

The Second Law of Thermodynamics *of* Man – Paper II

The easiest part of Reality for Mankind to control and use was, of course, HIMSELF!

Mankind did possess the greatest of survival attribute of all. His erect posture had released his forelimbs from their original role in locomotion, and his still primitive pentadactyl hand had the potential for unsurpassed and complicated use which had remarkable effects on the consequent development of his brain. Long before he could do much in controlling his environment, he was already a thinking animal. His intelligence and thinking equipped him to intelligently observe and use what he could see. Long before he had invented much, he had started to choose and modify certain pieces of rock, which originally by chance, and later by intent, could have sharp edges. He learned to CUT and WHITTLE sticks, and dig into the earth for edible roots. But his most wonderful tool, the knapped flint knife, would last only a very short time in use, and he very soon had to discard it and make another. Even the process of manufacture was so “hit and miss” that he would have to discard most of his attempts before they were useable. Across the the areas where early Man lived are strewn vast quantities of such detritus of both failed and usefully damaged thrown away tools.

From the outset his tools were clearly extremely temporary achievements and were bound to fail before long. But, as he used his new tools to apply to hunting and processing his kills, what he achieved was also evidently very temporary. The very meat from a killed animal would soon deteriorate and become impossible to eat. He soon had to find ways of preserving such things against inevitable decay. He dried things, smoked them and salted them, along with many other methods to allay the natural processes of dissolution.

So on every hand the same overall dissolution dominated everything that he was able to do.

Mankind’s attempts to bend sections of Reality to his needs only showed that even his successes were temporary. Whenever he intervened with it, what he produced would necessarily deteriorate in time into unusable dross.

Now let’s see why!

It could be because he was always trying to oppose natural combinations of processes, and his interventions could not be anything but disruptive to Reality at large, even though he was trying to make bits of it conducive to his current and ever increasing needs. In effect the ONLY interventions open to him were those which scratched the surface of Reality, or indeed killed living items of Reality, So none of them had any net positive effect on Reality as a system. Mankind was, in effect, now set against Reality as is, for the purpose of a Reality as he wanted it to be. His interventions werewere NOT imbued with understanding of the way of Reality, but were pragmatic, short-term and decidedly homocentric. Reality had taken billions of years to reach its then current state. What progress had been made naturally had been the product of myriads of forces, and these had slowly selected mutually conducive factors for survival. For certainly all those that didn’t fit well would have long ago perished. But such an enormously time-consuming process could not be more different from Mankind’s interventions. They could never attain that “state of partnership” that only time and process could produce. All of his interventions could only be damaging in the general scheme of things. Thus all his changes, no matter how useful for him in the very short term, would not be so in the wider scheme.

Thus, the nature of a holistic Reality with a History, and Mankind with THE most short-term, indeed immediate, purposes, could not but SELECT for Mankind only deleterious interventions *in the long run*.

To him all of Nature was careering to decay and chaos. Reality and Man worked to different clocks - one counting in billions of years, while the other was doing it in hours and days. Within a moment (geologically) the great erections of the Mayas were swallowed by the jungle and lost. Elaborate farming would in an instant (geologically) return to dense uninhabited forests. Mankind had accelerated so much compared with the natural tempos of change, selection and accommodation, that none of his changes had time to be incorporated into a self maintaining whole. They were, therefore, all “scars” on the equilibrium of Reality: all bound to decay. Perhaps these explain the discovery of the Second Law of Thermodynamics. Such a Law is as much about Mankind, as it is about Reality beyond Man.

And yet there is still another, and maybe the most important, reason for the selection which caused us to see the World as governed by the Second Law. This reason was, and still is, **Plurality!**

To overcome the inadequacies of Mankind's attempts to extract and use relations that he had glimpsed within a complex and holistic Reality, there HAD to be a considerable increase in **Control**. For, it was becoming very clear that, to reveal the embedded relations, Mankind had to change situations bodily to allow these, one at a time, to be accessible for study. Two aspects of Control were involved. First, the primary factors, if such were clearly indicated had to be stepped through in accurate measureable steps, and the consequences in at least one other primary factor also carefully measured. But, in addition, and most crucially, the actual **Context** had also to be rigorously controlled too, for without this the required relation could never be extracted. These measures of control were increasingly improved as Mankind's Knowledge and Means improved, and by the 17th. Century enough control was available for scientists like Newton and Hooke to begin to reveal, isolate, extract and even abstract once embedded relations into "independent Forms".

Yet in the system of techniques involved, much had to be "nailed to the floor", so that the sought-after, embedded relation could be revealed clearly and hence would be available for measurement. This method was initially merely a pragmatic means of finally "getting hold" of the glimpsed, embedded relation, and it certainly worked. Everywhere scientists were revealing relations from a now seemingly accessible Reality. **But, we MUST be clear what we were doing!**

All such relations were revealed, then extracted and finally abstracted into a mathematical Form, but if they were attempted to be used in Reality at large, they would always, and inevitably, *fail*. They could NOT be used until the exact same sort and measure of Control that was used in the acquisition, was also IN PLACE when and where the relation was going to be used.

Mankind **did** now have a methodology which could now allow both the extraction and the use of embedded relations. What had been glimpsed within Reality was, hence forward, lying in our hands.

But the Domains in which these things had to take place were NEVER Reality *as is*, but, on the contrary, man-devised and man-controlled situations. We had learned to "farm" Reality to release its secrets, one at a time, in useable ways.

These gains were both FROM and FOR use in these very unnatural Domains

Now, the pragmatists were happy. They could do what they had wanted to do! The fact that it was in engineered situations was NOT a problem.

Yet, the philosophical and indeed scientific implications were extremely important, and were surprisingly universally and totally ignored. The extracted relation was NOT, and could NOT, be as it was in unfettered Reality, and the rationalisation of this inadequacy was simply DENIED by espousing the already widespread assumption of Plurality for the actual nature of Reality. Plurality sees everything as composed of a hierarchy of Wholes and Parts. The extracted relations were thus INCORRECTLY seen as the "True Parts" of an unfettered, yet comprehensive, Reality, and that the pluralist technique had merely revealed it "Whole".

Now, this was extendable in all directions. With sufficient similar experiments, a full set of these "independent, component relations" could in time be fully revealed.

To re-establish any Part of unfettered Reality would simply be achieved by a summation of the appropriate set of Parts.

(1,363 words)