

Exaltationism vs. Materialism

Exaltationist Science vs. Materialist Science

Life Science vs. Death Science

©2004 By William Brookfield

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Abstract:

There is nothing wrong with (and indeed very much good in) a reductionist science that reduces complex systems to more elementary fundamentals -- or that reduces complex explanations to simpler ones. There is however a problem with any science that renders "pointless"¹ the value, meaning and purpose -- "the glue" -- that binds together human relationships, human civilization and the universe as a whole. The problem with orthodox reductionist science is that, along with its beneficial clarifying reductionism, it includes a damaging anti-meaning, anti-human, anti-universe reductionism. In Exaltationist Science, the beneficial clarifying reductionism is retained, while the damaging component (materialism) is surgically isolated and then inverted. The resulting composite is an elegant, fully rigorous and consistent scientific "paradigm."² I am here recommending Exaltationist Science, with its consistently positive scientific reductions, as a replacement for the nihilistic approach of orthodox Materialist science.

In this introductory document I clarify the three distinctions between the unscientific practice of religion, the scientific exploration of materialism and the scientific exploration of "inverted materialism" -- referred to here as "Exaltationist Science." Just as it is beyond the scope of any single article to explain all of Materialist science, it is beyond the scope of this article to explain all of Exaltationist science. It is instead the function of this article to point out the basic right of the Exaltationist Sciences (*Intelligent Design* Science, Noetic Science, Integral Science) to exist as a scientific and socially responsible alternative to reductionist materialist science.*

**As an exaltationist scientist, I support both the I.D. science effort to put God into science class and the "anti-ID" effort to keep religion out of science class.*

The following list summarizes the positions I hold with regard to materialism and itemizes the basic ideas contained in this article;

- #1. I consider materialism to be a hypothesis, not a gospel or unassailable truth about the cosmos.
- #2. I have inverted the materialist hypothesis to generate another hypothesis.
- #3. I support the scientific exploration of inverted materialism (exaltationist science)
- #4. I consider Exaltationist Science to be distinct from any religion and both scientifically and morally superior to Materialist Science.
- #5. I am proposing the development of an exaltationist (free democratic) world society in which science and spirituality exist as a single unified entity.

Introduction

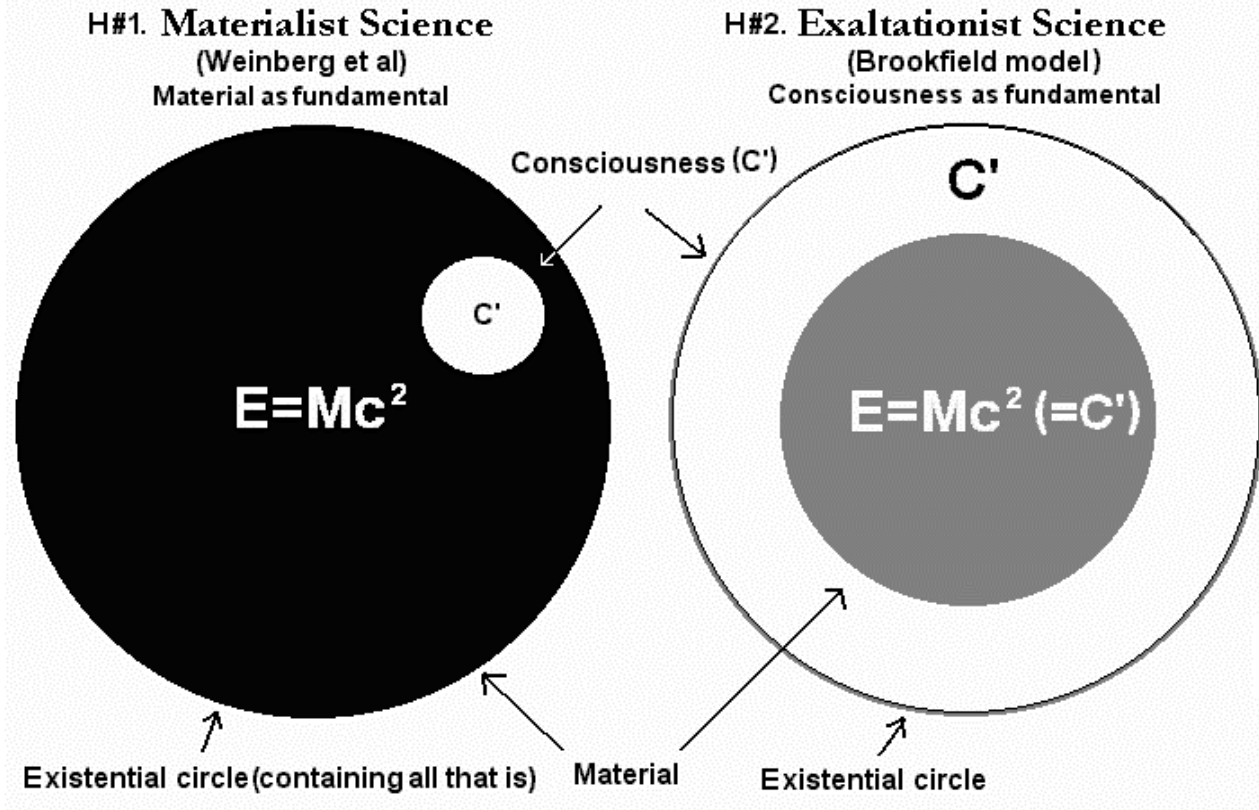
Given the importance of predictive power in science, it is easy to see the initial attractiveness of the dead universe concept. It is far simpler to predict the trajectory of a dead duck than that of a live duck. Reality, however, is under no obligation to be either simple or dead. Science is likewise under no obligation to be simple or death based. I believe that the accuracy of scientific prediction stems, not from the “deadness” or “materialness” of systems, but from the accuracy of our scientific models of systems.

Like many of my fellows I was raised in an orthodox scientific environment and was originally committed to materialist science (with its various dead ducks). However, in the spring of 1979 I came upon the concept of a life based -- consciousness based -- cosmology. I have been exploring the implications of this inverted materialism ever since.

Materialist Science, assumes dead matter/energy to be the fundamental “stuff” of the universe. In the materialist cosmos, consciousness exists as an isolated local phenomenon living on one (or more) tiny planet (s), in a vast cosmic ocean of death -- dead matter and energy. Materialism sees consciousness as merely an “epiphenomenon” or secondary phenomenon that somehow rides along with dead material at a certain level of material complexity.

In *Exaltationist Science*, however, it is consciousness that is fundamental and material that rides upon the super-structures of consciousness as an “epiphenomenon.” I consider this axiomatic inversion sufficient to justify use of the Kuhnian term “paradigm.”

Two Scientific "Paradigms" (Core Hypotheses) (William Brookfield Diagram)



In diagram #1. the words "transcended by" are portrayed in this diagram as "completely surrounded by." In H#1 consciousness is "completely surrounded by" or "transcended by", dead matter/energy. In H#2 material is completely surrounded by or transcended by consciousness. In H#2 the material circle is gray and not black because in H#2, the material spacetime universe is a holographic information construct, composed entirely of consciousness at the fundamental level. Notice also that in H#2. there does exist "something more" than the physical universe -- that something is called "consciousness." (In order to scientifically distinguish between these two competing models I have offered my "Cosmological Physical Incompleteness Theorem." see -- Dec. 6/2002

www.iscid.org archive -- brookfield_devolution.pdf)

Both of these paradigms are therefore transcendent. In Materialism, dead matter is fundamental and subsequently transcends consciousness -- ensuring the death of the subordinate consciousness with the death of the material body. In Exaltationism, consciousness -- being fundamental -- transcends the subordinate material body and continues on after the death of the body. These "transcendences" are not religious, but instead follow as a logical consequence of the structure of each hypothesis.

Materialism necessarily heeds the nihilistic “gospel” of dead matter and declares the universe and all of its inhabitants pointless (zero in value). That is to say, the assumption that the universe is dead, automatically leads to the consequence that the universe sees nothing, and certainly sees no value or meaning in anything. Exaltationism, on the other hand, heeds the “gospel” of eternal cosmic consciousness and declares the universe and all of its inhabitants sacred (infinite in value).

In Materialism everything is reducible to material and therefore to dead matter/energy. In Exaltationism, everything is “reducible” to consciousness and therefore to life. In Exaltationism, everything is, in one way or another, alive. In exaltationist science, the value of any living entity can be determined by summing the creative output of that entity over its entire lifetime. Because all consciousness is eternal, the sum of any individual’s output (and its subsequent value) is necessarily infinite.

In Materialism, however, “a child” or “a person” is nothing more than a meaningless accidental byproduct of a meaningless accidental universe -- and an uncaring universe at that. Materialism subsequently damages self esteem, science and society as a whole. Materialistic “soul letting”³ denies people’s larger selves and turns otherwise healthy children into rabid material consumers ready to fight and even die for name brand Nike sneakers (or some other material “wealth”).⁴ The mass production of new materialists through a materialist culture and education system produces global unrest and wars, and puts enormous stress on the environment. Exaltationism, on the other hand, nourishes and stabilizes the soul by teaching that people are not pointless, but are instead sacred (infinite in value, potential and duration).

Exaltationism puts the mind first and body second (and then “reduces” to mind) whereas Materialism puts the body first and the mind second (and then reduces to body). Exaltationism puts life first and death second whereas Materialism puts death first and life second. Exaltationism represents a (core) hypothesis or “scientific paradigm” in which consciousness is fundamental. Materialism represents a (core) hypothesis in which dead matter is fundamental.

As long as one remains in the realm of hypothesis and the application of the scientific method, one is doing science not religion. In spite of materialist propaganda to the contrary, the exaltationist hypothesis cannot be excluded from science class on the grounds of religiousness and subsequent unconstitutionality.

Exaltationism is in no way unnatural. It is perfectly natural to feel awe and exaltation at say, Hubbell space telescope images, the miraculous complexity

of biology or the graceful flight of a bird. In material reductionism however, such subjective feelings are seen as a loss of objectivity -- a loss of scientific deportment and a divergence from the materialistic ideal of Wienbergian Pointlessness. In Exaltationist Science, however, such profound feelings of meaning and exaltation represent the reinstatement of scientific objectivity. The universe is awesome. Biology is miraculous. The birds are graceful. Like it or not, we live in a miraculously tuned, profoundly elegant universe and any science that ignores this reality is but the impoverished cousin of real science.

Unlike Materialist science, Exaltationist science (being based upon consciousness) is permitted to assign a fundamental teleological dynamic to existence. Exaltationism is subsequently a form of science that has the capacity to see the value -- as in, the sacredness of existence -- that Materialism, by its very definition, cannot see. In this regard, Exaltationist Science, that sees more of reality than Materialism, is necessarily more scientific than the Materialism that sees only the physical shell.

In terms of logic, Exaltationist science is more skeptical than materialism because it rests upon consciousness, the existence of which is self evident. While Buddhists and other skeptics (such as myself) may question the reality of material, no-one can consciously deny the existence of consciousness. Materialism, however, requires a, logically forbidden, leap of faith because it is impossible to use material to verify the existence of material without using circular "logic." Without valid proof of the physical, the skeptic must default to the position that "physical" experience is merely an orderly mass hallucination, physical in style. Materialism thus lacks a logical existential foundation. As a skeptical enterprise, science must start with what is known to exist and build outward from there.

In one sense, all science is reductionist, by definition. Science constantly seeks to reduce, initially complex phenomenon, to simpler sets of laws or principles. Science also seeks to reduce all illusions to a single undeniable reality (say, a single unified field). When science is defined in this manner, the difference between Materialism and Exaltationism stems, not from its reductionism, but from the difference in the choice of simpler fundamental, to which each type of science is reducing. This difference in scientific grounding leads one type of science to reduce existence and the other type to exalt existence.

While Exaltationist Science is not religious (not obsessive-compulsive with regard to ancient history), it does contain scientific counterparts for traditional words such as;

"God" (transcendent universal consciousness),
"Soul" (transcendent individual consciousness)

**“Sacredness” (the co-existence of multiple infinities due to transcendence).
“Miracle” (re-alignment or adjustment at the transcendent level)**

Once again my use of “transcendence” here is not religious or supernatural. It simply means “to surpass and circumscribe.” When Einstein (in 1915) came upon his relativistic solution to the perihelion advance of Mercury he entered a state of exaltation. At that point his understanding had 'surpassed and circumscribed' the problem and characteristic feelings of transcendence and exaltation ensued.

Science is all about understanding the world -- consciously surpassing and circumscribing the world. Understanding is itself a transcendence -- a state in which one consciously overcomes a problem. Education empowers and exalts students with knowledge and scientific problem solving methodology. Education is Exaltationism in action. The purpose of education is to raise -- to exalt -- children to a higher level than they could otherwise achieve without education.. From my perspective therefore, science and education are inherently Exaltationist and Materialism is a rogue element -- inconsistent with the overall exaltationist thrust of science and education.

Exaltationism is inverted materialism. Materialism is inverted Exaltationism. The inversion of Materialism does not give you religion. It gives you inverted Materialism.

If A: One can get from Materialism to Exaltationism by way of a linear mathematical function,

And B: Mathematical functions are a valid part of science,

Then C: Exaltationism must presently be part of the theoretic space available for scientific inquiry.

When excluded from the purview of science, however, the power and the attractiveness of the Exaltationist hypothesis falls directly into the hands of religion -- to be endlessly hijacked by countless evangelistic, power mongering, religious doctrine addicts. When left to religion, the Exaltationist hypothesis is reduced to a degraded caricature of itself becoming falsely identified with ancient cultural myths, superstitions and religious dogma.

Thus, while Exaltationist Science is not religious, it does combine the meaning and purpose of spirituality with the rigor and discipline of science, to provide a new synthesis and a new foundation for all human civilization. By “reducing” people to living consciousness, instead of to dead material, harmonious alignment with life, health and the biosphere is achieved. Exaltationist science “reduces” people to transcendent life and to God. Any such a “reduction” is an

effective enlargement -- an exaltation -- thus the name. Exaltationism, while embracing the reductionist explanatory principles of science, simultaneously exalts that which is being explained. Exaltationist science reduces peoples' problems thereby increasing people, whereas Materialism reduces people and is therefore itself a problem -- an entrenched paradigmic problem requiring a trans-paradigmatic solution.

The solution to the problem is to surgically* remove the materialist hypothesis and then reinsert it in the inverted exaltationist orientation.

*While minimizing collateral damage to all associated scientific, educational and technological infrastructure.

It is only through the infusion of global exaltation that the human race can be healed of its biopathic, schizophrenic condition in which science and spirituality are unnaturally split and isolated one from the other. The study of reality (science) is the study of God (spirituality). The study of the universe (science) is the study of the real bible. For the Exaltationist, the universe itself is "the bible," written by the hand of God, in the language of material, upon the fabric of spacetime.

Our supremely elegant universe with its exalted inhabitants, exists in glorious contrast to the initial, alpha point singularity in which all was chaos and equilibrium. Were it not for the restless semi-consciousness inherent in this initial state, all of existence would still be pure chaos and equilibrium. This "semi-consciousness" or "proto-God" represents the equilibrious mixture of consciousness and unconsciousness that exists by definition in any equilibrious initial state. It is the function of the human exaltationist to acknowledge in full measure the massive creative efforts of this primal consciousness.

Thus, where material physical law provides only an eternally stable black hole (with no observer to collapse anything), Exaltationist Science provides an extra causative agent (consciousness) to transmogrify the initial singularity into the present state through a simple and fundamental creative tension. A tension that exists by default within any primal cosmic equilibrium.⁵

In Summation: Exaltationist Science, being grounded in the commonplace, phenomenon of ordinary consciousness, is supremely skeptical and represents the very best paradigmatic foundation for all sciences. Furthermore, by affirming the sacredness of all humanity and the sacredness of all existence, Exaltationist Science represents the ultimate in morality. Just as with Materialism, Exaltationism also represents a lifestyle embracable by

anyone. Exaltationist Science subsequently represents the ideal integrated spiritual-scientific foundation for a civilized technological society.

I am convinced that the most powerful ally of Exaltationist Science is an informed public. In particular I believe in the power of the parent/child bond. Parents who love their children wish for them to be exalted, nourished and loved and not reduced to material, materialism, pointlessness and death. For all loving parents, exaltationist science is the science of choice and an exaltationist education is the education of choice. For all human beings, of all occupations, and of all nationalities, the exalted life is the life of choice.

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Notes:

1. The model of materialism that I am using here is the orthodox one promoted by Steven Weinberg and numerous others, see "The First Three Minutes" -- 1977 and "Dreams of a Final Theory" -- 1993. In this model, the universe is just a physical system is subsequently pointless. Similarly, you are just a physical system and you are pointless. Further to this, your child is just a physical system and so he/she is equally pointless. Weinbergian Materialism seems to consist of two components #1. Universal nihilism (there exist no point, meaning or value to any physical systems of any kind) and #2. A physical completeness postulate (Nothing transcends the physical).

2. The use of the word "paradigm" comes from Thomas Kuhn's book "The Structure of Scientific Revolutions"-- 1962. In this context it refers to a fundamental model or assumption upon which science is based. As I see it, Materialism is a "paradigm," as would be an alternative consciousness based scientific model such as Exaltationism.

3. "Soul letting" is analogous to "blood letting." In both cases the life is being drained out of the person.

4.. I should perhaps explain this further. By teaching people that they are pointless, a cycle is established in which the victim attempts to compensate for low self esteem through the acquisition of false-status material things. Because this behavior does nothing to solve the individual's self esteem problem, new things must be endlessly purchased. And because this individual is now a materialist he/she is forbidden to seek an exaltationist solution and must instead fight for new income -- or even for new sources of oil in some foreign country. This individual is now working as a human guinea pig on the materialist treadmill, generating income for the government, multi-national corporations and the military industrial complex. All the while the individual is being told in glowing terms that he/she is "free" and must fight and possibly die for "freedom" -- when in reality his/her freedom was effectively removed through the

childhood materialist indoctrination that established the cycle. Propaganda that tells such people that they are free, actually reinforces the negative condition because they come to believe that they have freely chosen glitter over substance and that they must therefore be shallow. Only when people awaken to their cosmic status as exalted beings can they act upon their inherent freedom. Only such individuals are immune to the glitter of money, status, drugs, degraded sex, peer pressure, social conditioning, etc.

5. Even if one were to forgo the problem of a big bang without a big bang-er, Materialism is riddled with other problems, such as;

5a. The fine tuning of the cosmos -- (both singularities and physical universes are fine destroyers, not fine tuners). The evolution of a purely physical universe is governed by the devolutionary GSL (The Generalized Second Law of black hole dynamics).

5b. The Mind-Body problem, unsolvable in Materialism, is easily solvable in Exaltationism.. (see diagram #1).

5c. As a "life" science Darwinian evolution fits most uncomfortably into the physical (pseudo death) sciences. Any Natural Selection system (a living species) is itself ordered and must be established prior to any selection function (variant sifting). Anything logically prior to the RM&NS mechanism cannot have been selected by RM&NS. Before you can have biological natural selection you must first establish a finely tuned universe with all of its laws and constants. One must of course also establish a viable planetary system. A reproducing organism is logical prior to RM&NS. An organism capable of sustaining itself and its reproductive system over unlimited life cycles (in defiance of the Second Law of Thermodynamics) is also logically prior to RM&NS.

Also logically prior to NS is are suitable energy transformers. Just like your TV set, Natural Selection will not work without a suitable source of energy. For NS, cosmological energy must be translated into a biological form (such as glucose) by a previously established transformer (such as photosynthesis). Locally, energy must be translated by each organism's digestive and respiratory systems. Photosynthesis (or its bio-compatible precursor) cannot be the product of the RM&NS that it powers. Digestive and respiratory systems, likewise cannot be the product of the RM&NS evolution that they power.

5d. There exist non-Darwinian, irreducibly complex bio-mechanisms (bacterial flagella, blood clotting cascade, etc.) -- See "Darwin's Black Box"-1996 by Michael Behe. Related to this is "The Marching Band Problem" (See - Paul A. Nelson -- "Ontogenetic Depth." {<http://www.iscid.org/paul-nelson-chat.php>}). Natural Selection (being dead) has an inherent vision problem. Natural Selection cannot see (and therefore cannot select) any interim steps that possess negative survival value in isolation, but possess positive survival value when suitably combined with other such unselectable components. Consciousness based science has no such vision problem.

5e. "Naturally Selecting" typing-monkey style systems only work within constraint adulterated, finite alphabets. The universe is thermodynamically infinite (Tipler-

Nature 1979). An ideal, order unadulterated (infinite) system can neither design nor even select. In an infinite system, any finite target (a selection) has a zero associated probability. Any such naturally selecting systems rely, for their very functioning, upon the system being finite (constrained) and subsequently order adulterated.

5f. There exists a conflict with the thermodynamic arrow (2nd Law) -- The sustained (arrow defying) existence of bio-complexity, televisions and space shuttles, etc. is in conflict with the statistical Second Law of Thermodynamics. In any given macroscopic physical system (both closed and open) the number of configuration states representing order are astronomically rare in comparison to the number of states representing disorder (equilibrium). The local sustained selection of astronomically rare states is a direct violation of probability and the probabilistic Second Law. Photonic order, coming from the sun, in no way diminishes the enormous availability of countless junk space shuttle configurations that would simply blow up on the launch pad -- in keeping with the Second Law. Photonic order coming from the sun, in no way diminishes the enormous availability of countless junk biological configurations that would simply drop dead -- in keeping with the Second Law.

5g. Another problem for materialism, related to the mind/body problem, has to do with the essential matter-to-mind transition. At what point did this "dead matter-energy" go insane and start believing itself to be alive? At what point did dead matter go crazy and start believing that meaningless matter actually mattered? At what point did dead matter go insane and start believing that a certain material configuration -- its "life"-- represented a value worth preserving? At what point did dead matter go insane and start believing...anything? And how exactly does any particular arrangement of unconscious dead matter go insane -- I.E., go conscious?

6. I recently initiated a thread in the "Intelligent design discussion forum" at Access Research Network-http://www.arn.org/boards/ubb-get_topic-f-13-t-001190.html The thread is entitled "The Logically Prior Superselection" and is under my name - William Brookfield. In this thread I challenged all Darwinists to defend their theory by defending its Evolutionary Algorithm premises. As of this writing, Darwinism has not been thus defended and, pending any future scientific defense, Darwinism remains indefensible at its very core.
