

Plants and intelligence

In a previous paper, I discussed Zoe Schlanger's new book, "The Light Eaters." The book highlights recent research on plants, focusing on their ability to communicate, move in seemingly logical ways, imitate other plants, and signal to plants and animals when they need help.

Paper 65, The Overcontrol of Evolution, opens with this statement: "BASIC evolutionary material life—premind life—is the formulation of the Master Physical Controllers and the life-imparting ministry of the Seven Master Spirits, working together with the active service of the ordained Life Carriers. Through this combined threefold creativity, organisms develop physical capacities for the mind, creating material mechanisms that enable intelligent responses to external environmental stimuli and, eventually, internal signals originating from the organism's own mind.

"There are, then, three distinct levels of life production and evolution:

- "1. The physical-energy domain—mind-capacity production.*
- "2. The mind ministry of the adjutant spirits—impinging upon spirit capacity.*
- "3. The spirit endowment of mortal mind—culminating in Thought Adjuster bestowal."*

"The mechanical-nonteachable levels of organismal environmental response are the domains of the physical controllers. The adjutant mind-spirits activate and regulate the adaptative or nonmechanical-teachable types of mind—those response mechanisms of organisms capable of learning from experience." (UB65:0.1-6)

It's quite clear that number 3 exceeds what plants and the last two adjutant mind spirits can do. However, our understanding of the remaining mind adjutants, one through five, isn't fully settled in relation to plants. We do know these lower adjutants are involved with all mammals and most other advanced animals. These creatures are known to possess some form of intelligence. But for plants? Not that we're aware of... yet.

"The lower forms of plant life are wholly responsive to physical, chemical, and electrical environment. But as the scale of life ascends, one by one the mind ministries of the seven adjutant spirits become operative, and the mind becomes increasingly adjustive, creative, co-ordinative, and dominative. The ability of animals to adapt themselves to air, water, and land is not a supernatural endowment, but it is a superphysical adjustment." (UB65:6.7)

Observe the jump from simpler plant forms to the "scale of life ascending." What lies between the "lower forms" and the more complex plant life? The text misses the opportunity to include recent research indicating some plants may display signs of intelligence, as discussed in the recent book *The Light Eaters*.

"The ability to learn, memory and differential response to environment, is the endowment of mind." (UB65:6.9) Do plants learn? Do they have memory? It appears that amoebas have memory and can learn. Does this suggest they have a mind? Or consciousness?

"...Mind can profit from experience, can learn from reactive habits of behavior in response to repetition of stimuli." And "[p]reintelligent organisms react to environmental stimuli, but those organisms which are reactive to mind ministry can adjust and manipulate the environment itself." (UB65.6.8-9)

“On this world there developed many forms of border phenomena—confusional combinations of the mechanical-nonteachable and the nonmechanical-teachable types of organismal response.” (UB65:7.4) Could there be entities, such as plants, that exist between the mechanical-nonteachable and the nonmechanical-teachable types, similar to mechanical-teachable types?

To continue, *“The seven adjutant spirits do not make contact with the purely mechanical orders of organismal environmental response. Such preintelligent responses of living organisms pertain purely to the energy domains of the power centers, the physical controllers, and their associates.”* ... *“The acquisition of the potential of the ability to learn from experience marks the beginning of the functioning of the adjutant spirits....”* (UB65:7.5-6) Could it be that there are correlative associations of adjutant mind spirits that belong to the power centers?

I'm not claiming that plants achieve spiritual enlightenment, since they do not respond to spiritual gravity. However, this doesn't imply they lack some form of intelligence or awareness of their environment, and that they react based on the idea of “survival of the fittest.”

Let's briefly review the Life Carriers of Paper 36. Unlike the inanimate substances that comprise the planets and other physical astronomical phenomena, the Life Carriers are essential to the emergence of life on evolutionary worlds. “Life does not spontaneously appear in the universes; the Life Carriers must initiate it on the barren planets. They are the carriers, disseminators, and guardians of life as it appears on the evolutionary worlds of space.” (UB36:3.1) *“[T]he Life Carriers catalyze this lifeless material, imparting through their persons the vital spirit spark; and forthwith do the inert patterns become living matter.”* (UB36:3.3) *“The vital spark—the mystery of life—is bestowed through the Life Carriers, not by them. They do indeed supervise such transactions, they formulate the life plasm itself, but it is the Universe Mother Spirit who supplies the essential factor of the living plasm. From the Creative Daughter of the Infinite Spirit comes that energy spark which enlivens the body and presages the mind.”* (UB36:3.4)

While the text implies that life implantation is by the Life Carriers, it does not elaborate much on the plant kingdom's relationship with them. For example, *“When the Life Carriers have designed the patterns of life, after they have organized the energy systems, there must occur an additional phenomenon; the “breath of life” must be imparted to these lifeless forms.”* ... *“The life bestowed upon plants and animals by the Life Carriers does not return to the Life Carriers upon the death of plant or animal. The departing life of such a living thing possesses neither identity nor personality; it does not individually survive death. During its existence and the time of its sojourn in the body of matter, it has undergone a change; it has undergone energy evolution and survives only as a part of the cosmic forces of the universe; it does not survive as individual life. The survival of mortal creatures is wholly predicated on the evolvement of an immortal soul within the mortal mind.”* (UB36:6.4-5)

Note that the last sentence applies only to human-type will creatures.

Then, *“We speak of life as ‘energy’ and as ‘force,’ but it is really neither. Force-energy is variously gravity-responsive; life is not. Pattern is also nonresponsive to gravity, being a configuration of energies that have already fulfilled all gravity-responsive obligations. Life, as such, constitutes the animation of some pattern-configured or otherwise segregated system of energy—material, mindal, or spiritual.”* (UB36:6.6)

From here, the author tells us that there is much they do not understand regarding these topics.

To consider further, other questions arise: Are ultimatons, whose center of gravity is the Isle of Paradise itself, conscious in any way? If so, then so are elections, atoms, molecules, and so on. Now that gives one pause for thought.

There is so much we do not know about plants, yet they significantly outnumber us.

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Footnotes:

1. The earlier paper was written on July 6, 2024. It is called *In Search of Divine Reality 4.0*.
2. *The Light Eaters: How the Unseen World of Plant Intelligence Offers a New Understanding of Life on Earth*. Zoe Schlanger. New York: HarperCollins Publishers, 2024.

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