

CONSCIOUSNESS - WIDTH AND HEIGHT

I find it useful to think about the width and height of consciousness. The width dimension includes (begins with) the primordial, radically participatory mode that interconnects with all sentience. This would include disembodied consciousness which we partake of before embodied life and after death. This mode was present in our ancient hominid ancestors (*Homo erectus*) who were able to presense the world via neural processing in both hemispheres of their brains and were extraordinarily in tune with the living world to which they knew they were integral contributors and with which they were wonderfully satisfied. The wholeness they knew was so satisfying that they had no need or desire to change, a supposition that accounts for the peculiar million-year-long stasis in technical advance that characterized their reign. Theirs was not, however, just an intimate, reciprocal resonance with the living world, but also a personal awareness and sense of connection and participation with the generative spiritual heart of the cosmos. Indeed, their connection with what they no doubt felt to be the source of all can be seen as the 'Big Bang' of human spirituality and, eventually, what we've come to know as religion. In today's world, non-literate hunter-gatherer's still express many aspects of the primordial participatory consciousness and this phenomenon is called "participation mystique" by anthropologists. With time, changes in group size, expansion of parietal lobe connections, and changes in language led to a weakening (overwhelming?) of our natural participatory consciousness, an eventual transition into the contemporary modes via which we're taught (conditioned) to perceive and address the world from the perspective of a disconnected separate (ego) self dominated by left hemispheric neural processing. This led to the lateralization of our capacity to presense the world, i.e., to appreciate its meaning, to right hemisphere neural processing. Meaning finding via left hemisphere neural process became devoted to appreciating the meaning of speech sounds, words (spoken or written), and tools. The primordial participatory mode can be brought closer to embodied consciousness with practices that provide for ego naughting.

The height dimension of consciousness is capped by our ordinary day-to-day, go along to get along, separatist mode of consciousness, but is supported by a huge space of awareness that can be called our "species mind" and which includes the collective unconscious. Our species mind 'remembers,' so to speak, our evolution as a species.

As we transition into knowing ourselves as galactic beings - rather than as uniquely created earth-bound creatures - we will need to be in touch with both the width and height of our consciousness, particularly their lesser known aspects that are hard to appreciate via left hemispheric neural processing. Time becomes wyrd in these realms. I've attached a PDF that addresses the aspects of the width and height of consciousness. You should be able to copy it during this zoom call.

