee troop or a wolf pack but a tribe you cannot find. A tribe takes two clans or more and it takes a regulated *breeding*. It's always translated by Anglo Saxons as regulated *sexuality* which is not the same thing at all. To Anglo Saxons sexuality and procreation are supposed to be synonyms. Just to give you an example—Sparta. It was highly favored for women to have a child by different men for breeding but their love or marriage affairs continued and it seemed to work quite well. Anyway, the tribe was an invention based on what they called exogamy—marriage outside the clan or at least the matrilineage with another clan or matrilineage.

A tribe had a particular set of know hows called *magic*. Tribes are still alive and their method of engaging in transmission of knowledge is called magic. They had to have know hows at the basic level for hunting and gathering. This fundamentally works by *dance and rhythm* which creates the magic spell where the hunter and the deer and the environment are seen as a unity in a special state of heightened perceptions and emotions. So for example if, let's say, you were a deer-hunting clan, then you could have a magic dance imitating the deer. You can find all sorts of rather stupid books by French and British anthropologists in the late 19th century about how basically dumb this is or that it is only a ritual to elevate the people to a certain state of social cohesion. But if you ever participated in one, you'd realize there's much more than that. You get into the inner nature of the animal, of the hunter, and their surround or *umwelt*. It's an imitation of an action so I begin to know the animal and my reactions to it. This gives you a certain definite knowledge for dealing with things—and you've got to deal with hunting and gathering to eat and to enjoy.

The tribe developed into the city-state and hunting and gathering developed into herding and farming. Now, you can only do the action of imitation in a very small group because the intensity required is high and must be self-generated except for indicated tempo. So,

at this new level, to hold together the greater population *ritual* is required. Its degenerate form is seen today in something called 'religion' and its festivals and regular services.

However, the ritual was and is an enactment of a certain knowledge. Let's take for example the 'nilometer'. There was a knowledge so that you could measure the rise and fall of the Nile. The rise and fall of the Nile worked on an annual basis. It would wipe out all of the old existing landmarks so a tremendous amount of knowledge was needed. People had to get out of the region of flooding and lose their property boundary lines. Imagine if we had to resurvey this farm every year! Somebody had to know where the river was going up and down and it had to be coordinated how the river and the fertilizer and the mud and the property would go. So they went through a big ritual and people would gather and a priest would appear and say the Nile is going to be flooding out and you better get out of your property in such and such—24 hours or 48 hours. And such an evacuation could be happily and orderly done only on a huge ritual way. The knowing beings, priests, would have more rituals to entertain everybody—food, diet, recycle and so forth while they were out of the villages and off to the highlands.

During that period they would go into being work and things which are called superstition by most European anthropologists or used to be anyway, involving the visualization of the Neter or being powers. They would do series of being exercises during that time and these rituals were able to coordinate the tremendous amounts of knowledge needed to run a hydraulic empire and to extend that knowledge to cover droughts and invasions and other catastrophes.

If you have to resurvey the land, what kind of geometry do you use? Are there some rules about this sort of thing? Oh, yes, maybe if you took the square roots of Z^2 , Y^2 , and X^2 , and if one of them equaled the other two, you would know the length of the hypotenuse for a given size of a right-angled triangle. Also, you would have people upriver and maybe then you'd have signals so you could check your nilometer with fire messages or smoke messages.

The city-state and its ramshackle empires gave way with increasing populations to the nation state and its huge markets requiring science and organization or laboratories that would become very, very interested in products and research and development as the primary thing. This nation states developed huge planetary or regional spheres of influence and these developed the metropolis or 'world city'. Everything else becomes a provincial tributary because they do not maintain the know-how to develop the new know-hows and make-dos. The places that could afford the laboratories and the organizations to produce new products and to keep the R&D going were like London and Paris. Many people have tried to emulate them. Nobody has succeeded. New York would like to think that it has. Tokyo would like to think that it has. Moscow would like to think that it has but the world still goes still goes to London or Paris for really new R&D to learn how to know what we know and what we still do not know although other places have surpassed them in producing products and systems and specialists.

To coordinate this on a vast scale *spectacle* had to be created, boulevards, grand squares, uniforms, and fashions. You still find magic, you still find genuine rituals, but the overall coordination is by spectacles. Hollywood spectacles are just a faint copy. If you can imagine, for example in Paris, there you are at the Louvre. You look through one arch and there's another arch down there. So you can imagine, say, Napoleon's army marching or the German army marching or the American army marching or whichever army is marching for the spectacle announcing the glory of occupying Paris. The route starts off

with the gardens and then into the Champs Elysee, which are the fields of heaven. It's quite a spectacle. The one positive emotion ever recorded of Hitler was dancing his little jig because he was going to enter in triumph through Paris.

These spectacles are quite extraordinary. For example, now that laboratories and organizations have gone to countries that perhaps they shouldn't have gone to from some standpoint, we have the spectacle say of the World Trade Towers magically vanishing. Quite a spectacle, with an audience of billions. How much R&D went into that? I don't know. Somebody had to go to flying school, they had to go to dynamite schools, they had to go to all kinds of schools, they had to study—how do you support yourself in a foreign country, how do you learn the language, how do you avoid detection, how do you destroy such a vast target in the most spectacular manner? There was a tremendous amount of R&D into improved product, which in this case happened to be destruction and image and it's on a *planetary scale*.

Now there sets of enterprises and projects exist which are on a *solar scale*. A lot of people don't realize this. A number of years ago I was asked to speak at a French conference called *Eco Harmonie*. They said, 'Oh, we understand you experiment in advanced management—we'd like for you to come give a talk on something really new—planetary corporation.' Well, really planetary corporation is very old hat and Louis XIV was quite a master at that with Colbert, not to speak of Elizabeth in the Muscovy company and the Far East company. Now we're talking about the solar corporation.

For example, most of our communication is actually now bounced from off the planet earth. We have billions of dollars in product and trillions in know-hows that is zooming throughout the solar system. In fact, Ms. Alling right there is in charge of a project called *Mars on Earth*. Another of her projects involves a remote sensing project to monitor the coral reefs from off the planet. A major amount of money that America, China, Russia, Japan, and others are spending as well as ourselves and many non-governmental organizations is off the planet or toward projects aiming for off the planet and there are hundreds of thousands of people involved on the planet earth in this and everybody has to take this into consideration.

For example, it's a solar system enterprise and project that landed in Kandahar two days ago. Rather interesting, that in central Asia, 100 people land exactly on two points in the middle of the night. How do they do that? That control's done from off the planet earth.

The knowledge that this uses goes past spectacle to *theater* so one speaks of the theater of action in central Asia. Another theater of action ranged from Manhattan to Florida. Theater knowledge contains plots, climaxes, and peripeteias or reversals. It knows how to cast characters. You can read all about the cast of characters. Cast of characters over here. Cast of characters over here. Powell, Tony Blair, Chirac, Musharraf, Kharzai, Omar, Osama, etc. maybe 22 characters: that happens to be the number of two American football teams. That's a pretty good size. That's about all the characters that you could ever keep in mind in a theater. The theater contains a tremendous knowledge of *how to make-do*. Modern police training is done in a theater. Nobody operates actually anymore without dramatic training. People who still think they have regular laboratory and organizations and products might still get involved in rhetoric and have spectacles such as meeting our 5,000 best salesmen in Las Vegas. You have a great spectacle but Carlyle armaments now sells more by using theater.

I think that there's now a new arm of knowledge we can call *pataphysics* although Alfred Jarry foresaw the beginning of the pataphysics era at the turn of the century working among a constellation of Parisian intelligentsia, which included any wonderful people.



Pataphysics will take the place of precedence over metaphysics. Pataphysics is the knowledge of how to produce *singularities*. Metaphysics is very useful here, and here and possibly there because it can produce vast generalizations. So you can turn out one theater after another, one spectacle after the other, one ritual after the other in a genuine metaphysical system.

Now something that's properly designed acts "like magic". Rituals could be and are called mystery. Spectacles such as the Nuremberg Rally or the French General Strike of the Front Populaire that inserted themselves as a historical force could be called miracle, technically. That is, a law from a higher world of knowledge operates on a lower law and people regard it as a miracle. European rationalists regarded Mesmer as a miracle worker. Some New Guineans regarded food dropping on them from the skies as a miracle. Theater is the *marvelous*, like walking on the moon or Biosphere 2 for example. *Pataphysics is synergy* and it operates with creative groups for singularity. You can see this occurring in solar system exploration. Each new expedition is a completely different mission. The Cassini has one mission, the Voyager had another mission. They are singularities that depend on synergy to hold them together. In fact we're now beginning to study singularities in the universe. They are called black holes.

What pataphysics is concerned with and what becomes of knowledge here are *complexities* and these complexities can be looked at in one metaphor as *nested*. That is, you never have one complexity. You have a series of nested or Chinese box complexities.

Now a complex system has a number of properties that are extremely interesting. They are self-organizing, for example. All the other things have to be organized. These take somebody who knows the whole picture to set it up and run it. Singularities don't. Complex systems don't. They have independent properties. Another thing is that they are *evolutionary*. They are not only self-organizing but they evolve, they tend to evolve in the direction of greater complexity.

Now, these four schools of magic, mystery, miracle, and marvel are realities of knowledge and the evolving singular summations of that totality is what we might call human knowledge.

Let's look at what is sometimes called science. Let's look at a scientist, a knowing being. Now, a kusilapa had plenty of time to work on being because he minimized the amount of knowledge he needed. A science qua scientist minimizes being while in the laboratory in order to maximize knowledge. Now the individual scientist may also be somebody working on their being but then they have to deal with a very complex and demanding set of operations, perhaps dozens compared to the kusilapa's three. How do they work intensively being perceptions when they have to pay exacting attention to far more functions than the traditional kusilapa?

This most extraordinary invention made by Bacon et al. was that these 'scientists' qua scientists were not interested in extraordinary or higher states of consciousness. A scientist isn't interested in anything if it doesn't work in the ordinary state of consciousness. 'If I send some people up there to Mars and some stupid mother doesn't do his exercises and he degenerates down to the average shithead walking down the

street I still want that expedition to work, you understand me? I don't want to depend on no genius, no yogi. I want just an average guy: American or British or French or nut from somewhere, he's going to press the right button at the right time with 99.99 percent chance of it working.'

So all of these work in the ordinary state of consciousness however intensified and prolonged. You can take somebody more or less off the street and stick him in the chemical laboratory and if they do step a, b, c, d, e, m, g they're going to wind up with nitroglycerine or whatever.

This means that you can have vast pools of humanity working on science, at least as skilled technicians, expanding fields of knowledge. As they used to say at the Colorado School of Mines when it still was a genuine top engineering school, you become an engineer and under you are 100 technicians. The average technician ought to be able to have 100 skilled people under them. .

What is an engineer? It means *ingenious*. An ingenious one is somebody that make this know into a how, into a do or as it's technically said, engineers can make an economical application of the laws of science. If you have a science engineer like Oppenheimer for example or Pasteur or Lord Thompson, then you have the equivalent in science to the shaman or the priest or whatever.

Now the ordinary state of consciousness is so interesting. It doesn't mean these guys can't have a higher state of consciousness. It means they don't believe that it's knowledge. They might well perceive it as being. Einstein, for example, was quite

wont to give his statements about what he thought being was and they might also have been valid. But when he talked about physics he had to talk about it in a way that the ordinary state of consciousness could verify experimentally that you would get these facts if you carried out such and such an algorithm.

So this was the extraordinary simplification invented that exploded knowledge. The studies of the kusilapas exploded being techniques, which unfortunately became known in the West, because of the Christian influence, as *asceticism*, but the idea is not asceticism at all, the idea is *simplification*. Actually, asceticism generally, as Buddha and other great psychologists have pointed out, does not simplify your life because manifestations arising from repression and taboo complicate life's functions. The subconscious rises up while the aim of the kusilapa and his fellow experientialists is to simplify life's functions so that they can be performed in and aligned with the highest states of consciousness.

The scientists, taking the other tack, simplified the cosmically complex state of being-consciousness problem. If I can check it out at the operational level of the ordinary state of consciousness, I may use an intuition from a higher level, as probably most creative scientists do. Scientists don't *believe* their intuitive discoveries; they check them out. There are many sciences and you can watch an interesting progress in the arising of sciences. In the science of complexity for example, I call them cosmophere, geosphere, biosphere, ethnosphere, technosphere. They should better be called -gonies because they're not structures of reason, they're developments —cognogamy, ethnogamy. But supposing you wanted to break it down and look at the progress. Let's say that we would start here from physics which means 'nature'. Physics started off and dealt with atoms. Later on it found out that there are fields. Then we have chemistry. This deals with molecules and then there was a science called biochemistry or physical chemistry. Then there was something called biogeophysical chemistry.

We did an expedition to the Amazon with Dr. Schultes that was called an ethnopharmacobotanical expedition. Because the Amazon is a specific place it should have been called an ethnopharmacobiogeochemical expedition. Then supposing that we were looking at the techniques that were being used by some people like Ian Prance for example, that would be technoethno-pharmaco-biogeochemical. You could see that then there would be another one after that if you built in cybernetics and modern communications science, cybertchno-ethnopharmaco-biogeo—and then there might even be an intelligo-etc.

There is a Gold Rush of knowledge coming down any time any place any how. It is already coming down and you can tell exactly which sciences aren't there. It's like the discovery of the periodic table. Here are the elements discovered and here are the ones that aren't discovered. Go do it.

So we're now getting knowledge about knowledge. That's the punch line. And this was done some time ago at the very beginning of science. Galileo for example with his colleague in Rome started out what's called the Campaign of Science. Unfortunately the young man he was partner with knew the Pope and was a politician and he was in charge of botany or biology. He died and that left Galileo, who was associated with more liberal tendencies. Science had a very close call. Galileo was nearly wiped out, was excommunicated and put under house arrest. Nearly escaped burning. He managed to smuggle his manuscripts—it's a very exciting story—to Holland whose troops had managed to fight off the Catholic doctrinaires and they smuggled it to Great Britain.



And they formed there an esoteric society whose leaders met every Thursday night. The Royal Society was founded which was

underground because it was a very suspicious cult until Charlie the Second restored free speech in theater. Then it could come out in the open. The Royal Society then took over the campaign of science. Keith Runcorn, who was treasurer of the Royal Society, one of the guys who proved Continental drift, 'adopted' us was because he saw that biospherics were necessary in the campaign of science. That's why we've always had special friends in London. This dedicated line of knowledge seekers and finders have been the caretakers in the campaign of science since those manuscripts of Galileo came there. They first smuggled those Physics manuscripts out and then they smuggled Linnaeus' Laboratory down from Sweden which contained the essential classificatory stuff for botany—that was out on a British frigate just before the Swedes were going to destroy it as anti-some religion or other. From the very beginning there was knowledge about where knowledge ought to go.

Fundamentally, knowledge is about activity. Any and all activity that you can make into an algorithm is a field of knowledge. Algorithm just means a set of procedures which enables you to learn how to do that. This is rapidly expanding—there's no end in sight for knowledge.

Now this also distinguishes knowledge from being. Being has definite levels and a definite work on being that could be done and when you start doing that you're on a path. On knowledge there's not such a definite work to be done, there's definite areas with new work to be discovered but new areas arise. There's certainly definite directions known now and to be discovered so there's a definite and expanding campaign of knowledge. And the person who does not make himself aware of this reality of this increase of power

in the world to comprehend, to contemplate, to make do, to regulate, is going to be sadly at sea in radiant oceans of reality - little matter the level of being which that person may have attained.