

I SWEAR WE  
ARE TIME  
TRAVELLERS



***I Swear We Are Time Travelling***

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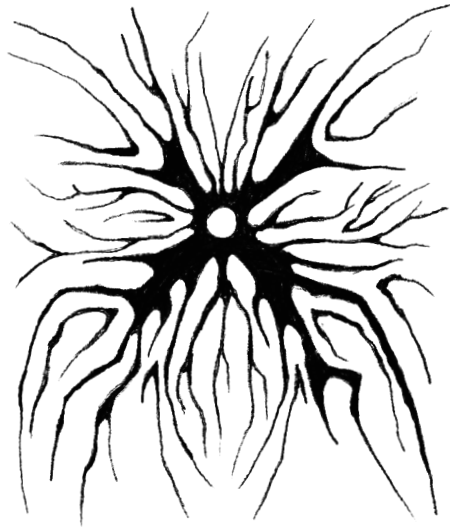
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*“We didn’t need a story, we didn’t need a real world  
We just had to keep walking  
And we became the stories, we became the places  
We were the lights, the deserts, the faraway worlds  
We were you before you even existed”  
(M83, 2011)*



We do not recall the age of time that well. In fact, we can barely imagine it. After breaking time into hours, minutes, and seconds, our connection to the Earth billions of years ago resembles a fine, long, and almost translucent line.

About five billion years ago we, a molten speck of dust particles, a secretion of solar nebulae, to be exact, carved our path around the freshly ignited Sun. During our search for a more permanent path, we collided with other meteorites, shape shifting and bubbling with severe volcanic eruptions. Our temperament stabilized and centred around a mutual core.

While searching for our path, our planet went through a series of serious mood swings. From eruptive, bubbling hot, to freezing. And, somewhere on the way, we acquired aquatic substances which built favourable conditions for life to begin.

*“[An atom] had marked time in the limestone ledge since the Paleozoic seas covered the land. Time, to an atom locked in a rock, does not pass.*

*The break came when a bur-oak root nosed down a crack and began prying and sucking. In the flash of a century the rock decayed, and X was pulled out and up into the world of living things.” (Leopold, 2021, p. 13)*

But now we have time jumped too far. Life has started way before the Paleozoic seas, and we have skipped an entire period referred to as The Boring Billion, which lasted on earth from 1,8 to 0,8 billion years ago. We recall a vast dark sea stretching over the Earth’s crust and eventually washing the shores of a newly formed continent.

*“For a billion years the Earth was very probably climatically and geochemically stable, which is bad for life, because stability usually means stagnation.” (Wedlich, 2021, p. 152)*

During these stagnant times, our ancestors, prokaryotic cells, cells without a nucleus, ruled the vast oceans, roaming around within their gelatinous bodies, circulating sulphur. We were constantly at battle with the freezing temperatures and the threat of global cooling. All the sulphur contributed to a constant egg-like stench, which did not improve at all with the introduction of a new smelly contributor: methanogens.

*“We think early life resolved [global cooling] through the evolution of organisms called methanogens, which are still around in our guts and anywhere there is a lack of oxygen.” (Lovelock, 2021, p. 26)*

Methanogens have served as one of the main contributors and facilitators for the evolution of eukaryotic cells, cells with a nucleus. Eukaryotes are oxygen-dependant, and in order to be able to access this valuable resource, they need the warm embrace facilitated by the methanogens.

*“The Not So Boring Billion? According to the fossil record, evolution appears to have stopped – or so the conventional thinking went. But there was at least one extremely exciting development in the emergence of the eukaryotic cell as a competitor to microbes.” (Wedlich, 2021, p. 152)*

By evolving from a cell and carrying a pocket of water up to the ground, we have managed to unconsciously create an interwoven structure that binds us all. The water pocket is our own body. We created the hypersea, the sea above the sea, a watery fluid net upon which all the living are dependent. The hypersea is an evolutionary phenomenon that aids the existence of hydrofeminism, a radical belief in equality due to the dependency on and subjection to bodies of water.

*“Aside from occasional supplements brought in on comets, the water that we drink and touch is the same water that erupted as steam at the origins of the earth. All of the moments of the past have had this same water as their witness.” (MacLeod, 2013, p. 48)*





The only traces were bird and hare imprints and shell-shielded wind-made dramatic patterns that prevented the sandy waves from forming smoothly. It seemed as if the Sun (wind) and the Moon (tide) were in some kind of mutual agreement because the tiny sand waves, whether or not soaked in water, were suspiciously similar: the wind-made waves looked like a spitting image of their tide-made sibling. The only difference between them was their longevity; the water-soaked sand seemed to resist and hold up longer to the merciless human feet that stain the beach daily.

Reflections from Schiermonnikoog island,  
March 3rd 2022



Nuclear cells, also known as eukaryotes, were created as a result of drive towards symbiosis.

We somehow recognized the mutual benefit deriving from collaboration instead of competition. We acknowledged our ability to enhance each other's freedom and help each other thrive. This carefully composed political relationship, since everything is political when there are two or more parties involved, is rooted in radical care.

*“Microbes and other lowlier creatures were long established on land when the first marine vertebrates ventured on dry land, as were plants. As self-sufficient photosynthesizers they led the journey inland, and there is a theory that they were helped by fungi which acted as anchors and a support system till roots were invented.” (Wedlich, 2021, p. 168)*

When we hijacked our ride inland on the backs of plants, we expanded our mission of information circulation. We could co-exist in a finer hyper-sea net and learn.

*“One bacterium could acquire a trait from another bacterium “horizontally.” Characteristics acquired horizontally are those that aren't inherited “vertically” from one's parents. One picks them up along the way. We're used to the principle. When we learn or teach something, we're part of a horizontal exchange of information.” (Sheldrake, 2020, p. 83)*

We have a carbon steel cooking pan that possesses the powers of heritage flavour and passes on the fragrances of ancestral food particles to every forthcoming dish. Microscopic particles tem-

porarily bound to the unintentionally porous metal surface show the appropriate amount of resistance in order not to be washed away by tepid soapy water. They activate with heat, teaching the new pan-residing foodstuffs the way of their temporary world. The particles exchange places through hot water transportation channels, learning horizontally and lending each other flavour and history.

*“Water teaches us that we share many things and that water, the water that literally flows through my body, in some way also flows through yours. But that in those sort of changing morphologies, movements across membranes, transubstantiations, water is also continuously gestating difference. So, we are both sharing in an aqueous hydro commons that connects us in really material ways. But that is not to say we are all the same big puddle. We are also very much differentiated through and as and by water as well.” (RIBOCA, 2020b, 26:24–27:05)*

Human bodies are beyond uniformly eukaryotic and effectively fail to recognize life beyond their anthropoid (human-centered) understanding. Humans are holobionts; a vessel of its own hosting a myriad of hyper-symbiotic eukaryotic and prokaryotic cells. We have the obligation to take care of the vast amount of otherness that is self-contained, catering to fragile intimate ecologies.

*“To be born at all is to be situated in a network of relations with other people, and furthermore find oneself forcibly inserted into linguistic categories that might seem natural and inevitable but are socially constructed and rigorously policed. We’re all stuck in our bodies, meaning stuck inside a grid of conflicting ideas about what those bodies mean, what they’re capable of, and what they’re allowed or forbidden to do.” (Laing, 2021, p. 179)*



We just remembered: our overall happiness and depression levels correlate with altitude. Being higher up above the sea level makes us naturally high, whilst also maintaining the altitude of the atoms that compose our body - they are happier about their longevity. On higher altitude lines we are also a lesser subject to atmospheric pressure, therefore we become less heavy, more pliable (see fig.1). In this state walking becomes easier, we have less headaches, and the grass turns greener.

*“Deep underwater, eternal darkness reigns. Temperatures are close to freezing and the pressure is 1000 times higher than at sea level. ... The species *Pseudoliparis swirei* – also named after Sub-lieutenant Swire – lives more than eight kilometers below sea level and holds the record for the world’s deepest-dwelling fish. It’s an astonishing feat for this lively, pink-bodied little creature; the water pressure at the point where the fish was found is equivalent to the weight of an elephant on a fingertip.” (Wedlich, 2021, p. 177)*

Unlike us, this fish prospers from tremendous pressure. When removed from its deep-sea home, its slimy body simply evaporates. The heaviness that constitutes its existence disappears and erases any signs of the fish’s presence.

*“Let’s consider the forces at play: all life forms are subject to one constant. Gravity affects us all in the same way and all the time. In the water, however there is added buoyancy to counter its effect and to keep delicate plankton afloat.” (Wedlich, 2021, p. 170)*



*Figure 1 : Heavy But Pliable, May 2021*