4. Applications to Theistic Science

Topics for today:

- Life on earth, and its correspondences
- Mental actions
- Mental growth from childhood to old age
- Spiritual growth and religion
- Living after old age: the afterlife
- Further internet resources

Wisdom and Light from the Sun

- God is the source of wisdom to see mental things
  - We do not see wisdom,
  - But we see things in the light of wisdom
  - Actually we see wisdom filtered by specific ideas, and reflected into our understanding
- This is like sunlight from the sun
  - We do not see sunlight,
  - But we see things in the light of sunlight
  - Actually we see sunlight filtered by specific objects, and reflected into our eyes
- 'Eyes' correspond to the direct use of wisdom
  - Insight / illumination / 'seeing truth' / etc

Ecology of Plants and Rationality

- Sunlight is also received by plants
- Wisdom is also received by our first understanding
Ecology of Plants and Rationality

- Sunlight is also received by plants
  - Photosynthesis uses light to give oxygen
  - Oxygen spreads in our atmosphere
  - We breath in oxygen with our lungs
  - Oxygen is carried around body in blood stream
  - Oxygen combines with food to produce energy
  - Energy produces action.

- Wisdom is also received by our first understanding
  - This uses wisdom to give rational awareness
  - Rational awareness spreads in spiritual air
  - We receive rational awareness in a second understanding within us
  - Rational awareness is carried around in us by mobile love
  - Rational awareness combines with stored loves to produce another degree of desire
  - Desire produces action.

Conclude: plants correspond to a first rational understanding.

Ecology of Love and Energy

- We also receive energy from the Sun
- This warms the earth
- Plants convert some of their energy to fruit
- Animal eat & digest fruit-energy for living
- This is carried around body by blood, moved by means of the heart

- We also receive love from God
- This enlivens creation
- First rational converts love into processed good
- Affections ingest and using these in their life
- These are moved around spiritual body by an inner love, moved by inmost love of good for good use

The Five Senses

Perceptions by senses:
- **Eyes**: light from the distance
- **Ears**: variations in the air caused by lungs of others
- **Nose**: compounds in the air
- **Taste**: compounds being swallowed and digested
- **Touch**: other bodies very close

Spiritual perceptions
- **Eyes**: wisdom from the distance
- **Ears**: local variations from rational forms from others
- **Nose**: good/evil in the local rationality
- **Taste**: good/evil in good being swallowed and digested
- **Touch**: other persons very close

Human body as a whole

- **Left-right symmetry** to represent equal reception of love and wisdom, to be combined
- **Brain**: reception & stabilization of higher levels
- **Lungs**: reception & modulation of local rational environment
- **Digestive system**: swallowing & digestion of local loves
- **Senses**: reception & detection of forms (ideas) far & near.
- **Heart**: initial power to circulate loves and rationality in body
- **Skeleton**: general firm principles that keep our life in shape
- **Nervous system**: spreading influence of controlling ideas
- **Skin**: the outmost levels that contain & stabilize inner forms
- **Hair**: beyond the outermost levels > physical actions & power
- **Feet**: our outer levels that determine our spiritual place

Beginning Theistic Science

- These ideas are just the beginning of a more complete Theistic Science.
- We need more scientific details and predictions about
  - Connections between mind and brain
  - Functions of neural networks
  - Distribution of mind in all the body
  - Mechanisms of sensation and perception

Mental Actions

- All mental action depends on combinations of thought and feelings:
  - of Love and Wisdom (if in spiritual)
  - of thoughts and desires (if in mental)
  - cognitive and affective processes (in psychology)
- Metaphor: a kind of ‘marriage’ of equals
- Eventually mental actions produce physical actions.
Mental Growth

- Mental growth is the awakening of new degrees above the present consciousness
- Depends first on new actions that provide framework for possible new receptions
- The actions are ultimately physical.
  - Physical actions provide permanent changes
- Then new thoughts and affections can be more persistently present & effective.

Spiritual Growth: out of Egypt

- Serious spiritual growth begins in adult life
  - Previously in 2.2 “scientific rational”, like Egypt
  - Now need to ‘open up’ to allow in spiritual light, and learn about love (day 1)
  - Then can be regenerated, by temptations, to make an interior rational mind (2.1x, days 2,3,4)
- Spiritual growth is completed in the afterlife
  - Moving into the 1.x spiritual degrees (days 5,6,7)
  - Finding one’s best place among the spiritual loves

Spiritual growth (bad ideas)

- Elevated, expanded, rotated, vibrated etc, consciousness: Expanding our consciousness even to the whole universe and over all time, or making it run fast or slow, does not show us what is spiritual, let alone help us regenerate.
- Belief: since this is just in the understanding and does not change loves in the will.
- Knowledge, even of truths (wisdom): knowledge of what is true, even of what is good, is no use unless it is used to reform our will. It is ‘faith alone’ to think that only knowledge is efficacious.
- Blind obedience: obedience to truth is fruitful, but blind obedience has no input from wisdom in the understanding.
- Good intentions or love: love needs wisdom in order to act for good purposes.
  - Good intentions ‘mean well’ but often stray through lack of insight, even lack of common sense.
- Suffering: suffering by itself is something that happens to us not something we do.
  - There are many causes of suffering (natural and human); what is spiritually significant is how we respond to these.

Ennead (set of 9) of sub-levels

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Spiritual degree</th>
<th>Mental degree</th>
<th>Physical degree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Love of living: 1</td>
<td>Thoughts of loves: 2.1</td>
<td>Effects from ends: 3.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love of thoughts: 1.2</td>
<td>Thoughts of thoughts: 2.2</td>
<td>Effects from thoughts: 3.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Love of actions: 1.3</td>
<td>Thoughts of actions: 2.3</td>
<td>Effects from actions: 3.3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Mental growth: childhood to old age

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle and old age</th>
<th>Consider just the mind:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>25– years</td>
<td>Mental</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goodwin: generative 25-40</td>
<td>Thoughts of loves: 2.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swedenborg: regeneration</td>
<td>Wisdom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piaget: operational 9-12</td>
<td>Interior rational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piaget: formal 12-18</td>
<td>Scientific rational</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Childhood: 0–8 years</td>
<td>Knowledge</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Piaget: sensorimotor</td>
<td>Understanding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adolescence and youth</td>
<td>Exterior mind</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10–25 years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There are 3 levels in each of these that we could discuss.

7 days of creation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>State</th>
<th>External Representation</th>
<th>Internal representation</th>
<th>Internal process</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Initial stage</td>
<td>Without form and void</td>
<td>No spatial form</td>
<td>3.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Second stage</td>
<td>Heavens and Earth</td>
<td>Separating source from oneself</td>
<td>2.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Third stage</td>
<td>Tender grass, fruit trees</td>
<td>Acting from ideas, not heart</td>
<td>2.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fourth stage</td>
<td>Sun and moon</td>
<td>Love &amp; insight begin in internal</td>
<td>2.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fifth stage</td>
<td>Whales in sea, birds in air</td>
<td>Deep principles &amp; rising thoughts</td>
<td>1.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sixth stage</td>
<td>Living soul, image of God</td>
<td>Actions from insight: spiritual</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seventh stage</td>
<td>Day of rest, likeness of God</td>
<td>Actions from love: celestial</td>
<td>1.1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Explained by Emanuel Swedenborg in Volume 1 of “Arcana Coelestia” (“Secrets of Heaven”)
The Afterlife: living after old age

- During our life, we are building up actions in the physical degree and thoughts and affections in the mental degree.
- At death, we lose body in the physical degree.
  - How can we still function, with only love & mind?
  - What actions still keep our loves = personality?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mental</th>
<th>Spiritual</th>
<th>Actual Physical</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Stated actions: 1.3</td>
<td>Thoughts of actions 1.3</td>
<td>Physical processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stated affections: 1.2</td>
<td>Thoughts of affections 1.2</td>
<td>Physical processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spiritual loves: 1.1</td>
<td>Thoughts of loves 1.1</td>
<td>Physical processes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental loves: 1.1</td>
<td>Thoughts of loves 1.1</td>
<td>Physical processes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What to do in the Afterlife?

- Afterlife people have love and minds, but no physical body.
- Earth people have minds and body, but spiritual loves only gradually developing.
- Would be frustrating in afterlife to have love and ideas, but no possibility of ultimate physical action!
  - So a clever combination:
  - Afterlife people receive spiritual loves and generate new ideas.
  - Earth people receive new ideas, and then act physically.
  - That is:
    - the spiritual worlds supply the first stages, and we on earth carry on to ultimate physical actions.
    - We all do something useful, and everyone enjoys the process.

Determining the Afterlife

- What seems to be important here:
  - spiritual loves (1.1)
  - interior rational ideas/doctrine (2.1)
  - ‘inner physical’ substances (3.1 = ‘limbus’) (?)
- Thoughts and sensations follow from the loves:
  - Not determined by present physical events any more.

The End

We have discussed:
1. New way of connecting God and theism
2. New ideas of cause and discrete degrees
3. Using discrete degrees to understand Theism
4. Application to human life and growth

Lots more possible details for:
- physics, psychology, spiritual life.
- religion, scriptures, history of religions, the incarnation, ...

Further Resources

Websites by Ian Thompson: www.ianthompson.org

- Beginning Theistic Science, for the book “Starting Science From God”, at www.beginningtheisticscience.com
- Theistic Science at www.theisticscience.org
- Swedenborg’s writings at www.e-swedenborg.com
- Articles about Swedenborg at www.swedenborgstudy.com
- Bible Meanings at www.biblemeanings.info
- ‘7 days of creation’ at 7daysofcreation.info
- Mind & body at www.newdualism.org
- Physical and multilevel causes at www.generativescience.org