The Psychocentric Revelation, Part II: Space as a Living Entity

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Space — an etheric, living space — is the physical correspondence to the transcendent fact of the immanent soul.

Abstract

his article is the second of a three-part se-I ries proposing a soul-centric or psychocentric interpretation to the release of atomic energy inaugurating the Neo-Copernican Revolution in the postmodern world. The first part proposed the existence of a transpersonal center of consciousness—the transpersonal soul or Ego—setting the scientist's scope of consciousness as a new factor in a redefined scientific method. This new framework, inclusive of the synthetic intuitive sense—transcending but not negating the common sense of the rational mind—was proposed in order for the scientific community to revise its standards of objectivity. The aim of this redefined scientific method would be the discovery of higher and progressively subtler levels of causation in the earnest search for truth.

In this second part of this series, *Space as a Living Entity*, the subject of an etheric space, an etheric body, and the scientific foundation of brotherhood will be addressed as part of the search for higher and progressively subtler levels of causation. In the third part, *A Hierarchy of Life*, a general systems approach will be explored to better understand the evolution of consciousness and the presence of a spiritual Hierarchy of Masters of Love and Wisdom in our planetary life.

Is Space Etheric?

Space is etheric in nature and—so we are told in the occult science—

Space is an entity¹

Our common experience using ordinary perception says that space is a void and it has been difficult to prove experimentally. Even so,

the *ether* has been proposed as an element in Nature since the inception of our Western philosophical thought. The four states of matter—solid, liquid, gas, and plasma—correspond to the four classical (terrestrial) elements: earth, water, air, and fire. Plato considered a primordial (celestial) element: the ether.²

With the discovery of electromagnetic phenomena, the theory of an etheric substance filling space gained credibility. A weightless, transparent, frictionless, and physically undetectable substance such as the luminiferous ether, literally permeating all matter and space, seemed the reasonable medium for the transmission of electromagnetism.

In 1881, an experiment was undertaken to prove the existence of etheric substance. The rationale behind the Michelson-Morley experiment³ was that if the Earth is moving through etheric substance, then we would expect an ether flow along its pathway. If ether exists at all then the velocity of light would increase if a beam is sent toward the ether flow (opposite the Earth's

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movement). On the other hand, if the is sent against the ether flow (in the same direction the Earth's movement), we should expect a decrease in the measured velocity of light. This experiment has been performed numerous times since then with the same outcome: in both directions, the measured velocities of light are paradoxically equal.

So, we ask, then is such ether a nonexistent chimerical product of the imagination of idealistic philosophers and animistic scientists?

Into this situation enters the genius of Albert Einstein who introduces a most unexpected interpretation of this experiment. He reasoned that the only valid conclusion that could be drawn from this data was that the velocity of light is constant, absolutely constant. Thus, was born his Special Theory of Relativity.⁴

The ether hypothesis, already weakened by the Michelson-Morley experiment, was dealt an apparent *coup de grace* by Einstein's phenomenological *epoché* to the ether controversy. He neither proved nor disproved its existence. He merely made the ether unnecessary to his theory. This point cannot be overemphasized.

Einstein's response to the Michelson-Morley experiment may have swayed generations of scientists away from the search for etheric substance in the same way that Aristotle's opinions ruled much of the scientific endeavor in the Middle Ages. Einstein's discoveries based upon the premise of a void space are astounding, indeed, reaching the shores of a new dimension. But was not the discovery of the New World five centuries ago as astounding, and still based on erroneous maps that needed revision according to truer facts?

The idea of an expected flow and friction in a sea of ether may be a materialistic oversimplification of an abstruse, multidimensional reality. And it may be as naive as our anthropomorphic versions of God. All this controversy may prove, again, the limitations of science in dealing with fundamental questions about Nature.

This concept of a void space is certainly a pragmatic hypothesis. If something does not fit our scheme, the easiest way out is to ignore, even deny, its existence. Apparently, it saves us much energy and effort for the sake of false simplicity. How many experimental results may have been discarded based upon the premise of a void space?⁵ They are probably considered as "outliers," experimental observations that do not fit our expectations.

The ether hypothesis has not been proven or disproven by any scientific experiment so far. Instead, it may be more correct to say that the "mystery of electricity" is not well understood, particularly in its expression as the dual phenomenon of light, both particle and wave at once. If we consider the wave as the medium of the particle, the speed of the light particle must be constant in its own medium, relative to itself. The transmission of information without translocation may be at the very heart of the mystery of the omnipresent light in space.

Instantaneous Action at a Distance and the Consciousness of Space

A basic premise upon which Einstein's void space revolves is the impossibility of instantaneous action at a distance. The constant velocity of physical light is the maximum speed allowed, precluding any influence of any kind faster than the velocity of light. Curiously enough, it is referred to in the field of physics as the principle of Einstein's separability. May this be the very concept that creates the illusion that human beings are separate from each other and Nature?

Fortunately, there is growing evidence coming from the field of quantum physics contradicting Einstein's separability principle. It comes about as scientists have been trying to test local realistic theories (such as the separability principle) versus the quantum mechanics tenets.

In 1964, John S. Bell of the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN) discovered that the assumptions behind any local realistic theory impose a limit on the extent of the correlations observed in subatomic physics. This limit is expressed as inequality, Bell's inequality.⁸ Most experiments have contradicted the local realistic theories by violating Bell's inequality.

Instantaneous action at a distance is possible, according to these experimental observations. Therefore, the whole question of the existence of a medium allowing this simultaneous interaction is quite open to scientific inquiry. The infringement of the principle of separability certainly is strong evidence in favor of the holistic view of the universe, disfavoring the absurd contention of waves without a medium. Most importantly, such evidence would point toward the dynamic unity of Nature.

If instantaneous action at a distance is possible—and there is experimental evidence supporting it—would such a possibility imply a *conscious* nature of space? In what other way may we understand simultaneity, that is, information being exchanged instantaneously between locations, if not in an *omniscient* space?

We agree with Einstein that instantaneous action at a distance would require a velocity so far not observed by experimentation. This is because we are considering separate conscious units observing the same events. But what if we consider space as an entity endowed with consciousness? The concept of simultaneity may seem unapproachable if we continue considering separate units of consciousness. And this may explain the *impasse* faced by all who have unsuccessfully tried to understand simultaneity. Simultaneity, and instantaneous action at a distance, may require an omniscient consciousness to transcend space and time limitations. Such a transcendent entity is Space: an organic, conscious, and multidimensional space.

It is only when scientists expand their scope of consciousness, to include something greater than their own consciousness, that the nature of simultaneity may become understandable. But such realization may not be possible if conceptualized within a void space. Obsolete thinking patterns may be the most important limitations in understanding this reality. And again, the scientist's scope of consciousness, as an integral aspect of the scientific method, comes to the forefront.

Only isolation and separateness can and will ensue if the initial premise stands upon separateness. So far, this premise is just a *belief*, not a proven fact of science. Just as Galileo did

centuries ago, deeply ingrained beliefs camouflaged as facts must be challenged. The deductive reasoning itself may be flawless, but if the initial premise is false the whole edifice crumbles.

There is an alternative hypothesis about the essential nature of space as an empty void. It would be an etheric, *living* space, the physical correspondence to the transcendent fact of the immanent soul, so well described as a matrix "power grid" by quantum physicist Frank Wilczek.

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Space—an etheric, *living* space—can be viewed as the physical correspondence to the transcendent fact of the immanent soul, while a void space would be as soul-less as a dead body. It may be time for scientists—and for physicists in particular—to become *space biologists* and study the living nature of space, terrestrial and cosmic.

Then, it will be as absurd to speak of "you" and "I" as it is now to call our right hand "I" and our left "you": both are informed by the same consciousness, nurtured by the same blood and perceived as simultaneous expressions of the same will. This would be a prime responsibility of science: to factually prove that every human being is a complimentary hand of the same Will; and that within this conscious entity we call Space, we all "live and move and have our being." ¹⁰

The Etheric Body

The atom has been recognised as an energy unit but as yet the energy which keeps atoms into aggregates which we call organisms and forms has not been isolated. This the mystics in the scientific world will sense and work to demonstrate during the next generation. 11

There is an aspect of biology that has puzzled scientists for centuries. It is the observed capacity for organization, for ordered growth and development and for regeneration in living organisms.

Early observers of this biological ordering described it primarily in philosophical terms. The beauty of such order had prompted the French

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biologist philosopher Henri Bergson¹² to postulate the existence of an *elan vital*. His school of thought, known as *vitalism*, proposed that life is an irreducible principle defining its own laws, and not explained by the laws of physics and chemistry alone. Still, his best arguments are philosophical rather than empirical.

The second law of thermo-

dynamics states that systems evolve toward disorder. The defiance to the second law of thermodynamics that this capacity for organization implies has fascinated great minds. Teilhard de Chardin¹³ saw in it evidence of a transcendental purpose. More recently, Nobel Prize laureate Ilya Prigogine¹⁴ has proposed a new understanding of time and the concept of irreversibility in complex physical systems.¹⁵

With the progress of the physical sciences, and the discovery of electromagnetic fields, new techniques of research were made available to the biologists. But even prior to these new developments in the field of biology, there is an important historical thread that should be carefully considered. It is the Eastern tradition of acupuncture.

There is little doubt among the enlightened Western scientists that acupuncture works in trained hands. ¹⁶ The enigma is how it works. Modern scientific research has not found a direct anatomical correlation between the known peripheral nervous system and the systems of meridians and acupuncture points. The Western system of neurological dermatomes runs independently of the meridians. Moreover, recent electrophysiological research established

unique electrical properties at exactly those defined by traditional acupuncture.¹⁷

The most accepted mechanism (by Western standards) of acupuncture is the mediation of opium-like substances endogenously secreted by the brain, called endorphins. But an even more important question has remained unanswered. How were the points and meridians dis-

covered in the first place? The Chinese did not have our modern instrumentation to detect the electrical properties of such points. And they do not follow known anatomical rules. Therefore, how were they found?

If we rule out advanced technology, and that seems reasonable, such a system of meridians and points had to be identified by either

sight or touch. Somehow, those who initially ascertained such points were seeing or sensing something. Is this part of a non-physical design in biology that might explain the organizational properties of living organisms?

The discovery of electromagnetic fields and other research techniques have given Western scientists additional methods to probe subtle fields that support the existence of the etheric body. 18 The search for a system underlying biological design has produced tangible results in electric field studies. Pioneering efforts along this line were made by Dr. H.R. Burr, ¹⁹ past Professor Emeritus at Yale School of Medicine. Dr. Burr was a neuroanatomist profoundly impressed by the ordered pattern apparent in the nervous system, right from its embryogenesis. It was difficult for him to accept chance as the basis of the genetic mechanism that engineered such order and beauty. He suspected the existence of an "electrodynamic field" which would serve as a blueprint for physical growth and development.

After overcoming what seemed to be insurmountable technical difficulties, in a collaborative effort with physicists at Yale, Dr. Burr produced a reliable instrument to measure the

"electrodynamic potentials" surrounding every living organism. This "high impedance voltimeter"—as these instruments were technically called—specifically measures "pure" voltage potential differences near (not on) the skin of living subjects. Such instruments did not measure electric currents, as is the case of the electrocardiogram and the electroencephalogram, but rather, measured the difference in voltage within an electric field not related to skin conductance.

With this instrument, Dr. Burr found a reliable and highly reproducible method of correlating, but most importantly, of forecasting, physical ailments based on the results of his findings. His papers were published mostly in the *American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology* and the *Yale Journal of Biology and Medicine* from 1935 to 1953. He also published in *Science* and other prestigious professional journals. In most cases, he presented groups of cases confirmed by biopsies and other pertinent laboratory evidence.

In a remarkable experiment due to its theoretical implications, Dr. Burr could forecast the growth axis of an egg field prior to fertilization by measuring its electrodynamic field. The significance of this experiment consisted in his ability to change the growth axis by modifying the surrounding electrodynamic field.

The untoward reaction of the scientific community to Dr. Burr's findings is exemplified by this historical note. In 1962, Dr. Leonard J. Ravitz presented to the New York Academy of Sciences an exhaustive paper on his research using Burr's techniques titled *History, Measurement*, and Applicability of Periodic Changes in the Electromagnetic Field in Health and Disease, consisting of fifty-three pages of extensively documented findings with one hundred and fifty-three references. After the presentation, the chairman made the following remarks: "Dr. Ravitz's measurements are of an electric field only and he makes no measurements of any magnetic component... Dr. Ravitz rejects the usual explanation of the potential so measured as being due to electrode effects, ion diffusion, organ activity, and so on and interprets them as an 'electrodynamic field' of unspecified origin

which has basic significance for the whole organism." Period.

In short, the position of the scientific community is that such fields are effects, even artifacts, rather than causal factors in biology. The logic is that if it can be an effect, it is an effect. But no research findings are presented to substantiate such a position.

A different perspective in this line of research has been provided by Dr. William Tiller, Professor of Material Science and Engineering at Stanford University, in California. Dr. Tiller has proposed that the etheric dimension of being is related to what he calls "negative space-time energies." According to his model, it is in this etheric dimension that the link between the mind and the physical plane takes place. Again, a multidimensional space is advocated, and the etheric blueprint is given a causal role.

Most recently, British biologist Rupert Sheldrake has advanced his hypothesis of "Formative Causation." It proposes that organisms are regulated by invisible organizing "morphogenetic fields." Such fields serve, according to Sheldrake, as blueprints for form and behavior. He postulates a mechanism of "morphic resonance" through which "action at a distance" and across time becomes possible.

Sheldrake presents evidence from the fields of chemistry and animal behavior, among others. A most suggestive finding in the review that he conducted of the scientific literature is one researched by psychologist William McDougall at Harvard in the 1920s. Though Dr. McDougall had been disregarded as an "outlier," he found that successive generations of rats "inherited" learned behavior, i.e., learned quicker at each succeeding generation. Clearly clashing with prevalent genetic theories, the results, though independently confirmed, were disposed of as genetic inheritance. However, genetic (Lamarckian) inheritance has been ruled out by further experimentation. What caused subsequent generations of rats to learn more quickly if the genetic mechanism had been disproven? This question, as Sheldrake very well points out, has remained unanswered ever since. Again, what does not fit our preconceived notion of reality is ignored, but not scientifically disproven.

Knowledge of the etheric body has practical applications, as in the field of preventive medicine. The fact of the etheric body may uplift the idea of disease etiology to "higher and progressively subtler levels of causation." As Dr. Burr envisioned, preventive measures would be insti-

tuted even prior to the occurrence of physical symptoms, a true kind of primary prevention, as has been established by the work of Barbara Brennan,²² former NASA physicist dedicating her life to exploring the etheric body and realms of human consciousness, in her *Hands of Light*²³ and *Core Light Healing*.²⁴

Impending discoveries in the field of electricity may also provide scien-

tific evidence as to the existence of the etheric body, naturally linked to its healing properties. Healing may be understood as a restoration of integrity and cohesion to a previously fragmented condition, both physically and psychologically. The cohesive (healing) aspect of electricity may be intricately linked to the properties of the etheric body. We may think of the etheric body as the medium through which this aspect of electricity will be increasingly manifested, another instance of the importance of this imminent discovery for the scientific community.

The study of the healing properties of electricity probably dates to the Egyptians and Greeks, but it was Scribonius Largus (46 AD) who first recorded the use of electric eels for therapy. In the 18th century, Richard Lovett's *Subtil Medium Proved*²⁵ and Methodist Church co-founder John Wesley became influential forces promoting the use of electricity for medical treatment. We should note that Wesley interpreted this "subtle fluid"²⁶ as the soul of the universe.

These electrophysiological effects may need to invoke a design upon which the physical body is organized. For example, electricity applied to an amputated stump would cause an animal to partially regrow its limb.²⁷ The same current

applied to the same cells isolated in a test tube will not organize themselves into a new organ. There are many experiments like this one in embryology, and, so far, only the chemical and physical forces in the tissues have been held responsible. But until the etheric body of all or-

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ganisms is recognized by science, a complete explanation will be unlikely. Another consequence of proving the fact of the etheric body, as Dr. Tiller hints, is closely related to the discovery of higher dimensions of being that are inscrutable with our present modes of understanding. Then, the Biblical phrase "For in him we live and move and have our being" would acquire a scientific meaning, as the

current COVID-19 pandemic reveals.²⁸ We are all sharing the same breathing space and breathing is closely associated with the flow of prana in the etheric body.²⁹ Furthermore, the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus in Madrid or Paris is related to our living space in New York, Los Angeles, Mexico City or Sao Paulo. A devitalized etheric body has been associated with epidemics in the writings of Alice A. Bailey.³⁰

The individual and collective expansion of consciousness from the factual realization of an etheric counterpart in Nature may also prevent the insane destruction of life on this planet that has led to the deleterious effect of global warming. The etheric body would become the outer symbol of a soul that spiritually links human-kind with Nature.

However, how would this factual realization become *visible*? Anthropologists tell us that the evolution of color vision has been a relatively recent development in the history of the race. The systematic lack of mention of some specific colors in some Greek classics has been presented as evidence supporting such a hypothesis. Why, then, should we assume that our evolutionary history has stopped? Are there still

further evolutionary adaptations that the human eye could undergo that would allow us to "see" the etheric body?

The development of the etheric vision by a critical mass may be a next step in the evolutionary unfoldment of humanity. The research of Dr. Stephen Phillips³¹ would support the hypothesis that etheric vision is already manifesting. He has keenly demonstrated that the number of "Ultimate Physical Atoms" for each element, as reported in the clairvoyant research by Besant-Leadbeater in the 1900s, 32 would correspond to the number of quarks postulated by modern science in each atom. It is likely that quarks exist in etheric substance.

But it would seem unlikely that such evolutionary development of a physical trait would occur at a collective level without a psychological counterpart, a *psychocentric revelation*, a revelation of the human soul, of which the etheric body would be its outer symbol. Such an etheric vision would manifest in a *multidimensional* state of consciousness that would allow the perceiver to transcend time and grasp space in its essential livingness. Only then would the concept of true brotherhood be redeemed, and present itself to the consciousness of the scientist as an elementary fact of Nature.

On Brotherhood And Its Scientific Foundation

There is an aspect of electrical phenomena that produces cohesion, just as there is an aspect that produces light. This has not yet been recognised... One of the imminent discoveries will be the integrating power of electricity as it produces the cohesion within all forms and sustains all form life during the cycle of manifested existence. It produces also the coming together of atoms and of the organisms within forms, so constructing that which is needed to express the life principle... This second aspect of electricity... will be released in fuller measure during the Aquarian Age... One of its earliest effects will be the increase of the understanding of brotherhood and its really scientific basis.33

As the etheric body is revealed, thus linking all living organisms, brotherhood may

become a factual realization. Brotherhood is that Promethean Fire which alone can save humanity from the fires of separateness now raging throughout the world. Brotherhood may not only be present in the wishful imagination of well-intentioned idealists, but it may be realized as a *fact* in Nature.

We have challenged the validity of orthodox notions of objectivity in science on both epistemological and empirical grounds. And we have presented evidence, at least suggestive, of the existence of a "Reality" of a different order: call it the spatial ethers or higher states of consciousness. This Reality knows no separateness. When the existence of an individual and collective etheric body is viewed as a mediator between the spiritual and material worlds, then the necessary chain of causation seems complete.

Many of the unanswered questions that we have raised are coming from the very same field of science. When science has ventured itself to the study of the subatomic world, it has necessarily touched the surface of that dimension which underlies our physical perception. This is the ultimate promise of the Neo-Copernican Revolution in science, the eventual full release of the energy within the atom, safely and as planned.

It is our contention that such a release of atomic energy is inseparable from its psychological counterpart. In a world so used to mechanical, detached manipulations of natural phenomena, such as the conception of human life and the manipulation of the genetic code, this contention may be a psychological counterpart to the release of atomic energy. This would be the release of the creative powers of the soul, expressing an "altruistic meme" inherent in the *human* spirit, in contrast to the "selfish gene" inherited from the animal kingdom.

The physical sun was acknowledged to be the center of the universe five centuries ago. The nucleus was discovered to be the center of the physical atom early in the past century. In the same way, the soul will be acknowledged to be the center of what we call now the subjective and unconscious realm of experience. With that center established, a truly psychocentric source of light, and love, and power in the realization of brotherhood will be an inevitable

consummation.

When we speak about the "scientific foundations" of brotherhood, are we implying that it is possible to scientifically prove the existence of the soul? Maybe not directly, but by correct inference from established facts. After all, who has factually seen the physical atom?³⁴ Likewise, the existence of the soul may be established following the rules of the exoteric scientific method. The atom of the physical sciences has been an established, irrefutable fact since Dalton, but so far, no physicist has been able to directly perceive it on its own plane. We have correctly inferred its existence beyond any reasonable doubt, but its real nature has remained esoteric to the exoteric scientific method. Can the fact of the soul be similarly proven by irrefutable, "objective" (correct) inference?

Likewise, the existence of the soul may be established following the rules of the exoteric scientific method. Proving the survival of consciousness after death may be a step in this direction. The accumulated evidence of near-death experiences,³⁵ the scientific research on reincarnation,³⁶ and the study of geniuses³⁷ may pose this question: if heredity and environment cannot account for these empirically verifiable events, what else can explain it?

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle had an interesting viewpoint on this type of logic: "When you have eliminated the impossible, whatever remains, however improbable, must be the truth," Sherlock Holmes is quoted as saying. Likewise, when the likely explanations about the survival of consciousness are eliminated by scientific research, the remaining explanation,

however improbable from the materialistic perspective, must be true. This is what is meant by *correct* inference.

Conclusions

In summary, in studying the living nature of space, scientists may become *space biologists*. This will be a step—a giant step, indeed—in the direction of peace, aligned with the United Nations maxim to "beat swords (of intellectual prowess) into plowshares," promoting mutual tolerance, and right human relations. The illusion of separateness may thus be dispelled, clearing the way to establishing the scientific foundation of brotherhood. After this realization, it would be impossible, for instance, for any scientist in any country to turn back and misuse his or her talents in the interest of separative, militaristic endeavors.

Furthermore, the biological world shows a remarkable capacity for ordered growth and development, implying the existence of a design. A design indicates the existence of a Planner or Thinker. The etheric body, interacting with electromagnetic fields and galvanized by electricity, may reflect such design. On a microcosmic scale, we refer to this Planner or Thinker as the Soul. On a macrocosmic scale, Emerson referred to it as the Oversoul. Of it the *Bhagavad Gita* says,

"Having pervaded this whole universe with a fragment of Myself, I remain."

This imminent realization we have referred to as the *Psychocentric Revelation*.

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- ²⁹ "The external control of the prana or life currents concerns those breathing exercises and rhythmic practices which bring the physical organs, allied with the etheric centres, into proper condition." Alice A. Bailey, *The Light of the Soul* (New York, Lucis, 1927), 222.
- "The sweep of epidemics of any kind through the masses are founded in some condition in the etheric substance of the planet. Those diseases which are general, national, racial and planetary find their way to an individual via his etheric body, but are not so personal in their implications." Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Healing* (New York: Lucis, 1953), p.26.
 - "That disease, in its immediate cause, can be traced to the individual etheric body when the difficulty is purely local, or to the planetary etheric body (in particular the etheric body of the fourth kingdom in nature) where epidemics are involved." Alice A. Bailey, *Esoteric Healing* (New York: Lucis, 1953), p. 274.
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 - A photo, taken by David Nadlinger and titled *Single Atom In An Ion Trap*, was the winner of the 2018 Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council science photography competition. https://www.popularmechanics.com/science/a17804899/here-is-a-photo-of-a-single-atom/ (accessed May 26, 2020).
 - The photo depicts a single strontium atom, embedded inside a strong electric field, blasted by lasers which cause it to emit light. Please note that it is a depiction of an atom, not a photograph of an atom.

- https://www.theatlantic.com/magazine/ar-chive/2015/04/the-science-of-near-death-experiences/386231/ (accessed May 26, 2020).
- https://blogs.scientificamerican.com/bering-inmind/ian-stevensone28099s-case-for-the-afterlife-are-we-e28098skepticse28099-reallyjust-cynics/ (accessed May 26, 2020).
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- https://philosiblog.com/2012/05/22/when-youhave-eliminated-the-impossible-whatever-remains-however-improbable-must-be-the-truth/ (accessed May 26, 2020).
- The Bible (Old Testament), Isaiah 2:4 http://lorettoattheun.org/the-art-of-peace-at-the-united-nations/
- Ralph W Emerson, *Over-soul, from Essays:* First Series, 1841 https://emersoncentral.com/texts/essays-first-series/the-over-soul/#complete-essay(accessed May 23, 2020).