

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE ROLE OF HUMANS: WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE PANDEMIC & EVERYDAY LIFE CONTEMPLATIONS

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INTRODUCTION

This white paper utilizes material from Kafatos' recent book *Science, reality & everyday life* (2020) to contemplate our role as an integral part of the vast living Earth. In a sense the challenges of climate change, the pandemic and enabling a sustainable environment, are all related. The essay does not give definite answers but provides a template of involving everyday life of humanity with practical steps available to everyone. What we do as societies of the 21st century will affect humans globally in the present century and in the future. We are posing an invitation for contemplations that may allow us to perhaps see beyond the fear that has gripped vast segments of humanity because of the pandemic and what we all sense as the advance of what looks like an unsustainable global change.

Let's start with some fundamental questions: What is the Earth and the environment? What are we as humans? Are we just personalities possessing minds that seem to be racing all the time, helpless in a changing world? Or something other than the body, maybe even beyond the human mind and the ego that we cherish so much? And in that case what is it?

In the book with Deepak Chopra *You Are the Universe* (2017), what was presented is the case for a new science that brings in the subjective aspects in a fundamental way. Socrates of ancient Athens urged everyone to make an effort to know ourselves. An answer that is brought from many traditions and may resonate with many of us is that we are pure Awareness. Because when you come down to it, nothing exists without Awareness, which is not subject to the constraints of time and space.

FOUNDATIONS OF SCIENCE AND EXPERIENCE

According to the quantum world, we live in the participatory Universe. *Universal Consciousness*, another term for Awareness, is fundamental. There are no two worlds, science and everyday life, there is only one world: the quantum (Kastrup, Stapp, Kafatos, 2018). The quantum world tells us that three Natural Laws apply to our daily lives: *Complementarity* which is the expression of "Yes and / or No", the unity in diversity. *Recursion* (Universality) which is the expression "As here, so everywhere". And *Interactivity*, the expression of "Everything is

process”, the individual and the Earth’s ecosystem are directly linked, interdepend and together evolve.

Some of the important scientific concepts brought about by quantum-like considerations are shown here, useful to us in the realities of our everyday life, ultimately tying to three fundamental questions about our life, as to where we are going, what is our purpose here on Earth, and who we ultimately are:

Three Natural Laws

- Cosmic Consciousness *projects out* world of experience through:



- **Three Natural Laws**
 - Complementarity (Integrated Polarity)
 - Recursion (Universality)
 - Creative Interactivity (Flow)



A shell exhibits the 3 Laws

Five Actions: Cosmic & Individual

- Creation
- Sustenance
- Reabsorption
- Concealment
- Revealing what is concealed

*We perform these actions all the time!
Everything in the cosmos does too!*

Complementarity ↔ Intent

Universality ↔ Knowledge

Interactivity ↔ Action

The connection is simple! The key!

Universe/Nature ↔ Awareness

Universe/Nature ↔ Individual

3 Laws ↔ 3 Powers

- **Where Am I Going?**

- **What is my Purpose?**

- **Who Am I?**

These serve as contemplations and background to prepare us in a way to look at 8+1 practical steps, the “8+1 symphonies” of life.

EIGHT PLUS ONE SYMPHONIES OR CONTEMPLATIONS

Here are eight simple things that we can all observe and do in our everyday lives, a new way perhaps of living. We seem to live our lives with habits, looking for fulfillment outside, seeing differences whether imaginary or “real”, blaming others. In today’s world, not only the old ways of thinking and behaving are limiting, they may be outright existentially threatening. The eight + one symphonies can instead replace our usual habits. In our everyday life, if we contemplate and live our lives as suggested here, is it possible that some greater reality may emerge? In the

current situation we find ourselves, maybe we can look at these steps, the *symphonies of life* and contemplate them but not stop there. They are shown in the *Science Animated* video (2020):

1. *Expect the unexpected.*
2. *Pay attention to little things in our life.*
3. *We only see results afterwards, after the specific facts have occurred.*
4. *Tell our mind and the ego to wait!*
5. *One step at a time.*
6. *Things will start moving faster and faster.*
7. *Remember our own mortality.*
8. *Things that happen in our life, which give us “hard time”, are the ones that really advance us.*
9. (the 9th symphony) *Be! We Are!*

We note something very interesting: The 8 (+1) symphonies, the rules presented here, express the 3 Actions of influences in the world, the Cosmic Dance: Steps 1, 2, 3 express steps of the *Creation*. Steps 4, 5, 6 express the steps of *Maintenance*. Steps 7, 8, 9 express the steps of *Reabsorption*.

These eight + one practical rules, the symphonies of life, are based on “scientific” methods as they give us tangible results and experiences. They are scientifically supported because in reality there is no gap between the invisible quantum world of physics and the visible world of everyday experience and biological life. These pairs are actually all based on the *same universal laws*. But we are trapped in our intellect, our beliefs, our own world of ideas. A particularly hard lesson that the corona virus has thrust upon us is how interdependent we are, how we cannot ignore our living environment. Among the little things that we have to pay attention to, is to watch all around us how life and death come and go all the time. What about the impacts on species, the environment? The carbon footprint and the cutting down of the rain forests? The extinction of countless species? The hard things in life, if we look at them the right way, maybe they will teach us. Is there a silver lining in this chaos that the virus has caused? Well we now have time to contemplate it, for sure!

CONTEMPLATIONS OF OUR ROLE AS HUMANS ON THE ENVIRONMENT, WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE PANDEMIC AT LOCAL TO GLOBAL LEVELS AND CHALLENGES FOR OUR COMMON FUTURE

We thus have at our disposal the basic theoretical elements from science and philosophy. The 8 symphonies give the practical means of *Living* a full life, the 9th is us, our living presence. This Presence all around us is directly apparent when we slow down and pay attention to our being, the eternal Now. The Presence is not inert, on the contrary it is completely alive. It is the conscious Awareness that exists within us all.

As we observe the ecological challenges, the pollution, now seemingly reduced, while the hospitals are running full stop, while fear continues to spread, perhaps allowing ourselves to take some deep breaths, and the Earth to nurture all species, including us, now some concluding comments and questions to all of us:

- What is the "message" of this corona virus? What is it telling us?
- The 1st symphony is "expect the unexpected". The 2nd is "pay attention to the little things in our life". The 7th is "remember our own mortality". The 8th, the "great difficulties" that make us evolve. What do all these tell us about the current situation?
- Is it a coincidence that this virus arrived? Was it expected? Was it unexpected?
- Is it part of the natural ecosystem of life? If so, what does it tell us? If it is not, still the question remains, what does it tell us?

Maybe as captives by the pandemic, we can contemplate what we are doing first to ourselves, by the way we have been living, to our society and to the ecosystem, to the entire environment? Maybe we can change how we consume, how we cause pollution and stress? Maybe instead of fear, perhaps this pandemic is pointing to the end of our modern way of living, which is unsustainable, to a new way of life, a vision where we take care of each other, where we take care of the ecosystem, the environment. Going back full circle, the three big questions to contemplate:

Where are we going?
What is our purpose?
Who are we?

These are for each one of us to ask and contemplate.

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