

Reply to Stuart Appelle

by R.E. Sawchuk

I would like to thank Professor Appelle for taking the time to respond to my brief comments concerning the review of John Mack's recent publication (Appelle, 1994a, pp. 10-12; Appelle, 1994b, pp. 5-6; Sawchuk, 1994, p. 5). I sincerely hope that Professor Appelle would overlook my rude simple-mindedness; however, I find it unfortunate that he did not consider some of the troubling problems that arise when one begins to contemplate a causal view of reality (e.g. Kitcher, 1989; Riedl, 1984; Salmon, 1989).

In any case, like Blake's mad fool I will persist in my folly and continue this letter with an abbreviated consideration of Feyerabend's " 'cosmological' relativism" (Feyerabend, 1991, pp. 42-44; Feyerabend, 1993, p. 270; cf. Hofmann, 1988, pp. 5-11). I was recently reawakened to the possibility of this particular worldview while reading a case report in the *British Journal Of Psychiatry* (Hale & Pinninti, 1994, pp. 386-388; cf. Van Dusen, 1973). What is interesting in this peculiar case report is not the method of treatment, which seem to be the standard response in our society (cf. Jopling, 1987, pp. 6-13), but the absence of alternative methods of inquiry and consequently, the failure to develop alternative methods of conceptualizing these kinds of phenomena (cf. Peters & Price-Williams, 1983, pp. 5-39; Wautischer, 1989, pp. 35-46). It would appear that we are not only conditioned to see and experience as we do, but that we also find and subsequently see and experience only those things that we look for.

Finally, if I may, I would like to close this short dialogue with a brief quotation from Goethe's Faust:

But who dares call a child by its right name?
The few who such things ever learned,
Who foolishly their brimming hearts unsealed
And to the mob their feelings and their thoughts revealed,
Were in all ages crucified or burned.

(Faust, I. Night. 589-593; cf. de Santillana & von Dechend, 1992, pp. 310-312)

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