

Author's Note

Qualia as Direct Manifestation of God

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Abstract

From the papers in this focus issue, especially “Meaning and Context: A Brief Introduction”, one can see how starting from everyday qualia like seeing colors and hearing sounds, one is bound to discover that qualia can only be the way they are because they are a direct manifestation of God. Further, in the “Who Am I?” question, one can see the infinite extent of God, of which our current particular lives are just a few concrete cases in which God experiences itself, just few cases out of a never-ending process of God experiencing itself.

Keywords: God, qualia, manifestation, experience, consciousness, life, death, eternity.

Given that my work and my thinking have progressed during the years, being now over 10 years since I'm thinking about consciousness, it is appropriate that I give a short overview of my thinking process. Given that this is a journal about God, one of the first questions that might be asked about someone that writes about God is if that God was there from the beginning in his thinking or if it appeared along the way. It is quite an illuminating thing when God was not the purpose of my search, but is discovered through a natural process of thinking about the world in general.

I have been an agnostic all my life. I generally didn't have preconceived ideas, just a curious mind to understand what is this world in which I happen myself to be. I was reading about everything and this continued to fulfill my curiosity of discovering the world. Of course, being raised in a materialistic stage of society evolution, I was taught in school like everybody else that physics is the ultimate answer to existence. Therefore, I chose to study physics at university level. And with each new class that I was studying, mechanics, electricity, relativity, quantum mechanics, etc. I was feeling that I was getting closer and closer of understanding the world. But then during my studies, I started to ask myself the first question that was going to get me involved in thinking about consciousness and shifting away from physics: What are colors? Why is red red? Why is yellow yellow? And soon I understood that this has nothing to do with light frequencies, but are phenomena that are happening inside myself. At that time, I didn't even have the word “consciousness” to describe them. I just understood that they are inside me and not outside. And from this first question, a whole new world of questions started to appear in my mind and this produced my work that was published throughout the years in the Journal of Consciousness Exploration & Research and which some of them are being republish in the current focus issue of this journal.

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So, when did God appeared into my thinking? It appeared when getting to think about the Self. Initially I thought about the Self as belonging to me, but later on I understood that that Self that is inside me is ontologically unique and is the same Self present in all other consciousness in the world. This idea, and more importantly together with other more subtle properties of the Self that are reflected in the properties of qualia themselves, convinced me that self-reference can be no other than God itself. Even more strikingly: that I am God (or we are God).

Thus, following the papers in this focus issue, especially “Meaning and Context: A Brief Introduction”, one can see how starting from everyday qualia like seeing colors and hearing sounds, one is bound to discover that qualia can only be the way they are because they are a direct manifestation of God. Further, in the “Who Am I?” question, one can see the infinite extent of God, of which our current particular lives are just a few concrete cases in which God experiences itself, just few cases out of a never-ending process of God experiencing itself.

However, my papers don’t treat many aspects of God. My papers are mainly focused on the passive aspect of God, namely qualia. Unfortunately, I found the active aspect of our consciousness, namely free will, a more difficult subject to think about, therefore at this present moment I have nothing of value to say about it. But in order to discover God, in order to understand that I am God, the passive part alone is sufficient. Of course, the more we understand about consciousness, the greater the awe can be at the realization that I am God, and the more we can hope to understand what comes after death. The knowledge that I am God can only assure us that we are eternal. But it doesn’t tell us anything about the actual character of consciousness after death. Sure, it will continue, but in what form I know not. It might be reincarnation, it might be ascending to a higher realm, it might be the experience of absolute love, etc. For this, more research is needed, or maybe it is not even possible to know. For the time being, I hope that my papers will give to the readers a short introduction and it will inspire him to do further research into uncovering our true nature of being God.