

The Nature of Form – Paper III

In that view of Reality (Holism) there is no mix and re-mix of eternal elements towards increasing complexity, but, on the contrary an Evolution of Reality via innumerable different but mutually interlinked and indeed determined factors, that can, and does, produce wholly New Things, and both the producing and the produced elements thereafter determine each other and everything else.

It sounds like an impossible process to fathom, and it is certainly no easy matter.

But there is Form!

In spite of the debilitating, infinite regression promised by Holism, Reality does NOT descend into indeterminate Chaos, but, on the contrary, produces the very opposite. Out of all this interaction, Form appears **all the time**. Indeed, rather than a holistic World leading the Chaos, we get a situation with more Order and Form.

What can be more ordered than Life?

The problem that intimidates us is the longing for simple Reductionism!

We cannot conceive of a straight-through reductionism in a holistic World, so we feel that there is no clear path of future development ahead of us towards complete understanding, in that alternative direction.

But that was always a myth anyway!

We are not tooling up to be God! The momentum towards a reductionist standpoint was, and is, the desire to control and direct Reality to our own defined purposes.

What an egotistical and impossible purpose!

A much better purpose must surely be to Understand?

So, in spite of rejecting Plurality, its philosophical standpoint AND our demotion of Form to a consequence rather than a cause, we find that the latter is likely to be our best bet for developing an holistic approach.

This seems to have returned us to where we were, but that is not the case.

Form does not have to be God. It can also be evidence.

Form relates to its causes in Reality. It isn't arbitrary, or without underlying factors which determine it. Indeed, Form can be a great deal more than equations. And it is such things that are the most revealing side of Form.

What about Analogy? Is that not also a kind of Form?

When we notice extensive resonances between a new area of study and one we know well, we are not going along the **isolate, extract and abstract route** used for relations. A much more complex scenario has been recognised.

What we pick up are the processes and sequences which have a clear driving necessity behind them. And we notice these in complex, holistic situations **first!** We see the Form of an intrinsically related sequence of processes and recognise it in other unrelated scenarios elsewhere.

These types of form also recur in widely different areas, but are never as empty of quality as equations. They always involve necessary transitions between necessary modes. They form natural progressing sequences, and we note their characteristic forms and changes.

Such recognitions are in fact very sophisticated, and allow us to not only exist in a holistic World, but actually prosper in it!

Let us compare the pluralistic revelation of equations with the analogistic recognition of processes,

We have no qualms about the former, in spite of its many pitfalls. We merely collect increasing numbers of equations **and their contexts** to use when appropriate. With complete equanimity, we switch horses in mid stream whenever our current relation no longer pertains, and we even set up hard and fast procedures, wherein, as thresholds are passed, we know to make the vehicle switch. We never apologize for this

pragmatic method. Indeed, we trumpet it as the certain route to complete understanding (and control) of Everything.

Now, what occurs in analogistic methods?

We work from the known to the unknown. We recognise in the new, patterns and processes that we are already aware of in the Old, well-known areas. We learn to map features from one “pattern” to the other, and with great attention and care, note the resonances and differences. We build up “Explanations”, which are simply analogies, but lead to the identification and naming of such mapped factors, the recognition of qualities and properties, and we BEGIN to abstract **causes**, and in terms of these, real scientific Explanation emerges!

The “stories” or “trajectories” of explanation are NOT like those of the ancient Greeks, for example, who attempted similar things, but using their fictional elements of Earth, Fire, Air and Water as their universal (and sole) components. Instead of FOUR basic elements, scientists identified myriads of such things at many, many different Levels, each with its own qualities and properties.

And the explanations, though always provisional and improveable, began to make a great deal more sense than those of the ancients.

We had NO difficulty with such explanatory Science for several hundred years, even if we had to regularly dump inadequate versions for ones that more clearly fitted Reality.

Real Science was, and is, a process and was conceived of as infinitely improvable. It is the problems that accumulated at the Sub Atomic Level, which so undermined a whole platform of explanations and demanded a revolution in methods.

What happened INSTEAD was the opposite – a retrenchment that THREW OUT the baby with the bathwater, and **banned** analogistic explanation as being self-kid.

The era of the worship of Form (i.e. equations alone) had appeared.

Now it is clear that there really was a major problem in that area of Physics, and there did need to be a complete overhaul in our methods of developing scientific explanation.

The question for us is how do we carry that through? What are the new bases on which we build a better and extendable system of Explanation?

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