

A Radical Reality: Rethinking the Way We Live

Written by Mel Schwartz, LCSW, M.Phil.

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To this day, quite possibly the most provocative, if not astounding, discovery of modern science remains relatively obscure to the general public. This is, perhaps, due to how greatly it shatters our myth of reality—and, subsequently, our understanding of how we picture reality operating. This startling new worldview has been too radical for us to feel comfortable truly considering, for if we did, it would compel us to drastically reframe our thinking and our lives. Yet, by doing so, our lives would likely become unburdened and flourish.

For the most part, we have envisioned reality based upon the themes that Sir Isaac Newton postulated back in the 17th century. Newton constructed a machine-like model of the world, composed of separate and distinct objects interacting only through cause and effect. This picture of reality, operating as a giant machine, shackles our lives like little else. The depiction is absent any scintilla of meaning or purpose; we become the cogs in the machine, detached from one other and the universe at large. This image is also devoid of any sense of relatedness, as separation becomes the essence of the Newtonian worldview. It leaves us humans as strangers in a mechanical universe, where isolation is the primary motif. Epidemics of depression are the inevitable result of this scenario. From this filter we experience a vast array of struggle and malaise. Many of our ensuing challenges and conflicts can be derived from this misunderstanding of reality. Yet there is now ample evidence to drastically reconsider how we look at the bigger picture.

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NEW EDGE SCIENCE

THE DIVISION BETWEEN THE QUANTUM WORLD AND THE MACRO WORLD APPEARS TO BE AN ARTIFICIAL DISTINCTION.

A RADICAL REALITY RETHINKING THE WAY WE LIVE

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For the most part, we have envisioned reality based upon the theories that Sir Isaac Newton postulated back in the 17th century. Newton constructed a machine-like model of the world, composed of separate and distinct objects interacting only through cause and effect. This picture of reality operating as a giant machine, shackles our lives like little else. The depiction is almost any scheme of meaning or purpose, we become the cogs in the machine, detached from one other and the universe at large. This image is also devoid of any sense of relationship, as separation becomes the essence of the Newtonian worldview. It leaves us humans as stragglers in a mechanical universe, where isolation is the primary motif. Epidemics of depression are the inevitable result of this scenario. From this filter we experience a vast array of struggle and misery. Many of our ensuing challenges and conflicts can be derived from this misunderstanding of reality. Yet there is now ample evidence to drastically reconsider how we look at the bigger picture.

A Quantum Revolution

In the early 20th century, Albert Einstein and the celebrated Danish physicist Niels Bohr engaged in a debate that extended for many decades. Einstein had proposed a thought experiment—known as the EPR paradox—which became a hotly contested theoretical battleground between the two intellectual titans.

The thought experiment was concerned with the behavior of a pair of photons (particles of light). When the two particles are created at the same point and instant in space, they become entangled as a pair. Paired photons have opposing rotations. If particle A, for example, spins in a clockwise rotation, particle B's spin must be counterclockwise. What would happen if a great distance later separated the particles—imagine half a universe—and the spin of particle A was altered to counterclockwise? Both men agreed that particle B would necessarily change its spin accordingly. But how long would that take to occur?

Einstein suggested that the time required for one photon to communicate with the other could be calculated in a deterministic way, based upon the distance of separation and the laws determining the speed of light. Bohr, on the other hand, boldly predicted that there would be no signal necessary from one photon to the other, and therefore no time would elapse before the spin of the second photon reversed. He claimed that since both photons existed in an entangled state—regardless of how distant they were from each other—they were still essentially inseparable. In scientific parlance, this is known as non-locality. Bohr's claim flew in the face of classical Newtonian physics, which maintains that time must elapse for distant objects to communicate. Bohr proposed that in certain circumstances, an entanglement exists in which separation is merely an illusion. Reality, in this case, was inseparable.

The debate raged on for decades. In the early 1930s, Irish physicist John Bell developed what became known as Bell's theorem, a formula designed to test the argument. Nearly 20 years later, technology was finally devised to test Bell's theorem. Einstein knew! Astonishingly, no signal was required to travel between the photons; communication was instantaneous. Notwithstanding a great distance between them, the photons were entangled as though they were one, just as Bohr had postulated.

This experiment has been repeated countless times, always with the same result. As counterintuitive as it may seem, under certain conditions the universe appears as an undivided, inseparable whole.

Are Humans Entangled?

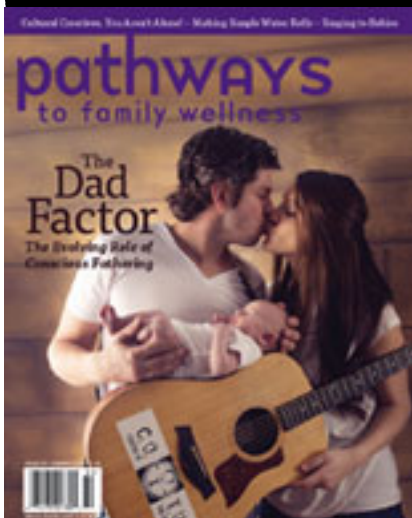
Shockingly, increasing evidence has arisen indicating that this phenomenon occurs in the larger, macro, realm—most likely affecting humans. The June 2011 cover article in *Scientific American*, titled "Living in a Quantum World," proposed that larger biological entities were amenable to entanglement, which has been witnessed in living organisms. Entanglement may even occur on a cellular level. The division between the quantum world and the macro world appears to be an artificial distinction. The phenomena of distance healing, remote viewing and telepathy all point toward human entanglement. On a more ethereal level, one might argue that falling in love evokes entanglement.

At this point you might wonder what this means to us. Quite a lot! It necessitates that the way we envision reality requires radical reconsideration, but just as important, it suggests that we need to drastically overhaul the way we think and how we envision ourselves. Such a mind-shifting reality defies our commonsense approach to cause and effect, which of course mandates separation and causality. Our prevailing, yet outdated, beliefs confine us to a paradigm that induces isolation with the meaninglessness of meaning. This results in depression, violence, greed, nihilism, emotional despair and ecological disaster, among other effects. But we'll get to that in just a bit.

Let's consider the case of a pair of human twins, as opposed to our photon pairing. The lives in New York City and he lives in Paris. One day, as she is getting out of bed, she walks toward the shower, slips and turns her ankle, breaking it in the process. Precisely at that moment, her twin brother in Paris feels an excruciating pain in exactly the same location on his leg. There is no signal sent from one to the other. They are each—at least momentarily—part of the same system, so to speak. They are as entangled as the photons. We tend to regard this as implausible, but one of those odd things.

We've all heard of these occurrences, yet we marginalize them and other examples of wholeness as "weird." We simply designate the phenomenon to being strange.

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