

A person stands on a wooden pier extending into the ocean at sunset. The sky is filled with large, white and orange-tinted clouds. The water is calm, reflecting the light from the sky. The person is silhouetted against the bright horizon.

We Cannot Rise to a More Spiritual World if We Only Teach our Children About Materialism

by Philip Comella

“One may well wonder how materialism, the doctrine that “life could be explained by sophisticated combinations of physical and chemical laws,” could so long be accepted by the majority of scientists. The reason is probably that it is an emotional necessity to exalt the problem to which one wants to devote a lifetime.

Eugene Wigner,
Remarks on the Mind-Body Question (1961)

Human consciousness is rising. It is rising to the realization that there is more to this world than brute, faceless matter and impersonal scientific laws. We know we are more than particles in motion, more than leftover stardust. Underlying the world is a force, a power so strong that it cannot be measured by the instruments of science. It is the power that created the world; a unifying force; one Spirit. God?

The worldview of materialism, of a machine programmed by mysterious scientific forces and operating on its own power, is showing signs of decay, as the rising spirit of humankind demands more. Spirit is finding a foothold in logic; the curtain of darkness is being swept away. Modern science is beginning the retreat from a purely mechanistic account of the human experience. Consciousness is no longer being ignored as an integral part to the make-up of world. Rather, the closer we look, the more we find that consciousness is at the root of reality.

Today, it is leading scientists who write that “there is no way to interpret quantum theory [the leading description of the physical world] without encountering consciousness.” The physical world is not made of things, but of dream-stuff

The deeper scientists look into the laws of nature, the more they seem finely tuned to allow life to exist. Random, chaotic explosions such as the Big Bang do not create finely-tuned universes, but a Mind sure can. The body of research on the paranormal continues to build, showing an undeniable connection between individual minds (telepathy); the mind and the physical world (psychokinesis); mind and the body (placebo effect); mind and the future (precognition); and mind and remote places (clairvoyance). This thought of God, of something better, is planted in our souls and despite the urging of atheistic scientists, we can't shake the thought loose.

At the same time, modern thinkers are rediscovering an observation made by idealist thinkers throughout history; specifically, that the human spirit evolves to understand that spirit encompasses all reality. Under the idealist, or mind-first approach, consciousness rises from the

belief that life is a solo journey to understanding that we are part of a global, then a universal, community.

If we view the world as a great dream, a projection of consciousness, then we can start putting the whole picture together and join the scientific quest to explain the physical world, with the spiritual quest to unite the world to a common goal. At some point this fact will be impossible to ignore.

If we were to try and list the fundamental elements of this new world outlook they would include:

- The world of people rise from a common source: at the root of Being we are one;
- The world is boundless and our potential without end;
- The physical world does not imprison us, it expresses what we are;
- God is man united; and
- At its most fundamental level, the world is spirit, not mindless particles.

This new worldview of spiritualism needs a logical basis, and we can reach it from any one of several directions:

- Modern science has proven that the world is not made of tiny particles operating independently from human consciousness. Rather, quantum theory shows the world is a product of consciousness; matter is really wisps of nothing; a creation of mind.
- Daydreams and night-dreams show the mind conjuring up a three-dimensional world from nothing, with no help from the Big Bang.
- Psychic phenomena demonstrate the hidden power of the mind to interact with the world through a dimension undetectable by the instruments of science.
- No one has refuted the great idealist philosophers who concluded that since the mind can only know itself, we will never be able to prove a world of matter existed, even if one did.
- The great religious traditions are founded on the intuitive notion that a vast spiritual power underlies nature.

This worldview is logical, uses the full range of human experience as its proof, and provides a scientific basis for a new morality.

But it is not taught in our schools.

Big Bang materialism and Darwinism dominate the textbooks that tell our children about the real world. A real, objective, Newtonian world that scientists and the textbook writers want to exist, but know does not exist. Schools teach our children only about materialism—a world of wonder emerging from mindless particles and impersonal laws. We know that spiritualism is real, but we pretend it is an outlier for new-age bookstores and aging hippies.

And this is not another argument about how intelligent design should be taught alongside Darwinism in biology classes. There is a middle ground between the extremes of scientific materialism and creationism. A place between the machine and the angels. This place is the worldview of the one consciousness; a world that is the united dream of God.

So what should we teach our children? We should teach them more philosophy, about how the great thinkers in history have struggled to define “ultimate reality” and humankind’s place in the cosmos; about how science, beginning with Galileo, Kepler, and Newton, set up a mechanistic model of the universe in order to conduct experiments and to understand the “music of the spheres,” while never relinquishing their belief in a greater power behind nature’s scenery; about how modern science has managed to separate the model from this greater power—and the human mind—as it seeks to explain the cosmos with no help from an intelligence; about how science, at the end of its rainbow-quest, is finding that the outer world reflects the inner world; about how the peculiar, human-tuned laws of nature have compelled modern scientists to go to the extreme of inventing an infinity of additional universes to explain the coincidences in this one; about how leading quantum theorists now concede that there is no way to explain the world without giving consciousness a central role; about how Darwin’s mindless process of natural selection cannot account for the

diversity and wonder of nature; about how the evidence for psychic phenomena is now so overwhelming that scientists are forced to ignore it rather than deal with it; about how an increasing number of science writers are finding a place for mind or consciousness in scientific theory; about how most people know there is more to this world than the brute matter and impersonal laws of modern science. About how science teaches that God is dead, when we know he is not.

If these thoughts seem radical it is because they differ from what we have been taught. But is what we have been taught correct? There is one way to find out. Teach both worldviews side-by-side and see which one makes more sense.

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