

A Forward to A Way Forward

In August, 2017 with great anticipation I looked forward to witnessing the Great Eclipse from within the path of totality. It was amazing but not surprising. More precisely, the surprise was not that it happened, but my experiential awareness of depth, relatedness, and connection to all of creation. I was just an infinitesimal part of our One Universe, with no judgment and no divisions.

During those extraordinary few minutes of the fading light, sudden darkness illuminated by a ring of solar fire, and returning sunlight I was aware of an unconscious non-dual reality within me. And then it was back to normal, sort of, as we inched for hours along the clogged highway to get home.

So I wondered if, as a self-aware species, we can dare to be on the path of totality to connect with the non-dual reality of being-in-the-universe?

Or must we settle for an isolating path of brutality that sacrifices our connection with other strange beings we don't trust, don't like, and definitely don't want to be with?

For eons human beings have witnessed celestial events that came as surprises, scaring our ancestors to death and portending some momentous divine intervention into the human community.

Making some sense from our experience is what makes it subjectively real. Being informed by a larger context of human experience and knowledge can change the essential 'realness' of the experience itself.

For some of us, having an ancient mythic story to confirm and explain the depth of our lived experience is our only way to access its meaning and relive a connection with the deeps of our lives.

For some of us this story is the single, unquestionable, literal, word-for-word, final authority on human existence that contains special divine revelation that answers every question and determines every aspect of our lives. For some strange reason we really need that.

For others it is essential to integrate into our lived experience a rational, scientific understanding of what is happening to our subjectivity.

The same ancient mythic story illuminates and deepens our understanding of our lived experience, but without requiring our unquestioning belief that every detail is divinely written, divinely determined, and thus the ultimate authority for human lives, once and for all, just as it is, without any additions or deletions.

Each of us lives in one of these two conflicting and mutually exclusive conceptual universes that deeply determine both *how* and *what* we experience when we witness a Great Eclipse.

In other words, there is no 'objectively there' *there* that we can discover. Our 'reality' is all about our common story about what our experience means to us. (Some people call this epistemology '[radical constructivism](#).')

Do I dare to live nakedly and dangerously without having to cling desperately to the comforting emotional prop of being able to know a Final Reality?

Can I live with the uncertainty of not knowing the Mystery of the meaning of my origin and my final end?

Or must I hold tightly to my precious psychic life raft to try to end once and for all my profound fear, my deepest uncertainty, and my painful, isolating self-awareness?

Of what reality am I ultimately afraid? And of what reality am I ultimately confident? (See Job 13:15a KJV.)