

Introduction to Semantic Structures

D. Gueorguiev, 3/8/2022

One of the few things that could still interest Felka was emergence. On Diadem, the first world they had visited after leaving Mars in the very first near-light ship, Clavain, Galiana and she had studied a vast crystalline organism which took years to express anything resembling a single 'thought'. Its synaptic messengers were mindless worms, burrowing through a shifting neural network of capillary ice channels threading an ageless glacier.

From "Redemption Ark", Chapter 7, Alastair Reynolds, 2002

"You are insane."

She considered. "Well, it is possible, if by 'sane' we mean operating in the functionally predictable attractor volume of mental phase space. I am definitely not that."

From "Inhibitor Phase", Chapter 9, Alastair Reynolds, 2021

"Is he coming back?"

"Slowly. I used reefersleep to flood him with mnemonovores. The blockades create distinctive association structures. The mnemonovores target them preferentially, leaving authentic memories intact and help reconsolidate pathways that have been left to wither. It is not perfect, but.."

From "Inhibitor Phase", Chapter 10, Alastair Reynolds, 2021