

The Nature of Reality – Paper III

III. The Possible Sources of Emergence

Now, perhaps we should return to Plurality, to re-ground our thinking, before embarking on this crucial stage in our deliberations.

Obviously, and correctly, our chemical processes are “extractions” from Reality, as parts of it. They certainly “exist” and proceed, and the various different parts – the different processes interact. But what else was happening? NOT, what else was happening totally unconnected with our chosen elements, but, on the contrary, what else was happening DUE to our processes in the rest of local Reality at the very least.

As it turns out, a great deal of things were also going on, about which our method of Plurality has caused us to say absolutely NOTHING. We have chosen the parts we see as Dominant and relevant extracted them for study and analysis, and ignored ALL THE REST.

These would be other processes, which have not formed such powerful chains as the sequences we have been talking about. But, that doesn't mean that they also had not formed sequences and even cycles. But, what is certain is that they are still NOT included, and with some real justice! Their processes are nowhere near as strong as those previously considered, and we cannot overburden our thinking with multitudes of systems that clearly have a negligible effect. We would say that our initially considered processes were DOMINANT, while the large number of much weaker process sets were actually NEGLIGIBLE, in the considered circumstances.

This then, must be seen as the classic all embracing scenario of all of Reality. It has DOMINANT aspects covering long periods of stability, which are nonetheless NOT permanent, surrounded by multitudes of negligible aspects, which are still ongoing but swamped by the dominant ones. And, when it comes to Mankind's study of Reality, they naturally and correctly concentrate on what they can easily discern, properly study, and effectively USE to some purpose – the Dominant processes.

But, why must we emphasize our conception including all the negligible contributions? Surely, in the end, there is NO DIFFERENCE between our so-called NEW approach and the well established methods of the past?

But, of course, the above is not the full story.

For, we can assume, with justice, that this situation is NOT eternally fixed and stable. Indeed, it has a certain temporary stability and persists for what could be a considerable time. BUT, changes are always afoot.

Certain changes in the environment can effect the equilibrium markedly.

Consider an increasing current in our supposed shallow sea, which brings from a distant shore to our considered enclave, things which did not exist in any reasonable quantity before, or not for a considerable period of time (consider the El Nino effect off South America in the present day). The transported contents of such currents could turn out to be very useful to some of the negligible systems of processes, and have the effect of strengthening their actions and extent. Whole hidden sequences could come more into prominence and perhaps compete for common resources with the currently Dominant systems. The area then begins to show signs of change. The old stability is being challenged. Perhaps even one link process in a dominant system is greatly challenged by a growing competitor, and the compromised link would inevitably undermine the rate of process of the whole chain or cycle. The dominant's very strength – the mutually supporting links in the system, now becomes its weakness, for the whole cycle is undermined and maybe even terminated by the failure at a single link. Overall, the once dominant system declines or even subsides, and maybe only survives as a vestige in widely separated localities, while new growing systems come increasingly into view. The area that was once seemingly homogeneous becomes decidedly heterogeneous with clear evidence of competing systems. It begins to look as though ONE will triumph over the other, and then one configuration will have been replaced by another.

But, there is another alternative.

The chaotic situation means that as the competing systems continue to process in each other's vicinity, and even perhaps in patches of one surrounded by patches of the other, many new situations can arise through the area BETWEEN the alternative systems. The very fact that we are now in a contention situation, means that BOTH alternatives are being supplied with their required external inputs. They therefore will have many things in common. This can mean that occasionally, and often quite readily, sub processes from the alternatives can cross over and link into the other system. These will mostly NOT survive (like bad mutations). The result is the characteristic pre-Emergence turmoil, which mature into a complete turnover, but which can also subside back into the preceding situation again as the source of the growth in the competitor fades away due again to the external conditions.

To be continued

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