

Universal Consciousness??

2022

Thomas A. Burns PhD.

Klamath Falls, Oregon

In one version or another, a substantial number of scientists, scholars, and philosophers have committed to the contention that Universal Consciousness is the singular source of reality. I am baffled by this commitment.

Yes, the material, mechanistic, reductive paradigm that has dominated science to explain reality for the last 200 years is inadequate and needs to be expanded. And surely in a variety of ways human consciousness/mind participates through thoughts/images/emotions in reality – consider the array of Psi phenomena. But Universal Consciousness as primary?? We can take too far some of the implications from quantum mechanics of the observer role in “determining” the state of reality. Yes, individual and collective consciousness are causal in reality. Consciousness plays a role just as physical actions play a role, but this situation does not justify extending collective consciousness to posit an overall primary causal agent – Universal Consciousness.

We can offer Universal Consciousness as a hypothesis, but we encounter the same problem we have with the contention that God is the primary source of reality. Proof of such agency lies outside of the capability of science.

Most importantly, we do not need this extreme proposition. The attributes claimed for Universal Consciousness can be accounted for by an expanded consideration of the role Energy plays in reality. Immaterial energy is infinitely everywhere all the time at all scales, in all kinds of waves and fields of different compositions and concentrations. Energy connects all of material reality and is the basis for material reality itself. The mind is an energetic expression of the energy activity in the brain as this energy connects to all other energy in the body and to the energy collective locally and universally. Through energy, ants and rocks – just like humans – actively participate in reality both materially and immaterially. By contrast, do ants and rocks exhibit consciousness at any level, much less as an expression of Universal Consciousness? In my view, the claim of Universal Consciousness is both unnecessary and Anthropocentric.

Energy is primary, and it is the basis for all of reality – material and immaterial. It collects in material through attraction and it disperses through expansion in a condition of perpetual dynamic interaction. And as a known and knowable phenomena, it can be explored scientifically. Energy accounts for what is claimed for Universal Consciousness, and it thereby renders Universal Consciousness, unnecessary – besides being unprovable and anthropocentric.