

GRAND UNIFIED TIME:

Why “grand”, and why “unified”?

As a young girl, I encountered a folk tale that described the scope of time in such a way that the awe produced in me never dissipated for a single moment of my life. Included in this passage are rocks and birds, so there too was an inspired blueprint for a life-time study of geology and birds. In fact, the awakening I experienced also inspired a life-long mission to create a visual 3-D Color model of geologic time that would be not only awe-inspiring, but accurate. As my curiosity about the magnitude of time matured over my life-time thus far, the other different parts of the MAGNITUDE Project have been conceptually developed for the past decade. Today the MAGNITUDE project offers 3-D beautiful to look at, but scientifically accurate, physical installation-type models to a public audience.

Nonetheless my fascination with the magnitude of our physical world and the larger universe all began and remains still primarily focused on Time, specifically geologic time. Here is what I read when I was 10, perhaps 11, years old : ***“In the far North... there stands a rock. It is a hundred miles wide, and a hundred miles high. Once every thousand years a little bird comes to this rock to sharpen its beak. When the rock has thus been worn away, then a single day of eternity will have gone by.”*** From : *Geologic Time* by Don L. Eicher. Prentice-Hall, Inc., N.J. © 1968.

Time is fractured today, as perhaps it has been since the Industrial Revolution, into tiny bits of information. But with all the information we do have, we have it seems, as a species, a difficult relationship with time. Yes, being human has always meant outsmarting the hourglass of time that represents our life, the last grain of sand falling being our mortal demise. That clock is real for us. Another pervasive idea about time is our modern mantra, stay young, beat time, stop aging, beat time, and on and on. I feel that our relationship with time is not sourced in the hunger or ignorance of the modern soul. I suggest that if we could redirect and transform our fear of time into an awe of time, we could readdress and then, quite possibly, strengthen our commitment and contribution to the planet, not just ourselves.

The mother of the Time that relates to us today, one that is keenly overlooked, is that of geologic time. True, geology, as we understand it today, is one of the youngest of our sciences. Although the (dates) Persian genius Avicenna offered the first coherent and amazingly accurate description of the geologic history of our planet, the greater expanse of geologic time is understood only recently. We can find metaphysical references to the magnitude of time in several world religions like, for instance, the ancient Hindu scriptures that map out an expanse of time that correlates beautifully with the age of the earth herself, i.e. 4.5 billion years. But still, geologic time is not made real for us, it remains something the average person simply cannot imagine, and therefore more than likely considers irrelevant.

True enough, there have been few, if any, spectacular physical presentations of geologic time for the average soul. Carl Sagan did an admirable job with his classic “Cosmos” documentary. But still, the experience of time only lasted as long as the images on the TV screen flashed by. And, sadly, his diorama was phenomenally inaccurate. Again, the physical experience was not there, thus the personal relevance was not there; the impression of the magnitude of Time was fleeting, and then lost, again.

How then can that soul comprehend that expanse of time if it is usually dumbed-down or made confusing with either lazy or uninspired map-making? Going out on a limb here, hoping not to antagonize, intellectual ideas about geologic time last about as long as the thought itself. That’s not long. It is easy to see why for humanity in general there is not much meaning to geologic time because it does not relate to our short life-span, and it certainly does not feel like an anxiously awaited soul-food for our own lifetime.

GRAND UNIFIED TIME hopes to remedy that black hole in our understanding of the world we live in. If we can fill in the gaps of our misinformation about geologic time, perhaps we can unify our efforts to re-envision the unique opportunities of the epoch we live in. We can, quite possibly, understand that we have a miraculous role to play, right now, in the grand scheme of evolution. Simply put, we might be able to make friends with the great conspirators - time and death. An integrated experience of geologic time, a walk through, a “get to take it home” body experience, is the goal of GRAND UNIFIED TIME. Until there is a personal physical experience of

the magnitude of time, we cannot integrate the mind, body and spirit to a new clock. GRAND UNIFIED TIME provides a unified cosmology that encompasses the spectacular, not frightening, immensity of time and space. We can then carry that inspired consciousness to the lives and futures of others besides ourselves. A renewed or even first real understanding of the beauty of geologic time could easily inspire an individual and cultural transformation of untold and unfolding proportions.

The installation is the first of the MAGNITUDE models. In the context of planet earth, all time starts with and remains part of geologic time. The Grand Unified Time installation of the MAGNITUDE project inspires us to witness in an accurate context, the span of time taken for the Earth's evolution, the development of life, and finally, by the sheer magnitude of its size, the miraculously small amount of time for the evolution of our own species.

Because we humans are generally completely counter-intuitively wrong about scale, microcosmic or macrocosmic, starting with a full exploration of geologic time is a good place to start. We can now understand Time to have many dimensions. Our current scientific breakthroughs support these ideas. It is therefore easy to see how once our understanding of geologic time is transformed and embodied, other ideas about time can be entertained, possibly understood.

Time rules our physical existence. We are born, live and die in the framework of time. The godly miracle of our heartbeat existed in a field of time, first, before it took root and managed our bodily existence. Time, I suggest, is the root of all constants, trumping even space, and gravity. I suggest that time becomes grand and unified because in the context of the greater universe, there would be no administration of our universe if there was no time for an, or any, event to take place. There would have been no event of the creation of the universe. So if an event is to transpire, it is born first within the framework of time.

What is the true magnitude of Time? How much do we know about Time? MIT physicist Max Tegmark says, "There is no aspect of Time which I feel we really fully understand." As we all know, time is that thing we all experience so intimately, yet are unable to define! Don't worry, no one ever has! If you are a physicist, you have answers that beckon the soul and the mind to

magnificent, ethereal realities of Einstein's Space-time or, say, the Higg's Field. Breaking "it" down further, we can all now embrace the irrefutable mathematics of modern physics that tells us that Now, Before, and the Future are one in the same. They all three exist in exactly the same way.

If you are, say, an acrobat of commerce, you will probably understand Time primarily in its powerful relationship to money. Speed of delivery (i.e. deletion of time) is the modern rain-maker, the maker of all things entertaining, destructive, instructive, etc., etc. . No doubt you are at least subconsciously aware that since the Industrial Revolution, most people do not primarily sell their handiwork, they sell their time.

If you are an historian you may understand that the 24-hour day was invented by the ancient Egyptians. Beyond that you may understand that the first clocks were the stars, day and night, the seasons, the phases of the moon, and the beating of the human heart. This was and still is a cyclical understanding of time. The understanding of time as money is a linear use of time. Time in relation to the math of modern physics is scientific knowledge, a multi-dimensional understanding of time not yet part of daily living for the average individual. So if we have linear and scientific understanding of time, where is the experience and knowledge of time as a spiritual phenomena? As time speeds up in our electronic world, it is deleted, along with distance, almost to the point of disappearing altogether.

The physical act of walking through the GRAND UNIFIED TIME installation becomes a journey into a labyrinth of unexplored transformation. As the colored panels describe the unfolding birth of our universe, geologic time itself easily becomes a visceral, intellectual and spiritual force for the embodiment of the magnitude of time. The awakened sense of our species, homo sapiens sapiens, fitting into the scope of geologic time means that the magnitude of time becomes within us both grand and unified. The true MAGNITUDE of time is within us.

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