

Your Perspective Of Reality?

A Philosophical Discourse for FXQI, 2013

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Depending on your perspective, information could mean many different things to you. If you take the perspective that information is simply a bi-product of the world, then you have adopted a consumer mentality. If you believe that information is a tool to be used, then you have become a mental industrialist. If you think that information is a substance that is to be molded and shaped, then you're artist of sorts or a social designer.

Information in and of itself is just that...information. It is when we apply our judgments, perspectives, ideas, desires, and plans upon that information that the data becomes something else. If we were not here to sense the data that is in the universe, the universe would continue to exist without us. But since we are here and we are a part of it, then our viewing, noticing, interacting, and creating affect the universe around us.

In discussing these concepts with a few deep-thinking friends, the following question arose: "Do people create reality from the universe or the universe from reality?" After giving it much thought and mentally playing out both perspectives to the n-th degree, my response is this: both.

To individuals, the universe – their world – is only what they see, know, or take notice of. The rest of it is irrelevant to them in that moment. Albeit, the rest of the whole must exist in order to give structure and nature to "their world", but for all intents and purposes, it doesn't exist. In those instances, the individuals create their universe from their perspective. What is encompassed in their view determines their world.

On the other hand, reality is created by the universe when people simply accept at face value that which they see, hear, touch, and taste. To them, reality is a direct correlation between cause and effect, never stepping beyond the grasp of the here and now. Whatever the day populates, they accept as such and never deviate from it. They accept those incidents as reality and never challenge its existence nor question its origins.

So where do you stand?

Where in the gridlines of the universe do you place or find yourself?

From which plane do you view the world:

- The tangible?
- The data-driven?
- The cynical?
- The hypothetical?
- The possibility-filled?
- Or on the mind-bending edge of one, stepping out into space to another?

Years ago, my neighbors had a cat nicknamed "Mr. Ridgetop". It would climb the fence straight up and then tiptoe along the top from one end to the other. When it got to the corner, it would reach out with one paw – checking for distance – and then hop over to the other fence. It was amazing to watch.

Some people are able to do the same thing when it comes to crossing from one plane of reality to the other. Some reach out with one foot – checking for distance – and then hop over. Others have the ability to easily glide from one plane to the other, almost as if passing *through* the plane instead of climbing to the edge and hopping over.

Determining which plane you're in is sort of like when you use a mirror. If you look at a handheld mirror, is the image that you see a reflection of the world around you, or is the real world inside of the mirror looking out at your "world"? How you answer that question and how you work through the logic behind it tells a lot about your point of view.

Likewise in this moment, you and I are having a discussion of sorts. If you are reading these pages in the language I originally wrote it in, then the words that we are using – we believe to be the same. But are they? When I write the word "red", do you see "r-e-d" and understand it to be a color similar to that of fire, an apple, or blood exposed to oxygen? Or do you actually see something like "z-j-k-&-2-u" and understand it to be a time/space warp condition? Meaning – does the information that you and I share with each other in various ways convey the same meaning from one person to the other? Also, does it come from the same source (i.e. the mind's plane of cognizant thought)? Or does it come from different places, bringing with it its own versions of concocted reality?

Do we approach these thoughts and questions with fear and trepidation, or do we gladly give them a handshake and usher forward a new glance into the perspective of possibility? Depending on the person and/or situation, the line blurs between creativity and madness. When it comes to information, the line also blurs between use and abuse. Too much information or too much access to information has the potential to change people and make them abuse the new-found knowledge. I wonder if indeed a controller or holder of data were able to put all the data he controlled into his mind, would it overwhelm him or enlighten his perspective of the universe? Would it blow his mind or enrapture it?

Many people will begin a search for the edge of reality, the edge of reason, and the edge of the universe, but most will stop short of ever fulfilling their original quest for answers. Part of them stop because of doubt, loss of focus, change in direction, or the inundation of trivial urgencies that occur in day-to-day life. Just because they stop searching, it doesn't mean that the answers aren't there.

Likewise, searching for the edge of reality is not a breach of reason or logic. It's an attempt at understanding deeper things and a desire to comprehend the universe. Some may see the pursuit of deeper understanding as purposeless or fruitless, but it is the very act of *pursuit* that reveals answers that had been forgotten or never before found.

Perception of reality varies from person to person, yet in the end it's the value of said reality that people see because it is in that reality that people align their value, purpose, limitations, success, and definition.

To some, information gives depth, definition, and parameters. To others, it is merely a reflection of what they already know to be possible in the universe.

Some people base reality on the tangible seen and keep their feet firmly planted in the present now. Others see beyond the immediate and boldly walk from conscious dimension to the subconscious, crossing the thresholds of other realms. For the bold, dwelling in other planes of reality is as easy as dwelling in the present now. It simply involves opening the mind and allowing transfer of vista.

In trying to explain the sensation to my students, I put it like this: “You know how you after you’ve had a few drinks your mind opens up and sees things differently? And then your mouth starts saying things that you wouldn’t normally say when you’re sober? That’s how my mind works all the time, but without the drunken stupor.” They got it.

When you step beyond the markers of time and space, you’re able to see life and existence in an entirely different way. It literally *looks* different. It feels different. Whereas the conscious world may have things bearing down on it, other planes do not. Some seem weightless. Some seem formless. Some even seem viewable in reverse of our current status. The thresholds to cross and view through are there and will remain there, whether people choose to utilize them or not.

While the doorway is open to all, not all are willing to cross over. And even for those who do cross over, a few pull back in fear. The other planes seem so different to them that they don’t like it and pull back. The universe and its knowledge is vast, yet is reduced to the size of a speck of dust when people choose to ignore it.

So, do we derive information and meaning from the universe? Absolutely. Do we also derive the universe from information and meaning? Absolutely. The three are equally codependent. That is, each are an essential part of the others’ make up, as noticed from the human perspective.