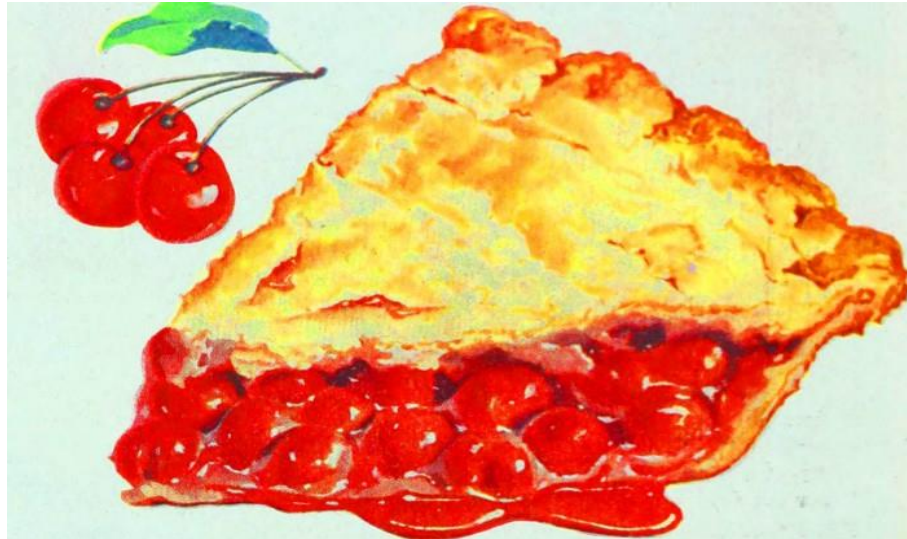


Spiritual metaphysics #1: square 1 of 1

(While keeping it all as plain and as simple as possible)

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Abstract: What follows is going to be an exercise in elemental metaphysical observation and reflection. No special mystical, devotional or intellectual powers will be required: merely the ability to think slowly and carefully and clearly.

This short series is for anyone who wants to explore some simple lines of thought based in objective and sceptical self-observation at the most elemental level possible. Some paragraphs might occasionally be written in formal philosophical language, but if so these will always be followed by explanations in the plainest of everyday terms such that anyone with an interest in the subject will be able to understand them.

So what's this all about?

It's about trying to resolve the mystery at the core of the human condition. What mystery? The mystery of not knowing either what we're all about, or what we're supposed to do, or even what it is we're supposed to know, if anything at all. So we don't even know that we don't know, let alone what we 'ought to know'. Human existence is mysterious, to say the least.

Can we label and characterise our intentions here, for clarity's sake? My preferred choice is 'spiritual metaphysics', but 'spiritual' is now so degraded a realm as to be — without lengthy and very careful qualification -perniciously misleading. Because we're not the least interested in Tarot or astrology or mindfulness or ayahuasca or the milk of human kindness (what a laugh!): we're only concerned with purposive and objective 'Buddhistic' metaphysics — 'Buddhistic' here meaning both deeply sceptical while wholly committed to trying to resolve the mystery of mysteries. (We're also not the least interested in Buddhist religion: we'll leave that to the guys in orange.)

We'll also be doing our best to avoid 'received ideas', meaning hand-me-down religious and philosophical doctrines and dogmas and beliefs of any and every kind. We start from a completely blank slate.

The main point:

We're going to start with what we shall try to characterise as the 'essence' (essential features) of any particular, specific perceptual event, whether it be a sense perception or a type of thought (idea, memory, reverie, whatever).

Whatever it is that one apprehends — that is, whatever one perceives as one's experiential perception — and however one does it — this 'that-ness' being the facticity (the basic facts) of one's entry into experiential apperception (which is just a fancy and convoluted way of saying that apprehending experience is the perception (somehow) of experience itself), constitutes only a single aspect of experiential perception, and not the totality of the elements in play.

Full article to be found here:

<https://peter-eastman.medium.com/spiritual-metaphysics-1-square-1-of-1-ade4e982bf4e>