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What I wanted to talk about tonight, simply because it's the thing that is moving me to the edge of my chair at the moment. I called the talk Eros and the Eschaton, and what I could have called it was eros and the eschaton was science forgot. Because somebody asked me recently, "Is there any permission to hope, more specifically, is there any permission for smart people to hope. I mean its easy to hope if your stupid, but is there any basis for intelligent people to hope, and I wanted to deal with that because I think so. To me it was a shocking question because I live in an aura of hope because I live in a twilit world of my own self-generated cannabinated fantasy, and I forget that not everyone is so fortunate, and that there is a lot of despair and uncertainty out there. So, I wanted to talk about this.

Eros and the Eschaton these are the two areas that I think compromise the old paradigm and give permission to hope and strangely neither of these words is that well known, which gives you a measure of how completely the dominator position has squelched, subverted, and down played any opposition to its world view. Eros we know about in some kind of devalued schticky kind of glitzy way because we get it in the eroticization of media, and society, but really what eros means in the Greek sense is a kind of unity of nature a kind of all pervasive order that bridges one ontological level to another this is not permitted in the official world view of our civilization which is science. The world of inorganic chemistry is not thought to make nay statement about the organic world and the organic world is not thought to be extrapolateable into the world of culture and thought. There are imagined to be clear breaks in these categories. I has a biologist tell me once, "If genes aren't involved it aint evolution." So, that means you can't talk about the evolution of the earth as a physical body. You cant talk about the evolution of human social institutions. Evolution is, somehow, a word appropriate to biology and appropriate nowhere else. And this brings me then to the first factor easily discerned by anybody who has their eyes open that compromises and erodes the hopeless existential view of the world that we are getting from science, and that is the idea that nature is in fact across all scales and all levels of phenomena a unity. Its not a coincidence that electrons spinning around an atomic nucleus and planets going around a star, and star clusters orbiting around the gravitational center of a galaxy, its no coincidence that these systems exhibit the same kind of order on different scales and yet science would say that is a coincidence. You know P. W. Bridgman who was a philosopher of science defined a coincidence as what you have left over when you apply a bad theory. It means that you have overlooked


something, and what jumps out at you as a coincidence is actually a set of relationships whose casuistry whose relationships to each other are simply hidden from you. And what I have observed, and I think it is fair to give credit to the psychedelic experience for this, what I have observed is that nature builds on previously established levels of complexity. This is a great general natural law that your own senses will confirm for you, but that has never been allowed into the canon of science. What I mean by, nature builds on complexity is the following. When the universe was born in the dubious and controversial circumstance called the big bang. It was at first simply a pure plasma of electrons. It was the simplest that it could possibly be. There were no atoms. There were no molecules. There were no highly organized systems. There was simply a pure plasma of expanding energy. And as the universe cooled simply cooled new kinds of phenomena, we say emerged out of the situation. As the universe cooled atomic nuclei could form. And electrons could settle into stable orbits. As the universe further cooled, the chemical bond became a possibility. Still later the hydrogen bond, a weaker bond, which is the basis of biology. So as the universe aged it complexified. This is so obvious that its never really been challenged, but on the other hand its never really been embraced as a general and dependable either. Follow it through with me, out of atomic systems come chemical systems out of chemical systems comes the covalent hydrogen bond the carbon bond, complex chemistry that is prebiotic or organic, out of that chemistry come the macrophysical systems that we call membranes gels charge transfer complexes, this sort of thing. These systems are the chemical preconditions for life. Simple life the life of the prokaryotes the life of naked enucleated dna that characterized primitive life on the planet. Out of that life come Eukaryotes, nucleated cells and then complex colonies of cells, and then cell specialization leading to higher animals, leading to social animals, leading to complex social systems, leading to technologies, leading to globe girdling electronically based information transfer oriented cultures like ourselves. Someone said, what's so progressive about media it's the spreading of darkness at the speed of light.

It can be it can be well so this is very interesting that apparently the way the universe works is that upon a platform of previously achieved complexity chemical electrical social biological, whatever new forms of complexity can be built that cross these ontological boundaries. In other words, what I mean by that is that biology is based on complex chemistry but it is more than complex chemistry social systems are based on the organization that is animal life and yet it is more than animal life. So, this is a general law of the universe that is overlooked by science. That out of complexity emerges greater complexity. We could almost say that the universe, nature, is a novelty conversing or

complexity conserving engine. It makes complexity and it preserves it, and it uses it as the bases for further complexity. Now, there is more to this than simply that. I think we all observationally could agree that what has been said so far. The added wrinkle or an added wrinkle is that each advancement into complexity into novelty proceeds more quickly than the stage that preceded it. This is very profound because it, if accepted as a serious first principle, it ends the marginalization of our own species to the level of spectator status in a universe that knows nothing of us and cares nothing for us this is the most advanced positions that modern science will allow us, spectators to a drama we didn't write, shouldn't expect to understand and cannot influence but I say if in fact novelty is the name of the game if in fact the conservation and complexification of novelty is what the universe is striving for then suddenly our own human enterprise previously marginalized takes on an immense new importance we are apparently player in the cosmic drama, and in this particular act of the cosmic drama we hold a very central role we are at the pinnacle of the expression of the complexification in the animal world and somehow this complexity which is concentrated in us has flowed over out of the domain of animal organization and into this mysterious domain which we call culture language consciousness higher values each stage of advancement into complexity occurs more quickly than the stage which preceded it. After the initial big bang there was a period of billions of years when the universe cooled stars condensed, planetary systems formed and then the quickening process crossed an invisible Rubicon into the domain of animal and biological organization. Well, you see since the rise of western monotheism the human experience has been marginalized we have been told that we were unimportant in the cosmic drama but we now know from the feedback that we are getting from the impact of human culture on the earth that we are a major factor shaping the temperature of the oceans the composition of the atmosphere the general speed and complexity of speciation on the planet so forth and so on. A single species ourselves has broken from the ordinary constraints of animal nature and created a new world an epigenetic world meaning a world not based on gene transfer and chemical propagation and preservation of information, but a world based on ideas, on symbols, on technologies, on tools, on ideas downloaded out of the human imagination and concretized in three dimensional space as choppers, arrow points, particle accelerators, gene sequencers, space craft, what have you, all of this complexification occurring at a faster and faster rate. And this brings me then to the second quality or phenomena that science has overlooked which is the acceleration of complexification that the early history of the universe proceeded with excruciating slowness then life took hold in the oceans of this planet a quickening of process in evolution, but still things proceeded on a scale of tens of millions of

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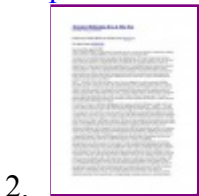
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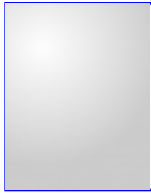
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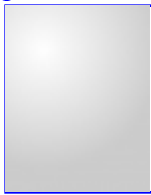


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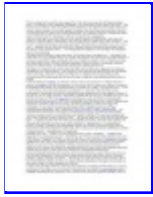


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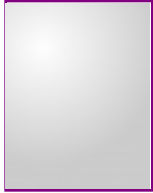


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