

Is There a Fourth Dimension?

The general and most laudable opinion is disposed to make speculative thought originate from and be dependent upon provable theorems, and thus favor intention rather than extension. Earthlings have wooed Dame Science so importunately within the last century that they have to some extent come to her way of thinking; moreover, have found her so stern a mistress that the philosophic method, formerly so cherished, of casting a rope into the air and climbing by it is not so popular. Somehow we Psychosophers prefer to look for the hook. Perhaps, however, the most guarded will not consider it a waste of time to test the virtue of a possible fourth dimension as explaining certain phenomena commonly classed as hyper-physical. Could anything serve better than Hyperspace? And is there any such?

We cannot offer any solution of a problem so intricate mathematically, and seemingly so visionary philosophically; nor are we persuaded that any valid solution can, with our present data, be offered. It is evident, however, that some kindred thesis may assist many to a system of psychical belief subjectively more reasonable, though it be from our present standpoint only a Keplerian guess.

It would seem that in current empiricism we are not so secure in our fundamentals as, in the pride of partial knowledge, we have hitherto been pleased to think. Our two ultimate ideas are time and space: the first of one dimension, the second of three. Not only do we find them upon analysis to be in essence non-ultimate, and mere conventions in both thought and speech—terminological makeshifts to minds that demand a place where matter has been, and a period in which something has happened—but we are not even ready to offer a flush measure for either of them. As regards *time*, neither life, existence, nor motion will help. *Life*, with any meaning defensible on biological grounds is inapplicable; existence eliminates protoplasm but not matter, and is mere quibble of etymological art; *motion*