THE TIME TRAVEL RELIGION

Q: Is time travel possible?

A: Yes, you can travel to your future [a ‘place’ that does not ‘exist’ until it is ‘created’ by changes in the ‘now’ of your part of the universe]. Your consciousness travels with your body via the sequence of evolving ‘nows’ of your body and mind. There is no past to return to. There is no future to jump to. There is only now. Time ‘travel’ is a one-way trip for all of us where the future is created by the changes in our ‘nows’. [For more details see my other papers at: https://www.msu.edu/~hitchco4/ ]

Q: Why?

A: Process reversal is not the same as time reversal. Most time travel scenarios confuse this point. We create time as a measure of change in the states of systems undergoing processes such as ‘aging’ of our bodies. We can reverse some processes locally with the application of ‘order’ in the form of energy to reconstruct a state of system that we consider to be a previous configuration of that system. Change does not occur in time. Change occurs independent of the time. Time is a construction that we have created to map irreversible and reversible processes. All this is relative to our choice of clocks, which are also subject to change. Space and time are human-made maps. The space-time of physics is a mathematical construction whose goal is to map the real world’s evolutionary processes via laws that explain the past and attempt to predict the future based on observed or experienced patterns of change. ‘Now’ is the only reality we can experience.

Q: Why is the belief that time travel is possible so pervasive in science fiction and science?

A: Time travel is a fundamentally a fantasy that feeds ones desire to change events in a past that doesn’t exist or a future that has yet to be created by the universe out of the present ‘now’ – neither the past or future exist as some sort of place we can travel to. Time travel as part of physical theories is mathematical only. As far as the emotional need of ‘scientists’ to believe in time travel, I can only say that this may originate in their narcissistic desire to control events outside of their limitations -- to make the universe conform to their emotional and irrational desires. This is what usually happens in time travel fantasies in science fiction and the movies. While ‘time travel’ is an easy vehicle to move a story along in fiction, it also represents an easy way to assert dominance over irreversible or unpredictable change. In conclusion time travel is a belief with followers who fervor borders on the irrational thinking found in religion. ‘Now’ is the only reality regardless of relativistic transformations that really represent slowing down or speeding up of the metabolic processes of our bodies or energy flow processes in our instruments. Therefore “be here now” and enjoy surfing on your cosmic wave of ‘now’!

- SCOTT MATHESON HITCHCOCK [Thursday, July 30, 2015]