



Emergence! (The Ontological Conjecture)

Dedicated to Henry Siggins Leonard

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Ours is a vacuumless universe -
Character and Potential pervade
The spatio-temporal manifold!

The manifold is discretely divided
As the ancients foretold
By atomicity, by discreteness amid continuity!

Atomicity embedded within atomic occasions
Events emerging as a confluence of
Antecedent events!

The character and relations within that nexus
Constituent of an occasion's causal past
Determine the characteristics and relations
Which ingress within the atomic event!

As character ingresses into an atomic occasion,
Bounded by spatial magnitude and temporal duration,
The character and potentiality
Within the event's causal future Emerge,
Begat as an occasion's progeny.

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Generating diverse causal futures,
Overlapping, interlaced, interacting!

The Community of Being
Omnipresent, The Community of Being
Continuous and infinite, borderless and boundless!
Puffs of becoming perpetually emerging perpetually perishing
Within the Flux!

The void exists merely in Abstraction -
The dynamic interplay
Of the Perpetual Flux characterizes the concrete!
No mythical Singularity exists
Devoid of character, structure, origin, history and environment!

The expansion, contraction, contortion, rhythm of Cosmic Epochs
Emerging, changing and perishing
Within the Cosmic Community represent the cosmology of our
Sage!

To understand the Real
The Sacred Trinity,
Philosophy, Physics and Poetry
Must by the Academy of Artists
Be woven into a new conceptual Tapestry!

Such is the causal orderliness that governs the transition
From the past to the present,
An orderliness in the absence of which
Teleology, Morality and Aesthetics would never appear!

Democratus and Lucretius planted the seeds of atomicity
Within the minds of philosophers and physicists,
A mode of atomicity whose roots have penetrated
Deeply and broadly the consciousness of all science!
Atomicity and Reductionism were the yin/yang of physics

Until a new sage appeared!

Atomicity, this sage taught us,
Does not imply that qualitative variety is denied, squeezed out
From the micro world!
Such is a false, hollow assumption restricting our imagination!

The world of the quantum
Does not confine atomic occasions to infinite geometric variety
Merely in the modes of aggregation of sameness of constituents!

Open our minds
To see the deep dynamism of existence!

A transformation of Ontological Perspective is imperative.
Accelerators as cauldrons of dissociation
To Fields as cauldrons of Creative Synthesis
And emergence of Atomic Occasions within a Sea of Fields
Within the Infinite and Eternal Manifold of Becoming!

Descartes' Illusion of Separate Realms, reality bifurcated,
Replaced by Fields generating the ingression of diverse attributes
Physical and Mental within Atomic Occasions
Emerging from Creative Synthesis
And generated by Fields
And complex Modes of Aggregations!

Cauldrons of Ontological Dissociation
Transformed into
Cauldrons of Creative Synthesis omnipresent in
Fields of Becoming!

Processes of Dissociation and
Processes of Creative Synthesis are jointly necessary
To understand Emergence

As the Universal Phenomena within the Fabric of Being!

Emergence of Atomic Occasions is guided by Field Equations
Describing the patterns by which the past transitions
To the present and the present is lured to its future!

If Field Equations generating new modes of atomicity
Are amenable to infinite solutions
Then the vacuumless universe
Is infinite qualitatively and quantitatively!

A new form of atomicity
Is postulated in the Ontological Conjecture
From heaven Master Alfred and Disciple Leonard
With Socrates and Plato
Look down upon our tiny Planet and smile!

Openness overwhelms closedness.
Orderliness and infinite qualitative variety
Are harmonized in a new Synthesis, a deeper Integration!

Beauty and wonder
Prevail.

The ancient atomicity of sameness is overcome
By the atomicity of variety
Husbanded by Field Equations
And the Orderliness of Nature itself!

As dogmatism and orthodoxy are superseded,
A new journey of inquiry
Guided by the perspective of process and organism
Will commence and last 10,000 years and more!
Reductionism has played its historic Role
But Relentless Reductionism
From the kingdom of ontology and cosmology

Is now banished!
And the Sages
More broadly smile!

To be absent for more than two millennia –
What is that to truth and beauty?
Orderliness and Variety
Within the Small, the Large and the Complex
In conceptual harmony will Reign;
Light over the Dark will finally prevail!

*Prof. Henry Siggins Leonard was the past President of the American Philosophical Association. At Harvard Leonard was Whitehead's student and colleague for a decade and his Personal Assistant for 6 years during the period Whitehead wrote and taught *Process and Reality* and other major philosophic works.