





# **JOURNEY IN BEING**

**ANIL MITRA**





# **JOURNEY IN BEING**

**Discovery and Realization  
Of Being and the Universe**



**ANIL MITRA**





# **Journey in Being**

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Printed 2013

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*Source*—<http://www.horizons-2000.org>  
Especially *Précis* and *Complete* Editions  
For developments and applications.

*Front cover*—Barranca del Cobre, Mexico.

*Front page*—South Rim, Big Bend, Texas.

*Opposite*—the author, Delaware, at 26—photograph by M.D. Greenberg.

*Covers* and all nature photographs by the author.

*Picture locations* are in Mexico and United States of America.





South Rim—Big Bend  
Nature pictures show places of inspiration

## PREFACE

**T**his work demonstrates and presents an ultimate picture of the real—a metaphysics and implied cosmology—and consequences for destiny and disciplines of knowledge and practice. This picture is shown to be a significant advance over core explicit and tacit worldviews of modern and received culture.

The metaphysics is ultimate in two ways—it depicts a contour of the entire universe; and it shows the universe to be ultimate in a sense explained in the text. Consequently, implications for destiny, knowledge, and practice are immense. Correspondingly, interest in the work is general, academic, and practical.

A primary aim of this essay is realism and foundation for process (destiny). The brevity of the narrative is intended—main themes and proofs are emphasized but development and application to an array of endeavors and disciplines are omitted.

This work encapsulates content from <http://www.horizons-2000.org>—the current source for detailed developments of which some will appear in print later.

As for any system that purports to subsume and outreach what is valid in the old, understanding requires openness, effort, and doubt—this work *should* raise questions. Doubt is natural in development and in acceptance versus invalidation.

Identification and address of doubt is essential to metaphysics and is interwoven with the narrative. The work is placed in the context of human culture, especially modern and received worldviews: a prologue to the main developments anticipates and deflates potential conflict with the worldviews.





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## JOURNEY IN BEING

### Introduction

The ‘journey’ is of discovery and realization of the Universe  
And the places of sentient—especially human—being in it.

A narrative aim is to show its essentials simply  
But not to suppress essential challenge.

...

The idea of a journey has individual and human significance.  
The text proves a view of individual and universal process  
As limitless in variety, extension (‘space’), and duration.

Preset commitment and substance block universality. Here,  
Being is used neutrally to allow but not force commitment.

...

The ideas narrated often came as if received outside volition—as  
If entering an alien world of stark beauty.

...

Meaning is sometimes seen as fixed—but has no final  
Determination outside process. New experience and established  
Use balance fluidity and fixity in setting meaning.



Barranca del Cobre, Mexico  
(Copper Canyon)



Many new ideas of the text have familiar names and origins.  
However, new meanings often deviate significantly from the  
Old; this awareness will help appreciate new meanings.

Understanding will be further enhanced when it is appreciated  
That the ideas form a connected system with new net meaning  
That is greater than the collection of individual meanings.

Seeing meaning as concept and object enables demonstration,  
Below, of a system that envelopes all knowing and Being.

I have been careful to specify meanings employed.  
Capitalization—as in Logic and Being—will mark new or  
Special meanings used in the narrative.

## **Prologue**

### *The Idea of a Worldview or Cosmology*

To know the utmost reach of being requires faithful depiction of  
The Universe and our relations to it. Metaphysics, cosmology,  
And worldview are terms for such depiction.

### *The Standard Cosmologies*

The common ‘standard’ cosmologies are secular and trans-  
Secular. Secular cosmologies appeal to experience—especially  
Science. The trans-secular posit worlds ‘beyond’;  
The mythic and religious are among its standard kinds.

David Hume pointed out the absence of necessity to theories  
Of science as fits to the entire Universe: agreement on a limited  
Region does not of necessity extend to the whole.

Secularism sees science reach far into all known niches and  
Typically concludes: probably, science nearly captures the  
Universe. This does not allow for undiscovered niches.  
Universal fit of science is neither necessary nor probable.

This is well illustrated by a history of scientific revolution: since  
Newton's synthesis science uncovered many unforeseen Niches—  
Especially the quantum, space-time-gravity, and evolutionary.  
History also reveals that we soon forget this lesson of history.

Therefore science *allows* wide open metaphysics beyond its valid  
Domain. What is the most liberal yet realistic metaphysics? An  
Answer lies in 'logic' which is most abundant in what it allows  
Even though—because—it is most sterile in what it requires.

In a sense to emerge the 'beyond' is found—proved—limitless.

Mythic cosmologies so conflict realism as to have but one  
Purchase on metaphysics—to insist on openness where thought  
Has been shut down by positivist secular dogma.

Any metaphysics that agrees with standard cosmologies—  
And their principles of reasoning—in their domains of  
Validity is allowed by those cosmologies and principles.



Sunset  
Bear, Delaware



One aspect of secular thought is significant—all valid Metaphysics must be founded in Experience.

### **Journey in Being**

A ‘universe’ of narrative would have no definite beginning Or end. A discrete text, however, has a nominal beginning. It is effective to begin the core of this text with Experience Which is the place of our relation to the Universe.

#### *Experience and Foundation*

Experience—awareness—is the place of knowledge of things: The core and theater of our being. Its forms are pure, of the World, and of action; which combine as ideas and action.

Experience is the rock of knowledge of things— Knowledge that something ‘is there’, for even if all is Illusion, there is illusion—which is Experience.

Is there more than Experience? We might respond ‘the issue has No pragmatic interest’. However demonstration that there is More will yield significant advantage as explained next.

It will displace excess doubt *and* confidence in knowledge and Reliability of the world. Confidence in experience will go beyond Its current borders with what certainty may emerge. Analytic Skill in foundation of the world in the given will be sharpened.

Demonstration—if there is only Experience then it either does Not or does range over its idea of the world. The former entails Contradiction; the latter is an alternate labeling of the world. Therefore, there is Experience which is part of the real world.

This is no guarantee that the world is as we expect. It may be Far greater—or less. In either case we will have found truth. Preliminary care in foundation will yield immense return.

This shows a general value to care in foundation. Another value: Recognizing Experience as object for other Experience grounds A powerful concept-object interpretation of concept meaning Drawn out in essays named on the title page.

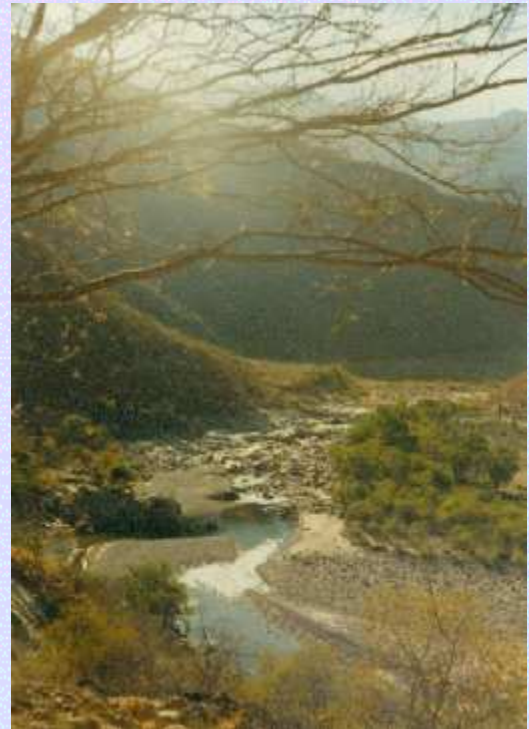
Foundation does not emerge in a single step. Here, as is Typical, repeated small increments interact with application.

There are also major increments such as, here, insights into the Significance and conception of the central ideas, especially Experience, Being, Universe, Law, Void, Realism, and Identity.

### *Existence*

To ‘exist’ is to be. From reflections above, existence is not an empty Concept—its foundation in Experience is robust and discriminating.

In what follows ‘exists’ may denote any mix or neutrality of verb Form according as duration or time has or lacks local significance.



Morning mist  
Barranca del Cobre



### *Being*

Being is that which exists. A power of the idea of Being is Neutrality to 'kinds' often thought real. Common kinds are Space, time, process, matter, force, mind, spirit, soul, and word.

Mention of the kinds is inessential to the core development.

Whatever is real—named and unnamed—is already in Being.

From the reflections on Experience, the core of metaphysics that Follows may be seen to stand above questions of knowledge as Representation, versus pragmatic, versus 'being-in-the-world'.

### *Universe*

The Universe is All Being. There is one and only one Universe. Whatever has Being is in the Universe. A hypothetical being That is not in the Universe does not exist.

'Being' discriminates only existence from non-existence.

It does not distinguish kinds. Whatever is real is in Universe.

There is no other universe of fact or kind or idea or form.

The Universe contains all creation but is not created.

Any creator is part of the Universe—

The Universe can have no external creator.

### *Laws*

Knowledge of the natural world is coded in laws and natural Histories. Natural history may be written as law, legend, Myth, or ancient cosmology.

The laws of natural science are familiar  
Modern examples of natural law.

A law is a reading of a pattern; the pattern itself  
Is the immanent Law. All Laws have  
Being. The Universe contains all Laws.

This 'realism' may be extended. Morality, civil law, and value  
Judgment have immanent local forms we may name Ethics,  
Justice, and Value. All such form lies in the Universe.

### *The Void*

The Void is the absence of Being. Therefore the Void contains  
No Law. As complement to the Universe—or any element of  
Being relative to itself—the Void exists.

The Void which is the absence of Being exists and  
Contains no Law. The Void may be regarded to be  
Part of every element of Being.



In the shadow of mountains  
Weaverville, California



*The Universal Metaphysics*

The contrary would be a Law, so the Void (and Being and Universe)  
Assume all possible states—where possibility is most liberal ('logical'  
As roughly seen earlier) but whose precise meaning shall emerge with  
Experience and analysis. In this sense, the Universe has no limits.

If power is degree of limitlessness, the Universe is ultimate  
Power. Every state of being, including the Void has this power.  
Ultimate power is implicit in the present. Those forms are  
Limited for which ultimate realization is only in endless process.

The Universe has no limits.

This demonstrated assertion is named the  
'Fundamental principle of metaphysics'.

The worldview that results is called

The universal metaphysics

Or, simply, the metaphysics.

The essentials of development of the metaphysics have been:  
The Void which contains no Law exists; the Void, and so the  
Universe which contains the Void, have no limits because a  
Limit would constitute a Law of the Void.

It is crucial to use of the metaphysics that its meaning shall  
Be understood. Let us now further develop requisite  
Understanding, first taking up explicit meaning.

### *Meaning of the Metaphysics*

In this section ‘concept’ will refer to referential concepts—  
Concepts that purport to have objects. Free concept  
Formation is immensely useful in the progress of knowledge.

This useful freedom allows formation of concepts inconsistent  
With fact (‘science’) or one with another (‘logic’)—that is, it  
Allows concepts for which it is impossible to have objects.

From limitlessness of the Universe the only concepts without  
Objects are the impossible concepts. ‘Realism’, the constraint  
For concepts to have objects, is not a limit on the Universe.

This minimal Realism constitutes an explicit meaning of  
The metaphysics: given Realism, concepts have objects.  
For the Universe, the possible and the Real are identical.

Another term for Realism is Logic: the Universe is the object  
Of Logic—the Logos. In this form, which trivially includes  
Agreement with fact (science), Logic is not a limit—but the  
Constraint of realism on the freedom of concept formation.

The object of Realism (Logic) is the Universe. All valid science and  
Systems of logic lie within Logic. Universal metaphysics and science  
Have no conflict. Just as the Universe is all Being, so the metaphysics  
Is an envelope for all knowledge including science.



Storm  
Barranca del Cobre



Agreement with fact includes agreement with the knowledge  
Claims of human culture, for example science, religion, and lore  
In their valid domains. Consistency among concepts includes  
Agreement with systems of logic where they are valid.

The vastness and Forms of Realism (Logic) await discovery—  
The theories of science and known logics are but forms of and  
Within Logic. And while the forms may be seen as rough and  
Constraining this Logic is the true and most liberal realism.

This account of explicit meaning should be complemented  
By discussion of implicit meaning which lies in implications,  
Which are the focus of sections beginning with Cosmology.

### *Cosmology*

The universal metaphysics implies what follows.  
It is especially the implications  
That bring out its implicit meaning.

Natural science and experience have domains of validity  
But the Universe—the object of the metaphysics—is  
Greater without limit than those domains.  
The Universe is limitlessly greater than our cosmos.

The Universe has neither beginning nor end. In a sense  
Of 'is' that accords with earlier remarks on 'exists'—  
The Universe *is*.

The Universe has arrays of cosmoses without limit against a back-Ground where extension and duration do not measure all Being. For every cosmos to be finite—or every cosmos infinite—would Be a constraint over and above Logic and therefore a limit.

Every state or element of Being is equivalent to every other. That something must come from nothing is a trivial corollary. At the deepest and most general level the question of Foundation of Being is forever resolved and closed.

Relative to the Void (or any state), all Laws and manifest States are emergent—as is extension-duration (space-time).

However breadth is ever open—the extension, duration, variety, Summit, and dissolution of manifest Being have no limit. Subject to Realism, systems of physical law are without limit.

Every Law, every cosmos is repeated without limit. ‘Ghost’ systems are ever passing through our cosmos. In comparison to the limitlessness, our cosmos is a Speck—infinitesimal in quantity and variety.

Every atom is a cosmos, every cosmos an atom. There are no indivisible particles.

The Universe has and must have manifestation and Identity In acute, diffuse and absent phases.



Morris Meadow  
Trinity Alps, California



*Individual and Identity*

These powers of the Universe are conferred on individuals  
For the contrary would entail a limit on the Universe.  
Individuals realize the Universe—All Being: its Identity,  
Extension, duration, variety, summits, and dissolutions.

Though individual identity may seem a concrete unity  
'Individual' and 'group' are relative terms, for  
Every atom is a cosmos, every cosmos an atom.  
However, the individual-group distinction is not relative.

Apparent limits are part of the constitution  
Of the forms of Being—  
Though temporary, limits are of the form of beings,  
Normally a result of origin and adaptation.

This, too, is the nature of human limits  
And experience of limits.

The givenness of realization does not negate  
The value and challenge of endeavor  
Or the facts of pain and death  
But allows meaning to pain, death, and challenge.

While in limited form realization is endless process—  
And ever freshness in variety—A Journey in Being.

For limited Being the forms of knowledge and Being  
Are ever open—an eternal challenge.

The oneness, connection, and continuity  
Of these forms lie in Identity—  
In experience, idea and action.

In unlimited form realization is Aeternitas—  
Eternity in a moment—to and from which  
Life and death and pain and joy are gateways.

That realization for limited form is endless  
Requires that the empirical and symbolic sciences  
For such forms remain ever in process and  
Be complemented by immersion for their full expression.

*A Perfect, Unique, and Ultimate Metaphysics*

The meaning of the metaphysics has been given clarity;  
Its power has received illustration. An effective summation  
And characterization of the metaphysics may now be given.

In foundation in Experience and Being the metaphysics is  
Perfect. From expression as Logic it is unique—as container of  
All special metaphysics; and ultimate—in complete but partially  
Implicit capture of the variety, extent, and duration of Being.



Pacific Ocean  
Humboldt County, California



The universal metaphysics resolves foundation of Being but  
Shows the variety of experience and Being to be ever open:  
While in limited form the variety of realization is  
Unbounded, experience is limitless and eternal.

Though Logic is ultimate, its forms continue to emerge. Except  
In dreams of certainty, security, and control, there can be no  
Final foundation of Logic, Ethics or Value outside context. For  
Limited form logic, ethics, and value remain in process.

Being and Experience—world and knowledge—are known in  
Experience. Variety of Being and fields of knowledge—unities  
And distinctions—merge in experience. The metaphysics is a  
Metaphysics of Experience—a proto-episteme.

#### *Civilization and Realization*

Our civilization is the web of human culture over time and  
Continents. Greater Civilization is the matrix of civilizations  
Across the Universe.

The metaphysics reveals a limitless Universe open to  
Individual and Civilization. It is appropriate and now possible  
To address negotiation of the normal limits of our world.  
The practical address of this concern is now taken up.

Individuals foster Civilization;  
Civilization nurtures the individual.

Civilization is the hearth of realization;  
Individuals manifest realization.

Civilization provides ways, rough methods, of ideation and  
Action—disciplines of thought, discovery, and transformation.  
In culture, emergence of disciplines, too, has rough discipline.

The standard forms of the disciplines—  
Secular and trans-secular—  
Are marked by incompleteness and error  
But their core constitutes ground on which to build.

Our apparent limits are Laws or  
Expressions of Law  
Which also constitute initial ground on which to  
Transcend limits on the way to universal realization.

The apparently stable initial ground  
Is transient and incomplete,  
But knowing and living its transient incompleteness  
Is on the way to the ultimate.

Ultimate realization for all beings is given  
By the metaphysics. However, efficiency and enjoyment  
Are immensely enhanced in occurrence and quality  
By commitment and engagement.



Glacier National Park  
Montana



Sacred scriptures talk of divine magnificence. An example:  
The Bhagavad-Gita compares the splendor of Being  
To the radiance of a thousand suns. Yet the means of  
Realization of the Gita are squarely in the present.

The Universe and the place of individuals in it are limitlessly  
Greater than in common secular and trans-secular cosmologies.  
Especially on this knowledge, realization for limited forms  
Begins in the present, touched and illuminated by the ultimate.

*A Way of Realization*

Action is not 'mere' process—ideas are a partial guide: Ideas  
And action are the means of realization. Realization begins  
With ideas; transformation requires action.

The ultimate is not immanent in limited form: realization must  
Be indeterministic. The way of engaged realization must lie in  
Risk—in small and large steps—and in selective consolidation.

This is the core of a mechanics of realization. Change may begin  
With reason but the final source of change is risk—take the next  
Step. Outcome, where adapted, is captured in Being or artifact.

Development of ideas above is in breakdown, creation, and  
And rebuilding. The way of realization lies in break down,  
Imagination and experiential rebuilding of ideas and Being.

This is appropriately named Analysis and Synthesis of Being  
Which includes thought, risk, change, and correction. The 'way'  
Is not essentially prescriptive: prescription emerges on the  
Way and is ever subject to revision and enhancement.

One risk is to endure doubt. Doubt from possible conflict with  
Experience and reason—science and Logic—was addressed in  
Discussing metaphysics. Essential residual doubt is of proof but  
Not consistency—internal or external—of the metaphysics.

Therefore from the significance of what it reveals there is  
Immense value to the metaphysics as a principle of action.

This situation is as for the doubt and value that attend  
Essentially all significant endeavor.

At the front of realization the final resource is to take the next  
Step of thought or action—thus there can be no perfect masters  
Of realization. However, to share learning is effective—there may  
Be teachers and ways but no Perfect Master or Final Discipline.

The vehicles of realization are individual and group—  
Being and Civilization and their transformations are  
Among the dimensions of realization.

The places of realization are the Ground—nature—and  
Fabric—individual, society and culture—of Being and  
Civilization which link the immediate to the ultimate.



Papoose Lake  
Trinity Alps, California



Modes of transformation are intrinsic and extensive. Yoga,  
As approach to the Universal, appropriately names the intrinsic.  
The extensive or instrumental emphasizes science and technology.  
The distinction between the intrinsic and extensive is not sharp.

Transformation of Being was seen to be via ideas and action.  
Transformation of Civilization is intrinsic—via transformation of  
Being; and extensive—inhabitation and population of the  
Universe via exploration and instrument or technology.

Experience suggests restraint in thought of such population.  
The metaphysics however shows its inevitability. ‘Now’  
Is a good time for insight and developing mechanics  
Of inner and instrumental transformation.

Realization is inspired by powers of Being and thought  
Revealed above... and by the disciplines. It derives  
Effectuality from the interaction.

The disciplines offer catalysts of mind-body change—such as  
Yogas, meditation, shamanic way, and hypnosis. Transient  
Change in being, disciplines, and ways is stabilized by reason  
In experience and recollection—in memory, culture, and artifact.

Disciplines, East to West, may all have use in transformation.  
However, even eclectic commitment would be premature.

Understanding of human being—organism and psyche—  
Should continue to emerge in interaction with experience.

These reflections suggest *ways* that cycle through *Being*  
(Sustaining) and *Transformation* (of Ideas-Individual-Civilization-  
Artifact-technology). *Elements* include means-vehicles-places-  
modes-disciplines. The core *mechanics* is risk and consolidation.

*Transience and Arrival*

Realization begins in the present, perhaps with the disciplines,  
But requires risk—experiment, splitting, and rebuilding—and  
Increment is secured in reason, recollection, and artifact.

Living in transience, its joy and anxiety, is on the way—is  
Essential to realization, ever a flux of transience and arrival.

While in limited form realization is endless process  
And ever freshness in variety—A Journey in Being.



Cirque above Papoose Lake  
Trinity Alps, California





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## Anil Mitra

One of my main interests is ‘understanding our place in the universe’. My approach is from experience and ideas with inspiration from tradition, science, and metaphysics as understood in philosophy. The metaphysics of the narrative shows itself most complete and meaningful when continued in action.

I came to experience and now think of my life—my person and thought—as a journey. I found inspiration in ‘wild’ places and in human culture. Origins-adaptations suggest that nature and culture should be gates to the real. These, some shown in the pictures in the text, have been sources and inspiration for the journey.

I owe a debt to the history of ideas. One of my aspirations is the journey suggested in the text. Ideas and action are essential elements of this endeavor. For me, the journey is a part of the good life.

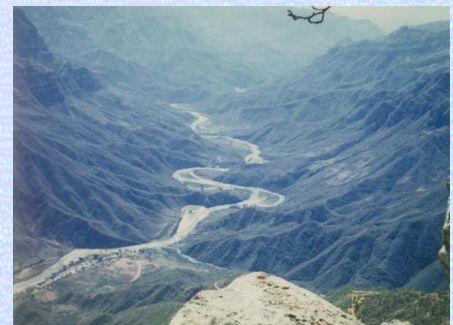
I was a professor at a number of universities in the United States. My PhD is in engineering and mathematics. My interests included all humanities and sciences. Work enjoyed includes mental health and creation of a small eatery.

I live on the Pacific Coast in Northern California. As part of the ‘journey’ I continue to reflect, to travel, and to immerse myself in nature and culture.

Sunday, November 24, 2013



Author, Delaware, age 26  
Photograph by M. D. Greenberg



Rio Urique  
Barranca del Cobre





**Barranca del Cobre, Mexico**

Pictures in the text show places of inspiration.

**Journey in Being** presents and proves an exciting view of the universe as limitless realization. That the view is proved makes it especially empowering.

The view is shown to mesh consistently with and envelope all that is valid in experience (and science). It implies that our cosmos is infinitesimal in comparison to the universe.

It is especially exciting that we inherit the power of the universe (non-inheritance would be a limit on the universe).

The text resolves the apparent contradiction between this limitlessness and our experience of limits. It shows an approach to negotiating what we experience as limits. It is shown that we are part of a matrix of civilizations and that this matrix or web cycles through population of the universe and subsequent dissolutions.

This work is transparent—its critical imagination is laid out for the reader. It calls on no special authority and requires no belief. It uses experience and analysis of experience in a new way to discover some ultimate boundaries of the universe. So as to be accessible this edition focuses on essentials—it omits conceptual and ‘how to’ details. Implications for knowledge, reason and destiny are deep and varied. Experience of essential problems, especially death and pain, is not eliminated or minimized but given meaning. Above all the journey is ever fresh—it has limitless variety, extent, duration, summits, and dissolutions. The universe has phases without end or boundary of acute, diffuse, and absent manifestation and identity—and we are part of that process. ‘Journey in Being’ illuminates the way.

Design and nature photography—Anil Mitra.

Printed—Times Printing Company, Eureka, California.

**\$10.95**

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