
From: Deepak Chopra <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Friday, March 17, 2017 2:36 AM
To: Jeff Epstein; Barnaby Marsh
Subject: Fwd: Sensory Apparatus / Language

FYI

Deepak Chopra MD

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Begin forwarded message:

From: DONALD HOFFMAN <[REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>>>
Date: March 16, 2017 at 7:20:06 PM PDT
To: Deepak Chopra <[REDACTED] <mailto:[REDACTED]>>>
Subject: Re: Sensory Apparatus / Language

Dear Deepak,

Yes, I would say that the sensory apparatus and brain are species-specific icons. My entire body is just an icon. When I move my hand and grab something, even that movement is just an icon. I don't know what I am really doing in objective reality—I only know my own actions under the limits of the descriptions available within my interface. Genes, animals, species, and even spacetime itself are just icons.

The evolutionary arguments against true perceptions do not hold against true logic and math, since we do need to reason about fitness payoffs—two bites of an apple give roughly twice the payoff as one bite, for instance. There are no selection pressures to be geniuses at math and logic, and few of us are. But we need to have enough competence to get the payoffs we need.

I wouldn't say that the spacetime universe is itself a conscious agent, but that it is the format of the interface of human conscious agents.

I am working on a mathematical theory of how conscious agents evolve languages to better understand each other. It seems that they can get more information about each other without violating the second law of thermodynamics, if they hillclimb mutual information. Fun research ahead on this one!

Love,
Don

On Mar 16, 2017, at 5:48 PM, Deepak Chopra <[REDACTED]<mailto:[REDACTED]>> wrote:

Dear Don

Would you say that the sensory apparatus and brain - eyes ears other senses are species specific icons (symbols) for modes of knowing and experience - seeing hearing thinking feeling imagining etc

Also it seems to me that humans by giving names to modes of knowing and experience (perception) have created the universe as a human construct . Everything from a quark to a boson to a galaxy is a name or description

bestowed by humans to a mode of knowing or experience in awareness . This holds true for what we call a body mind genes other animals and species

Taxonomy is symbol making for knowing and experience .

Do we know anything about the origin of symbolic language including mathematics ?

What does evolution say ? The entire universe is our construct - a species of consciousness - what you call a conscious agent

Love

Deepak Chopra MD

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