

Is everything really One?

I used to think so – the first (unpublished) version of this book was titled 'Noticing Being One'. My viewpoint shifted gradually, but I held on to the title for some time as there is an internet domain ending '.one', which allows a domain name 'noticing-being.one'. But in the end I realised that I had to drop the name and the domain. So now my answer is:

No, everything is *not* one – rather, everything is connected with everything else via TIC. This makes it interconnected, but not one. Existence (or better, that part of it which is the universe in which we find ourselves) is one whole thing, made of many constituent parts. Think of a large house, containing many rooms and built of many different materials. Each atom of it has its own identity, and all together they make the house, a macroscopic entity. But the house can be empty of life, or full of it. I don't think that the house or its building materials notice the difference, they lack sentience.

Holism is the interdisciplinary idea that systems possess properties as wholes apart from the properties of their component parts. The concept of holism informs the methodology for a broad array of scientific fields and lifestyle practices. When applications of holism are said to reveal properties of a whole system beyond those of its parts, these qualities are referred to as emergent properties of that system. Holism in all contexts is opposed to reductionism which is the notion that systems containing parts contain no unique properties beyond those parts. Scientific proponents of holism consider the search for these emergent properties within systems the primary reason to incorporate it into scientific assumptions or perspectives.

Wikipedia

So TIC is the *mechanism* for certain holistic (emergent) properties of life in our universe, properties like morphogenetic fields and telepathic communities.

This insight has profound consequences for how we view ourselves as individuals. It matches the dichotomy in which people with some measure of perception in TIC find themselves. On the one hand, a person is an individual – with a body which was born and will die, and this organism has its wants and needs, and corresponding fears and uncertainties. On the other hand, when you actually perceive the interconnection, then you know that we are all part of a vast web of informational connection, and that therefore all thoughts and emotions have a certain effect on other sentient beings. This is similar to gravity – the mutual attraction of all masses in the universe. In this sense we are one in that we influence each other and can even be in direct contact. With death, the in-

dividual consciousness vanishes and thus the information network has one node less. And with each birth, it has one more.

Note that sentience and consciousness are emergent properties of life in the universe, which did not exist in the early universe. TIC was there, but no living beings to use it. So the aspect of oneness which I describe is not an innate property of existence, but rather an emergent one.