

JOURNEY IN BEING

ANIL MITRA

JOURNEY IN BEING

Discovery and Realization Of Being and the Universe







Journey in Being

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Contact-amitra@horizons-2000.org

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Front cover—Barranca del Cobre, Mexico.
Front page—South Rim, Big Bend, Texas.
Opposite—the author, Delaware, at 26—photograph by M.D. Greenberg.
Covers and all nature photographs by the author.
Picture locations are in Mexico and United States of America.

PREFACE

his work demonstrates and presents an ultimate picture of the real—a metaphysics and implied cosmology—and consequences for destiny and disciplines of knowledge and practice. This picture is shown to be a significant advance over core explicit and tacit worldviews of modern and received culture.

The metaphysics is ultimate in two ways—it depicts a contour of the entire universe; and it shows the universe to be ultimate in a sense explained in the text. Consequently, implications for destiny, knowledge, and practice are immense. Correspondingly, interest in the work is general, academic, and practical.

A primary aim of this essay is realism and foundation for process (destiny). The brevity of the narrative is intended—main themes and proofs are emphasized but development and application to an array of endeavors and disciplines are omitted.

This work encapsulates content from <u>http://www.horizons-2000.org</u>—the current source for detailed developments of which some will appear in print later.

As for any system that purports to subsume and outreach what is valid in the old, understanding requires openness, effort, and doubt—this work *should* raise questions. Doubt is natural in development and in acceptance versus invalidation.

Identification and address of doubt is essential to metaphysics and is interwoven with the narrative. The work is placed in the context of human culture, especially modern and received worldviews: a prologue to the main developments anticipates and deflates potential conflict with the worldviews.

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JOURNEY IN BEING

Introduction

The 'journey' is of discovery and realization of the Universe And the places of sentient—especially human—being in it. A narrative aim is to show its essentials simply But not to suppress essential challenge.

The idea of a journey has individual and human significance. The text proves a view of individual and universal process As limitless in variety, extension ('space'), and duration.

...

Preset commitment and substance block universality. Here, Being is used neutrally to allow but not force commitment.

...

...

The ideas narrated often came as if received outside volition—as If entering an alien world of stark beauty.

Meaning is sometimes seen as fixed—but has no final Determination outside process. New experience and established Use balance fluidity and fixity in setting meaning.



Barranca del Cobre, Mexico (Copper Canyon)

Many new ideas of the text have familiar names and origins. However, new meanings often deviate significantly from the Old; this awareness will help appreciate new meanings.

Understanding will be further enhanced when it is appreciated That the ideas form a connected system with new net meaning That is greater than the collection of individual meanings.

Seeing meaning as concept and object enables demonstration, Below, of a system that envelopes all knowing and Being.

I have been careful to specify meanings employed. Capitalization—as in Logic and Being—will mark new or Special meanings used in the narrative.

Prologue

The Idea of a Worldview or Cosmology

To know the utmost reach of being requires faithful depiction of The Universe and our relations to it. Metaphysics, cosmology, And worldview are terms for such depiction.

The Standard Cosmologies

The common 'standard' cosmologies are secular and trans-Secular. Secular cosmologies appeal to experience—especially Science. The trans-secular posit worlds 'beyond'; The mythic and religious are among its standard kinds.

David Hume pointed out the absence of necessity to theories Of science as fits to the entire Universe: agreement on a limited Region does not of necessity extend to the whole.

Secularism sees science reach far into all known niches and Typically concludes: probably, science nearly captures the Universe. This does not allow for undiscovered niches. Universal fit of science is neither necessary nor probable.

This is well illustrated by a history of scientific revolution: since Newton's synthesis science uncovered many unforeseen Niches— Especially the quantum, space-time-gravity, and evolutionary. History also reveals that we soon forget this lesson of history.

Therefore science *allows* wide open metaphysics beyond its valid Domain. What is the most liberal yet realistic metaphysics? An Answer lies in 'logic' which is most abundant in what it allows Even though—because—it is most sterile in what it requires.

In a sense to emerge the 'beyond' is found—proved—limitless.

Mythic cosmologies so conflict realism as to have but one Purchase on metaphysics—to insist on openness where thought Has been shut down by positivist secular dogma.

Any metaphysics that agrees with standard cosmologies— And their principles of reasoning—in their domains of Validity is allowed by those cosmologies and principles.



Sunset Bear, Delaware One aspect of secular thought is significant—all valid Metaphysics must be founded in Experience.

Journey in Being

A 'universe' of narrative would have no definite beginning Or end. A discrete text, however, has a nominal beginning. It is effective to begin the core of this text with Experience Which is the place of our relation to the Universe.

Experience and Foundation

Experience—awareness—is the place of knowledge of things: The core and theater of our being. Its forms are pure, of the World, and of action; which combine as ideas and action.

Experience is the rock of knowledge of things— Knowledge that something 'is there', for even if all is Illusion, there is illusion—which is Experience.

Is there more than Experience? We might respond 'the issue has No pragmatic interest'. However demonstration that there is More will yield significant advantage as explained next.

It will displace excess doubt *and* confidence in knowledge and Reliability of the world. Confidence in experience will go beyond Its current borders with what certainty may emerge. Analytic Skill in foundation of the world in the given will be sharpened.

Demonstration—if there is only Experience then it either does Not or does range over its idea of the world. The former entails Contradiction; the latter is an alternate labeling of the world. Therefore, there is Experience which is part of the real world.

This is no guarantee that the world is as we expect. It may be Far greater—or less. In either case we will have found truth. Preliminary care in foundation will yield immense return.

This shows a general value to care in foundation. Another value: Recognizing Experience as object for other Experience grounds A powerful concept-object interpretation of concept meaning Drawn out in essays named on the title page.

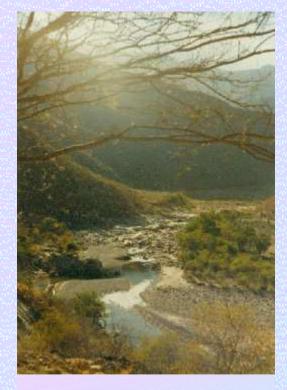
Foundation does not emerge in a single step. Here, as is Typical, repeated small increments interact with application.

There are also major increments such as, here, insights into the Significance and conception of the central ideas, especially Experience, Being, Universe, Law, Void, Realism, and Identity.

Existence

To 'exist' is to be. From reflections above, existence is not an empty Concept—its foundation in Experience is robust and discriminating. In what follows 'exists' may denote any mix or neutrality of verb

Form according as duration or time has or lacks local significance.



Morning mist Barranca del Cobre

Being

Being is that which exists. A power of the idea of Being is Neutrality to 'kinds' often thought real. Common kinds are Space, time, process, matter, force, mind, spirit, soul, and word.

Mention of the kinds is inessential to the core development. Whatever is real—named and unnamed—is already in Being.

From the reflections on Experience, the core of metaphysics that Follows may be seen to stand above questions of knowledge as Representation, versus pragmatic, versus 'being-in-the-world'.

Universe

The Universe is All Being. There is one and only one Universe. Whatever has Being is in the Universe. A hypothetical being That is not in the Universe does not exist.

'Being' discriminates only existence from non-existence. It does not distinguish kinds. Whatever is real is in Universe. There is no other universe of fact or kind or idea or form.

The Universe contains all creation but is not created. Any creator is part of the Universe— The Universe can have no external creator.

Laws

Knowledge of the natural world is coded in laws and natural Histories. Natural history may be written as law, legend, Myth, or ancient cosmology.

The laws of natural science are familiar Modern examples of natural law.

A law is a reading of a pattern; the pattern itself Is the immanent Law. All Laws have Being. The Universe contains all Laws.

This 'realism' may be extended. Morality, civil law, and value Judgment have immanent local forms we may name Ethics, Justice, and Value. All such form lies in the Universe.

The Void

The Void is the absence of Being. Therefore the Void contains No Law. As complement to the Universe—or any element of Being relative to itself—the Void exists.

The Void which is the absence of Being exists and Contains no Law. The Void may be regarded to be Part of every element of Being.



In the shadow of mountains Weaverville, California

The Universal Metaphysics

The contrary would be a Law, so the Void (and Being and Universe) Assume all possible states—where possibility is most liberal ('logical' As roughly seen earlier) but whose precise meaning shall emerge with Experience and analysis. In this sense, the Universe has no limits.

If power is degree of limitlessness, the Universe is ultimate Power. Every state of being, including the Void has this power. Ultimate power is implicit in the present. Those forms are Limited for which ultimate realization is only in endless process.

The Universe has no limits.

This demonstrated assertion is named the

'Fundamental principle of metaphysics'.

The worldview that results is called The universal metaphysics Or, simply, the metaphysics.

The essentials of development of the metaphysics have been: The Void which contains no Law exists; the Void, and so the Universe which contains the Void, have no limits because a Limit would constitute a Law of the Void.

It is crucial to use of the metaphysics that its meaning shall Be understood. Let us now further develop requisite Understanding, first taking up explicit meaning.

Meaning of the Metaphysics

In this section 'concept' will refer to referential concepts— Concepts that purport to have objects. Free concept Formation is immensely useful in the progress of knowledge.

This useful freedom allows formation of concepts inconsistent With fact ('science') or one with another ('logic')—that is, it Allows concepts for which it is impossible to have objects.

From limitlessness of the Universe the only concepts without Objects are the impossible concepts. 'Realism', the constraint For concepts to have objects, is not a limit on the Universe.

This minimal Realism constitutes an explicit meaning of The metaphysics: given Realism, concepts have objects. For the Universe, the possible and the Real are identical.

Another term for Realism is Logic: the Universe is the object Of Logic—the Logos. In this form, which trivially includes Agreement with fact (science), Logic is not a limit—but the Constraint of realism on the freedom of concept formation.

The object of Realism (Logic) is the Universe. All valid science and Systems of logic lie within Logic. Universal metaphysics and science Have no conflict. Just as the Universe is all Being, so the metaphysics Is an envelope for all knowledge including science.



Storm Barranca del Cobre

Agreement with fact includes agreement with the knowledge Claims of human culture, for example science, religion, and lore In their valid domains. Consistency among concepts includes Agreement with systems of logic where they are valid.

The vastness and Forms of Realism (Logic) await discovery— The theories of science and known logics are but forms of and Within Logic. And while the forms may be seen as rough and Constraining this Logic is the true and most liberal realism.

This account of explicit meaning should be complemented By discussion of implicit meaning which lies in implications, Which are the focus of sections beginning with Cosmology.

Cosmology

The universal metaphysics implies what follows. It is especially the implications That bring out its implicit meaning.

Natural science and experience have domains of validity But the Universe—the object of the metaphysics—is Greater without limit than those domains. The Universe is limitlessly greater than our cosmos.

The Universe has neither beginning nor end. In a sense Of 'is' that accords with earlier remarks on 'exists'— The Universe *is*. The Universe has arrays of cosmoses without limit against a back-Ground where extension and duration do not measure all Being. For every cosmos to be finite—or every cosmos infinite—would Be a constraint over and above Logic and therefore a limit.

Every state or element of Being is equivalent to every other. That something must come from nothing is a trivial corollary. At the deepest and most general level the question of Foundation of Being is forever resolved and closed.

Relative to the Void (or any state), all Laws and manifest States are emergent—as is extension-duration (space-time).

However breadth is ever open—the extension, duration, variety, Summit, and dissolution of manifest Being have no limit. Subject to Realism, systems of physical law are without limit.

Every Law, every cosmos is repeated without limit. 'Ghost' systems are ever passing through our cosmos. In comparison to the limitlessness, our cosmos is a Speck—infinitesimal in quantity and variety.

Every atom is a cosmos, every cosmos an atom. There are no indivisible particles.

The Universe has and must have manifestation and Identity In acute, diffuse and absent phases.



Morris Meadow Trinity Alps, California

Individual and Identity

These powers of the Universe are conferred on individuals For the contrary would entail a limit on the Universe. Individuals realize the Universe—All Being: its Identity, Extension, duration, variety, summits, and dissolutions.

Though individual identity may seem a concrete unity 'Individual' and 'group' are relative terms, for Every atom is a cosmos, every cosmos an atom. However, the individual-group distinction is not relative.

Apparent limits are part of the constitution Of the forms of Being— Though temporary, limits are of the form of beings,

Normally a result of origin and adaptation.

This, too, is the nature of human limits And experience of limits.

The givenness of realization does not negate The value and challenge of endeavor Or the facts of pain and death But allows meaning to pain, death, and challenge.

While in limited form realization is endless process— And ever freshness in variety—A Journey in Being. For limited Being the forms of knowledge and Being Are ever open—an eternal challenge.

The oneness, connection, and continuity Of these forms lie in Identity— In experience, idea and action.

In unlimited form realization is Aeternitas— Eternity in a moment—to and from which Life and death and pain and joy are gateways.

That realization for limited form is endless Requires that the empirical and symbolic sciences For such forms remain ever in process and Be complemented by immersion for their full expression.

A Perfect, Unique, and Ultimate Metaphysics

The meaning of the metaphysics has been given clarity; Its power has received illustration. An effective summation And characterization of the metaphysics may now be given.

In foundation in Experience and Being the metaphysics is Perfect. From expression as Logic it is unique—as container of All special metaphysics; and ultimate—in complete but partially Implicit capture of the variety, extent, and duration of Being.



Pacific Ocean Humboldt County, California

The universal metaphysics resolves foundation of Being but Shows the variety of experience and Being to be ever open: While in limited form the variety of realization is Unbounded, experience is limitless and eternal.

Though Logic is ultimate, its forms continue to emerge. Except In dreams of certainty, security, and control, there can be no Final foundation of Logic, Ethics or Value outside context. For Limited form logic, ethics, and value remain in process.

Being and Experience—world and knowledge—are known in Experience. Variety of Being and fields of knowledge—unities And distinctions—merge in experience. The metaphysics is a Metaphysics of Experience—a proto-episteme.

Civilization and Realization

Our civilization is the web of human culture over time and Continents. Greater Civilization is the matrix of civilizations Across the Universe.

The metaphysics reveals a limitless Universe open to Individual and Civilization. It is appropriate and now possible To address negotiation of the normal limits of our world. The practical address of this concern is now taken up.

Individuals foster Civilization; Civilization nurtures the individual. Civilization is the hearth of realization; Individuals manifest realization.

Civilization provides ways, rough methods, of ideation and Action—disciplines of thought, discovery, and transformation. In culture, emergence of disciplines, too, has rough discipline.

The standard forms of the disciplines-

Secular and trans-secular-

Are marked by incompleteness and error

But their core constitutes ground on which to build.

Our apparent limits are Laws or

Expressions of Law

Which also constitute initial ground on which to Transcend limits on the way to universal realization.

The apparently stable initial ground

Is transient and incomplete,

But knowing and living its transient incompleteness Is on the way to the ultimate.

Ultimate realization for all beings is given By the metaphysics. However, efficiency and enjoyment Are immensely enhanced in occurrence and quality By commitment and engagement.



Glacier National Park Montana Sacred scriptures talk of divine magnificence. An example: The Bhagavad-Gita compares the splendor of Being To the radiance of a thousand suns. Yet the means of Realization of the Gita are squarely in the present.

The Universe and the place of individuals in it are limitlessly Greater than in common secular and trans-secular cosmologies. Especially on this knowledge, realization for limited forms Begins in the present, touched and illuminated by the ultimate.

A Way of Realization

Action is not 'mere' process—ideas are a partial guide: Ideas And action are the means of realization. Realization begins With ideas; transformation requires action.

The ultimate is not immanent in limited form: realization must Be indeterministic. The way of engaged realization must lie in Risk—in small and large steps—and in selective consolidation.

This is the core of a mechanics of realization. Change may begin With reason but the final source of change is risk—take the next Step. Outcome, where adapted, is captured in Being or artifact.

Development of ideas above is in breakdown, creation, and And rebuilding. The way of realization lies in break down, Imagination and experiential rebuilding of ideas and Being.

This is appropriately named Analysis and Synthesis of Being Which includes, thought, risk, change, and correction.

One risk is to endure doubt. Doubt from possible conflict with Experience and reason—science and Logic—was addressed in Discussing metaphysics. Essential residual doubt is of proof but Not consistency—internal or external—of the metaphysics.

Therefore from the significance of what it reveals there is Immense value to the metaphysics as a principle of action. This situation is as for the doubt and value that attend Essentially all significant endeavor.

At the front of realization the final resource is to take the next Step of thought or action—thus there can be no perfect masters Of realization. However, to share learning is effective—there may Be teachers and ways but no Perfect Master or Final Discipline.

The vehicles of realization are individual and group— Being and Civilization and their transformations are Among the dimensions of realization.

The places of realization are the Ground—nature—and Fabric—individual, society and culture—of Being and Civilization which link the immediate to the ultimate.



Papoose Lake Trinity Alps, California

Modes of transformation are intrinsic and extensive. Yoga, As approach to the Universal, appropriately names the intrinsic. The extensive or instrumental emphasizes science and technology. The distinction between the intrinsic and extensive is not sharp.

Transformation of Being was seen to be via ideas and action. Transformation of Civilization is intrinsic—via transformation of Being; and extensive—inhabitation and population of the Universe via exploration and instrument or technology.

Experience suggests restraint in thought of such population. The metaphysics however shows its inevitability. 'Now' Is a good time for insight and developing mechanics Of inner and instrumental transformation.

Realization is inspired by powers of Being and thought Revealed above... and by the disciplines. It derives Effectuality from the interaction.

The disciplines offer catalysts of mind-body change—such as Yogas, meditation, shamanic way, and hypnosis. Transient Change in being, disciplines, and ways is stabilized by reason In experience and recollection—in memory, culture, and artifact.

Disciplines, East to West, may all have use in transformation. However, even eclectic commitment would be premature. Understanding of human being—organism and psyche— Should continue to emerge in interaction with experience.

These reflections suggest *ways* that cycle through *Being* (Sustaining) and *Transformation* (of Ideas-Individual-Civilization-Artifact-technology). *Elements* include means-vehicles-placesmodes-disciplines. The core *mechanics* is risk and consolidation.

Transience and Arrival

Realization begins in the present, perhaps with the disciplines, But requires risk—experiment, splitting, and rebuilding—and Increment is secured in reason, recollection, and artifact.

Living in transience, its joy and anxiety, is on the way—is Essential to realization, ever a flux of transience and arrival. While in limited form realization is endless process And ever freshness in variety—A Journey in Being.



Cirque above Papoose Lake Trinity Alps, California

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Anil Mitra

Note of my main interests is 'understanding our place in the universe'. My approach is from experience and ideas with inspiration from tradition, science, and metaphysics as understood in philosophy. The metaphysics of the narrative shows itself most complete and meaningful when continued in action.

I came to experience and now think of my life—my person and thought—as a journey. I found inspiration in 'wild' places and in human culture. Our origins and adaptations suggest that nature and culture should be gates to the real. These have been sources and inspiration for an individual and universal journey.

I owe a debt to the history of ideas. One of my aspirations is the journey suggested in the text. Ideas and action are essential elements of this endeavor. For me, the journey is a part of the good life.

I was a professor at a number of universities in the United States. My PhD is in engineering and mathematics. My interests included all humanities and sciences. Work enjoyed includes mental health and creation of a small eatery.

I live on the Pacific Coast in Northern California. As part of the 'journey' I continue to reflect, to travel, and to immerse myself in nature and culture.

Tuesday, August 06, 2013



Author, Delaware, age 26 Photograph by M. D. Greenberg



Rio Urique Barranca del Cobre



Barranca del Cobre, Mexico Pictures in the text show places of inspiration.

Journey in Being presents and proves an exciting view of the universe as limitless realization. That the view is proved makes it especially empowering.

The view is shown to agree with and envelope all valid present and future experience and science. It implies that our cosmos is infinitesimal in comparison to the universe.

It is especially exciting that we inherit the power of the universe (non-inheritance would be a limit on the universe).

The text resolves the apparent contradiction between this limitlessness and our experience of limits. It shows an approach to negotiating what we experience as limits. We are shown to be part of a matrix of civilizations that cycle through population of the universe and subsequent dissolutions.

This work is transparent—its critical imagination is laid out for readers. It calls on no special authority and requires no belief. It is brief—the result of a decision to emphasize essentials; a 'how to' manual would subvert this emphasis and suggest limited perspectives. Implications for knowledge, reason and destiny are deep and varied. Our experience of essential problems, especially death and pain, is not eliminated or minimized but given meaning. Above all the journey is ever fresh—it has no limit to variety, extent, duration, summits, and dissolutions. The universe has phases without end or boundary of acute, diffuse, and absent manifestation and identity—and we are part of that process.

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