

The Evolution of my Worldview

I had an inkling early on that every person, whether familiar or unfamiliar, goes through a life full of suffering. This suffering seemed to accumulate with the death of everyone, only to end and unite us into a community of sisters and brothers.

In my childhood I still felt solid ground under my feet. My mother taught me that life, art and religion are nourished by love and faith and that this love will ultimately resurrect us into a new life on a new earth.

My father taught me that life and knowledge arise and develop through evolution, and this insight seemed to complement my mother's love and faith perfectly.

My brother showed me that life and knowledge are becoming increasingly similar and drifting more and more into virtual spheres, which offered a fascinating perspective that I integrated into my own observations.

It was clear to me that chance, consciousness and presence - no matter what they may be - are only possible through the overlay of alternative histories. Consciousness results from the separation of different possibilities, while decisions make it possible to experience the present and each version of me experiences an alternative development in alternative stories. Coincidence, as I said, is the superimposition of independent stories that touch each other at a random point.

But then my elementary school years ended and the solid ground was pulled out from under me with a teacher who claimed that an immortal soul was responsible for the resurrection.

That seemed nonsensical to me, and so I said goodbye to religion at the age of eleven. The only alternative left to me was socialism, which has no concepts of spiritual beings and strives for a classless society.

It wasn't until 2019, at the age of sixty-one, that I came across a book by David Deutsch that had already been published in the mid-nineties, but had received bad reviews, which is why I hadn't read it before.

I was surprised. David Deutsch explained in "The Physics of Knowledge of the World" that life and knowledge are based on evolution, are becoming more and more similar and virtual, alternative possibilities are indistinguishable from different versions of reality, and that at the end of days an omniscient love will usher us in a new life on one new earth will arise. This was not what his critics wrote about him, and it was exactly what I, as an eleven-year-old, took for granted and rejected because an elementary school teacher talked me out of it. I felt deep sadness and at the same time infinite happiness.

For fifty years of my life I wandered on the wrong path, and today, at the age of sixty-one, I have found the security that was taken away from me as an eleven-year-old and that I have now reclaimed.