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UFO UpDates Mailing List

Re: ETH &c

From: **Penrose Christopher** <penrose@sfc.keio.ac.jp>
Date: Sat, 1 Nov 97 12:48:51 +0900
Fwd Date: Sun, 02 Nov 1997 10:52:04 -0500
Subject: Re: ETH &c

>Date: Thu, 30 Oct 1997 21:29:27 -0500
>From: Peregrine Mendoza <101653.2205@compuserve.com> [Peter Brookesmith]
>Subject: ETH [Extra Terrestrial Hypothesis] &c
>To: UFO UpDates - Toronto <updates@globalserve.net>

>>From: Penrose Christopher <penrose@sfc.keio.ac.jp>
>>Date: Wed, 29 Oct 97 16:01:13 +0900
>>To: updates@globalserve.net
>>Subject: Re: UFO Update: Re: Questions for Abductees

>>If a hypothesis violates what science claims to understand, and
>>it is said that this so-called understanding within science
>>applies a negating pressure to this hypothesis, it can be said
>>that an equal and opposite negating pressure is applied upon what
>>science claims to understand. :)

>Common sense & everyday observation tells us the Sun revolves
>around the Earth. That is an hypothesis that "violates what
>science claims to understand". Are you seriously suggesting
>that it exerts any "negating" pressure on science? (I am not
>suggesting the ETH is an hypothesis of this order, btw - I'm
>just suggesting that Penrose's Law will make for hard cases
>and may be in danger of rubbing shoulders with Williams's Four
>Insupportable Axioms of Ufology.)

Penrose's Law is much like Ockham's razor, in that it cannot be
universally applied. Hence the smiley.

>>Ockham's Razor is a bogus tool virally perpetuated by
>>self-deceived sophists.

>Nicely put :-). But it is a veritable mysterious coincidence then
>that all the bona-fide paid-up scientists of my acquaintance,
>among whom only chemists are under-represented these days, are
>self-deceived sophists, for they do wag it under my nose along
>with their fingers whenever we discuss the more outr=E9 aspects of
>my interests.

I do trust that you have declined any offers to be shaven by this
obtuse blade should such waggings be the overtures of barbering.
I am not the first to find fault in Ockham's Razor. I think
though that you are arguing that it is among the best tools we
have for filtering our descriptions of reality. This may be
somewhat true, but Science has not kept Mr. Ockham's blade
well-honed.

Science is not a singularity in accord with our mutual concern
for openness to possibility; Science is a balkan confederation.
In addition to its necessarily conservative elements, there are

indeed strong factions not only advocating but exercising wanton reductionism, and even factions coercing scientific description to adhere to a priori schematics of reality, which are induced by complex motivations that span the fields political, sociological, and religious. Mr. Ockham may (or may not) "go centrifugal in his grave" when his tool is guided by such degenerate agendas. I know that Science induces Charles Fort to do so in his; it has been said that Iraqui nuclear weapons engineers have been using his grave to enrich weapons grade plutonium. I agree with you that "the door is wide open", but Science has not been willing to explore the ETH in earnest.

The door is only open to us, and not to the majority of the Balkan Confederation.

I am not a literalist, I have not had any first hand, imagined or otherwise, experience that would resonate my belief in the ETH. But I do strongly believe that the ETH has not been scrutinized by the scientific community: it has been spurned as one would exile fetid underwear. The idea is too incongruous, here Mr. Ockham has hacked in dull and unfortunate strokes, to be considered worthy of investigation. Of course, we can implore those who advocate the ETH to "become scientists" and improve their discourse, but the Balkan Confederation of Science still slanders such activity. UFO/abduction researchers do not enjoy wide spread acceptance at Universities, and thus economic research support is lacking for such research.

University support would give an obvious boost to the quality of the ETH related research as a needed bonus.

> if you want to argue that UFOs are ET, it's up to you to prove it.
> not for the doubters to disprove it.

I don't subscribe to such a view, and I don't think the Pentagon does either, even if they are without evidence of ET themselves. SDI (Strategic Defense Initiative) is an interesting case in point. Of all the possible explanations for the anomalous phenomenae in which we share a mutual interest, the ETH has the most extreme consequences (save perhaps for the similar Extradimensional beings hypothesis) for our world view, with profound global impact upon our assorted cultural institutions. If extraterrestrials are indeed meddling with us, it behooves us to find out as much as we can and quickly. Instead The Balkan Republic of Science has turned its back upon and humiliated anyone who would find credence in the ETH, while simultaneously daring them to prove the hypothesis. A potentially global phenomenae requires a unilaterally global response.

Christopher Penrose
penrose@sfc.keio.ac.jp

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