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Force Fields Running the Universe

Higgs field is a field of energy said to permeate space and imbue elementary particles with mass.

—*The New York Times*, March 5, 2013

When I think of the mind, I think of a metaphysical puzzle. I realize, for me, my mind and God share the same field of unknowing. I don't know my mind except for some pieces, if I can use that word, and I don't know God except for some highly improbable pieces...

And that similarity gives me pause....a pause I am now sharing...

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The other day I was working on a child's puzzle with about thirty rather large pieces. But I had no master image of what those shapes would look like when organized in their proper form. Don't get me wrong—I did see the end of an elephant's trunk, a pink tutu, and a cat with whiskers, but only the head. What I didn't know was the ideology of the puzzle—the whole picture. I also realized that

most puzzles I have completed had a context—an overall form—that I could see, then copy by choosing the pieces that were represented in the image. I could see, then copy, and know what the completed image was, in fact.

But without a prior image, a vision, a completed description, I had to work for half an hour trying to fit parts with parts, shapes with shapes, holes with holes, not knowing what was up, down, left, or right until familiar forms began to emerge.

What I realized about metaphysical ideology is that it, too, is an image like the puzzle that is the mind. That is, that one must be in relationship, or hold to a relational image of what it has seen or experienced beforehand. That set of doctrines or beliefs form the basis of a spiritual system, as any ideology would in reflecting the social needs and aspirations of a culture.

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I didn't have one! I didn't have a prior image of my mind! Nor did I have an image of God!

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We think of our brains as the source of our minds because the brain is physical—a material repository for what we think and do. But the mind is not the brain. The mind exists independent of the brain and as part of a larger context. Like a radio contains the equipment for reception and delivery, the radio is not the voices or the one making the sounds and sense that come out of it. And the mind has, like the puzzle and the radio, a purpose beyond its discrete pieces.

Metaphysical philosophy explains the fundamental nature of Being and its relationship to the World. It questions: “What is there?” and “What is it like?”

“a necessary substance the substance of which exists in their Source...this is what we call God—Primary Unity...”

—Gottfried Leibniz, 1670

Another way to say what Leibniz said is that the mind and God share the same field of unknowing.

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Somehow this world and its fearful sleep has held me hostage. Whoever I was wasn't enough. I was more, I somehow knew, but the "I" who I recognized as "me" was missing "limbs": ways of Thinking, Being, Loving, and most of all, Knowing.

When one finds the spirit life quickened by the questioning, something like resurrection occurs. All of a sudden—the truth shatters the sky open.

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What if our thinking is the puzzle parts? And the parts are scattered across a vast field of an interior cosmos, vaster than the one we observe through the telescopes and satellites we send out? Say there is a uni-verse (one-rhyming cosmic poem) that is embedded in ours, and just like the physical cosmos, there are planets, stars, black holes, quarks, and fermions (*particles that form the basis for what we normally think of as matter*) that occupy that space? And what about that "dark matter" scientists keep talking about: invisible matter that seems to provide the gravitational glue to assemble galaxies and other large cosmic structures, according to astronomical measurements? Haven't we all experienced those senses within our thoughts, inventions, relationships, love making, and sleep? Haven't we gone beyond the galaxy we know to one we don't know and actually returned unharmed but certainly amazed at our discoveries? Physicists call those visions "beyond the standard model."

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Higgs boson—the building block of the Higgs field, which imbues other elementary particles with mass.

—*The New York Times*, March 3, 2013

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So the forces of nature described by physicists are elementary particles (fermions) interacting by tossing blobs of energy called bosons at one another in a sort of cosmic game of catch. In this theory, matter has been further subdivided into lighter particles like electrons and neutrinos.

The three forces in nature are: light conveyed by the bosons called photons, the weak nuclear force which causes radioactive decay conveyed by the W and Z bosons, and the strong nuclear force which binds quarks together into protons and neutrons.

Are you getting the idea that swirling around us and in us, above and below, inside and out, are forces over which we have no control whatsoever? You are right.

That is why the physicist Leon Lederman once called the Higgs boson “the God particle.” Later having trouble capturing it, he called it “the goddamn particle.” The Higgs boson is the messenger of matter, one that, like the mailman, picks up from the Higgs field to deliver the globs that make up matter in the universe; that is the poetry of one solitary act of creation still at work invisibly and without “real” form.

In other words, you could call the universe of our mind a virtual world, playing with the images of a virtual field, using virtual matter to construct a reality that does nothing but replay itself in newer and newer versions. With each version we, with our minds, reinstate the world daily. The cosmic world of the mind is a puzzle of parts that don’t make sense without constructing the pieces into a whole.

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“We happen to claim that ‘I am thinking’ when it’s just as true to say ‘the mind field is thinking through me.’”

—Deepak Chopra

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The term *Imago Dei* means “made in the image of God.” The image—the likeness of God—is not our bodies, or even our acts—it’s the cosmos in our minds—a kind of virtual reality—a literal reflection, as mirror, as thought. We contain the *Imago Dei*.

For humans, spiritual self-awareness, the capacity for spiritual moral reflection and growth, and our capacity for abstract as well as symbolic and concrete deliberation give humans a centeredness and completeness which may allow the possibility for self-actualization (the God particle) and participation in a

sacred reality. The desire to discover and complete the *Imago Dei* in one's conscious life can be seen as a quest for reflecting that image in our being.

“The journey back to God becomes the journey in God.”

—Llewellyn Vaughan-Lee

Oh, the mind and God? We are the same.