

Report - Scientific and Medical Network Continental Meeting

VÄXJÖ, SWEDEN 12-14 MAY 2000

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The theme of the meeting was "Through the Glass Darkly: Proof at the Frontiers of Science and Spirituality" It reflects our interest in the interface between science and spirituality as well as the relation to certainty and proof. Some 25 participants attended and exchanged views and papers in an environment of budding spring green and light Nordic night skies.

DAVID LORIMER started the three day meeting with a grand view to find a path between the openness to everything and the rigour of scientific analysis. The complementarity between Intellect (Nous) and the Reason (Dianoia) was used as a structure for his message. The Reason is indirect, based upon polarity and division and is separative in its striving for quantity and ratio. The Intellect on the other hand is direct, based upon unity and the soul as the unitive agent in its striving for quality. The intuitive apprehension of the world around the human soul is for the intellect to "grasp." Ken Wilber sees the above path towards scientific proof as a process of injunction, apprehension and validation.

Then OVE SVIDÉN, discussed the creativity of the Wright Brothers as they demonstrated the first controlled and sustained flight. As an engineer, created in the image of the Supreme Creator, he then constructed a scenario on the Big Bang Creation: Let there be light. Separate the light in two: matter and imaginary matter, a world of ideas to be materialised as a 'matter' of time, a world of imaginary matter acting as a template for the materialising world through wo/man as co-creator to the Supreme Creator along the flow of time.

To be friend with time means for the human being to be active in the time domain between a tenth of a second and some 100 years. But also to be aware that faster cycles of creation occur at speeds (atomic spin) and thus act outside our range of experience (Heisenberg's uncertainty principle). In the other end of the time scale, humans have another problem. We have difficulty in experiencing the matter of big bangs. (Ove's philosophising uncertainty).

PAUL HAGUE'S theme on Saturday morning was: Returning Home to Wholeness by *Starting Afresh at the Very Beginning*. He illustrated his talk with a scenario from Alice in Wonderland, who stepped Through the Glass Darkly... into the Light of Consciousness. "To Jew, Christian and Moslem a gulf is felt to exist between God and Man, Creator and created, which can never be crossed" (Mysticism: F.C. Happold). This gulf was addressed by the pope John Paul II on 17 October 1998 in this way: "If reason is to be fully true to itself ... it must be grounded in the fear of God." Thus after 2000 years of religious development in the West, we have got stuck in a Society in Delusion as Paul Hague stated it. To get out of this trap he suggested the foundation of an Omniology grounded in consciousness, then a data model, semantic model and a theory of everything. (For further information see www.algonet.se/~paulh). A vivid discussion followed on the question of destiny.

As a result of the wrestling with some odd physical health problems, BENVENUTO A.G. ANDREAN, has developed an outline for a Grammar of Dreams. "We human do not have an unconscious, the unconscious has us for its purposes." We do have to accept our shadow, the feminine, the dreams and the Self in order to develop a new and feasible subjective empiricism. His scientific analysis of private spiritual experiences by the experienter himself,

was the ground for the chosen title: *An Example of True Subjective Empiricism*. A truly impressive treatise!

THURE VALDSOO presented and illustrated his morphological approach to A World of Patterns. In this perspective, "Morphology" is connected to the study of visible or measurable patterns that emerge within dynamical systems. An open system implies interference with the environment and, at this, the pattern formation can be viewed as a manifestation of the systems' response to environmental changes. Sometimes the process leading to pattern formation in thermodynamic systems is called "self-organisation." At the end of his speech Thure Valdsoo included a speculative account regarding universal morphological features of pattern generation, that has some bearing on classical Taoist philosophy of the Far East.

After lunch on Saturday a bus carried the 25 pioneering SMN members to the Kingdom of Crystal Glass situated in the Våxjö area. BO AHRENFELT is the initiator, inspirer and action man for having this SMN Continental Meeting organised at the Heart and Hearth of Sweden's Crystal Art Works. Under his guidance we visited the Orrefors Bruk with its museum, exhibition and glass shop. Then we drove to a small old hand craft glass works at Bergdala. But... we were first kindly guided to a unique V-formed conference room to continue with the SMN late afternoon session.

REV. JUDITH BALDWIN started the session with some bold statements: When Your inner knower is speaking it is a voice you can trust. Master your fear, by getting rid of your worries. Give up your resistance, by listening to the guidance from the inner knower. This inner knowledge consists of forces and attitudes of Love, Peace, Joy, Hope, Unity Oneness with God) and Allowing.

Is the above spirituality scientific? Yes indeed, I say, if it is grounded in religious truths, as well as it includes the endeavour that goes beyond and transcends all the religions. In Judith Baldwin's case it included the attendance at the 'The New Seminary' and after this course being ordained to priesthood within a circle including a Jewish Rabbi, priests from both Catholic and Protestant churches, a Mullah, a Brahmin from the Indian and Vedic philosophy plus a North American shaman. This is theology at its best, reaching to the Supreme Creator (God=Theo). "God bless Rev. Judiths' re-vitalising of the re-ligions by her scientific re-search re-approach." Remember that theology was the first subject at universities and philosophy the second at the end of the middle ages.

Causes and Downward Causation for Evolution was the title of a presentation by Ove Svidén. It was based upon the thesis that evolution is a cybernetic cosmic process. Modern science presents an anti-thesis to this by its assumptions that causes from the microcosmos of matter, are the source for evolution. The philosophical synthesis is that causes are necessary feedbacks from the world of matter, but that in the long term though, have to yield to a supreme consciousness as a downward causation. In this perspective an Eternal Source as a Higher Self can act through the humans as inspiration and intuition for our role as co-creators of Evolution.

NICK HOGGARD presented a paper on chaos theory and evolution. Is human intelligence an accident or was it predetermined? In his presentation of regular patterns in evolution, Hoggard suggests that evolution in itself is evolving. The mode of evolution changes to faster forms. For example, man no longer progresses primarily through biological evolution but

through technological evolution. This is all a natural part of the evolutionary process. Furthermore, using results from complexity theory, he suggests that this evolutionary acceleration may reach its ultimate speed within the next few years.

If this theory is true, then the implications are quite considerable, not only in a practical sense, but also philosophically. The new theory brings back the idea of progress, a concept that has been remarkably absent from scientific theories of evolution (which emphasize mere change). It also indicates that man is indeed the inevitable culmination of the evolution of the universe, a process predetermined since the Big Bang. On the other hand, the theory does not say that man is unique, but implies instead that this process of evolution is happening at more or less the same speed (give and take a billion years) on other planets all over the universe! (For more details, please feel free to contact nick.hoggard@rocketmail.com).

The evening offered a unique experience with a dinner, "Hyttstill" in the workshop around the hot ovens. The building was some hundred years old, and maintained in its original style. One of the craftsmen demonstrated the art of blowing glass. David, Diana and Ove were invited to share the experience of blowing a bubble of glass a foot in diameter. (To my surprise, the bubble even blew its hot air back on you if your lungs did not show professionalism enough!) Wine, dine, music and entertaining artistry made it a truly memorable event.

On Sunday morning JENS JERNDAL presented a paper on the materialisation of consciousness as an invisible dimension of reality. With two examples he showed how limited and incomplete modern conventional medicine is. All it can do is measure some of the physical results of invisible causes. Thoughts and feelings, fear, memories, expectations, and stress, do cause physical reactions in the body, even though it's not always possible to measure, or even detect them, with the methods available to conventional medicine.

If we take the stand that each individual is a unique case, then the health issue does not lend itself to statistically significant double blind tests involving hundreds of identical cases and control groups. Simply because reality does not conform to the statistical rules of science. Simply because each and every human being, each and every human illness, and each and every human destiny is unique and unreproducible. There is no cloning in nature. And that is the very reasons why good Medicine should be regarded more as an Art than as a Science.

DIANA CLIFT reported on the Crop Circle phenomenon in perspectives of: 1. A quirk of Nature, 2. Alien intelligence, and 3. Human hoax. Crop circles are patterns of flattened vegetation which occur suddenly, usually at night, with no sign of wind or mechanical damage. At least 150 have been reported annually in Southern England since the late 1970s. Of these the 'Natural Origin' theory has been largely discounted. Undoubtedly many circles are Man-made. But some 'hoaxers' have difficulties to explain why they did it and more importantly, how they came to create the elaborate patterns?! Even self-confessed crop circle makers (or land artists as many prefer to to be known) frequently report odd experiences when making crop circles such as UFO sightings and even finding parts mysteriously added to the formations while they are working with them. There is no reason to rule out the involvement of alien intelligence. But what is the message?

WILLIAM BALDWIN described his academic path towards the insights and teaching on *The Three Faces of Regression Therapy*, which he and Judith pursue at their Center for Human

Relations. This therapy includes past life regression therapy, spirit attachment analysis and treatment, spirit releasement therapy, as well as recovery of soul fragmentation. When as a dentist, he experimented with relaxation techniques as a replacement for chemical anaesthetics, he got a large amount of unexpected stories told from his patients. In his search for common traits in these, he found a pattern of references to earlier life times. Patients treated gained access to memories from their earlier lives! As a dentist and clinical researcher, William brought the material to the attention to a professor of theology, and made his notes the basis for his second doctoral thesis. When published it was brought to the attention of the American Psychology Association, who later made a recommendation for the professionals to research this field more actively. It is a remarkable philosophical achievement to embrace three academic disciplines in this way and then on top of it practice the results! The only precedence to this I find in Albert Schweitzer some hundred years ago.

HELENA STÖVEGÅRD presented a paper on How to create a holistic training programme that is congruent with eco-spiritual principles. It is based upon the teachings of both Stanislaw Grof and Henryk Skolimowski as well as her professional experiences from the field of Psychology and her engagement in planning a five year education programme in Sweden on Transpersonal Psychology.

SOFIE TORSTENSSON KJELLSTRÖM is pursuing a doctoral thesis at Linköping University on the issue of Personal Responsibilities for Health. Responsibility is a concept tied to the notion of a rational person who makes autonomous choices. How does this differ from the responsibility of a transpersonal individual? To structure her work, Sofie is using a colourful hierarchical model from Ken Wilber. It was the basis for a very vivid discussion at the end of the SMN Continental Meeting in Sweden and can act as a wave front and outreach to the Network:

Turquoise	Universal Order
Yellow	Spiritual Flexibility
Green	The Sensitive Self
Orange	Scientific Achievement
Blue	Conformist, Rules
Red	Power Gods
Purple	Magic
Beige	Archaic, Instinct

The Swedish SMN-members decided to have its next national meeting at Holma College of Holistic Studies on November 17 and 18, 2000. A number of papers from this meeting are available on the web and through the members' articles section.

Dr. Ove Svidén is an idealist, intellectually nurtured by SMN type of meetings. He is using them to jog his ideas for a book on the art of philosophising. Furthermore, he is engaged in establishing the Holma College of Holistic Studies in Sweden.