

Article

Introduction to Focus Issue: Michael Mensky, Consciousness & Buddhism

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ABSTRACT

In this focus issue, the author discusses and explores the remarkable quantum psycho-metaphysics developed and expounded by the Russian physicist Michael B. Mensky, and issues associated with this quantum-spiritual perspective. In particular, the issues of consciousness, Buddhist philosophy, the mind-like nature of the process of reality, and evolution towards enlightenment are central.

Keywords: Michael Mensky, Consciousness, quantum worldview, Buddhism, spirituality.



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The first three articles derive from my recent book *Quantum Path to Enlightenment: Researches inspired by the quantum Buddhist psycho-metaphysics of Michael Mensky*.

The first article, *Life in Parallel Worlds & Buddhist Psycho-Metaphysics: Parallels and Interconnections between the Quantum Spiritual Worldview of Michael B. Mensky and Buddhism*, is an amalgam of the first two chapters of the Quantum Path book. Mensky's quantum spiritual psycho-metaphysics is an overarching paradigm for a post-materialist science and philosophy, and his work in this area is of immense significance for the modern world. His

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quantum-spiritual psycho-metaphysics is entirely consistent with ‘mystical’ insights, in particular it is coherent with Buddhist psycho-metaphysics.

The next article, *Why Us: Trespassing on an Anthropic Lawn*, is adopted from a chapter of Quantum Path book which deals with issues concerning consciousness and the nature of the process of reality arising from the metaphysical speculations by modern physicists as described by Amanda Gefter in her recent book *Trespassing on Einstein's Lawn: A Father, a Daughter, the Meaning of Nothing, and the Beginning of Everything*. This book is an excellent and entertaining read, but is seriously misguided in its adherence to an inappropriate materialist and crude Darwinian perspective. Gefter’s strange notion that consciousness somehow arises from the material world, and has nothing to do with John Wheeler’s observer-created universe is shown to be incoherent, and the correct perspective, which is presented in Mensky’s and other accounts is described. Crude Darwinism is shown to be invalid and a Buddhist teleological evolution towards enlightenment is outlined.

The third article, *Leonard Susskind: Stringing Together a Materialist Darwinian Cosmic Megaverse Landscape*, discusses the flaws in Susskind’s attempt to deflate the Anthropic Principle by appealing to the operation of chance within his string-theory megaverse cosmic landscape of universes.

The last article, *Engaging Buddhism with a False Imagination: Reflections on some misrepresentations of Buddhist philosophy by Western philosophers, and a quantum Buddhist Mind-Only solution*, is not adapted from a chapter of the Quantum Path book. This article examines some misrepresentations of Buddhist consciousness/mind-only psycho-metaphysics (*Yogācāra-Vijñānavāda, Chittamātra*) by some Western philosophers. The correct understanding of the consciousness-only perspective, which is consistent with Mensky’s viewpoint, is presented.

Further details of the Quantum Path book, and my other books, can be found at: <http://www.shunyatapress.org> and <http://www.quantumbuddhism.com>

