

INTRODUCTION:

One of the most interesting developments of our time is the growing dialogue between modern physics and ancient wisdom. Over the past two centuries a dramatic split has divided the realm of science and the realm of spirit. Until very recently there was very little communication between people involved with physical science and people involved with traditional philosophy – by that I mean what Aldous Huxley and others have called Perennial Philosophy, the world view that is at the core of Shamanism, Taoism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. The “Quantum Revolution” in modern physics has given to science a new perspective on spiritual traditions, and visa versa. Much to the surprise of both sides, a certain amount of common ground has been uncovered. Non-scientists have been introduced to this common ground in such books as THE TAO OF PHYSICS by Fritjof Capra, and TAKING THE QUANTUM LEAP by Fred Wolf. Both groups are looking at a kind of “nothingness” from which something emerges. And both think what usually is called reality is formed, at least in part, by the act of perception. But this way of thinking is difficult to wrap words around. In Capra’s book I read: “ ‘Quantum koans’ led to the formulation of quantum theory.” In January of 1978, at the 3rd Annual Conference on Physics & Consciousness at Esalen, my host Mike Murphy reminded me of what Bronowski had written in THE ASCENT OF MAN: “Niels Bohr once said to Heisenberg ‘When it comes to atoms, language can be used only as in poetry.’ “ In light of this, I suggested to the members of the Physics/Consciousness Research Group, who had gathered for this conference, that it would be  fruitful for all of them to try their hand at poetry. That kind of experimenting might generate new ways to communicate. Many different verse forms might be useful. e. g., the sonnets of Shakespeare, or the sayings of Lao Tzu. To start them off, I offered to compose a series of “Quantum Haiku.” A month later I sent them HEAVY LIGHT: HAIKU ON THE THEME OF MODERN  PHYSICS & ANCIENT WISDOM. I was delighted to receive a very positive response from all of them. My thanks for that go to Jack, Fred, Saul-Paul, Barbara, Nick, Betsy, Will, and Diane. I look forward to reading their poems. This 2nd edition is for my students at the California Institute of Asian Studies in San Francisco.

FLG Parnassus Heights, San Francisco, November 1979

PART 1. SPACE-TIME

"In the beginning"
is a perception of space-
time: framework of form.

What most of us call
actuality takes place
in the sphere of space-time.

Space-Time? "The theater
of our Awareness" in a
manner of speaking.

Space-Time? A Crystal
Ball where images of the
actual appear.

PART 2. WAVE-PARTICLE

Waves carry energy
through a medium that is
called consciousness.

Energy waves are
potential undulating
toward the actual.

Waves carry energy
(fuel of actuality)
here, there, everywhere.

A wave turns into
a particle when stopped by the
act of perception.

PART 3. ENERGY - CONSCIOUSNESS

Energy can not
be created or destroyed.
Energy simply is.

Consciousness can not
be created or destroyed.
Consciousness just is.

Energy always is
moving through the universe
much like ocean waves.

Energy is the
prime body of consciousness
and the fuel of form.

Visible consciousness
in the space-time universe
that can be measured.

Visible energy
is that part of the universe
which is in motion.

The invisible
energy that does not move
cannot be measured.

Consciousness was (is)
before the beginning --
the start of space-time.

Consciousness also
is after the end of all
that has ever been.

Consciousness involves
the ground-of-being and all
symbolic processes.

Consciousness becomes
aware of itself by means
of symbolization.

Symbols are the mirror-
surfaces in which consciousness
sees itself reflected.

PART 4. FORM - FORMLESSNESS

On the outside and
inside of all space-time is
the nothing-at-all.

Forms exist within
a space-time. Beyond space-time
all is formlessness.

Consciousness includes
both all that is formed and all
that is formlessness.

Consciousness moves the
potential into actual
and then dissolves it.

Eternity is
not a long time. It is the
realm of the timeless.

Form is conditioned
consciousness briefly encased
by circumstances.

Formlessness is our
unconditioned consciousness
awaiting a condition.

Forms come into being
because and by means of the
act of perception.

Every form reflects
universal conditions
during each perception.

Nothing changes but
the structure of perceived
relationships.

Form is what happens
to consciousness when it stops
to look at itself.