

**BIG THINKING AND RETHINKING: BLACKFOOT
METAPHYSICS WAITING IN THE WINGS**

REFLECTIONS BY A BLACKFOOT
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**THE METAPHYSICS OF OUR PRESENT EXISTENCE
FROM A BLACKFOOT PERSPECTIVE**

- THE METAPHYSICS OF OUR MODERN WESTERN WORLD ARE BASED ON A STAGNANT WORLD (GOD DOES NOT PLAY DICE WITH THE UNIVERSE); EVERYTHING IS ABOUT MATTER; EVERYTHING IS INANIMATE (EXCEPT FOR SENTIENT BEINGS LIKE YOU AND ME); WE LOOK AT THINGS IN ISOLATION; WE ARE FUTURE ORIENTED (BEEN THERE, DONE DID IT, LET'S MOVE ON). ALL OF THE ABOVE IS CAPTURED IN THE LANGUAGE WE SPEAK LIKE ENGLISH (A NOUN BASED LANGUAGE). LASTLY, OUR MAIN REFERENCE IS TIME.
- THESE METAPHYSICS GIVE BIRTH TO SOCIAL VALUES SUCH AS BIGGER, NEWER, FASTER, HIGHER, MORE, AND SO ON.
- THESE, IN TURN, ARE BASED ON THE THINKING OF THE ENLIGHTENMENT ERA OF AGE OF REASON.

THE AGE OF REASON

- THE AGE OF REASON CAME INTO EXISTENCE DURING THE 16TH CENTURY IN EUROPE. IT WAS A PARADIGMATIC, IDEOLOGICAL, AND PHILOSOPHICAL MOVEMENT.
- IT IS ABOUT RATIONALISM: A BELIEF THAT YOU CAN COME TO KNOW OR ARRIVE AT TRUTH STRICTLY THROUGH REASON AS OPPOSED TO FAITH, RELIANCE ON THE PAST, INTUITION, AND METAPHYSICS.
- IT GAVE RISE TO DEISM: WE CAN COME TO KNOW EVERYTHING THROUGH OUR GIFT OF REASON FROM GOD.
- GOD MADE AN ORDERLY UNIVERSE AND IT IS GOOD AND BEAUTIFUL. "GOD DOES NOT PLAY DICE....." (EINSTEIN)

RAMIFICATIONS AND IMPLICATIONS OF THE AGE OF REASON

- THE AGE OF REASON, IT SEEMS, WAS A COUNTER MOVEMENT TO THE OLD ESTABLISHMENT OF THE DIVINE RULE OF KINGS AND RELIANCE ON TRADITION.
- IT ATTEMPTED TO SUBJECT ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING TO RATIONALISM.
- IT DID AWAY WITH THE SUBJECTIVE AND DEALT WITH ONLY THE OBJECTIVE.
- IT DID AWAY WITH EMOTIONS AND FEELINGS. FOR INSTANCE, WOMEN WERE TOO EMOTIONAL TO BE SCIENTISTS AND LEADERS.
- SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE CAME INTO BEING.

THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD IN THE AGE OF REASON

- MYSTICISM, MIRACLES, GHOSTS, AND THE LIKE WERE FROWNED UPON.
- MEASUREMENT AND, HENCE, THE ROLE OF MATHEMATICS BECAME THE FOUNDATION OF THE SCIENTIFIC METHOD.
- EXPERIMENTATION AND PURE REASON CAN BRING ABOUT KNOWLEDGE. FOR INSTANCE, THE HIGGS PARTICLE. THE SCIENTISTS SAY, 'THROUGH OUR REASONING (FORMULA) THE HIGGS PARTICLE SHOULD BE OCCUPYING THIS SPACE AND IT'S WEIGHT SHOULD BE THIS'.
- THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ANYTHING THAT CANNOT BE MEASURED NOR IS THERE ROOM FOR SUBJECTIVITY.

RAMIFICATIONS OF THE AGE OF REASON

- SCHOLARS SUCH AS IAIN MCGILCHRIST SUGGEST THAT WE HAVE BECOME LARGELY LEFT BRAIN THINKERS: OUR THINKING IS ABOUT CONTROL AND MANIPULATION, ABSTRACTION, ANONYMITY, ORGANISABILITY, PREDICTABILITY, AND FINANCIAL BALANCE SHEETS. IN THE PROCESS JUSTICE GETS INTERPRETED SIMPLY AS EQUALITY.
- THE LEFT BRAIN DOES NOT UNDERSTAND THINGS BUT SIMPLY PROCESS THEM. THE RIGHT BRAIN IS THE BASIS OF UNDERSTANDING. THE LEFT BRAIN PREFERS THE EXPLICIT NOT KNOWING THAT MAKING THINGS EXPLICIT IS LIKE EXPLAINING A JOKE. BUT YOU SEE THE POINT.....
- OUR APPROACH TO KNOWLEDGE IS LARGELY DECLARATORY AND PROPOSITIONAL AND NOT EXPERIENTIAL.

BENEFITS? OF OUR LEFT BRAIN METAPHYSICS

- WE ARE NOT DENYING THE BENEFITS AND ADVANCES BROUGHT ABOUT BY OUR PRESENT LEFT BRAIN METAPHYSICS. BUT MOST OF THAT IS MATERIALITY. IS OUR PRESENT METAPHYSICS IMPROVING AND ADVANCING OUR SPECIES? OUR WE HAPPIER?
- MCGLICHRIST TELLS OF A TEACHER WHO WAS HAVING TO TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO READ FACIAL EXPRESSIONS.
- ARE WE BECOMING INCREASINGLY ROBOT-IZED? IS THAT WHAT WE WANT TO TURN OUT OF OUR USNIVERSITIES?

CHALLENGES TO THE AGE OF REASON

- VON GOETHE'S SCIENCE IN THE LATE 1700'S AND EARLY 1800'S DID CHALLENGE THE PRINCIPLES OF THE AGE OF REASON. ONE CAN SAY HE WAS A FORERUNNER OF QUANTUM PHYSICS. HE HAD A SPIRITUAL APPROACH TO SCIENCE. FOR HIM, THE OBSERVED AND THE OBSERVER INTERACTED.
- GOETHE'S SCIENCE WAS ABOUT WHOLENESS, INTEGRATION OF OTHER FIELDS LIKE ART, AND NOTIONS OF QUALITY.
- THEN IN THE EARLY 1900'S, QUANTUM PHYSICS CAME ON THE SCENE. IT IS ABOUT UNCERTAINTY, PARTICLE/WAVE DUALITY, NON-LOCALITY, CONSTANT MOTION, PROBABILITY, SPIRITUALITY (JEREMY HAYWARD).

NATIVE SCIENCE AND THE AGE OF REASON

- THE AGE OF REASON WAS IN FULL BLOOM AT THE TIME OF COLONIZATION OF NORTH AMERICAN INDIANS.
- BECAUSE NATIVE SCIENCE WAS ABOUT WHOLENESS, SPIRITUALITY, WAVES AS OPPOSED TO PARTICLES, EVERYTHING BEING ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS, AND EVERYTHING BEING ANIMATE, IT WAS TOTALLY DISCOUNTED BY THE RATIONALISTS.
- BECAUSE IT WAS NOT ABOUT MEASUREMENT AND MATHEMATICS, IT WAS NOTHING BUT MYTHOLOGY. IT WAS NOT TAKEN SERIOUSLY. **BUT LET'S TAKE ANOTHER LOOK....**

Constant Flux



Energy Waves



Everything is Animate



All My Relations



Renewal



Space/Place



LANGUAGE IS PROCESS/ACTION



Indian Language Is Process Oriented

Native Science- Quantum Physics

- Chaos over Order (God does not play dice: Einstein)

Verses

Order over Chaos

(Culture is the attempt to bring about order from the chaos: you cannot separate culture from science)

Native Science-Quantum Physics

- | | <u>Quantum Physics</u> | <u>Native Science</u> |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| • Consciousness: | affects reality | affects reality |
| • Matter/Objects: | space curvature | descriptions |
| • Time: | space/time continuum | just is |
| • Matter: | particle/wave duality | wave |
| • Reality: | no deep reality | subjective |
| • Cause/effect: | paradox | all cause/effect |
| • Perspective: | reductionist | wholistic |
| • Method: | experiment/proof | observation |
| • Knowledge: | cumulative | renewal |
| • Language: | Binary/math | process |

BUT WHERE IS WESTERN METAPHYSICS TAKING US?

- WE, AS HOMO SAPIENS, ARE WE BETTER OFF AS A RESULT OF IT? IS IT REALLY ADVANCING THE REASON FOR OUR EXISTENCE? (IF WE EVER STOP AND THINK ABOUT IT.)
- IS OUR CURRENT METAPHYSICS JUST ANOTHER PASSING PHASE?
- MAY BE THERE ARE OTHER METAPHYSICS THAT WE SHOULD TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT.

Western and Native Science

- Western Science is largely aimed at exploration.
- Native Science is aimed at sustainability.
- We exist in a very narrow gap of ideal conditions: we need to maintain those conditions if we are to be around as long as the fish has. But have we ever asked the fish what his secret is?

BLACKFOOT METAPHYSICS

- I HAVE USED BLACKFOOT METAPHYSICS TO COMPARE TO QUANTUM PHYSICS BECAUSE THE TWO HAVE LARGE AREAS OF OVERLAP.
- OUR UNIVERSITIES ARE THE PRESENT GATEKEEPERS OF KNOWLEDGE, JUST LIKE THE CHURCH AND MONARCHS USED TO BE. BUT COULD IT BE THAT OUR GATEKEEPING METHODOLOGY IS OUT OF DATE? COULD IT BE THAT OUR LEFT BRAIN METAPHYSICS IS INCREASINGLY LEADING US TO BEING TECH SCHOOLS AND WONDERING FURTHER AND FURTHER FROM OUR ORIGINAL MANDATE: PURSUIT OF KNOWLEDGE. LET'S STOP AND REFLECT.
- BLACKFOOT METAPHYSICS IS WAITING IN THE WINGS.....

APPLICATION OF BLACKFOOT
METAPHYSICS

- ALL MY RELATIONS
- THE EARTH IS MOTHER: HOW SHOULD WE TREAT 'MOM'?
- SUSTAINABILITY
- LEAST DISTURBANCE
