

III-5. Meaning to a Speck of Dust

Phenomena implicate and explicate order in the epistemology.

Practice gives meaning. As the particulars of the experience identified in the experience, generalizations are abstracted. Such abstractions are analytical tools that give meaning to the particulars of an individual, an entity, a single act, a digit, a word, or a dab of color. To move along:

1. Think of a dot on a sheet of paper. Existence of the dot ascertains *it is*. Only by default we say *it is not* there on the rest of the sheet. Here *it is not* is not ascertained by the existence of 'is not' but by the existence of the paper in relation to the dot. In addition to the content (dot) all representations also have a context. Representation of one and only one dot on an otherwise blank sheet of paper is the context to assert absence of 'such content' on a blank paper.
2. In the Boolean world *is so* is represented by 1, and everything else is *is not so* represented by 0. In this universe 0 is the representational space for 1. Thus 1 is all and 0 is nothing. And there is nothing else in this universe.
3. To break out of the confines of binary universe, imagine a speck of dust in space. By itself, an isolated speck of dust exists but has little else by way of meaning, significance, or information content. A meaning emerges if we establish that many more specks of the same kind exist in a confined space. The finding assumes added significance if specks are identified to be of dandruff, pollen, anthrax bacteria, or virus particles. Through

such measures we evaluate the quality of the environment. The same goes for all other measures of quality.

4. A class with defined characteristics and behaviors assumes added significance. For example information conveyed by a sentence is more than that conveyed by all of the words individually, or in a random order. The quality of information improves with higher levels of organization, such as paragraph, chapter, book, and a shelf of books on the subject. Patterns emerging at each level of hierarchy enhance meaning and reduce uncertainty. Reliability and content of information increase with an increase in the order as well as the quality of the component individuals. Patterns over a period of time are for examples assume added significance to identify norms and outliers.

5. Patterns result from relations. A series of dots make a line. Dots in two-dimensional may give perception of an object, and appearance of a moving object id appropriately time resolved as in a television picture. It is also in the nature of discreteness that virtual reality emerges with manipulated matrices of points.

6. Viewed this way point is a zero-dimensional matrix, a line is a one-dimensional matrix, a picture or graph is usually two-dimensional matrix. Our sensory space is cued for a time resolved three-dimensional matrix. In our mental interpretations we often superimpose such information with other dimensions of our concerns. Thus mental constructs of our experience are multi-dimensional matrices. This matrix approach provides a basis to view perceptions as matrices of undefined dimensionality because they are influenced by varying degrees of chaos and disorder.

Concepts of rationality and potential build on the transition from randomness to chaos to order. Rational behaviors call for consistency, whereas potential lies in including the disordered parts into the order.

Against Gods and Humbug

Preface

1. Paradox of Choices
2. Representation for Potential
3. Feedback from Interactions
4. What Is Rationality?
5. Meaning to a Speck of Dust
6. The Unknown and the Doubtful
7. Actions Have Consequences
8. Beginning of a Decision
9. Tools for Thought Search
10. Living with Doubt
11. Who to Trust?
12. Living with Incomplete Knowledge
13. Do People Tell Lies?
14. Social Influences of Non-violence
15. Greed and Grab
16. Conduct with Consistency
17. An Activist Perspective
18. Causality: End or Means to Reality
19. Negate the Wishful
20. Man is Capable of Being Rational
21. Making Decisions
22. Keeping Viable Options Open
23. Inference and Successful Behavior
24. Genesis of Syad: The Logical Doubt
25. Science-based Conduct?
26. Philosophy and Logic for Action
27. Actions That Matter
28. Tragic versus Tragedy
29. Representation of Order with Room for Doubt
30. War Promises Meaning to the Otherwise Meaningless Lives
31. A Peace to End All Peace
32. Knowledge: Been There
33. Equation for Potential
34. Why I Am Not Moral
35. Unleashing Thought: Taming Brawn, Grunt, and Smarts