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Third Year

The Fourth Dimension

By C. C. Zain

In issuing this brief paper it is not so much my hope to enable the reader to comprehend and visualize the fourth dimension, as to present for his consideration certain conclusions which, if the reality of the fourth dimension be admitted, must logically obtain.

I am led to present these conclusions because every experiment thus far conducted for the purpose of testing Dr. Albert Einstein's "Theory of Relativity" has tended to confirm the same.

This Theory is based upon the reality of the fourth dimension, and in consequence the world, in the opinion of many of its foremost scientists, has need of a new, non-Euclidian, System of Geometry; radical modifications in the Copernican System of Astronomy; entirely new Laws of Gravitation than those propounded by Newton; and a scheme of Mechanics different from that now employed.

Those of my readers who desire a clear presentation of this Theory of Einstein, and the experimental evidence supporting it, as well as its bearing upon present-day Science and Occultism, are referred to the MS. "Einstein and Occultism." In it is reviewed the four dimensional reality. I therefore now omit that phase and proceed to show that the deductions drawn from such a conception of the universe are of paramount importance to every soul.

However, before expanding our vista to the four-dimensional region, let us apply the principle of Relativity to the three-dimensional universe as affording opportunity for conscious life. Suppose, for instance, our visible universe were proportionately reduced in all its parts until the solar system attained the size of an atom of matter. (Such a reduction may be expressed mathematically by 10 raised to the 22nd power.) In such an event our earth, in size, position and movement, would occupy the place of a negative electron revolving around a positive electron of an atom of matter.

We, who occupy this earth, would be entirely unconscious of any change having taken place. We would perform our duties as before. Children would be born, live their span of life, and die, experiencing all that is common to human existence; yet the interval from birth to death, as measured by present standards, would be the inappreciable fraction of a second.

Now, science assures us that every atom of matter composing the earth is a miniature solar system; and it may be that the negative electrons of every such atomic solar system are planets as densely populated as mother earth. It may also be that each electronic planet is inhabited by human beings possessed of all the mental and moral attributes peculiar to us of this earth. Physicists and mathematicians have computed, by now known laws of electro-physics, a complete system of mechanics for such atomic systems; and there is no known condition that would preclude these intra-atomic worlds from being occupied by living, moving, human intelligences; but whether they are so occupied, material science has not determined.

Again, instead of supposing our solar system to be reduced, let us imagine the condition if it were enlarged in the same ratio (10 to the 22nd power). Were such a change to take place proportionately

throughout the visible universe we would have no knowledge of its occurrence. Life would go on as before, but the event which now transpires in one second of time would then register one thousand billion years.

And now, flashing across our minds, comes the baffling thought: If, in reality, this solar system of ours is an atom in some such mighty universe; if, in this grander universe, of which our starry galaxy with its incomprehensible distances is but a molecule, there should exist a race of intelligent human beings, or super-men, how impossible any physical means of contacting them, or they us.

Never could we discern the movements of these huge beings, for our longest geological epoch would be less than a second of their time. Mathematicians and physicists have worked out the dynamics of this super-world, and have found no impossibility in the existence of such super-beings—but whether they exist or not science does not know.

Let us, however, have done with speculations concerning the possible regions in which the human soul may find opportunities for physical life and expression. Let us turn, instead, to an inner order of existence, about which we have much to learn, but the reality of which is supported by irrefutable evidence.

This inner region, of which prophets, seers and sages have told us so much, is the abode of human beings after death. It is the four-dimensional realm, called by occultists the astral plane.

But we are not dependent upon seers and sages for evidence of the existence of such a region, for the keenest scientific minds of the age have conducted exhaustive and critical experiments, under test conditions, to determine whether the so-called dead persist and, under proper conditions, communicate with those still in the flesh. Anyone who will read the exhaustive reports of these scientists, as set forth in the literature upon Psychic Phenomena, or, better still, make personal investigation, must, if fair minded, be convinced of the actuality of spirit communion.

We are not, at this moment, greatly concerned in demonstrating the reality of spirit communion, materialization, etherialization, passage of matter through matter, nor of any phases of psychic phenomena termed clairaudience, clairvoyance, psychometry, etc. But we do desire to know what bearing the fourth dimension has upon these phenomena, and also in what manner it determines the conditions of our existence after we shall have passed through the mysterious gates of death.

In order to know this we must understand certain properties that of necessity obtain to four-dimensional existence.

These properties, determined by mathematical analysis, are so astounding as to seem absurd did not certain physical experiments and a multitude of psychic phenomena tend to prove them correct.

For example, we know that a line (one dimension) contains an infinite number of points (no dimension). A plane surface (two dimensions) contains an infinite number of lines (one dimension). A solid (three dimensions) also contains an infinite number of planes (two dimensions). Therefore, say the mathematicians, a four-dimensional body must contain an infinite number of three-dimensional bodies. Furthermore, as a point is a cross-section of a line; a line the cross-section of a plane; and a plane a cross-section of a solid, it must follow that a solid object is a cross-section of a four-dimensional existence.

As generalizations, these conclusions mean little, but when applied to what we know of astrological influences; of the evolution of the soul; and of life after death, they are of supreme importance. For it is a matter which any person may, by a little application, prove experimentally for himself, that the planets do exert a powerful influence upon human life. Yet it has done much to discredit the acknowledgment of such forces that no physical instruments have been invented to record the peculiar energy that influences man to act in certain ways, and impels him toward specific events at certain times.

But if man has a four-dimensional body, and the planets have four-dimensional bodies, it is more than probable that the planets have a four-dimensional influence. In fact, gravitation, according to Einstein, is a property of space of more than three dimensions. And as the three-dimensional physical body is a cross-section of the four-dimensional astral body, any force acting upon the astral body affects the cross-section also.

Eminent psychologists declare that 99 per cent of man's actions are not the result of conscious direction, but are responses to subconscious feelings and impulses. It is thus seen that most of man's movements are induced by influencing factors of which he is entirely unaware.

But if the physical body and brain are merely cross-sections of the four-dimensional astral body and brain, popularly termed the subconscious mind, would we not expect man to act infinitely more from the subconscious promptings than from those conscious? Even as a cube contains an infinite number of plane surfaces, and is therefore infinitely greater, so the subconscious mind, or four-dimensional brain, contains an infinite number of three-dimensional states of consciousness.

It contains all the states of consciousness expe-

rienced since human birth, as experiments with hypnosis demonstrate. It likewise contains those states of consciousness resulting from innumerable experiences prior to human birth. And even as a cube touches many points not touched by a single plane, so also, a four-dimensional brain, the astral brain, contacts many sources of information that cannot be physically sensed.

Is it any wonder then that people are so greatly influenced by the subconscious? Or that with such a reservoir of information and energy at hand their problems may often, with results startlingly successful, be turned over to the God within.

And if we are to believe in this four-dimensional existence of things, we must also believe that our three-dimensional, or physical existences, are but the planes where the soul, or consciousness, touches a lower order of reality. We must believe that the soul has occupied an astral, or four-dimensional form, since time inconceivable, and that it will continue to occupy the astral form after physical dissolution.

That which we understand as physical life, then, becomes one of those planes where the soul functions for a time energetically in certain cross-sections of its four-dimensional existence. And man's present physical body is one cross-section of his four-dimensional body, where, for the purpose of gaining experience, his consciousness has centered its energy for the duration of physical human life.

When man, under pressure of cyclic law, willingly or otherwise, removes his consciousness from this particular cross-section of his four-dimensional form, we say that physical death has resulted. But the man has not lost his consciousness. It is merely removed to cross-sections of his higher dimensional body, which commonly we do not see.

In the realm where he now finds himself his condition is determined by the states of consciousness previously cultivated. For even as a physical solid contains an infinite number of planes, so a four-dimensional world must contain an infinite number of physical appearances. This means that it would be possible to find any conceivable kind of environment represented in the four-dimensional world.

It would be possible to find the conventional heaven, with angels sitting round a great white throne, playing on incomparable harps. It would be possible to find the Holy Jerusalem, four-square, scintillating with precious gems, and paved with glittering gold. It would be possible to locate the schools of the wise; to enter the halls of learning and to study the secrets of nature under competent instructors. All the beauties, the architecture, the sublime creations of man's genius, might be located by one trained to such work. And alas, if one

were to look for it, there could be found the pits of Satan and the ever-burning lake of flaming brimstone. For it is possible to discover in the four-dimensional realm any condition that man can picture.

And for this reason the reports of those who have passed over to the spirit side of life are often found conflicting. All do not go to the same environment. They conflict much as would the reports of two explorers coming from Mars to the Earth, one landing in New York and the other in Greenland. But in each case the witnesses would be telling of things as they saw them.

Now back of all this there is a great lesson. For even as man's thoughts on earth—as people are learning each day—build those conditions within his subconscious mind that attract to him fortune or misfortune, so to an even greater extent, his present thoughts and conceptions are building those conditions within his subconscious mind that will determine his experiences and environment after death.

Thus it is that a mind filled with sordid and unlovely pictures will be attracted to an environment similarly morbid, and a mind filled with hate and revenge will surround itself with an adequate setting of ferocity in the after life. But this is not all. For even as a person walking a plank across a deep chasm, if he picture himself falling, will surely fall, so he who imagines himself everlastingly damned, will after death, gravitate to the torture his imagination has pictured. And it matter not whether he has really sinned, for fear is the most potent power known to implant an image in the subconscious mind. It is this power, this fear, this dread of eternal punishment, implanted by Puritan forefathers, that, according to the researches of psychologists, has undermined the nerves of the American people. It is the power that causes more misery, disease and failure in life than any other—because fear pictures the condition dreaded, and action is always toward the strongest image in the mind.

This psychological law holds for a four-dimensional as well as a three-dimensional existence. Consequently an image implanted in the subconscious mind through terror, attracts that person after death to the very environment feared. And no more pernicious doctrine can be imagined than one which teaches fear of terrible suffering after death.

It is true that those whose conceptions of the life hereafter draw them after physical death to the terrible pictures painted by their imaginations, are not compelled to remain in such an environment. For there are others on the inner plane who make it their mission to educate people out of their follies. And there are those on the three-dimensional plane also who strive to educate people on earth

who come to grief—as countless numbers do—through pictures induced by fear. Yet we observe, on earth, that unlearning the conceptions implanted by fear is a slow process, and that those so afflicted suffer until they learn to think rightly. So while the result of ignorance may be overcome in time on either plane, yet much suffering may be avoided by timely knowledge.

And not only may man, through a knowledge of right thinking, attract to himself a desirable environment, both before and after death, but he may also, while still in the flesh, enter somewhat into the possession of his four-dimensional estate. For man, at all times, lives in the fourth dimension. But his consciousness has not evolved to the point where he can comprehend it.

We may illustrate this by the worm that crawls up the wall of a city sky-scraper. The worm lives in the city, in the very heart of human activity. It possibly sees human beings moving swiftly by; has some impressions of the busy street below, and is dimly conscious of a variety of noises. But its impressions are confused and vague, just as are the first impressions of a person becoming clairvoyant or clairaudient, and it utterly fails to comprehend the meaning of the things it does see. They are interpreted in the terms of its own consciousness.

It is likewise with us. We live in a four-dimensional region, but see very little of it. When we witness the phenomena of spirit-materialization, a four-dimensional object has assumed a form intelligible to our three-dimensional consciousness. It is much as if proper food were placed before the worm by a human hand. The food, but not the agency, is recognizable to its consciousness.

So, when we witness an example of prevision, we find it difficult to explain—just as the worm would find it difficult to explain how man can predict the arrival of sunshine at a given time the next day. But, by the very nature of the fourth dimension, that which we call time is a space measurement. And one possessed of a four-dimensional consciousness can see the past and future of an object, much as a three-dimensional consciousness perceives the length of an object in each direction from a given point on its surface.

And while it is impossible to explain the fourth dimension to the three-dimensional consciousness in such a way that it can be visualized and comprehended, yet it is quite possible to impart instructions on the cultivation of four-dimensional consciousness.

Such a consciousness broadens the conception of life as greatly as that of the worm would be broadened, if it were to attain human consciousness. Further, it is possible to explain in an intelligible

manner to those possessing only three-dimensional consciousness, various laws arising from a four-dimensional universe.

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