



# Tribute to Prof Reginald Kapp (1885-1966)

*John Kapp*

Inspired by the SMN tribute in November last year to Albert Schweitzer on the 50th anniversary of his death, I have written this to honour my father, who died 50 years ago (on 20.2.1966). The photo shows him when he married my mother (Dr Dorothy Wilkins) in 1932.

He wrote the following books: *Science versus Materialism* (SvM) 1940, *Presentation of Technical Information* (PTI) 1947. *Mind, Life and Body* (MLB) 1951. *Facts and Faith* 1955 (Reith lectures) *Towards a Unified Cosmology* (TUC) 1960

PTI was written to teach his students how to write technical reports when he was professor of electrical engineering at University College London. It describes the process of 'teaching him to think about the person addressed', and became a best seller. The Institute of Scientific and Technical Communicators (ISTC) republished it in 1997, claiming that it founded their profession. He learned how to teach this by struggling for 2 decades to express the complex ideas in SvM.

His life's work was in his other books, which got few reviews and failed to sell their initial print run. He said he was 50 years before his time, which I believe this to be true. Now that time has elapsed, I hope that this tribute will attract scientists to consider his insights about both microcosm (SvM, and MLB) and macrocosm (TUC).

He asked: 'how can *non-material* influences (defined as lacking location) act on matter to control action?' These influences include mind, spirit, life force, chi, purpose, gods, God, intelligence, consciousness, which words tend to carry emotional charge which prevent objective meaningful progress. He coined the word 'diathete' as a distraction-free collective word to describe all non material influences, which simplified his question to: 'how diathetes control matter?' and opening up a new science of 'diathetics'. The nearest equivalent is 'consciousness studies' but these tend to be stuck in the materialist paradigm. He concluded in SvM that: 'matter is a diathete'. Quantum physics has since confirmed this, although I have not seen it stated in these terms.

As an electrical engineer, he was well versed in servo mechanisms, and in MLB he explored how a diathete (thought) can trigger what he called the 'primary relay' in the synapse of the brain to cause an action. He concluded that they control: 'the moment in time when an electron changes orbit'. Quantum physics double slit experiments seem to confirm this by showing that the diathete of observation controls the moment in time when non-material waves collapse into material particles.

In one chapter (26) of SvM he discusses the two theories of creation, which he calls: 'once upon a time' (now known as the 'big bang'), and 'at-any-time' ('continuous creation', published by Fred Hoyle in 1948, 8 years after my father). He concluded that the former 'bristles with absurdities, of which the latter is free'.



In TUC he develops the latter theory, combining it with continuous disappearance after an average half life of matter which he estimates as 300-400 m years. He shows how this theory can explain gravity as pulses when a particle of matter disappears in a star or planet. He also (appendix D) explains the origin of the earth and other planets as the remnants thrown off from Jupiter when it exploded, having previously been a binary twin of our sun. This seems more convincing than accumulated dust falling together, as much of the earth's core is molten and contains the heavy elements.

*'It was over thirty years ago (in the 1920s) that I first came to believe that this principle [of minimum assumption, Occam's razor] deserved to be applied in the physical sciences with uncompromising consistency. I can trace this conclusion, or at least the clarification of it, to the impact made on me by Eddington's writings shortly after the First World war. Thus stimulated, I was led to notice how often in physics a scientist would, though perhaps hardly consciously, apply this principle and how fruitful the result invariably was. (TUC p 13)*

He formed a close friendship with Arthur Koestler (an early Network Member), to whom he wrote a letter in 1964 setting out what he hoped from his life's work: *'First I want to bring about a change in the attitude of scientists, such as they will be on the lookout for any credo incognitum [paradigm] that stands in the way of progress. I should like it to become a routine matter for those metaphorical fortresses to be the subject of reconnaissance and eventually attack. To avoid metaphorical language, I should like the scientific world to be better aware of the many occasions where something that is accepted blindly as a fact is in truth no more than a hypothesis that needs to be tested for its validity.*

*Secondly, I should like those fortresses that I have attacked in my various books to be abandoned by their garrisons. Put differently, I want my Principle of Minimum Assumption, my hypothesis of Symmetrical Impermanence, [non-indestructibility of matter] and my theory about the reality of diathetes to be accepted, together with all their implications.*

*Thirdly, I should be reassured if the various implications from the above theories that I have developed were proved true, but I regard such things as my Theory of Gravitation, my Theory of the Formation of Galaxies and of Stars, my Theory of the Nature of the Atomic Nucleus, the theory that I have presented very tentatively in Mind, Life, and Body concerning the way in which a diathete may interact with matter – I regard all these primarily as promises of the reward to be obtained from giving up an untenable credo incognitum. '*

I have republished his books, articles, and the above letter on [www.reginaldkapp.org](http://www.reginaldkapp.org) so that they are freely accessible. I hope that scientists will read them and consider how his work could help them to advance scientific thinking on the nature of reality. I would be pleased to engage with them on e mail to [johnkapp@btinternet.com](mailto:johnkapp@btinternet.com).