

# The Synthetic Paradigm

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## Introduction

Although technically UFOs are simply unidentified objects in the sky, alien beings and UFOs go hand-in-hand. They are at the heart of the study of Ufology. It is a given that UFOs can often be explained as natural phenomena, and it is certainly possible some of the better sightings are of experimental or secret military aircraft. Few who study the issue would openly deny that, yet the world of Ufology inevitably deals with the possibility of aliens, beings from afar who, for reasons of their own, are visiting our planet.

However, the idea that aliens are visiting us from another world is beset by a number of problems that to many people appear to be insurmountable. The study of this possibility is long on speculation, but short on theory. It is long on belief, but short on fact. It is long on anecdote, but short on evidence. Beyond these issues, however, it is saddled with an even bigger one. There is no extant theory which sufficiently explains the presence of alien beings on the Earth. Given the laws of physics as we know them, how could they possibly get here at all?

There are basically two theoretical paradigms which purport to explain their presence. Though they are not mutually exclusive, proponents of one generally do not like the other one. Historically they have been given several names, the two theories have come to commonly known as the Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis (ETH) and the Inter-Dimensional Hypothesis (IDH). The former is often called the "Nuts & Bolts Theory."

But there is more. Within the study of UFOs there has emerged a large group who believe UFOs are part of a larger reality, one that involves religion, reincarnation, and the ideas of heaven and a Supreme Being. Though beset with the vagaries of cults and hoaxes, the beliefs associated with these groups are not so very much different from mainstream religion around the world.

It is the intent of this paper to suggest a synthesis of these ideas that, along with the more religious beliefs alluding to the same reality, can form a basis for explaining all observations and point the way to establishing advanced science and religion as two explanations for the same Reality. Indeed, the idea is that at a sufficiently advanced level, religion and science reveal the same reality. Although this idea is not new and has even been purported as coming from ETs themselves, there has as yet been no decent explanation put forth that could show how this idea could possibly be true.

We will briefly summarize the various opposing ideas before attempting to place them in context with each other to come up with the Synthetic Paradigm, which can unite all these ideas into a single theory, a single theory of Reality that is considered palatable by science and religion alike.

### **ETH: Nuts & Bolts**

The ETH is a rationalistic, scientific paradigm that postulates physical worlds populated by physical beings who travel about physical space in advanced physical machines with very fancy attributes like warp drives or anti-gravity power plants. These beings have evolved on other planets orbiting other stars and have developed civilizations capable of inter-stellar flight. They are subject to and utilize the same rules of physics we have learned. In essence they have become who we want to become, space-faring races exploring the universe in Star Trek fashion. In so doing, they have found us. Although our future may have tricorders and robots and very advanced science, it's not much different than our own, just more advanced. It's certainly rational to believe life could have evolved on other planets and that it could have evolved beyond where our science stands today.

The ETH hypothesis began in the fifties along with the advent of the UFO issue itself. It reflects the culture and literature of its time. Authors such as Ray Bradbury were writing 'rockets into space' novels, such as the compelling "Martian Chronicles" (Bradbury, 1950) and Isaac Asimov's "Foundation" series (Asimov, 1951). As we turned our interest into space travel, we simply assumed we would use a brute force method to get there. Indeed, we still do. The Space Shuttle and the International Space Station use a strictly Nuts & Bolts approach to space travel.

Although the Nuts & Bolts approach has been proven to work within the solar system for travel to other planets and moons, the biggest problem with the ETH for travel outside the solar system is the Speed of Light. This has been proven by experiment time and time again. It cannot be ignored. As far as we can tell, it is a part of the structure of the Universe. This built in speed limit to the Universe means that it would take an inordinate amount of time to traverse great distances. Space faring civilizations could very well traverse relatively short distances, perhaps to a relatively close nearby star system, but inter-Galactic travel would require races far different than we are prepared to admit today. It is easy to speculate that there is a way to circumvent the Speed of Light with Warp Drives, wormholes, or bending space, but these speculations today amount to literary devices. They are not backed by science or mathematics. Perhaps in the future these problems will be overcome, but today, the only way to keep the ETH viable is to ignore the Speed of Light altogether or make up a device, such as a warp drive, that could, speculatively, get around it.

It is true that a couple of recent experiments report the Speed of Light has been broken (Anderson, 2007) This is based on measuring a couple of photons

bouncing off prisms three feet apart. It may be that this experiment opens up a theoretical avenue that leads to a breakthrough. But this is just an isolated experiment. It would need to be replicated many times and be supported by a new theory to become viable. Until and unless this happens we are stuck with the Speed of Light and Special Relativity as proven theories, along with their limitations.

### **IDH: The Inter-Dimensional Hypothesis**

One way to ignore the Speed of Light is to suggest that it does not apply because we need not encounter it. Rather than bang our heads against the wall, why not walk through the door instead? The Inter-Dimensional Hypothesis came about partially as an explanation for how the Speed of Light might not matter, but also because of physical observations.

One observation is that the sheer number of UFOs seem to defy the idea that a few space faring races are stopping by the Earth for a visit. Secondly, UFOs often appear to defy the laws of physics as we know them. Not only do they move and turn at speeds which would guarantee death of any being composed of protoplasm, they also appear to wink in and out of existence at will. Although cloaking devices could be hypothesized to account for part of this behavior, their ability to ignore the laws of inertia seem to defy explanation.

One suggestion to account for this is that UFOs are not from far flung star systems at all, but are “from here,” meaning they are not ‘extra-terrestrial’ at all. If they are literally ‘from here,’ they have hidden their infrastructure well. If they are from here, they’ve been camping out in small numbers for a long time.

The strangest reason, however, results because there are many, many stories about UFOs that show them to not behave as a rationalist would expect them to. Allen J. Hynek called this the “high strangeness factor.” (Hynek, 1972, p.22-26) UFOs and perceived “aliens” do not always behave in an entirely rational manner. Even a dyed-in-the-wool rationalist has to admit that there are strange and paranormal-type attributes to many UFO stories and encounters that go beyond fear and misinterpretation. Whitley Strieber saying how he saw dead relatives in company with aliens is an example (Tischler, 1995). Otherwise rational people report instances of telekinesis, telepathy, and even straightforward communications which indicate not space travel, but inter-dimensional travel.

One of the earliest proponents of what we now call the Inter-Dimensional hypothesis is Jacque Vallee. In his book “Passport to Magonia” (Vallee: 1969) he equates UFOs to stories of fairies, visitations by the Virgin Mary, etc. he suggests these visitations have happened for centuries and that they are interpreted by individuals within the context of their own cultures. John Keel is another early adapter of the IDH as described in “The Mothman prophecies” (Keel, 1976).

Just as we must be careful speculating beyond proven theories involving the Speed of Light, we must be careful postulating other dimensions. Although inter-dimensional travel has been a staple of science fiction for decades, is there any objective evidence that other dimensions may exist? The answer is a speculative and qualified “Yes, but” meaning it may not be as straightforward as we would like.

### **String Theory. Does it prove dimensions?**

String Theory may suggest an answer. It is on the cutting edge of physics research today. It and the related M-Theory are not completely accepted because of a lack of experimental data. Basically, the theorized ‘strings’ are too tiny to see, even with modern super-colliders capable of measuring elementary particles. The mathematics of String Theory, however, has enabled a reconciliation between Quantum Mechanics and Relativity, two theories that have heretofore been in direct opposition to each other. Even though we cannot prove it, the math works.

One of the characteristics of the mathematics involved in String Theory is that it involves ten or eleven dimensions. Some people have jumped on this idea as proving other dimensions exist. However, as is sometimes rather stridently pointed out, the dimensions of String Theory cannot be used to bolster the IDE Theory because they are extremely tiny. To suggest that String Theory proves the ITH is to invite scorn and derision from the physics community.

Ironically, this may be a definitional dispute. A further idea of String Theory is that the Universe is of a convoluted shape that contains more than one “membrane.” One membrane may be close to another, but beyond the realm of perception. Indeed, this idea has been used to speculate on an alternative Big Bang theory, suggesting that a collision between two membranes resulted in the Big Bang (Greene, 1999, 329-331). From a three or four dimensional standpoint, these membranes effectively constitute other Universes next to ours which we cannot perceive. In other words, a membrane could be seen as what we have historically called another dimension.

### **Enter the Space Brothers**

Like it or not the field of Ufology includes a contingent of people who treat UFOs in a religious manner. First of all, this contingent does not pay attention to the science of the matter. Secondly, many base their beliefs on what they consider to be personal experience. This is a New Age belief structure often incorporating God, the paranormal, earth changes, and the “all you need is love” idea where the aliens are here to save us from our fate or at least show us the way to salvation. They frequently talk of other dimensions, reincarnation, prophecy, and life after death. Many belong to cults, (or did, as in the case of Heaven’s Gate.)

The Space Brother movement began in the fifties alongside the ETH. One of the earliest was George Adamski, who reported taking trips in spacecraft from Venus (Adamski: 1955). Another was Truman Bethurum who reported traveling throughout the solar system with one Aura Rhanes, a Latin-looking space ship pilot who wore a hot black dress and red blouse with matching beret (Bethurum, 1955).

It is true that many hoaxes have been perpetrated in this realm. In fact, they are legion. From George Adamski's lamp shades to Billy Meier's garbage can lid used to make UFOs the Space Brothers have suffered from opportunists exploiting people's beliefs and the need to believe. This is paralleled by unfortunate events that tend to bring discredit on the entire idea. "Mothra," for example, an angelic light anchor being perpetrated by the Greer CSETI Group, has brought discredit upon the entire movement. This can be charitably described as a "mis-interpretation," but it remains an issue.

To a rationalist people who treat the UFO experience as a religion, and especially those who follow perpetrators of known hoaxes, seem unusually gullible and lack the ability to think in a critical fashion. Any light in the sky is assumed to be a bona fide spacecraft. The Space Brothers inhabit both paradigms thus far considered. To some, aliens pilot Nuts & Bolts spacecraft to bring their message of brotherly love. To others, more nebulous aliens traverse the dimensions to accomplish the same thing.

## **Religionists**

We cannot forget nor dismiss more mainstream religions' view of reality either. Although UFOs are the catalyst to bring the Synthetic Paradigm to fruition, this is not a theory of UFOs as much as it is a theory of Reality in which various points of view can be reconciled. Of the many hundreds, if not thousands, of religions extant on Earth today all seek to explain Reality in terms of religious conviction. These tend to include a Supreme Being or Supreme Power. They tend to include human beings of deep education or spiritual awareness who have become adept, and they tend to include some sort of "Other Side" or "dimension" where the disembodied spirits of people who have passed on reside or at least visit.

This is a gross generalization, of course. The devil is literally in the details. Western religions, including Christianity and its splinter groups, tend to promote God, the Supreme Being, a connection between earth and heaven through Jesus, and a promise of everlasting life for those who have lived the appropriate lives. Eastern religions tend to promote a Supreme Power, adepts such as the Dali Lama who have unusual education and understanding, and the idea that souls reincarnate into successive earthly lifetimes to learn and grow as spiritual beings. The rest of religious dogma and teachings tends to inculcate the person

into the local culture in such a way as to prevent chaos and promote responsibility.

Religions tend to be conservative in nature, therefore their ideas of mythology have been held forth as a mirror for reality long after it became obvious many of these truths did not match natural observation. The idea that the Sun revolved around the Earth, for example, became increasingly difficult to promote as natural observation began to contradict the idea. Science in the name of religion attempted to perpetuate this idea as long as possible, using twisted computations such as epicycles, for example, to keep the original theory intact. Science, for its part, began to reject religious principles in favor of experiment and the scientific method.

Given religions' excesses, it is not surprising that science rejected religion outright. As the secrets of nature yielded more and more to the scientific method the Universe emerged as a giant cosmological clock where if you knew everything about it, you could predict anything. This Newtonian view held sway for many years. It was not until the 20<sup>th</sup> century that the pendulum began to swing the other way—not back to a religious perspective, but to one that acknowledged that predictability had an element of chance, and that humans affected Reality itself merely by acting as an observer.

### **Summary of Viewpoints and Theories**

So far we have the Extra-Terrestrial Hypothesis which theorizes that UFOs come from other planets in other star systems. This is problematical because of the built in limit of the Speed of Light. Without extraordinary time available coupled with extraordinary lifetimes, it does not appear that inter-galactic travel is possible without invoking purely theoretical wormholes, bending of space, or other way around the Speed of Light.

Secondly we have the Inter-Dimensional hypothesis. Though usually couched in terms of science fiction literary tricks, recent advances in String Theory suggest the Super Universe could be made of membranes which are actually quite close to each other, but effectively imperceptible to each other. This could lead to a theory of inter-dimensionality. The apparent ability of UFOs to violate the laws of physics also points to the possibility of a theory that is not strictly Nuts & Bolts.

Thirdly we have religious traditions throughout the world, within, but especially outside the realm of UFOs, which suggest an inter-dimensional aspect to Reality in the form of 'heaven,' and which also often suggest reincarnation as staple of this reality. These ideas dovetail with accounts of ET conversations, as expressed especially by those who treat UFOs in a religious manner.

Though modern science, the study of UFOs, and the world's religions are miles apart in terms of their admitting any consensus, it would seem that at a general

level a consensus might be possible. The best theory takes account of all the facts. Agreeing what is, in fact, a fact, can be troublesome, especially when paranormal issues seem to be asserting themselves into the equation. If you believe paranormal events to be impossible, you can't use a paranormal event as a fact in a theory.

### **The Synthetic Paradigm**

The Synthetic Paradigm attempts to account for the limitations imposed by the Speed of Light, the possibility of an inter-dimensional nature to the universe, and the accounts of religions of an inter-dimensional nature to Reality. It suggests that science and religion are describing the same reality and that Reality as a whole can be explained scientifically. It does not deal with the notion of a Supreme Being as much as it does with the possibility of some beings' capability of adapting to this level of Reality.

For lack of anything snazzy, it's simply the "Synthetic Paradigm." This is not meant in terms of artificiality such as 'synthetic rubber,' but more in terms of a "synthesis" of various views. In other words, there are aspects of reality usually consigned to the "religious" realm that can, in fact, be explained scientifically. If this is accepted, then so-called anomalies surrounding the UFO phenomenon can be adequately explained.

Note that this is a philosophical paradigm rather than a mathematical one. There are no accompanying equations and publishing in *Nature* is not scheduled any time soon. This sets the groundwork for what others may do in the future. The "Synthetic Paradigm" is a "theory," not a fact. It is not yet proven

The Synthetic Paradigm is formed from a number of hypotheses that serve to explain the position. None of these hypotheses are proved. None of them have what we would admit as perfect evidence; in fact, evidence is largely anecdotal. They are not presented as facts, but as a way to look at things that might prove useful.

### **Hypothesis One:**

*UFOs exist and visit this planet. What we call "aliens" are associated with UFOs. They have been in contact with humanity, probably for some time. They may or may not be "from outer space," though that is a common idea. We don't really know very much about them.*

The issue with Hypothesis One is to indicate that we are well beyond the MUFON Field Investigations Manual (Mufon, 1995). We are no longer looking for soil indentations or trying to prove a light in the sky was really a star or an airplane or even a craft piloted by alien beings. There is plenty of evidence for UFOs: Photographs, movies, personal accounts, witnesses. We have thousands

of accounts, some very credible. Some governments have come forward, such as Brazil, Mexico, France, and Belgium. Some governments are probably hiding information. This includes the United States and Great Britain.

Though “Disclosure” is a big subject for everyone, Disclosure and the stance of the US Government are NOT by themselves part of this theory nor part of this hypothesis. In terms of explaining the theory, governmental involvement and disinformation are irrelevant. We are discussing a theory of Reality here, not the behavior of governments and people. If the theory is correct, it’s correct no matter what people do or believe or what governments do about it.

There are hundreds, if not thousands of books today that can furnish the details. The only really amazing thing is that there are SO MANY credible sightings and observations. We are not dealing with a scout ship from Sirius making a first landing on Earth. The issue appears to be pervasive and, for lack of a better term, well established.

### **Hypothesis Two:**

*Reality contains more than one “dimension.” Though terminology may sometimes elude us, modern String Theory seems to suggest that other dimensions (called membranes) are a possibility. This hypothesis has not been subject to experimentation, however neither has it been distinctly ruled out as impossible.*

We are accustomed to discussing “dimensions” in terms of height, breadth, length, and also time. In this case the idea is that all those features of reality are present in another dimension; the entire spectrum simply vibrates at a much different frequency. This is not a strange or novel idea. Vibration and frequency are part of our own dimension and well accepted. We have exploited the entire spectrum we can access and used it for everything from television to microwave communications. Physicists tell us any given object is mostly space: electrons orbiting a proton and neutron core forming various elements which form molecules from water to lead. They have various densities, but at an atomic level, there’s not much there.

Some scientists have gone so far as to say we are responsible for making up our own reality from thought alone. This is not fringe science but mainstream physics research and theory. Further, most of reality in our dimension is invisible, so this, also, should not be a strange concept. Of the spectrum, the visible spectrum is very narrow. The rest vibrates invisibly to our senses. We use technology to manipulate and use the invisible parts of the spectrum.

For purposes of this hypothesis, modern String Theory’s “membranes” are a starting point to explore the possibility of the term ‘dimensions,’ a more popular term. The possibility of other membranes being close to ‘our’ universe can serve as a dimension.

### **Hypothesis Three**

*We exist in more than one dimension (or 'brane'). When we shed our physical bodies and appear to die, a part of us lives on in the next higher dimension. We have traditionally called this part of ourselves a 'soul.' The essence of our experiences and personalities lives on.*

This hypothesis accommodates the widespread human belief in a soul as well as considerable, albeit anecdotal, evidence that other dimensions exist. Science has ignored this idea and left it to the realm of religion, and has also been largely hostile to it. Within the context of dimensional theory, it is not impossible. Further, alleged communications with ETs by people claiming contact tells the same story. We are taking at least some of these reports at face value, despite the acknowledged prevalence of hoax activities within this realm.

We are simply setting up the possibility that reality, i.e.: scientific reality COULD be set up this way. There's nothing in the scientific method that would prevent this from being true. It's a method, not a fact. There's nothing in modern scientific research that prevents this from being true. Research doesn't prove it; it just doesn't deal with it. It ignores it. It ignores it primarily because since the Enlightenment, science has presented itself as an alternative to religious theory and concerned itself with the facts of the material physical world. The idea of a 'soul' is so embedded in religious theory that science has heretofore refused to even deal with it.

But belief can prevent this hypothesis from being seriously examined. And if belief can do that, what is the difference between the "scientific" belief that this cannot be true to the religious belief that it is? What is the difference between mathematics which proves a multi-dimensional universe and a religion that says heaven exists? Could they actually be talking about the same thing using different language? Could not the 'scientific window' through which reality is glimpsed be just as dirty as the religious one? In fact, if this hypothesis is true, could you not say that the 'religious window' was more clear on this idea than the scientific one?

Religious dogma, gods, worship, scripture, and beliefs constitute very heavy window dressing indeed, enough to have serious consideration denied. However, it is theoretically possible that the religious point of view allows for Hypothesis Three more readily than the scientific world. In the final analysis the religionist point of view doesn't matter. We are not attempting to use it to prove the hypothesis. It may be somewhat ironic if the hypothesis turns out to be true, but the religionists are still way out there. They still believe Jesus must be your personal savior or you go to hell. They still worship gods. The fact that they have a 'glimpse of heaven' is little solace to reality.

## **Hypothesis 4**

*The 'aliens' have advanced technologically to the point where they have proven Hypothesis 3. They use their technology to traverse the dimensions and have full access to them. They are a presence not only in our dimension, but also in the one we commonly refer to as "the other side." We don't really understand what they are up to.*

The issue of the hypothesis is an attempt to reconcile alien presence issues such as related by Strieber. He is one of several who have reported the alien-dead relative scenario. These are not scientific facts, but accounts. They match the anecdotal accounts of surviving death that have no UFO involvement. In other words, they fit. The aliens seem particularly interested in 'spiritual' matters. Many accounts suggest they believe in reincarnation and consider the physical body a temporary abode.

The issue here is that they have advanced technologically far enough to pursue this issue from a scientific viewpoint. They have proven these hypotheses and they accept the Synthetic Paradigm as proven fact.

Although people frequently like to suggest that monkeys are to us what we are to aliens, there is not a monkey alive who has suggested the theory of Relativity or developed atomic weaponry. We as a species are not incapable of understanding. If the aliens can do it, we can do it. If scientific truth is a given everywhere, then if the 'aliens' have figured out a technology to allow them to traverse the dimensions, there is no reason why we can't develop it ourselves, reverse engineer it, steal it, or use it if it's left lying around somewhere. That may explain reports that 'they' are frightened of us. We're adaptable. We're inventive, and we're warlike. If we got hold of their technology and confronted their existence, they would lose a large advantage they now have over us.

Although a "sufficiently advanced technology" (Clarke: 1973) ought to be able to make short work of us, what if they cannot? The Prime Directive may apply to them, but it does not apply to us. Their mindset about what is appropriate for them to do here may be totally alien to our point of view.

## **Hypothesis 5**

*'Paranormal' events are perfectly natural interactions between the dimensions. They do not suspend scientific laws; they are explained by them.*

Things like telekinesis, mind reading, remote viewing, channeling, and so forth could be perfectly real and be able to be explained by science. People who are adept at this sort of thing need first to be open to it. Those with a 'hard nosed skeptical' attitude cannot possibly succeed in it. Their skepticism prevents it. The problem is that the severely open minded person also tends to have less

developed critical thinking skills and is as likely to believe he is talking with angels as aliens. Any suggestion is greeted with openness and possibility. Further, success brings such immense attention that the pressure to perform intensifies. As a result, it is very tempting to increase the odds of success in more mundane ways, at which point credibility is lost. More than one 'adept' has been caught cheating and lost all credibility.

We have often lamented why UFOs and the paranormal, to name just two subjects, tend to attract the "crazies." Though this is an over-simplification, it's obvious. A well-established discipline including any of the traditional sciences and even the softer sciences such as history, have a well-established mechanism for contributions that involves peer review, what amounts to long apprenticeships, and a credentialing system that places the adherent under great scrutiny. Most people in this kind of work are 'institutionalized' in universities, laboratories, corporations, or government which lends them legitimacy in return for compliance. An 'independent scientist' is rare. If his or her work is not mainstream, recognition is unlikely. Ufology and paranormal studies have none of those constraints in place, therefore those who wish to have an easier time establishing themselves as experts in their field can flock to subjects like Ufology with impunity. The scrutiny is not at the same level.

This hypothesis, however, maintains that despite the credibility issues, the core of the issue remains true. There are interactions between dimensions. It may be terribly difficult, but it cannot be impossible. Right now our science, at least our public science, has not advanced to the point where we can take advantage of the possibilities any more than prior to the discovery of radio, we could take advantage of that method of communication. Had someone suggested such in 1700, that voices could travel around the earth *at a high frequency we could not see*, he would not have been believed. What this hypothesis says is that paranormal events are an indication that we can interact *at a high frequency we cannot see*. But once again, our evidence is anecdotal, personal, and does not meet the rigors of scientific analysis. It's an hypothesis only.

## **Conclusions**

The Synthetic Paradigm postulates that we live in a multi-dimensional universe. It accepts String Theory and the notion of membranes as the source for other dimensions. The next highest dimension requires we shed our denser physical bodies, at which point we go on to exist in this higher dimension. Religious people will claim this is "heaven" and that this proves God, Jesus, Moroni, etc. This is not true. It is just the next dimension. These people will tend to 'hang out' with fellow believers, creating an enclave for their particular faith, but this proves nothing other than they 'survived' more or less 'intact.' What happens after this is open to speculation and not covered here, though some people with a particular belief set may guess what may be next pretty readily.

In terms of Ufology, there exist UFOs and 'aliens' who either pilot or cause to be piloted these craft. They not only move through space, but also through these dimensions. They interact with us at both dimensional levels. Their science is advanced enough to allow this. In effect, they can ascend at will, plus go back the other way. They have incorporated this part of reality into their science. They are somewhat spiritually oriented and seem to have merged spiritual beliefs and science.

A key point in this theory is that its tenants can be explained scientifically, i.e.: the structure of our universe includes these dimensions and issues raised here. There is nothing in this theory that truly violates the laws of physics or nature. The theory does not require a Supreme Being, religious texts, ritual, worship, or dogma usually associated with religious beliefs. It is not necessary. It doesn't disprove these ideas either.

The advantage of this theory is that it explains what we have observed about the universe. It provides a framework for accepting that paranormal events and "life after death" are possible, if not a required aspect of our lives. It allows UFOs and "aliens" to interact with us at more than one level and explains the apparent aberrant behavior surrounding UFOs, the fact that they are not behaving properly from the viewpoint of a "nuts and bolts" universe. Using this framework as a basis for understanding what is happening may open up new levels of inquiry that can help explain the phenomenon. It may also require a complete restructuring of our belief systems to accommodate what we learn.

If we are truly as adaptable as we claim we are, we can handle it.

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