Sasaki Roshi, the Complex Number System & the Source of Love ~ Shinzen Young

00:00:00 Sasaki Roshi makes a lot more claims about his paradigm than I do.

00:00:12 He may be right. I only claim it's a useful way to analyze how consciousness works moment

00:00:19 by moment. He implies that it's more than that, that it's a universal grand theory of

00:00:26 everything. You can look at everything that is in terms of a paradigm of mutually contrasting

00:00:38 activities that can cancel into a neutral, and a neutral that can cancel into a neutral

00:00:45 and a neutral that can polarize into mutually contrasting activities. He says this is sort

00:00:52 of like the way everything works. It is not inconceivable that in a hundred years, two

00:01:01 hundred years, a thousand years, whenever, finally a single unified grand theory of everything

00:01:08 is hit upon, that it turns out to have something to do with binary contrasts that can cancel.

00:01:20 There's some hint that that might be the case because so far our best model for everything

00:01:27 is the complex number system, our modern concept of number. And the complex number system consists

00:01:34 of three types of contrast, each one of which can neutralize to a non-contrasting state.

00:01:41 There's the multiplicative domain, which is a stretch-squeeze thing. You stretch-squeeze,

00:01:56 or nothing moves, which is one, multiplied by one. Or you can multiply by a number whose

00:02:03 absolute value is less than one, that will squeeze things. You can multiply by a number

00:02:08 whose absolute value is greater than one, that will stretch things. But if you multiply

00:02:13 by one, it's a neutral element. Then you have the additive domain, where you can move to

00:02:20 the right, move to the left, or not move at all, or front, back, top, bottom, or any direction

00:02:27 of any vector. Well, in the complex plane it's a two-dimensional thing. In

other words,

00:02:33 move in one direction, move oppositely in that direction, they cancel out. That's additive

00:02:40 zero. And then there's a rotational component in the complex numbers, where you can turn

00:02:47 to the right, turn to the left, or not turn at all. T.S. Eliot talks about the spirit

00:02:55 as the dance. Except for the point, the still point, there would be no dance. And there

00:03:05 is only the dance. If you look at a dancer, what do they do? Like Martha Grant writes,

00:03:13 stretch your arms out, bring your arms in, okay, this sort of stretch-squeeze, but they

00:03:19 also move up, move down, they jump, they move to the right, they move to the left, they

00:03:24 turn to the right, turn to the left. All the actions of the dancer are actually quantified

00:03:31 with our modern concept of number. Also, it turns out that the quantum weirdness is in

00:03:39 a sense a consequence of our modern kinds of numbers, the complex, what are called the

00:03:45 complex numbers. The waves that are complex waves allow for these weird things to happen.

00:03:53 Among them, something coming from nothing, which is rather extraordinary. The neutral

00:04:01 state can be a source of polarized something. It is possible that he's right. Who knows?

00:04:16 Only time will tell. But the fact that our number system seems to be built on binary

00:04:23 contrast that can neutralize three different flavors of them, actually, the fact that he

00:04:28 says consciousness is this contrasting, neutralizing activity, could be that this is pointing towards

00:04:38 a grand theory of everything. The whole point in experiencing this is that it's analogous

00:04:51 to the peristalsis of a formless womb. And as you begin to experience yourself and the

00:05:05 world coming from this doing and returning to this doing, even though the doing is impersonal

00:05:18 and empty, it's also a source of unconditional love. When we contact it, it has that effect

00:05:34 on the human part of us. And we naturally from that want to serve.