

Reality and the Human Enterprise

Science discovers and documents reality,
at its best enthusiastically,
imaginatively, meticulously,
and necessarily dispassionately.

Music, Art, and Literature elaborate on reality,
at their best enthusiastically,
imaginatively, elegantly,
and necessarily passionately.

Politics, Law, and Morality stabilize reality,
at their best, wisely and justly.

Humor mocks reality,
at its best, constructively.

Realities can be physical,
string, particle, or wave to a universe
or biological I (animal and plant)
or biological II (human, and a special sociality).

Human social realities can be completely accurate,
because complete agreement is the only criterion.
And they can be contrary to physical realities,
deliberately, even, yet serve the believers
better than other realities, but only sometimes,
and that sometimes is when cooperation,
joining to achieve a common goal,
is required to be all that is important.

Animal and plant realities can be affected by humans,
subordinated or not to social realities.

Human realities regarding self have so far
been subordinated to human social realities;
we have not been willing yet to know
everything about ourselves,

not the things we are evolved to suppress,
or those that seem to make us unhappy;
not the self-deception we use to further our own
desires and goals, and that generates social reputations
but only temporarily and shakily accurate versions.

Art, Music, Literature,
Politics, Law, Morality,
and Humor, too, are restricted
to the human social kind of reality.

Mocking individual realities can
save the humorist too,
but only when it works
for him in the eyes of others.

Failing that,
the effort buries him.

But a humor that mocks
social and political realities
may also save the world.