

# Value of Metaphor

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As humans, Metaphor is one of the major ways that we explore possible connections/relationships among things and actions that contradict what we accept as “fixed” in our standard view of material reality. “You dog....You” is a simple example of the use of metaphor in our everyday oral communication. The evidence for this metaphorical perspective begins in our dreams where our standard reality is often “fractured” in one or more aspects: entity, action, place, and time. In this respect, our dreams reveal a reality that is entirely “fluid.”

Metaphor is everywhere that our imagination “violates” the norms we attribute to material reality. In metaphorical forms, we create the world of “as if.” All of our oral, graphic, plastic, performing, and musical arts depend on our accepting the “as if” of formal metaphor which allows us to “pretend” a kind of alternative reality exists for a limited time. We “suspend our disbelief” for that time period. Many metaphorical forms – like narratives or poems – include within them metaphorical actions and language. So, frequently we get layered metaphorical experiences. In general, humans of all societies devote a lot more of their time to metaphorically defined experiences of reality than they tend to realize.

Metaphor offers us an alternative reality. It is the basis for both our imagination and inspiration. It is the source of much of our artistic creativity as well as many of our breakthroughs in science. Artists accept this as fundamental with ideas and images coming to them when they suspend rational thought. Scientists experience it as what occurs when they actively pursue an issue but get stuck. They have learned to then take a “time out” – a walk in the woods, a musical interlude, a brief nap – and “out of the blue” the “solution” appears. A connection they could not see through their analytical, intellectual efforts arrives from an alternative source – the intuitive, synthetic functions of mind that explore the full web of potential connections – not just the limited linear line of rational thought. Scientists refer to this experience as inspiration. Engaging the metaphorical, interconnected view of reality is valuable for humans in most aspects of their lives. Unfortunately, it is not sufficiently appreciated in our materially oriented world where reason, analysis and objectivity reign supreme!

Psi phenomena are a natural extension of this option for humans to participate in reality from this alternative perspective. Metaphor connects across entity, time, and space. Through Psi, humans access information utilizing the allied connection capabilities of intuitive mind. Metaphor comes from the same source as Psi; and in a sense metaphor promotes, even enables Psi!