

The Still Water Analogy

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This piece offers an analogy for insight using a drop of water disturbing a still surface. The ripple event illustrates how a moment of cognitive clarity, Aleph harmonic qualia (AHQ) —the “click”—can reveal the underlying structure of thought, much as ripples make the presence and properties of water visible. The analogy is not a theory of consciousness, but a way of describing how a disturbance in attention can briefly expose the medium in which perception and understanding occur.

What is Aleph Harmonic Qualia?

Picture still water. Almost invisible. Maybe a very faint very clear glass-like reflection of you and that's the only hint that it's there. A drop falls on the surface.

The ripples do these things:

1. Obscure the water, you can no longer see through it to the bottom as clearly. Nor can you see any clear reflection of yourself anymore.
2. Reveal the water to you that was previously invisible. Just by disturbing the surface of it.
3. In doing this, it reveals the relationship between the surface of the water and the air. The ripples travel in a way that defines that relationship. You get a hint of that “measure” as well. The water and, the big outside of that water. The air you're standing in.

Now, that is what I am saying that disturbance at the surface, that drop event, is almost an exact analogy to what occurs when you have a *CLICK* moment, or Aleph Harmonic Qualia (AHQ)

The *click💡* is that event that does all of those things at once as your brain snaps back into its resting position.

That, “EUREKA!”, that “Something outside of me was guiding me” feeling. Yes, because during a disturbance event, or phase shift, in the threshold, the boundary obeys the rules of the substance, AND the gradient.

I ask myself, If that's what that “qualia” is on the scale of perception, what would be the further logical implications of that?

In the Still Water analogy, the surface of a calm pond is almost invisible. You can see through it and you can see a faint reflection, but you do not really notice the water as a medium. When a drop hits the surface, the ripples make the water visible. The disturbance reveals the properties of the surface, the depth beneath it, and the relationship between the water and the air above it. What was hidden becomes clear only because the boundary was disrupted.

The ant death spiral shows the same structure in a different system. Army ants usually navigate using pheromone trails that form a large, branching network. When the network is intact, its architecture is invisible to any single ant because each one simply follows local rules. When a group of ants becomes cut off from the larger network, they begin following one another's scent in a loop. The colony's hidden wiring becomes exposed as a spiral. The collapse of the larger structure reveals the rules and feedback loops that were always there.

Both analogies point to the same pattern. A system's underlying architecture is usually invisible when it is functioning normally. It becomes visible only when something perturbs it, such as a drop disturbing the still water or a closed loop breaking the ants' normal branching network. In each case, the disturbance exposes the medium and the boundary that were previously unnoticed.

In each case, the waves in the surface of the water, or the fractaled-fulgurite shaped branched pattern of an ant colony each reveal the invariant relationship between the system/medium and the environment.

Whether that system is caused by individual ants following the closest familiar trails, sticking with their best clue as to where to go next.. or the cohesive nature of the water particles clinging to each other.

In a "click moment". You momentarily lose your self-referential reflection, And you are guided back to it by the gradient in which that "self-reference medium", this identity, exists.

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