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Tom proved to be a very good subject, and within seconds the hypnotist had him in a deep trance. He then proceeded with the usual tricks performed by stage hypnotists. He convinced Tom there was a giraffe in the room and had Tom gaping in wonder. He told Tom that a potato was really an apple and had Tom eat it with gusto. But the highlight of the evening was when he told Tom that when he came out of trance, his teenage daughter, Laura, would be completely invisible to him. Then, after having Laura stand directly in front of the chair in which Tom was sitting, the hypnotist awakened him and asked him if he could see her.

Tom looked around the room and his gaze appeared to pass right through his giggling daughter. "No," he replied. The hypnotist asked Tom if he was certain, and again, despite Laura's rising giggles, he answered no. Then the hypnotist went behind Laura so he was hidden from Tom's view and pulled an object out of his pocket. He kept the object carefully concealed so that no one in the room could see it, and pressed it against the small of Laura's back. He asked Tom to identify the object. Tom leaned forward as if staring directly through Laura's stomach and said that it was a watch. The hypnotist nodded and asked if Tom could read the watch's inscription. Tom squinted as if struggling to make out the writing and recited both the name of the watch's owner (which happened to be a person unknown to any of us in the room) and the message. The hypnotist then revealed that the object was indeed a watch and passed it around the room so that everyone could see that Tom had read its inscription correctly.

When I talked to Tom afterward, he said that his daughter had been absolutely invisible to him. All he had seen was the hypnotist standing and holding a watch cupped in the palm of his hand. Had the hypnotist let him leave without telling him what was going on, he never would have known he wasn't perceiving normal consensus reality.

*From p.141, The Holographic Universe, by Michael Talbot*

Despite its apparent materiality the universe is actually a kind of 3-D projection and is ultimately no more real than a hologram.

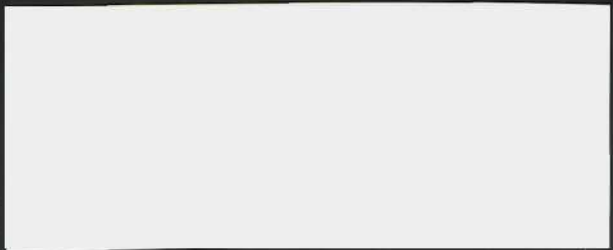
This astonishing idea was pioneered by two of the world's most eminent thinkers, physicist David Bohm, a former protégé of Einstein, and the quantum physicist Karl Pribram. The holographic theory of the world encompasses not only reality as we know it, including hitherto unexplained phenomena, but is capable of explaining such occurrences as telepathy, paranormal and out-of-body experiences, synchronicity, 'lucid' dreaming and even mystical and religious traditions such as cosmic unity and miraculous healings.

Now, in *The Holographic Universe*, Michael Talbot reveals the extraordinary depth and power of this radical theory. He explains the theory behind a holograph and how it provides a model for aspects of brain function and for whole areas of quantum physics. Illustrating the paranormic way in which the holographic model makes sense of the entire range of mystical, spiritual and psychic experiences, Talbot pushes the barriers to explore the implications for other universes beyond our own. Daring and ground-breaking, *The Holographic Universe* is a classic in the vein of Frijof Capra's *The Tao of Physics*.

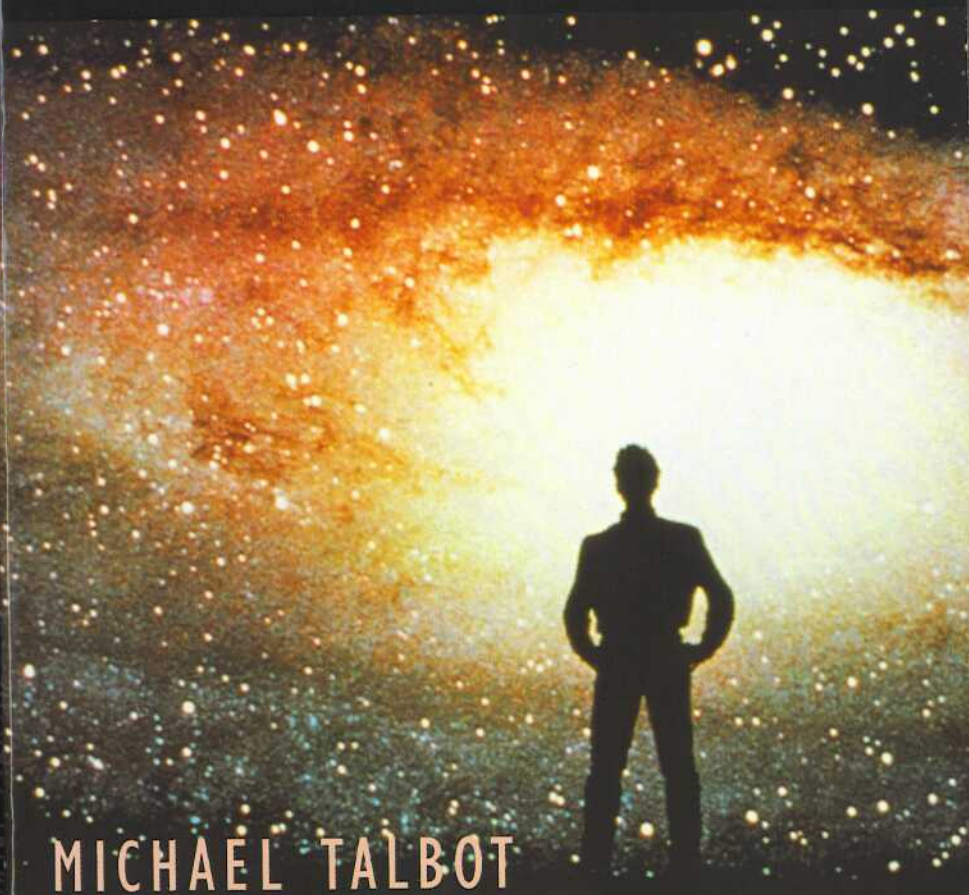
'One of the cleverest writers around today ... his eclectic mind ranges far into the deepest and often most controversial mysteries of modern science' Fred Alan Wolf, PhD, author of *Taking the Quantum Leap*

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POPULAR SCIENCE • ILLUSTRATED



# THE HOLOGRAPHIC UNIVERSE



MICHAEL TALBOT

A Remarkable New Theory of Reality that Explains:

- the Latest Frontiers of Physics
- the Paranormal Abilities of the Mind
- and the Unsolved Riddles of Brain and Body

THE HOLOGRAPHIC UNIVERSE MICHAEL TALBOT

true attitude keeps many physicists from considering even the philosophical implications of quantum physics' most incredible findings. As N. David Mermin, a physicist at Cornell University, points out, physicists fall into three categories: a small minority is troubled by the philosophical implications; a second group has elaborate reasons why they are not troubled, but their explanations tend "to miss the point entirely"; and a third group has no elaborate explanations but also refuses to say why they aren't troubled. "Their position is unassailable," says Mermin.<sup>38</sup>

Jahn and Dunne are not so timid. They believe that instead of discovering particles, physicists may actually be *creating* them. As evidence, they cite a recently discovered subatomic particle called an *anomalon*, whose properties vary from laboratory to laboratory. Imagine owning a car that had a different color and different features depending on who drove it! This is very curious and seems to suggest that an anomalon's reality depends on who finds/creates it.<sup>39</sup>

Similar evidence may also be found in another subatomic particle. In the 1930s Pauli proposed the existence of a massless particle called a *neutrino* to solve an outstanding problem concerning radioactivity. For years the neutrino was only an idea, but then in 1957 physicists discovered evidence of its existence. In more recent years, however, physicists have realized that if the neutrino possessed some mass, it would solve several even thornier problems than the one facing Pauli, and lo and behold in 1980 evidence started to come in that the neutrino had a small but measurable mass! This is not all. As it turned out, only laboratories in the Soviet Union discovered neutrinos with mass. Laboratories in the United States did not. This remained true for the better part of the 1980s, and although other laboratories have now duplicated the Soviet findings, the situation is still unresolved.<sup>40</sup>

Is it possible that the different properties displayed by neutrinos are due at least in part to the changing expectations and different cultural biases of the physicists who searched for them? If so, such a state of affairs raises an interesting question. If physicists do not discover the subatomic world but create it, why do some particles, such as electrons, appear to have a stable reality no matter who observes them? In other words, why does a physics student with no knowledge of an electron still discover the same characteristics that a seasoned physicist discovers?

One possible answer is that our perceptions of the world may not be based solely on the information we receive through our five senses.

As fantastic as this may sound, a very good case can be made for such a notion. Before explaining, I would like to relate an occurrence I witnessed in the middle 1970s. My father had hired a professional hypnotist to entertain a group of friends at his house and had invited me to attend the event. After quickly determining the hypnotic susceptibility of the various individuals present, the hypnotist chose a friend of my father's named Tom as his subject. This was the first time Tom had ever met the hypnotist.

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Obviously Tom's perception of the watch was not based on information he was receiving through his five senses. Where was he getting