The Ultimate Thrill

Conquering Time and Space

by David Stafford

Chapter 1

Once I found myself standing alone on a road North of Jerusalem facing South, in fine powdery dust that was as deep as the soles of my sandals. The time was some decades before the birth of Jesus, it was a very hot and dry day. Somehow I could feel the essence of civilization, and the separations that divided the nations, tribes and even villages all around me. The lives of hardship that led not to cooperation, but to self-centered pursuits. In less than a second I was back in the present, remembering forever that hot dry day and the answer I received.

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Everything you can see, touch, taste and smell, all the animals, vegetation and minerals, are all collections of chemicals, even this paper you are reading. The chemicals may be arranged in simple or highly complicated compounds and molecules. The diversity of compounds, the subtle and not so subtle interactions, constitute all that constitutes you and everything around you. Even your thoughts are interactions within your brain. While there are a great multitude of particles that you almost never encounter, virtually everything is made of protons, electrons and neutrons, powered by photons. Combinations of protons and neutrons surrounded by electrons make up all the chemical elements, the atoms, and the elements interact through the electrical forces carried by photons. The nuclear forces that power the sun, among other things, come from within the atoms' protons and neutrons, and warm your face with the photons that are released. Hopes and dreams, grace and love, are not things you can bottle, they cannot be measured with weights and scales, and though they may seem very real, they are more transient that the lightest of fogs. They can compel you to say a kind word or move a mountain, but they have no physical substance. They are information stored within the compounds of your brain. Whether or not this is contrary to your beliefs is unimportant, the universe is what it is, and you can choose to accept it or continue to dream of other existences.

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In the beginning, regardless of cause natural or divine, all matter and energy, time and space itself, began to exist. The fundamental particles condensed out of nothingness. The first particles were protons and electrons. Electrons are whimsical particles, condensations of the electrical fields produced by protons. Protons are special particles. With very rare exceptions they began at the moment of the beginning and survive until the end of the universe, never decaying or melting away. They are continuous throughout all of time. Electrons can move about without protons, but can never really be counted on to be anywhere unless they are bound to protons. Protons provide most of the known mass of things, and thus the curvature of space-time that you call gravity. Inside a heavy mass, say within a star, protons and electrons are squeezed together under great heat, and combine to form neutrons. Those neutrons get along fairly well with protons and combined with electrons form more complex atoms. Atoms can be squeezed together to form more complex atoms. In all these combinations, energy is combined to the mix and stored for some future. The neutrons help the protons to overcome their natural electrical repulsion and thus they can combine to become heavier atoms. Hydrogen atoms are a single proton and electron, usually without a neutron. Hydrogen is the basic building block of the universe. Hydrogen plus hydrogen plus energy makes helium, and so on up to a limit. The heavier elements, those above iron, are unstable and the heaviest will fall apart instantly into lighter atoms plus some of that stored energy. Iron is the most stable atom energy wise, and thus very common throughout

the universe. All of these 'natural' atoms are formed inside stars and become part of the rest of the universe when the star's energy throws them out, some times with the greatest of explosions.

Most hydrogen never falls into a star to become part of heavier atoms, but all heavy atoms, most of what makes up you and me, were forged inside stars. Most of those protons in the atoms that make up your finger began at the beginning of time. They spent time inside a star or two, were exploded out, and settled for a while on Earth to become parts of your finger, and everything else.

When you are finished using those protons, they will continue, mostly forever, to become parts of other things, until the end of time. Protons are forever, probably. Electrons don't last. They can disappear one place, then reappear elsewhere, and there is no way to tell if it's the same electron, just that another one appeared. Neutrons can exist for billions of years as long as they are within the nucleus of an atom, but if they are knocked out, for any number of reasons, they disintegrate in about 15 minutes. Neutrons disintegrate into a proton, electron and that stored energy. The hidden proton emerges. If enough neutrons disintegrate at the same time, it's an atomic bomb.

The air that you breathe, the water you drink, the food you eat, are all made of atoms. The protons that make up those atoms are used by you, sometimes for a moment, sometimes for years, but always only for a while. Then you release them back into the environment, sometimes changed into other compounds, sometimes not, but you will release them sometime. Once released, those protons may well become part of someone else, even thousands of years later. The protons may become part of a rock in some distant epoch, or part of someone's lunch tomorrow. You cannot keep the protons forever, nor are you at all likely to destroy or create them. You do not have to learn to share them, sharing is forced on you, and it will do no good for you to care. Billions of years from now, those same protons may well be part of something spectacular again. All of those parts of you are forever inter-twined with everyone and everything else in the universe.

Whatever the proton's past or future, it will experience a great many things, and if it has a memory, oh what it will remember!

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Thus far there have been vague references to protons being created or destroyed. Destruction of protons requires great energy, such as that in the large particle accelerators you may have read about. Various particles can be accelerated to nearly the speed of light and smashed into other particles. The energy of the collision can change protons, for instance, into other particles temporarily. Often the debris of the collision recombines into new versions of old particles that were destroyed. Sometimes the protons, and other particles, are turned into energy never to reassemble.

Another way a proton will cease to exist is a collision with and anti-proton. Both particles are turned into energy, the most energetic explosion known, that of total annihilation. An anti-proton can be created in an accelerator as the result of some collisions, as can anti-neutrons and anti-electrons, also called positrons. Positron emission tomography (PET scans) are used in modern medicine for example. Some nuclear reactors can produce anti-particles under certain conditions, that is where some special medical isotopes are formed, isotopes that decay and emit anti-particles. Thus it is possible for protons to be destroyed or recreated, but not likely in your kitchen, nor are you likely to notice those exotic particles if you encounter them.

There are many highly technical ways to describe what an anti-proton is and its properties, but a totally valid and simple way to describe one is simply a proton traveling backward in time. Any machine you might make must be made of materials you have available. Antimatter is fortunately exceedingly rare. Almost all anti-whatever-particles you would have access to require an accelerator to make. Trapping the anti-whatever is possible and confinement to prevent annihilation is possible for a short while. Assembling any machine of trapped anti-particles is quite unlikely however, to put it mildly.

A machine to travel backwards in time made of ordinary matter would become antimatter when turned on to begin backward time travel, and would end in violent annihilation upon touching ordinary matter. Should you collect enough antimatter to make the machine, it would end violently before being turned on for the same reason. Whether or not you have a machine to ride in, you cannot travel backwards in time with any part of your body, it's all made of protons, electrons and neutrons too. Thus successfully making an H. G. Wells type time machine is not possible, no matter the hard work and determination applied. Trips to the future are possible, like 'waiting' for example, but returning from the future is the same backwards travel that ends so violently.

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Photons, the object that conveys light in all of it's frequencies, are stable, they do not decay. Photons can not interact with each other, only with the electromagnetic force and the particles that exhibit that force. The forces of the sun send photons, as do chemical bonds, as do radio transmitters and heat sources. Those sources are all related to each other by photons, though the inherit frequency of the photon may be widely different. Photons are emitted by the source, travel away from the source in space and time, and eventually to an end point, and may interact with a particle or with itself, never another photon. The physical description of a photon has no prohibition against the photon being viewed as having come from the ending point, traveling backwards in time, to the source. Photons are their own anti-particles, so time travel in either direction is no problem for them. Information is carried by a photon, whether the heat of a light bulb, the note of a song on the radio or reflection from the printed word. That information existed at the source and travels to become information at the end point. Photons carry information as well as energy.

Photons travel through space at only one speed, the speed of light as it is called, also more properly called the cosmic speed limit. Regardless of the speed of the source or end point, light departs from the source and arrives at the end point at that exact same cosmic speed limit, as measured by either the source or end point. If the source and end point are moving apart at nearly the speed of light, the end point will still measure the arrival speed at the cosmic limit. The frequency of the photon, its color, will be shifted lower, or higher if the source is moving toward the end point, but the speed on arrival is still the speed of light, exactly. Information as to the relative speeds of the source and end point are carried in the photon's frequency, not in its arrival speed.

This is counter-intuitive and is the second most difficult concept necessary for understanding this discussion. The speed of light plus any other speed equals the speed of light.

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The Lorentz transformation is the most difficult concept herein. It is the heart of Einstein's Theory of Special Relativity. While that may sound intimidating, it is not hard to grasp, it is only a refinement to the geometry of two objects moving relative to each other. Euclidean geometry works very well when the two objects are moving slowly toward or away from each other, but errors show up at high velocity. The speed of an airplane or a bullet is no problem, the speed of an orbiting satellite is. The GPS system, global positioning satellite mathematics, must include corrections for the high relative speed in order to accurately calculate positions. Here is the heart of the Lorentz transformation:

$$x = \frac{1}{\sqrt{1 - \frac{v^2}{c^2}}}$$

Where ***C*** is the speed of light, ***V*** is the relative velocity between the two objects in any direction, and ***X*** is the correction factor of the dimension in that same direction. The dimension may be in space, time or mass.

If that formula is too confusing or frustrating, accept it and skip the rest of this paragraph. If the velocity is very small then V^2 is very small compared to C^2 and the lower portion (the divisor) is very close to the square root of 1, or just say 1, and X =1 divided by 1, and the Lorentz correction to the dimension X is negligible. When the velocity is a significant part of the speed of light, say 9 tenths of C, then the formula goes:

$$\sqrt{1-\frac{.9^2}{1^2}} = \sqrt{1-.81} = \sqrt{0.19} = 0.436$$

and the corrected dimension X is the uncorrected dimension divided by 0.436. When the relative velocity is extremely close to C , then the correction factor, the Lorentz factor, approaches the square root of zero, and the dimension too approaches zero. Simple, right?

The Lorentz correction factor must not be assumed to apply to actual physical dimensions. It applies to how one object perceives the dimensions of the other object as it moves. If one object is passing at 9/10ths the speed of light, the other object will say that the first object is moving through time at 0.436 seconds per second, as an example. The faster it goes, the less it ages. The math is simple to understand, the results are much harder.

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Now let us consider a photon, beginning long ago in a galaxy far, far away. When that photon arrives on earth at the speed of light, we note that the photon traveled many millions, or even billions, of years to get here. To the photon, the time that it experiences, where V is equal to C, the Lorentz factor is 1 divided by 0, mathematically an indeterminate number. At some speed just below C the number is infinitesimal, at V=C it may be assumed to be zero, or as close as possible. Thus the photon experiences a travel time of zero. The same math applies to the distance traveled, thus zero distance. This is the same experienced time and distance for a photon traveling from this page to your eye. To the photon, everything in its universe exists at the same time and same place. Yet to us, that infinitesimal place in space-time is all of the universe, a result of our relative speed being almost zero. The information carried by the photon does not change as it is carried across the universe. The information experiences no time has elapsed.

When we measure the photon's properties we know it arrived at the speed of light, it carried some energy, and had some frequency. The energy and frequency are two sides of the same coin, the information that's being carried. The frequency is somewhere along the electromagnetic spectrum, anywhere from ultra high, through the radio frequencies, past the visible spectrum and all the colors, to infrared and even lower. These frequencies vary with energy level and with the speed the source and end point are moving relative to each other. To a photon that began to travel at the beginning of the universe and travels to the extreme future, all of this universe we experience exists in a single instant and at one point in space.

As mentioned earlier, photons do not interact with each other, even though they outnumber matter particles by billions to one. They interact with electrons, protons and neutrons, as well as all the exotic particles, one at a time. Emitted by one particle and absorbed by another, the photon transfers its information. All the information in all the universe, collected in a single instant and place. To us, it is scattered throughout our universe, almost all of it hidden from our view. To us, that single point in space-time, is all of space and all of time.

Chapter 2

There is a place and time where all time travelers go to meet. To share stories and ideas, to meet others from far flung space and time, they come to meet, bringing only information. When I arrived, I found it was an ancient bar, the wooden bar and shelves dark with age, and the rest of the room was even darker. I was alone, save an old, potbellied barkeeper. He smiled at me as he polished a small glass, and then I was back here. It was just an instant, but left me with more questions and no answers. Was I the only one? Did I get the location wrong. Why did I get no answers. I will always remember the barkeep and his smile, but do not know what had happened.

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Thus far the boring and tedious discussion has centered on science that is well proven. I ask not that you take my word for it, but that you investigate those facts and theories that you have not seen before to your own satisfaction. I do not offer references to support this information, the experts I might quote are not to be trusted any more than me. I will say that the best resource I have found is Wikipedia. It is not the final answer, but it will give you references enough for several lifetimes.

The information that preceded is the basis for all that follows, so if you don't care to investigate the background, I can understand. Much of it will put you to sleep or confuse you more. That said, what follows will not be found in any reference books.

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The following are some of the rules that I have found for time travel, both backwards and skipping forward.

Rule 1: You cannot change the past, as near as I can tell.

Rule 2: You cannot take anything material with you, including your body.

Rule 3: You may take questions with you, and bring only information back.

Rule 4: Departure time is not at your request, nor is precise location of destination.

Rule 5: Questions must be without preconceived bias of results or answers.

Rule 6: You might not receive an answer to your question at all, but you will receive information that probably will relate to the question.

Rule 7: You might travel without a question or a request or foreknowledge.

Rule 8: You might not be able to travel at all.

Rule 9: Frivolous questions will be ignored, as will self-serving ones. Sorry, no lottery numbers.

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I have never experienced a time trip except while wide awake. The duration at the destination has only been an instant, and the elapsed time on return has also been an instant. The information on return has taken from minutes to years to understand, and most importantly, the memory has not faded at all. The memory has been so strong it's as though I can return to that remote instant whenever I want, and it never changes. The memory of those trips is among the strongest memories I have. With one exception, I have no memory of where I was when whisked away. And definitely no drugs or alcohol were involved.

It might seem as though I have no control over the travel events, but that is not the case. What I have had is a deep burning curiosity about past or future events. An open curiosity that could only be answered by being there. Never having a clue as to the answer, I have always been surprised at the information received, and it has not always been a direct answer to my curiosity.

Thus far the trips have been equally divided between the past and distant future, never recent past or future. I have not known what dates I went to, but twice I knew about what place I went to, some place North of Jerusalem for example.

All of this should make you doubt that this will teach you how to time travel yourself. Fair

doubts, indeed.

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What the first chapter did was lay the groundwork for the question of how time travel is even possible. Some extremely small events have been created in laboratories, but not without scientific doubts. However there is very little doubt in the scientific community that the laws of physics are symmetrical, equally valid both forward and backwards in time.

The arrow of time pointing from the past to the future seems easy to understand. The scientific view is that of entropy, a system changes from highly ordered in the past to disordered in the future. Long winded scientific explanations do very little toward understanding. In thermodynamics, hot things cool. In mechanics, things break. In the kitchen, cookies disappear. Such is the arrow of time. In layman's terms, things decay. Or so they would have you believe.

Cold things can come together and become hot by burning. Machines can be assembled from diverse parts even if they break later. And cookies don't magically appear already made unless you are under 5 years old. To be sure, the universe began in an extremely hot state and has been generally cooling since. It is considered unlikely that the universe will fall back onto itself and shrink to a dot, but that dot universe would be very, very hot too. In physics there is no difference in forward or backwards in time, only our perception is one-way.

The first chapter also explained how building a time machine is probably impossible. Even in the vacuum of remote space, there is enough loose matter to be a problem with anti-matter, not to mention how you might get that anti-matter there. Even moving your body by itself has the same limitations, so you need not fear the Terminator. If you do meet someone from the future, don't touch him or her, you'll both probably annihilate each other.

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Information is contained in every matter particle, protons, electrons and neutrons, and in photons. Examples of that information include such esoteric things as spin, electric charge and something called parity. Those are properties very important to the scientific community, but for this discussion, it is sufficient to note that they are considered information carried by and with the particle. Another piece of information about any particle is it's frequency. All particles and photons vibrate. Atoms and molecules also vibrate. Cesium atoms vibrate at such a precise frequency that counting their vibrations is the basis of atomic clocks. Atomic clocks are the most accurate known, and useful to measure the variations of the passage of time. Time passes slower on the top of a mountain relative to the bottom of a valley, and atomic clock experiments have measured the difference. They have also measured the difference of time passage due to the relative velocity between satellites and the surface of the earth. Yes, that is very important information in an accurate GPS location.

Some photons vibrate at certain frequencies, and are called radio waves. If anyone still listens to radio, they know you have to tune to the exact frequency in order to receive music or other information. Music itself consists of multitudes of frequencies, excepting for some modern “music”. The photons that carry the information of the musical frequencies over a distance have to maintain their own precise frequency that is different from that of the music. That process is called carrier waves. One precise frequency that has other frequencies embedded within it. Information carried by information. A photon's frequency never changes, but the speed of the source point relative to the end point determines the frequency as measured ate either end. Information carried by the photon arrives stretched out or condensed, but otherwise unchanged.

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Now we return to the immortal proton, around since the beginning, staying beyond the future, experiencing all sorts of marvelous things, and vibrating. The frequency of a proton is not constant throughout all of time. A big cause of the changes in frequencies is heat. Hotter is faster, cooler is

slower vibrations. One crude way to measure an item's frequency is to touch it. Crude, but information is passed from the object to your finger as heat or cold and then on to your brain.

Now I shall diverge from known scientific fact to a new (at least to me) theory to which I can find no previous reference.

The vibrational frequency of a proton should be able to act as a carrier wave.

The current frequency of a proton can be measured as its energy level. If there is information embedded within that frequency, that information must be about the proton's past. I do not begin to describe how that information may be extracted, but I strongly believe that that information exists. Reading that information would constitute time travel for that information.

Current physics has no evidence that such information exists. There are plenty of reasons to doubt that such information could exist embedded in electrons, they are too whimsical if you will. Neutrons come and go, some slowly, some fast, but none are immortal. Photons have, to their perspective, no future or past. Photons, particles of light, carry information, but it is only about the starting point and the ending point, nothing in between.

If my theory is correct then time travel, in the form of information transfer, is possible. That is, if we can learn how to read the frequencies being carried. I have not learned how to do so, but unless my experiences are entirely imaginary, it can happen.

Chapter 3

A small kangaroo-rat-like creature hopped across a barren sand filled landscape. I knew what I was seeing, but it was nothing like what I expected. I wished to see the end of the world, and thus my first time travel event ended with a big surprise.

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Before explaining how reading the embedded information can happen, it would be best to explain where the time travel rules came from.

Rule No. 1: You cannot change the past.

That seems too obvious and too well believed, but is the most profound rule. Remembering that all matter is intertwined both in space and time, everything was at one time interacting, and carries the results of those interactions into the present where there is still constant interaction. A change anywhere in the past causes untold changes to this present to be sure, but once changed, that change is a part of history. Speculation that a separate history would be branched off to multiple copies of slightly different present time lines assumes that the change to the past was accomplished with a material presence then. There does not seem to be evidence of an anti-matter object streaking through history like a terrible lightening bolt in the history books or on the evening news. Remember, that object would not appear briefly, but continuously from its point of departure in the future to its destination in the past. Anything material passing back in time would be a most spectacular event. Not exactly the story line in any of the novels about time travel. Jumping into an alternate universe to travel backwards and reappear in the past is interesting, but so are most fantasies.

The most profound characteristic of Rule 1 comes to light in the distant future. To an observer in the far future, all of the present is history, immutable and unchangeable. The same goes for tomorrow, and every day thereafter. You may shape the future with your actions, but once shaped, you cannot change your past choice. Profound indeed, you cannot change the future either. Free will allows you to shape, but never change the future that will be. Predestination and free will are not mutually exclusive, they are two views of the same coin.

Shaping the future also involves all the other material objects, and demands their acquiescence, without which the shape of the future is not as wished. The best laid plans and all of that homily have their own agenda. You have some choices, but your past makes you predestined to the choice you make. That seems like circular logic now, but to the future observer, the choice seems straight forward and immutable. Right or wrong doesn't matter, the choice is part of history.

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If all of the past and all of the future are unchangeable, what is the purpose of trying to shape the future? Because the shape of the future is what you make it. Well, that's rather a self centered view, the majority of the future shape is not within your control. Your little part of the future can be shaped, and it can be pretty or ugly, forever as you made it, but it is only an infinitesimal part of the future.

The information carried by protons, if I am right and carrier waves exist, goes both ways from the present, into the past and future. Information carried by photons certainly does exist, and goes either from the past to the future, or backwards, depending on viewpoint. What photons do not carry is much information they pass on their way. Reflection and refraction by lenses or prisms can be viewed as the photon being absorbed by the lens or prism, and a new photon being emitted with some of the same information of the original photon. That new photon has new information from its encounter, and cannot be assumed to be the original photon. Protons, and electrons and neutrons and all their cousins, regardless of their life time, do pick up information during their travels. Electrons, like photons, cannot be assumed to be the same electron as before encountering an event, but there is no way to know.

Thus, prophecy, if possible, must depend on information carried mostly by protons. There is no scientific evidence that prophecy is possible, yet in light of my theory, there is some possibility.

Perhaps time will tell. I did not believe in the possibility until I experienced things that could have been multiple time travel events. Mankind watched birds in flight for centuries, and eventually figured out how it was done and applied that science. If I have figured out how information travels throughout all of time, perhaps someday there will be routine reading of that information. Information, not bodies nor machines. I do not believe it is necessary to know how information travels in order to experience it, any more than understanding nuclear fusion is necessary to experience sunshine. If you wish to learn how to visit the past or future and experience them for yourself, then thus far all I have said is how it might be possible.

Chapter 4

There have been other “events” that I have experienced, some profoundly unexpected, some that may have been too subtle for me to be sure of their authenticity. None, however, were while dreaming or even daydreaming. None were while I was actively pondering the circumstances around the event. Guarding against hallucinations has always a strong concern of mine. I play unambiguous logic games that have no gray answers, only true or false answers. I have done various projects, woodworking, machine repairs, etc. that have success or failure as results. Writing is definitely not a test of my sanity, only taxing the same. If you have read *A Thrill Ride,* you should know that I have studied the nature of gravity for may decades, and still study my assertion that gravity is an illusion. So too have I studied the nature of time for decades. I am comfortable with Einstein's theories of special and general relativity, although the latter involves math beyond my ability. The consequences of those two theories are also something I study constantly, and I am comfortable that I vaguely understand them. I also double and triple check my understanding, for I seek knowledge of the truth first and foremost.

I wanted to build an anti-gravity machine and time travel machine when I was quite young, so I studied. I now know that neither is possible, ludicrous even, yet I am satisfied because I am closer to the truth. Always be willing to admit you are wrong and to never surrender the truth.

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The integral relationship of matter, light and information have been discussed here. The consequences of a universe that is not afraid to spend billions of years to pass information, that carries information on particles of matter and light are amazing. That you share your matter with the rest of the universe with every breath and bite of food and fingernail clipping should be obvious to you by now.

Your thoughts and actions, as mine, become forever a part of this universe, good or bad, pretty or ugly, kind or mean, forever. I believe you can travel to any place or time within this universe to experience those events there, but that you can do nothing to change what is there. You can choose an action now that will shape the future permanently, whether good or bad. Later you can choose an action that will alter that previous action by shaping the future in a different way, but you cannot change the first action, and then not the second either, once done. The argument of free will vs. predestination is wrong, it should be what are the consequences of free will and predestination both being true?

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I once wondered if rocks and stones can think. I wonder the same about some people, too. If a rock can think, it must spend millions of years to develop a thought. It would have all the time in the universe, after all. The protons within the rock were not always a part of a rock, were most likely in one or more stars, and will again be scattered somewhere in this universe. The proton may be eroded off the rock by a river, and become part of a mineral in your afternoon sandwich, then part of a blood cell feeding your brain. If your brain has an intelligent thought, isn't that part of the rock having one too? Not a very big thought, for the amount of information along the life of a single proton is limited, but a thought none-the-less.

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To the photon of light that passes most of the universe, those billion year long thoughts, are instantaneous. All the information of all the matter and light particles in the universe are together in one small time and space. That is all the history of the universe, spread out infinitely to our perspective, but all together at one place and time by another perspective.

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It was at that moment in my deliberations that I realized that the universe itself is intelligent, it is alive, and it is awake.

Chapter 5

I stood alone in a void, blacker than black, looking through a round window at heaven, brighter than bright. I was there but an instant, but the memory of that beauty will last forever, unrivaled and undimmed.

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If you find the concept that the universe is alive and awake hard to believe, consider that you are a small part integrated into that universe, and if you are alive and awake to any extent, than some small part of the universe is the same. Even if I am completely wrong about protons being carrier waves, I am not wrong about you and I being fully integrated into the universe. From your noblest deeds to the tiny fragments of DNA you leave behind everywhere, the information about you is scattered throughout time and space. You and me, forever part of the same universe. Makes you think, doesn't it?

Imagine now that of the billions of microscopic bacteria living within you, one of them becomes aware of your existence. Living its life as always, doing those things that bacteria do, being beneficial or not to it's kin and neighbors, does not provide understanding that it is part of a much bigger thing. Awareness of your being requires a much broader understanding, most likely one beyond its capabilities. Yet that small creature is made of the same atoms as you, it shares complex molecular compounds back and forth with you, and it shares whatever information those atoms contain.

That the bacteria is not a great philosopher or mathematician is not important. What is important is that some tiny piece of information is being shared, just as you share information with your family and friends. And so it is that your contribution is not just within your circle of contact, but with the overall knowledge of all of creation. You cannot keep the protons and atoms and ideas to yourself, they are given up to all of history, and all of history passes through you. You are part of the universe, and it lives within you. A humbling, scaring and awesome concept, all at the same time.

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Traveling on a roller-coaster can be a thrill, as can experiencing free fall, but those are not the greatest thrills. If you have ever swung high on a child's swing, you have experienced free fall, even if only for a second. Receiving information from another time and place, by any method, can be thrilling too. Seeing your place in the universe can be thrilling.

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I have had for a very long time a burning question that only Jesus could answer. The Bible certainly doesn't have that answer, only He does. Do not worry about the question, it is important only to me, and not at all to you. Geek stuff, if you will. And so one moment, after many years pondering, I found myself sitting on a large rock next to Jesus, my question in hand. He laughed and gave me the most amazing answer. Then I was back.

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That amazing moment, meeting and communicating with Jesus was a thrill, but not the ultimate.

Seeing heaven was a thrill beyond belief, and seeing my place among the rest of the universe, even if only for an instant, was almost the ultimate thrill.

No, meeting and seeing an old barkeeper, the instant before He created time and space and the whole universe, that was the Ultimate Thrill!

Definitions

Atheist: Anyone who cannot believe what he cannot understand.

Religious Zealot: Anyone who cannot understand what he believes.

Agnostic: Anyone seeking God and His truths as He has made them.

Hypocrite: Anyone who says he loves God, but doesn't love and admire and study His creation. Or anyone who loves and admires and studies creation and doesn't love God.

Holy Books: Any book that says you should love God, and some other less important stuff.

Heaven: You gotta see it to believe how beautiful it is!