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Dr. Richard Thompson  
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Dear Dr. Thompson:

This is a terribly late expression of appreciation for the book Mechanistic and Nonmechanistic Science and for your letter of February 14. I was very busy and we were abroad a great deal of time.

You asked me in your letter to comment on Chapter 3. I liked that chapter very much--in particular it acquainted me some with the Bhagavad-gita. I learned that the basic philosophical ideas of this on "existence" are virtually identical with those which quantum mechanics lead me to. Are the names of the participants in the discussion, Yantry, Kutark, Avaroha, etc. actual names of persons or do they have some hidden meaning?

As to Yantry, her views well represent the common views of most biologists: she believes that present day physics contains the fundamental description of life and consciousness. And this belief is based on her (admitted) ignorance of the basic principles of quantum theory--she is unfamiliar even with the Schrodinger equation (pages 52-56). Kutark is not very outspoken--his ideas on pages 64-66 are well founded but he is not very clear. On the other hand, I admired Avaroha--he not only reproduces (with a few exceptions where he is not clear) the ideas on reality virtually forced on us by quantum theory, he also points to the close similarity of these ideas with those of Bhagavad-gita. As I said, this was totally new to me and refreshing. Pages 76-78 are truly excellent, the rest of the chapter is not quite so.

I did not read the whole book equally thoroughly but I did like what I have read. Good wishes for the success of the book!

Sincerely,



Eugene Wigner

VW