

Abstract: The Prophetic Synthesis

Looking at the sun, William Blake saw an innumerable company of the heavenly host where Newton's heirs saw only a golden coin. "If the doors of perception were cleansed," Blake wrote, "every thing would appear to man as it is: infinite." This paper argues that Blake's prophetic vocabulary, far from being merely poetic, constitutes an anticipatory phenomenological insight into the cognitive architecture that Active Inference now formalizes mathematically. Blake's "doors" are statistical boundaries separating self from world; his "Newton's sleep" is the pathology of rigid priors crushing sensory evidence; his "fourfold vision" maps onto hierarchical precision-weighting across processing depths; his insistence that "Imagination is the Human Existence itself" anticipates the insight that selfhood is constituted by the generative model. These are not retrospective metaphors imposed on a Romantic poet, but convergent descriptions of the same perceptual territory, arrived at through radically different methods two centuries apart. We approach this convergence in the spirit of Hesse's Glass Bead Game: not as proof that one tradition