

## QUANTUM ENTANGLEMENT & VARIOUS OTHER FAMILIAR COMPOUND GHOSTS

As I am wont to do, let us begin our discussion of the subject, Entanglement, with a few lines from what in my estimation is one of the most remarkable poems in the English language, namely Gerard Manley Hopkins's late-19th-century 'That Nature Is a Heraclitean Fire.' Hopkins's not-readily quantifiable poem also happens to be among the most revelatory evocations of Light -- in its various manifestations -- known to me ::

That Nature Is a Heraclitean Fire :: "Shivelights & shadowtackle in long / lashes lace, lance, & pair . . . / Million-fueled, / Nature's bonfire burns on . . . / Man, how fast his firedint, / his mark on mind, is gone! . . . / But vastness blurs & time / beats level . . . Across my foundering deck sh<sup>o</sup>ne / A beacon, an eternal beam. / Flesh fade, & mortal trash / Fall to the residuary worm: / world's wildfire, leave but ash: / In a flash, at a trumpet crash . . . / This Jack, joke, poor potsherd, / patch, matchwood, immortal diamond, / Is immortal diamond."

As we 'Ravel -- not the French composer -- this Tangle' (It being difficult to altogether resist Hopkins's consummate wordplay : ), it smites me as worth mentioning in this conTeXt that whereas Hopkins's Heraclitean poem dates from 1888, 'Entanglement' has its more recent origin in a paper pertaining to helium by the Norwegian physicist Egil A. Hylleraas, which was 'followed up' with the far-better-known 'coinage' by Edwin Schrodinger in 1935. And so the {un}raveling of this quantum conundrum continues . .

All of which juxtaposes most curiously with the contemporary Oxford physicist David Deutsch(b. 1953)'s profound InSight, "A non-local, hidden variable theory means, in ordinary language, a theory in which influences propagate across space & time without passing through the space between: In other words, they propagate instantaneously." (As cited by John Gribbin in his "Edwin Schrodinger & the Quantum Revolution;" Wiley, Hoboken, NJ, 2013), which of course opens the FloodGates to all kinds of other cognate quantum spookiness, such as time travel.

When I woke up Wednesday, March 29th, I was haunted by the phrase 'familiar compound ghost,' which plays a central role in T. S. Eliot's final "QuARTet," 'Little Gidding,' a place near Cambridge, UK, to which I've actually made a pilgrimage. Provoked to delve deeper(Keeping in mind that according to the American literary critic Harold Bloom, "Deep reading is the proper use of one's solitude"), I acted on said 'nudge' by {re}broaching Christopher Ricks's magisterial "True Friendship: Geoffrey Hill, Anthony Hecht, Robert Lowell Under the Sign of Eliot & Pound" (The Anthony Hecht Lectures in the Humanities, delivered biennially at Bard College; Yale, New Haven & London, 2010), wherein it didn't take me long to discover that said 'familiar compound ghost' in Eliot's 'Little Gidding' is in fact a composite of the great Troubadour Arnaut Daniel, who Dante credits with having been 'il miglior fabbro/the better craftsman;' Dante's own beloved mentor, Brunetto Latini; Pound himself, to whom Eliot dedicates his "The Waste Land" (1922) as 'il miglior fabbro;' &, to some extent, the Muse-haunted Eliot himself. Which brings us back, full circle, as it were, to the famous XVth Canto of Dante's 'Inferno,' wherein the spirits in the Underworld "sharpened their Vision{knitted their brows} at us, like an old tailor / peering at the eye of his needle . . ." Now, tHere's an image worth pondering. I'd even be so bold as to suggest that Hopkins's 'immortal diamond' is in fact a not-so-distant -- at least in Spirit -- 'echo' of the 'diamond body' so epicentral to Tibetan Buddhism, but that's a subject for another day in a life devoted to delving deeper, & will, of course, be contingent on disentangling ourselves from the loath-to-let-go clutches of Winter as we wend our Way towards the 'cruellest month' (This passage being penned on an uncommonly 'out-like-a-lion' snowy March 30th).

Other works consulted :: Louisa Gilder's "The Age of Entanglement: When Quantum Physics Was ReBorn" (Alfred A. Knopf, NYC, 2008) & the German physicist Heinrich Pas's brillig "The One: How an Ancient Idea Holds the Future of Physics" (Basic Bks., NYC, 2023).