

III-3. Feedback from Interactions

Behavior consequences are reward and punishment unto themselves. They provide opportunities for mid-course correction. Consequences rooted in judgment are wishful. It breeds fear and does little for mid-course correction.

Some people feel uneasy with the uncertainty that accompanies any search and exploration. Such unease about making real-time choices could be constructive if it is turned into prudence that facilitates continuing re-evaluation of the assumptions and experience. Others find it convenient to stay with the tried and true from the past, but it may be neither for the future.

Behavior consequences are rooted in the course we take. Perceptions evolve with the real-time needs and dealings and for the changing environment. Such perception feed into web of motives that influence decisions at each stage. Awareness of each event is a perturbation in a steady stream of the mental chatter. Inputs from identified events offer option to act or not to act next. With a high level of mental chatter the threshold for inputs is set high, and many of the concerns do not cohere. In such an environment perceptions are likely to remain chaotic.

Interactions and feedback. Pick your battles carefully. Do not get suckered in to wars that you do not understand. Limitations of ignorance and wishful constructs breakdown interfere with the checks and balances that offer real-time feedback. Decisions based on unsubstantiated inputs do the same. Individual initiative comes form the perceptions that cohere into decisions and actions.

Their feedback affirms the nature of the underlying reality. Actions acknowledged by feedback can be guided towards quality and reliability of the outcome. A qualitative change in the observer may be necessary to bring about a change in the quality of the feedback. It is a measure of the personal growth that occurs in the context of the institutions with which we interact. An action without usable feedback is merely *a flower that bloomed but never realized its potential*.

The bloom. It is an age-old question: *Did a flower bloom if nobody saw it bloom?* Feedback brings awareness of reality that guides perceptions towards the potential of *the flower that bloomed*.

Interactions of a bloom with bees are has potential for both: Bee gets the food and in return it spreads the genetic material of the plant. Not quite *quid pro quo*, but consequential none the less. On the other hand, without such interaction the bloom is one more nonproductive, fruitless and inconsequential random event in the universe. In effect such a bloom never happened. The flower might as well have not bloomed. Such actions become evolutionary dead-end.

Is it by design? Mutual dependences (liking, preference, symbiosis) are based on survival strategies. Such behaviors are built into the awareness and responses to sense inputs. For a bee it may be the color and scent of the flower. For the flower it may be the mechanical stimulation of its parts by the bee. If we can call it that, such perceptual drives have evolutionary memories that came about from feed back that guided both bee and flower towards interaction that are beneficial to both. Such interactions evolve and continue without the prior knowledge of the strategies, processes, causality, functions and mechanism at work.

What brings a bee to a flower? Survival needs of the bee and flower are intertwined. It is microcosm of a much larger web of the interdependences in the biosphere. Both bee and flower are guided by feedback. Bee comes to a flower because the flower can not go to the bee. But flower does things to attract the bee. The he 'quality' of interaction encourages both. In a narrow sense, the color, shape, and fragrance are the measures of the quality. Does the bee know this? As a group bees certainly work for it. Do bees see their role in the bigger scheme of things? Irrespective of the answer all the components of the puzzle have come together in the evolution of a successful strategy. It may fail if human continue to interfere with such interactions. Just as bees, insects, and birds were here before came on the scene, they are also likely to be here after humans are gone.

As a metaphor for the absence of bee or the flower, imagine if a bee did nothing for the flower. Without a viable alternation, the end result would be nothing short of disaster. Most plants would not propagate and strengthen their genetic stock. Do bees and flowers *know* this? Its evolutionary memory is part of the collective existence and persistence of the species. Mutual dependence assures sustainability of all. It is a testimony of what worked. We can not even guess what did not work. We can only take a note of the fact that over-grazers tend to threaten their own survival.

In the grand design, without such interdependences among the organisms the universe would certainly become a lot more inanimate place.

Against Gods and Humbug

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