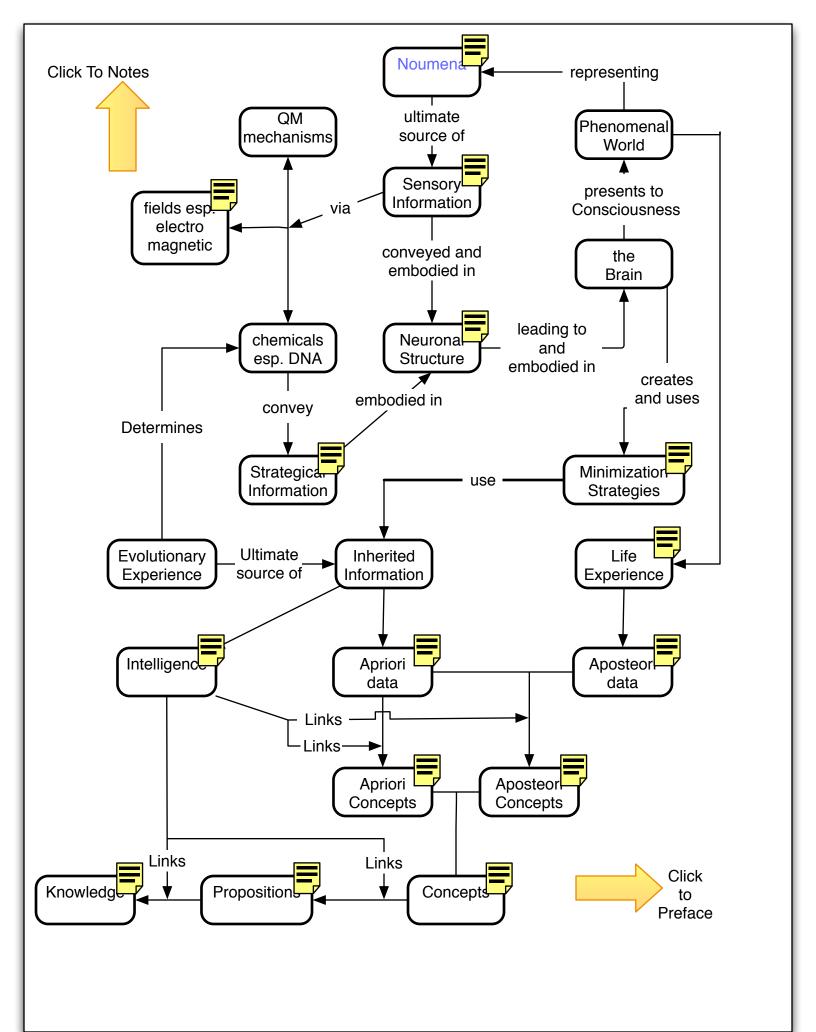# FROM NOUMENA TO KNOWLEDGE

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This is an essay in the form of a concept-map plus explanatory notes. It outlines the path followed by Information from Noumena to Knowledge. The viewpoint is Physicalist: everything comprising the phenomenal world is physical (part of the world studied by Physics). Thus not only the sight of an apple a physical phenomenon, but also the concept of 'apple' as well as the word representing that concept. Each is a phenomenon, each is embodied by a neuronal structure, and each represents different a noumenon.

This essay is incomplete in both detail and in breadth. It is at best suggestive, offering only signposts along a complex path. Moreover science, esp. since the discovery of Quantum Mechanics about a century ago, continually brings forward new concepts (Evolution via DNA, Wave Functions and their collapse or non-collapse…) which should be at least mentioned in a more complete concept-map. These subjects will be discussed in the second half of this work. This, the first half, faces Philosophy. The second half will face Physics.

Notes page 1

Noumena

Information exists and must have a source. It may be identified with the noumenal world. We know nothing about noumena other than their necessary existence since we only know what is presented to us via phenomena.

Sensory Information

Information (which generally has many meanings) here refers only to that part of a structure that influences another system's structure. All information we receive is ultimately genetic or sensual.

Neuronal Structure

Neuronal Structure is expressed by the interconnections between neurons. Similarly, Knowledge is expressed by the interconnections between Propositions.

Minimization Strategies

Minimization Strategies exist to make the best possible mental use of the physical capacities of the brain such as the number of neurons in it and their signal speed. Thus, for example, each concept we create can link together and replace many data.

Strategic Information

The information conveying Minimization Strategies.

Life Experience

This includes scientific experiment which extends human senses.

Data

Data are the items which can be Linked/collected together to form a concept.

Notes page 2

Intelligence

Statistical studies indicate that intelligence can be traced to one's genes.

Link

A link to the Line connecting A to B means that multiple A's are reduced to one B

Data

Data are items which can be collected together to form a concept.

Apriori

Apriori data and concepts are derived from experience of previous generations serving needs of survival. Apriori Concepts include basic ones such as those related to cause/effect, space/time, quantity, etc.

Aposteri

Aposteori concepts are those learned during one's life. They depend on Aposteori and possibly also Apriori, data. Examples include 'Apple', 'Evil'. Addition', Determinism'…etc.

Concepts

The concept 'Concept' is an example of an Apriori Concept.

Propositions

"Intelligence links Concepts into Propositions, and Propositions into Knowledge" is an example of a Proposition.

Knowledge

This concept map is an example of a representation of a body of knowledge. Each box is a concept; lines connect a few concepts into a Proposition; a complex of connected propositions forms one body of knowledge.