

# An Unprecedented Event

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July 2019

At 11:30 on Sunday 27th April 1980—as I was strolling across Wimbledon Common in London to the pub for lunch, close to the Tangier war memorial at 51° 26' 30" N, 0° 14' 02" W (TQ 2284 7288 in the Ordnance Survey grid)—something happened to me that is unprecedented in the fourteen billion-year history of evolution and the 40,000 years of human learning.

At the time, I was working in marketing for IBM, seeking to discover what it truly means to be human in contrast to machines, like computers. I also wanted to answer the most critical, unanswered question in science: *What is causing scientists and technologists, aided and abetted by computer technology, to drive the pace of scientific discovery and technological development at unprecedented exponential rates of acceleration?*

I have been able to answer this question because, at that fateful moment, what felt like a big bang erupted in the utmost depths of my psyche, leading me to begin an experiment in learning that starts afresh at the very beginning, at the Divine Origin of the Universe. However, because this apocalyptic, eureka moment is unprecedented, I cannot fully explain what has happened to me in my lifetime in a way that my fellow humans understand. For when we communicate, we do so by using a language that refers to past understanding, the imagination of possibilities to come, or immediate human experience.

In an endeavour to explain this unprecedented event, I tell people that I have been conducting a thought experiment in which I am a computer that turns itself off and on again, so that it has no programs within it, not even a bootstrap program to load the operating system. From Emptiness, as a *tabula rasa*, this computer then has the task of integrating all knowledge in all cultures and disciplines at all times—past, present, and future—into a coherent whole, without an external human programmer to tell it how to do so. The only energy available to it is the creative power of Life, emanating directly from our Divine Source, also called *Logos*, the immanent rational intelligence governing the Cosmos. This I experience as my inner guru, as a guiding spirit—*daimon* and *genius* in Greek and Latin, respectively.

Now, even though there are some similarities between my unique life experiences and those of others, because these are unprecedented, they can only really be understood from a Divine Cosmic perspective, not from an individualistic point of view. So, when people ask me to explain what transdisciplinary, transcultural Panosophy means in their own experience (as the elusive Theory of Everything), I can only answer them in terms of humanity, potentially living harmoniously together as an undivided whole.

Evolution has become intelligently conscious of itself within me along the lines that Pierre Teilhard de Chardin and Julian Huxley foresaw. I have thereby answered the liberating call to pursue the Wholeness of life, which mystics like J. Krishnamurti, Vimala Thakar, and Osho issued. In this holistic manner, my fragmented mind has been healed in Wholeness, resolving the central problem of human learning that David Bohm identified in the opening paragraph of *Wholeness and the Implicate Order* in 1980.

By taking the conceptual abstractions of mathematicians, computer scientists, and information systems architects to the utmost level of generality, all the divergent streams of evolution have converged within me at its glorious culmination, which Teilhard called the Omega Point, inseparable from the Alpha Point. This hasn't happened before because, ever since the most recent big bang, evolution has been more divergent than convergent, as we see in the periodic table of the elements, in the wondrous diversity of the species, in academic specialization, and the division of labour in the workplace.

Now, while this unprecedented event did not happen through any conscious act or decision on my

part, I was not totally unprepared for its eventuality. From seven years of age, I had felt that I was living in a dysfunctional family within a dysfunctional culture that I did not feel that I belonged to. Most significantly, I was taught to recite the Lord's Prayer, which begins with these words in the Anglican *Book of Common Prayer*: "Our Father which art in Heaven". But what do these words mean? Father is the first person in the Trinity of God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit and Heaven is out there in the physical universe. But, if God is the Supreme Being, how could it be resident somewhere in the skies? *God* and *Universe* denote the overall context for religion and science, respectively. But without a unified Cosmic Context for all my learning, how could I tell whether what I was being taught was true or not?

In the event, struggling to make sense of my experiences, at the age of twelve I inwardly abandoned Christianity, as the religion of my parents, and when seventeen, I realized that physics could not be the primary science because of its notions of atomism and a big bang as the birth of the Universe. Then, at university, when majoring in mathematics, taking economics as a subsidiary, I saw that money, as a measure of value, is incomprehensible. The next year, I was taught the basics of mathematical logic, as supposedly the science of reason. But this did make sense either and neither did mathematics, as a whole.

So, by the time I finished my formal education, I was in the depths of despair. What I had been taught could not lead me to Wholeness and the Truth, and hence Love and Peace, for which I longed in the very depths of my being. Somehow, I managed to recover, getting married, having children, and pursuing a business career with IBM, as both a technologist and manager, in the conventional manner.

However, this could not last. As the result of a major midlife crisis, I realized in the late 1970s that my children were not being educated to live in the world that would exist when they came to be bringing up children of their own, as my estranged daughter, at least, is doing. This brought up memories of my own disastrous education, realizing that following the invention of the stored-program computer in the late 1940s we would need to rebuild both the education and economic systems from scratch, which is what I set out to do following my epiphany in 1980. Having learnt almost nothing during my formal education, I had little to unlearn when I began an integral experiment in learning when thirty-eight.

But what caused me to begin questioning the religious and scientific beliefs and assumptions of the culture I was born into as a seven-year-old? This is not normal behaviour, as most learn what they are taught in order to relate socially to their peers, at the very least, being taught in a similar manner. However, in my case, I unconsciously began this rebellious behaviour, threatening my parents and teachers' precarious sense of security and identity in life, because I experienced a cataclysmic trauma seven weeks after my conception, when my three-year-old brother John ran out in front of an army lorry and was killed instantly.

This event led to two behaviour patterns to be embedded in my unconscious psyche, which have often repeated themselves, even after I was able to bring them into consciousness to examine them in the brilliant light of day with Self-reflective Intelligence. First, during the last seven months of my gestation, I felt that I was living in what Stanislav Grof calls a 'bad womb', far from innate oceanic ecstasy. This was a hostile environment, which I later recreated by my intense curiosity to find Peace and meaning in life.

Secondly, on the morning of the day that John was killed, my mother had had her pregnancy confirmed. She thus went from euphoria to excruciating anguish instantaneously. Furthermore, between the fourth and eighth weeks of gestation, the embryonic brain goes through a rapid period of development. So, in later life, just as I was beginning to have some success in society's terms, I would breakdown, bringing an abrupt end to a period of thoughtless, unintelligent cultural conditioning.

Today, by solving the ultimate problem of human learning, I have been successful beyond my wildest dreams, as I describe in my recent 42-page monograph 'Healing My Fragmented Mind in Wholeness'. But could my awakened intelligence benefit humanity before our inevitable demise as a species?