

## *A New Unit of Life's Persistence*

To win persistence in the face of material dissipation, life must be omniphysical. Our current system of life achieves its needed omniphysicality through replication. Life's information is conserved in the sequence of bases of replicating DNA macromolecules whose regularities of performance support both the transcription and translation of life's information. Despite this marvelous accomplishment, a central fact remains; replicate life wins its persistence through the march of generations. Each individual is a passing actor on the stage of life.

The advent of the descriptive information field and mind opens a wholly new means of achieving life's needed omniphysicality, one in which both existence and persistence are vested in the individual. In the omniphysical system of life, omniphysical mind is the persisting information store, the enduring basis of individual identity and autonomy able to instruct the physical means of the individual's ongoing existence. As omniphysical, an individual's mind moves to, inhabits, and commands alternative bodies, allowing the individual to live on and on despite the fact that each particular body must ultimately fail.

It is not only its omniphysicality that empowers mind as the information store of persisting individual life. Mind's descriptive reach is unbounded. It can describe everything that can be physically represented while providing the information foundation on which creativity and imagination can flourish. The linked nature of its meanings supports an open-ended and extensible semantics allowing new content to be integrated into the system of meanings while also flexibly permitting revisions and adaptations. Mind's content is multilayered and complex, allowing abstract and nuanced description at any desired level of detail – including the self-reference at the heart of individual selfdom.

Omniphysical mind is the powerful self of the descriptive information field. Not only is it fully aware and self-aware but it is able to be fully interactive with its environments; take in, organize, and process new information; grow its information stores; make decisions in its self-interest; and broadcast its determinations and other semantics. It can easily conserve descriptions of its history, experiences, preferences, aspirations, fact sets, and more. It can think and decide according to its values, beliefs, and goals and instruct the body which houses it. It knows itself as a unique, autonomous, and powerful self with a past, present, and an expected future.

While omniphysical mind is the information store of omniphysical life, it is not the unit of persistence. In the omniphysical system of life, the unit of persistence is the individual able to compel its ongoing existence in both information fields. That accomplishment requires mind to be physically supported so that its descriptive determinations can cause the physical means

supporting the individual's persistence – can cause the building of the new bodies on which the individual's persistence depends.<sup>1</sup>

A self-enabling unit of individual persistence will take time. To help appreciate this, consider the transition from human to omniphysical life. The first and essential accomplishment will be for individuals to conserve the content of their mind – both of the past and the ongoing present. That content will need to be conveyed to a platform of omniphysical mind, an information infrastructure of mind's capabilities on which a person's content of mind can be made operational as their omniphysical mind. The contemporaneous undertaking will be to create the bodily means to house and be directed by a person's omniphysical mind.

Initially and necessarily, the ability to become omniphysical will be accomplished through large-scale efforts harnessing our civilization's scientific and technological prowess. But in time and on this foundation, individuals will gain in instructive power to become fully self-enabling, able to instruct and cause their persistence in both information fields.

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<sup>1</sup> To accomplish this, omniphysical mind's descriptive content must be represented by tokens and aligned with physical processors so that its determinations bring about its described intentions. For us humans, a nervous system capable of controlling and coordinating bodily performances was already in place before the advent of mind. That nervous system was adapted to be a symbol processor whose neural representations of descriptive information aligned descriptive thought and physical action. The alignment of symbol-based instructions and physical actions is a common feature of many of our artifacts such as robots and autonomous systems.