

## **Insight & Beyond: Lecture 7, Part II:**

### **Chapter 4 §2: “Complementarity in the Known”: Emergent Probability.**

### **Chapter 5 §2: “Space and Time”: Kinds of Spaces and Times**

[0:00]

- Discussion of Emergent Probability.
- Characteristics of emergent probability: the world process is open, increasingly complex types of systems emerge based on more basic level schemes.
- Lonergan’s worldview – emergent probability – unique.
- Neither “runs along the iron rails laid down by determinists,” nor “a non-intelligible morass of merely random events.”
- This world process admits of differentiations; the classical correlations that underlie processes and schemes of recurrence open to vast range of possibilities.
- World process of emergent probability is liable to breakdowns, and is continually evolving.
- It is an evolutionary worldview, similar to, but distinct in important ways from Darwinism.
- Why later schemes are more narrowly distributed in space.
- In order for certain later schemes to emerge, need favorable conditions, which will only be a small subset of all the actual events. Hence, universe has to go down a great many “blind alleys” in order that certain later schemes may emerge. Universe as “fiddling around.”
- “Highest” schemes depend upon the realization of a great many events that *seem* meaningless.

[7:33]

- Conditioned Series of Schemes of Recurrence, and ever-shifting “schedules” of probabilities.
- Various examples from ecology and physics: Emerging vegetation forms and recurrent ecosystems. The emergence of oxygen and oxygen-based life forms from anaerobic life-forms. Stellar fusion and radiation cycles. Planetary system formation.

[16:08]

- Series of Student Questions:
- Student question about the status of classical correlations during the first instants after the Big Bang, prior to any schemes of recurrence.
  - Classical correlations always apply, but are open to various manifestations depending on the conditions. Discussion of abstract and concrete conditions with regard to emergent probability and nonsystematic schemes of recurrence.
- Student question about the relation of schemes of recurrence to insight and knowledge.
  - Clarification of the *noesis-noema* distinction: the activity and content of consciousness. Once verified, our insights do apply to reality, not just in our minds.
- Remark about initial conditions for early schemes not necessarily being needed to continue in order to support later schemes.
- Question about the proportion of what we can know versus what we cannot; in an ever more complex universe.

[21:24 ]

- Question about the upper and lower blades of empirical method and the implication that this means the lower schemes must always be incorporated into the higher & later schemes.
  - Discussion of scissors metaphor pertaining to our methods of knowing, but not necessarily transferable without qualification to the structure of the known.

[23:49]

- Question about whether the distinctions between systematic and nonsystematic, and the distinctions between lower and higher schemes, are merely arbitrary, or really grounded. Especially if it is merely “correlation” and not “law.”
  - Lower and upper means nothing more than conditioning and conditioned.
  - Discussion of classical correlations as ingredient in and constitutive of systematic regularities (schemes of recurrence).
  - Classical correlations both (a) link the components of the scheme to each other and (b) link them to their enabling conditions.
- Question about the meaning of ‘linking.’
  - Linking has to do with functional correlations, which comes to our attention because of its regularity.

[29: 20]

- Student remark about the falling away of original ways of fulfilling being replaced by other ways of fulfilling conditions in both insights and in natural processes (pertains to above question).

[30:25]

- Chapter 5: “Space and Time”
- Space and Time as *intelligibly ordered totality* concrete extensions and durations.
- Examples of rich diversity of our experiences of extensions – extended bodies.
- Examples of the richness of our experiences of durations – different experiences of durations.
- However, Space  $\neq$  experiences of extension and Time  $\neq$  experiences of duration.
- Space and Time as the *intelligible ordering* of experienced extensions and durations by means of insights.

[35:31]

- Kinds of Space and Time.
- Personal Reference Frames – descriptive, personal orderings of extensions & durations.
- Public Reference Frames – descriptive, socially constructed orderings of extensions & durations.
- Special Reference Frames (scientific orderings).
- The distinction between the concrete and abstract intelligibilities of Space and Time.
- The concrete intelligibility is significant in its own right.

[41:15]

- Questions for Intelligence: Evidence that *insight* figures into our *ordering* of Space and Time.
- Examples of such questions: Where am I? What time is it?
- The problem of ordering extensions and durations.

- Our own *experiences* of extensions and durations are “only a fragment” of the totality of all concrete extensions and durations, of the ordered totality of Space and Time.
- Our *understanding* and *knowledge* of Space and Time transcends our *experience* and can be connected, via insights, to extensions and durations that we cannot actually experience.

End of Part II