



# No Explanation = The Explanation

A voice is heard without a clue about its origins  
It tells everything known, even about its origin!

Front and back covers by Shrikant Kabir

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## Introduction: The Question

What is the essence of existence- colorful drama- as far as empirical+reason go? The question, any answer, its justification- are **all thoughts**. So the key question is: how do thoughts arise? It is **assumed** that either 'some mysterious free entity restricted to the body' or 'brains evolved via natural selection' generate them. The former, default ingrained belief, the later, hope based on correlation of neural activity with thoughts. But a look at what **actually** happens turned the view of life upside down, resolved The Question in the most unexpected manner

## 1. Can Brain (or any localized physical phenomena/object) Explain Thoughts?

(1) Do thoughts arise in physical space ? (2) Can the physical e.g. brain activity, predict the existence of thoughts? (3) Are thoughts correlated with neural activity ? (4) Are thoughts generated by neural activity- does the brain have inherent/local power to 'cause' thoughts?

(1) Imagine a colorful graph with varying brightness - can you measure 'light' from that graph e.g. can a photodetector capture the variation in its brightness? Can I see your graph ? No! => it does not exist in physical space (by definition!). No future findings can change this!

(2) Physical properties e.g. mass, charge, motion etc. can only predict/derive physical phenomena. Thoughts do not appear in physical space - hence physical/informational properties (e.g. of neural activity) can never derive/predict the existence of thoughts.

(3) No functioning brain, no thoughts. Brain injuries, electrical intervention etc. affect thought behavior. Total correlation- a neural activity pattern for every thought (neural correlate of thought, NCT)- must be assumed for the brain to have a chance of explaining thoughts. That assumption implies 'no free self' - as the brain functions as per the rules of physical world

(4) Logical consequence of 'no free self': nothing can be said to have inherent causative power. Any event, including a specific NCT, 'is', because the universe is and has unfolded the way it has. So brain doesn't have inherent/local power to generate thoughts - they arise as part of a chain of events going back at least to the big bang. Chemical intervention may modify thought behavior. This gives appearance of a brain generating thoughts - till it is seen that the chemical intervention, change in thought behavior, recognition of link between the two, this meta view- all are part of universe's unfolding 'with no otherwise'!

Physical brain activity is correlated with thoughts. But it can never derive/predict the existence of non physical thoughts, nor has inherent causative power to generate them .

The **only way** to proceed from here (to resolve The Question) is to see what **actually** happens

## 2. Clean Slate Start aka The Limit of Empirical

Suspend **all** beliefs, assumptions, theories,  
no matter how consistent or practical,  
**even** about yourself & whether world's real

Let thoughts reflect on themselves  
surely involves **appearance** of past,  
do not **even** label it as - real or not

**Presence** of thoughts- empirical, but **formation**?  
Any **knowing** except what **such** thoughts say?  
Answers, starting from clean slate, reveal **Secret**

### 3. Secret that Clean Slate Revealed

1. **Presence of thoughts** (includes meanings) **is experiential, not their formation** i.e. empirically, they just 'pop up' (even when they appear in response to something!)
2. Without empirical presence of thoughts, there is just the 'raw present moment' - 'here and now' i.e. **non-physical thoughts 'popping up' is all (real time) 'knowing'** : intents, plans, reasoning, choices, narratives, theories, these words etc.; they are also:
  - **Sense of objective world** = things appear to persist even when not empirical - sense of time beyond 'now' and space beyond 'here'. Presence of thoughts in the 'now' that point beyond 'here & now' is that sense e.g. yesterday, hope to, in the next room, beyond horizon, had left it right here, 13.2 billion years ago
  - **Sense of 'reality' of waking world** - both waking and 'dream as seen from within a dream' are experiential and objective. Presence of relevant thoughts make waking appear 'real' e.g. saw it when wide awake, must've been just a dream
  - **Sense of self** - the story of a seemingly invariant 'I' associated with a changing body. Presence of almost any thought is that story - the sense of being author of thoughts, actions; of being the subject of experiences in time e.g. want that, did, chose to, I think/know, saw/heard/tasted, my body/country, I will be 75 then
  - **Sense of nonexistence** - presence of thoughts that imply finite memory or gaps in memory is the sense of nonexistence e.g. was asleep when it happened

No **non-physical** (thoughts) popping up, no sense of the **physical** world (objective & real) nor of a self. **So empirical presence of the non-physical - is - the sense of physical!**

Brain activity can't generate thoughts (ch. 1). Whereas, **presence** of non-physical thoughts (that pop up!) referring to a brain **is** the **sense** of physical brain! Thoughts have no **experiential** explanation (obs. 1 above). So any **theoretical** explanation, its justification etc. are just more thoughts popping up => there is no explanation **possible** for presence of thoughts!

Its like hearing (= empirical) a voice without a clue about how or where from it arises. What that voice says is- all that is known- a story! The voice tells who you are (I's story), whether the waking world is real, everything else. Even about its own origin! No other verification possible

## 4. The Resolution

### Just One Big Story

Thoughts **pop up** in empirical present = drama;  
conjure mesmerizing stories, including about  
whether empirical present is 'real' or dreamlike,  
whether 'I' generates thoughts or evolved brain  
Without thoughts+meanings, not **even** Nothing

### No Explanation = The Explanation

Within story, **sense** of real objective world, self  
also, **seeming** causality, theories, explanations  
but none for story itself; outside it none needed  
Lo, even saying this very much part of the story!

### Outside the Story:

## 5. A Few Consequences of The Resolution

'I' (= sense of independent entity restricted to a body)

There is doing but 'I' does not do it,  
there is seeing but 'I' does not see  
Empirical, coherent thoughts pop up:  
I did, I see, I think, I know,...,my body

### Whatever You Say, OK

Whatever you say is also true  
since that's script given to you  
It may even contradict lawful objective reality  
but such reality, oh, mere lines written for me

No, there is no I that acts script  
I, these words, part of narrative

Thoughts pop up in empirical present, that's it,  
so thoughts tell me; U see free will, ghosts?Ok  
If I ever challenge your world  
that too would be part of play

### Science's Mama

Science- its consistency, prediction successes, utility,  
Higgs Boson, drug cures, smartphones, f-MRI images-  
mesmerizes; seems, it's best present model of Reality

Till focus shifts to it's non-physical mother, Thought  
She weaves all theories, IS sense of physical reality  
but can't know own origin -> her every word just Story

## Epilogue

Used to believe, I understood a few things  
how ice turns water, why sky's blue,  
basics of big bang, quanta, neurons  
Now know I understand **nothing**, never did;  
things happen, no how/why, just awe

