

Light, Sight, Sense and Reality 2023

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Human visual perception of light – our sight – is by far our most important sense. What we hear through our perception of sound is important – especially for verbal communication – but otherwise hearing mostly serves to enhance what we see. As senses, smell and taste are of lesser significance for humans.

Sight, then, is our primary basis for determining what we regard as real – our reality. But our human sight is only sensitive to the tiny visible light spectrum of the enormous electromagnetic spectrum. We know that other animals perceive a broader or different range of this spectrum, and we employ technology to detect and utilize other frequency sections of the electromagnetic spectrum. Our technology, thus, expands our awareness of the reality we do not perceive directly. So, we know there is a lot of reality out there that we fully participate in but of which we are mostly ignorant and perceptually totally unaware. To just what degree? The visible light spectrum constitutes just .0035% of the electromagnetic spectrum. So, without our technology, we are oblivious to 99.9965% of the reality that the electromagnetic spectrum constitutes and, like light, can “reveal.” Moreover, as important as the electromagnetic spectrum is, it is not the only energy spectrum that participates in and defines reality.

Clearly, the basic human perception of reality based on our collective senses is extraordinarily limited. The level of public ignorance of this situation is not surprising. But it is even little attended in our sciences which celebrate the advancements that are made in penetrating our micro and macro physical world, which we now know composes only 4% of reality. So, while science expands our view of reality, it avoids highlighting the extent of what we do not know – especially the entire immaterial energy domain – 70% of reality. The result is the astonishing fact that we are convinced that our societal worldviews are very complete and adequate!

Yes, our technology has opened the door to vast reaches of reality that are hidden to us, but there is a very large, unaccounted for domain beyond that door. And we are only beginning to consider the additional doors whose outlines appear with each major discovery we make. If we are honest, we must accept that we remain at a mere gestation level of a full understanding of reality.

How about a little humility as we develop full-on virtual reality capabilities! Dwelling in a virtual reality? We are already living in a mostly illusory reality generated from our unrecognized level of profound ignorance.