

Physics, Miracles & Magic

by Edward F. Sylvia, M.T.S.

Physics, God's miracles and magic are closely related topics. All three deal with foundational issues, that is, the deepest knowledge of reality.

Two of the three, God's miracles and magic, address causal processes as having their origins in the non-physical realm of spirit and mind. While most physicists embrace a materialistic philosophy concerning fundamental reality, some brave pioneers are now beginning to suspect that the laws of nature and very structure of the universe have their origins in a nonmaterial and conscious beginning. The surprising non-classical behavior of quantum entities opens the door for such plausible speculations.

The closest analog we have to describe the quantum world is the human mind, which consists of intentions, possibilities and tendencies to exist (human ideas are in a perpetual endeavor to find formal existence in outcomes of physical measurement).

According to scientist/theologian, Emanuel Swedenborg, every created thing in nature is a recipient form (receptacle) of God's spiritual influence. This is why the universe has a rational and knowable structure—it emerged out of Infinite Mind. It also means that all form is adapted to some conscious disposition or intention.

Swedenborg claimed that miracles were not a suspension of nature's laws but the result of a deeper knowledge of the inner workings of the universe. Since the visible objects of nature were analogs (correspondences) of spiritual drives one could manipulate nature in a way to make it more conducive to spiritual causal processes. The more conducive a physical form is to spiritual flux or flow, the more effectively non-material laws and intelligent forces can supervene.

When Jesus walked on water, He was demonstrating that His Holiness and love towards saving the human race made his physical body more conducive to heavenly order and thus was no longer under the classical constraints of physical gravity. He did not suspend gravity but by becoming more conducive to spiritual forces, simply changed the place of his body's equilibrium. The Lord employed real knowledge—not hocus-pocus.

All miracles and magic are based on this knowledge of the top-down and hierarchical structure of reality, which has its first causal principles in a non-physical realm. Swedenborg also stressed that in past times, magic was abused to pervert God's spiritual order for personal and evil ends. Since true magic involved real spiritual wisdom, its power diminished over time as evil intentions replaced wisdom.

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392