holonesphere

h o l o n u n i v e r s e

A system that is simultaneously a whole and a part of a larger whole, possessing independent and dependent characteristics.

Holons are the most fundamental building blocks of the universe itself.

Arthur Koestler  
*(paranormal phenomena, mysticism)*

The universe is made up of nested holons, where each level is a part of a larger system and also a whole in itself.

Intended to create a more integrated vision, Koestler saw limited notions in: the split between mind and body + the 2 main tendencies in human beings: individual isolated self-expression or allowing ourselves to disappear to more clearly merge with the greater field around us ~ humans are both capable of acting as self-contained wholes or parts of even greater wholes ~ fundamental contradictory struggle (informed by cultural / social / political / economic systems in the 20th century)

e m e r g e n c e o f h o l o n s

“the ghost in the maschine” ~ the universe is an infinite chain of whole parts stretching in both directions

big bang ~ emergence of the first subatomic parts ~ over time : space expands, giving rise to the first atoms ~ over time : molecules form ~ over time : first living cells ~ over time : diversity of living beings (whole parts coming together to form new whole parts)

evolution is the story of holons creating new holons ~ f r a c t a l u n i v e r s e

growth hierarchy ~ actualization hierarchies ~ h o l a r c h i e s

process of : transcend and include

h o l o n s

Ken Wilber: Sex, Ecology, Spirituality | The Spirit of Evolution

universal qualities of holons : “the 20 tenets”

1 Reality as a whole is not composes of things, or processes, but of holons

2 Holons have 4 fundamental drives: self-preservation, self-adaptation, self-transcendence,

self-embrace (inward & outward & upward & downward drive)

3 Holons emerge

4 Holons emerge holarchically

5 Each emergent holon transcends but includes its predecessor

6 The lower sets the possibilities of the higher; the higher sets the probabilities of the lower

7 The number of levels determines whether it is shallow or deep. The number of holons on any

given level determines its span.

8 Each successive level of evolution produces greater depth and less span.

9 The greater the depth of the holon, the greater its degree of consciousness.

10 Destroy any type of holon, and you will destroy all of the holons above it and none of the holons

below it.

11 Holarchies coevolve. (Individuals and groups evolve together.)

12 The micro is in the relational exchange with the macro at all levels of its depth.

13 Evolution has directionality.

13a Increasing complexity

13b Increasing differentiation / integration

13c Increasing organization / structuration

13d Increasing relative autonomy  
13e \*Increasing telos ~ there is no single pre-given omega point that evolution is working towards,

evolution produces a sliding sequence of omega points as each new holon comes into existence

e m e r g e n c e i t s e l f i s e m e r g e n t

*“On successively higher levels of hierarchy we find more complex, flexible, and less predictable patterns of activity, while on successively lower levels we find more and more mechanised, stereotyped and predictable patterns. In the language of the physicist, a holon on a higher level of hierarchy has more degrees of freedom than a holon on a lower level.”*  A r t h u r K o e s t l e r

i n t e r i o r i t y is intrinsic to all holons / to all of life ~ inner consciousness, inner agency

elements of the universe

heaps – random collection (e.g. cloud is a heap of water molecules)

wholes – holons (Ken Wilber: four quadrants, all holons possess two critical polarities: interiors, exteriors; individuals, and groups)

artifacts – anything created by a holon or by a social holon (e.g. art, bird nest, language), no inner agency but an expression of a holon

social holons – groups or systems of similar holons working together in some way, examples: crystals, ant colonies (“distributed intelligence” ~ collective intelligence forming synchronized patterns), flocks of birds, culture and social systems

p a n p s y c h i s m

\*The greater the holon's complexity, the greater its consciousness.

\*Consciousness is the interior dimension of evolution.

planets and ecosystems are part of us ~ micro holons within our macro holon

m e t a a w a r n e s s

*“being aware of awareness itself”*

~ c o s m o c e n t r i c s t a t e  
highest known state of consciousness ~ becoming o n e with all of creation itself