

The Timeless Existence

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Abstract: *Nothing is beyond all existential description and hence, the existential happenings may be considered as a part of all known and unknown (infinite) kind of happenings, the converse of which is not true i.e.; all such happenings together when integrated cannot form the Universe and thus all happenings and non-happenings exist timelessly.*

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1. Introduction

The mystery of the word 'Existence' baffles one in many ways. The existence of the several entities in the world, the existence of the historical events of the past, the existence of events to be, i.e. future happenings, in our mind, all come under the umbrella of the word 'existence'. Summarily we can say that there are realized existences which were in the past, there are unrealized existences of the future and there are different ways of interpreting the word 'existence', yet we do not know exactly how one talks about existence, one refers to something which is present – 'here and now'. For example, 'the table exists', 'I exist' or 'my existence was felt in the meeting'. The existence of the past and future events are somewhat knotty, what I would like to highlight in this paper is that 'existence' can be understood in relation to other entities in this universe. In daily life, existence is grasped in relation to the past and in relation to the future. But I am, in this paper, concerned with the existence of the present moment which can be grasped as 'here and now' as mentioned earlier.

Let us take, for instance, the case of a runner running 100 meter race. As the event going on, the runner gradually goes on crossing the space each and every minute he is existent or present there when he covers the fixed space. At the end, one says 'he ran 100 meters'. When he is in the mid way, one says 'he is yet to cover another 50 meters'. In the later situation, there is possibility of covering 50 meters which is still in the future. But the word 'running' covers both the 'covered' and 'uncovered' space. He might stop after covering 50 meters for some unknown or known reasons or he might cover the whole 100 meters. Thus, accommodate both 'travelled' and 'untraveled' part of the space – the actual and potential existence. The actual existence refers to the events occurring 'here and now', whereas the potential existence refers to the events that are going to happen in future. The point is we are in a constant process, like cooking, raining and becoming etc. and every moment of that process exists at a instant of time and in the next moment it becomes past, the future moment comes to the present and then gradually becomes the past. In the whole process, there is a continuation from future to the present, from present to the past. Let us take a leaf from Zeno's paradox which is an interesting case of travelling in space and time. Let us suppose that one wants to cross a stadium or race-course. In order to do so, he would have to traverse an infinite number of points on the Pythagorean hypothesis. But how can one traverse infinite number of points and so an

infinite distance. Indeed, we must conclude that no object can traverse a distance whatsoever and that all motion is consequently impossible. Let us again suppose, Zeno argues, that Achilles and tortoise are going to have a race since Achilles is a sportsman; he gives the tortoise a start. Now by the time that Achilles has reached the place from which the tortoise started, the later has again, advanced to another point and when Achilles reaches that point, there the tortoise will have advanced still another distance, even if very short. Thus Achilles is always coming nearer to the tortoise but never actually overtakes it and never can do so on the supposition that a line is made up of an infinite number of points, for then Achilles would have to traverse an infinite distance which is an impossibility. For it follows that slower moves as fast as the faster – what is called "Zeno's Paradox", may be taken as sophistry of argument and the fact remains that in reality we have traverse the path with equal competency.

In the universe, things exist in relation to each other i.e. something is a part of the Universe. Whereas the Universe stands above time, space, existence, is self-containing and in it has its own meaning. Also world of things require justification for existence and nothing is beyond all existential description. Hence, the existential happenings may be considered as a part of all known and unknown (infinite) kind of happenings, the converse of which is not true i.e. all such happenings together when integrated cannot form the Universe.

The other related concept to the notion of existence is 'nothing' which is also a part of the Universe. If something comes into existence, it is from 'nothing'. For instance, if there is no bangle in the piece of gold, then only it can come out of it. If it already exists there, there is no point of making a bangle. Similarly, if something is not-existing, it can never come into existence. For me, 'nothing' is a kind of privation which can be actualized but 'non-existence' is something which is impossible to realize, say, a child can think of being a doctor if he fulfils the required conditions, but he cannot think of drawing a "Square-Circle", which is a case of logical impossibility. The logical impossible ones are non-existence, empirically impossible ones are probable and actually existing things are regarded as real. In the context, I would like to inculcate the notion of 'truth' as actual existence. It is true to say that an event, say, 'A' correspondence to the actual event 'A' in the outside world. Unless I can show or locate the event 'A' in the outside world, the proposition 'A is true' cannot be true. Thus when

I say "it is raining" there must be raining in the outside world; there must be one to one correspondence between the proposition 'A is true' and the event occurring in the outside world. If there is no such event, the existence of rain is merely a fabrication. Philosophers may talk about the 'existence of fabrication' itself but in this brief paper I am not at all concerned with that area of existence. I will focus on the 'present existence' only. I do not deny the relational hanger that we use for past and future to which 'present existence' is hanging out. It is not an isolated phenomenon, exclusive of over and above the past and future. For instance, in the system of real numbers, when one talks about number 2, it is an integrated whole in itself, although one can very well predict, the other numbers like 1 or 3 which are either prior or posterior than number 2. So, while explaining the number 2, we need to presuppose the numbers 1 and 3 respectively but number 2 has its own independent identity. When we take a transition from number 1 to 2, there are infinite points in between 1 and 2 which we have to traverse. But ultimately we fail to grasp the merging point (meeting/ zenith) where the number ends and 2 begins. Thus one can notice when the church bell rings around 12 am on 31st Dec. and 1st Jan. begins. But we do not know that spark of the moment when 31st Dec. ends and 1st Jan. begins. The grey area in between can be sensed but cannot be captured through any cognitive device or tool. Just as when someone is crying we can understand that person is in pain but we cannot feel his pain. So we can sense what it means to say number 2, but we cannot logically capture it through any device. The subtle borderline between 1 and 2, where number 1 ends and number 2 begins, remain in the grey area. It is somewhat like twilight in between day and night.

Thus all existential happenings are defined in terms of relative time and space which are both finite and infinite, although the range of infinite is beyond our comprehension. Another instance may clear the above mentioned issue. When one uses the word 'not-hot' it refers first to 'hot' then it refers to something 'not-hot', but the range of 'not-hot' is infinite and extends to all except 'hot'. That is why, say it is infinite and I make a difference between 'nothing' and 'non-existence'. Let me specify that the word 'nothing' stands for 'potential' to be realized and the word 'non-existence' stands for the absolutely impossible. Thus in reality objects are integration of 'being and nothing' --- something is there and something is yet to be realized. It is imperfect; incomplete and in the process be completed, for perfection and equilibrium state of existence is ongoing process of the Universe. It again refers to the wonderful nature of eternity, yet to be comprehended by the limited human wisdom, but that in no way denies the real world what is eternally and timelessly existing and therein lays the justification of the title. Thus existence is in time and yet it exceeds time.

References

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