Formula for Miracles® Presents

30 Days to Awakening

Thousands of Years of Spiritual Wisdom Revealed in Fun, Ten Minute Insights

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To consolidate your Awakening and provide a complete and meaningful answer to the question of “fate or free will”, we first need to explore the nature of truth itself.

This may sound like a strange thing to do, but as you’ll see, truth is not as simple or linear as we’re programmed to believe. In particular, we tend to think that there is just one true or correct answer, and that there is such a thing as “absolute truth”. Remember that the insights and spiritual breakthroughs come from a willingness to let go of what you think you know…and that the biggest changes come when you let go of truths that seem so obvious that you have never questioned them.

To clearly show you how many things we assume to be true are in fact not, let’s explore an illuminating example of a "truth" that seems so obvious, so fundamental, and so absolute that most of us never even bother to question it: the truth that there is an absolute ordering of events in time.

On the surface, it seems obvious that there is some absolute ordering of events in time. In fact, it's so obvious that it took a world class genius named Albert Einstein to question this basic assumption and prove mathematically that it is, in fact, not the truth! In fact, the order in which events occur in time is not fixed or absolute, but instead relative to the position or “frame of reference” of the observer. (We'll explore an example below to make this crystal clear.)

In his Theory of Relativity, Einstein tells us:

**There is no preferred frame of reference in the Universe!**

What this means is that there is no "center" to the Universe, and that no position in space or time can ever be better, more absolute, or more fundamental than another position.

Pretty much all sane, rational adult humans on planet Earth would agree that time appears to move forward in a linear fashion, with the past always behind us and the future always ahead of us. The Universe appears to unfold according to the Law of Cause and Effect, where what happened in the past creates the present moment, and what happens in the present moment creates the future.

Hence, time seems to move unceasingly in the same direction for everyone. Physicists call this the "Arrow of Time". However, a great paradox is that there is absolutely nothing in any of the Laws of Physics that says that time must move in only one direction! In other words, you could reverse the direction of the flow of time all throughout the Universe, and all the Laws would still apply and function perfectly.

So what's really going on?

What's actually happening is that because all of us humans on Earth live in the same tiny area of the Universe, at exactly the same time in the history of the Universe, and with pretty much exactly the
same biological perceptual mechanisms (meaning sight, hearing, etc.), hence we are all within the same "frame of reference". In other words, because the size of the Earth is insignificant compared to the size of the Universe, and because the life span of humans is insignificant compared to the lifetime of the Universe, we're all living in essentially an identical frame of reference, and as a result we all perceive time moving in the same direction at the same speed.

But it's not only possible, but actually quite feasible, to measure time moving in different directions from different frames of reference. That should sound weird, so let's take a simple example.

Imagine that there are two stars, star A and star B, that are on opposite ends of a small galaxy. Both stars are approximately 100 light years distance from the center of the galaxy, which we'll call point C. (Remember from science class that a light year is a unit of distance defined by how far a beam of light travels through a vacuum in one Earth year: roughly 6 trillion miles.)

Here's a simple visual depiction of the situation, with A on the left, B on the right, and C in the middle:

Star “A” --- 100 light years --- Center of the Galaxy “C” ----100 light years ---- Star “B”

Let's now imagine that there are three people who live at these three different spots in the galaxy:

• Person A lives near Star A;
• Person B lives near Star B;
• Person C lives near the center of the galaxy at point C.

Let's say that both Star A and Star B explode as supernovas, burning so bright that they are easily visible throughout the entire galaxy!

The next question is: exactly when do the stars explode?

And in what order do they explode?

We really only have 3 possible options:

1) Star A explodes first, and then Star B explodes later
2) Star B explodes first, and then Star A explodes later
3) Both Star A and Star B explode at exactly the same time

The paradox is that there is no single correct answer to this question!
In fact, all three answers are correct simultaneously, because the “true” answer depends on where you are in the galaxy. In other words, it depends on your frame of reference!

From the perspective of person A living near Star A, Star A appears to explode immediately, and Star B appears to explode 200 years later. (There is a 200 year gap between the explosions because it takes light 100 years to go from Star B to the center of the galaxy at point C, and another 100 years for that light to go from the center of the galaxy at point C to Star A. Hence the 200 year gap.)

However, from the perspective of person B living near Star B, Star B appears to explode immediately, and Star A appears to explode 200 years later.

And from the perspective of person C living near the center of the galaxy, Star A and Star B appear to explode at exactly the same moment!

Because light has a finite speed, you can see how person A, person B, and person C actually record these exploding stars as happening in a different time sequence because of their different frames of reference. In fact, in this example, person A and person B experience and measure time running in opposite directions!

It seems weird, but yes, this really is how the Universe operates: there is no absolute ordering of events in time. Instead, the underlying truth is that everything is happening all at once in the eternal moment of NOW, and the relative ordering of events (in the 4-dimensional space-time we humans perceive and measure) depends on our frame of reference. In everyday language, things seem to happen in a different sequence depending on where you are at.

If this makes your head spin, great! That spinning is your limiting assumptions and belief systems clearing out to make space for a larger truth!

Remember that a human’s perception of the physical Universe is what happens when you take an 11+ dimensional object and project it down into a 4-dimensional space-time. Thus, at the deepest, most fundamental level, there is no ordering of events in time – instead, all events happen at once. Hence, any linear ordering of events – such as “past”, “present”, and “future” – is not part of the truth of the higher dimensional fabric of the Universe. Instead, the ordering of events in time is an artifact of how we project a higher dimensional space down into the lower dimensional 4D space-time that we live in.

Let’s take an example to understand this more clearly. Something similar happens when we take a fundamentally 3-dimensional object, such as a globe, and "lose" a dimension by projecting the globe onto a 2-dimensional map. Anytime you project a 3D globe onto a 2D map, there will always be both distorted information and missing information because a dimension is missing. In this globe and map example, we know that in fact Mexico is bigger than Greenland, but if we look at a map created by using a Mercator projection, then instead Greenland looks much bigger than Mexico on the map.

But we know that the truth is that Mexico is bigger than Greenland. On the map, Greenland simply appears much bigger because of the distortions or artifacts introduced by the projection used
which turns a spherical three dimensional object into a flat two dimensional image. (Of course, you could instead use different projections that project the polar regions more accurately and distort the region near the equator instead; these projections more accurately show that Greenland is smaller than Mexico on the map, but are generally not as popular or useful as the Mercator projection.)

This is pretty strange, eh?

This is exactly what I meant before when I said that to get real and meaningful value from the answer to a question, you must take care to understand the context in which the question is asked. In our example above with the exploding stars, answering the question "Which star exploded first?" is actually meaningless unless we also clearly define the context of the question. In this case, the context for the question is the frame of reference, or where in the galaxy you are when asking the question “Which star exploded first?”

So if something as simple and straightforward as the ordering of events in time can be paradoxical and have multiple "correct" answers, depending on context, is it any surprise that an issue as complex and subtle as “fate or free will” might have more than just one answer?

The important point to take away from this article is that all truth is relative to a context or a "frame of reference", and that even seemingly absolute truths all start to break down when you take them out of their frame of reference. Hence, we see that multiple, conflicting truths can exist in parallel, and each of them is correct and accurate according to its own frame of reference. In other words, an answer is only meaningful and useful when the context of the question is clearly defined.

In the next article, we'll continue our exploration of the nature of truth and start to understand the context in which we ask the question "fate or free will?" And in case you didn't guess it already, I'll give you a little hint: there's not just one simple answer! Instead there are multiple, simultaneous true answers, depending on the frame of reference or context in which the question is asked.