

Are We Passive Observers or

# Powerful Creators?

From The Divine Matrix

By Gregg Braden

## What Does It Mean to “Participate” in the Universe?

Physicist John Wheeler suggests that not only do we play a role in what he calls a “participatory universe,” but we fulfill the primary role. The key to Wheeler’s proposition is the word participatory. In this type of universe, you and I are part of the equation.

We are both catalysts for the events of our lives, as well as the “experiencers” of what we create . . . these things are happening at the same time! We are “part of a universe that is a work in progress.” In this unfinished creation, “we are tiny patches of the universe looking at itself – and building itself.”<sup>22</sup>

In a participatory universe, the act of focusing our consciousness – of us

looking somewhere and examining the world – is an act of creation in and of itself. We are the ones observing and studying our world. We are the mind (or at least part of a greater mind), as Planck described. Everywhere we look, our consciousness makes something for us to look at.

A participatory universe . . . exactly what would that entail? If consciousness really creates, then how much power do we actually have to change our world? The answer may surprise you. The 20th-century visionary from Barbados known simply by the name of Neville perhaps best described our ability to make our dreams a reality and bring imagination to life. Through his numerous books and

lectures, in terms that are simple yet direct, he shared the great secret of how to navigate the many possibilities of the Divine Matrix. From Neville’s perspective, all that we experience – literally everything that happens to us or is done by us – is the product of our consciousness and absolutely nothing else.

He believed that our ability to apply this understanding through the power of imagination is all that stands between us and the miracles of our lives. Just as the Divine Matrix provides the container for the universe, Neville suggested that it is impossible for anything to happen outside the container of consciousness.

From the leaders of nations whom we have learned to fear and hate to the people in other countries who touch our hearts and invite our love, we are all connected in what may be the most intimate way imaginable: through the field of consciousness that is the incubator for our reality. Together, we create the healing or the suffering, the peace or the war. This could very well be the most difficult implication of what the new science is showing us. It might also be the source of our greatest healing and survival.

Neville's work reminds us that perhaps the biggest error in our worldview is to look to external reasons for life's ups and downs. While there are certainly causes and effects that may lead to the events of every day, they seem to originate from a time and a place that appears completely disconnected with the moment.

Neville shares the crux of the greatest mystery regarding our relationship to the world around us: "Man's chief delusion is his conviction that there are causes other than his own state of consciousness."<sup>3</sup> Just what does this mean? It is the practical question that naturally arises when we talk about living in a participatory universe. When we inquire how much power we really have to bring about change in our lives and our world, the answer is simple.

This capability is available to us through the way we use the power of our awareness and where we choose to place our focus. In his book *The Power of*

*Awareness*, Neville offers example after example of case histories that clearly illustrate precisely how this works.

One of his most poignant stories has remained with me for years. It involves a man in his 20s who had been diagnosed with a rare heart condition that his doctors believed was fatal. Married with two small children, he was loved by all who knew him and had every reason in the world to enjoy a long and healthy life. By the time Neville was asked to speak with him, the man had lost a tremendous amount of weight and "shrunk to almost a skeleton." He was so weak that even conversation was hard for him, but he agreed to simply listen and nod his understanding as Neville shared with him the power of his beliefs.

From the perspective of our participating in a dynamic and evolving universe, there can be only one solution to any problem: a change in attitude and in consciousness. With this in mind, Neville asked the man to experience himself as if his healing had already taken place. As the poet William Blake suggested, there is a very fine line between imagination and reality: "Man is all Imagination." Through the power of consciously focusing on the things that we create in our imagination, we give them the "nudge" that brings them through the barrier from the unreal to the real.

In a single sentence, Neville explains how he provided the words that would help his new friend accomplish his new way

of thinking: "I suggested that in imagination, he see the doctor's face expressing incredulous amazement in finding him recovered, contrary to all reason, from the last stages of an incurable disease, that he see him double-checking in his examination and hear him saying over and over, 'It is a miracle – it is a miracle.'"<sup>5</sup> Well, you can guess the reason why I am sharing this story: The fellow did get better. Months later, the visionary received a letter telling him that the young man had, in fact, made a truly miraculous recovery. Neville later met with him and found that he was enjoying his family and his life in perfect health.

The secret, the man revealed, was that rather than simply wishing for his health, since the day of their meeting, he had lived from the "assumption of already being well and healed." Herein we find the secret of propelling our heart's desires from the state of imagination to the reality of our everyday lives: It is our ability to feel as if our dreams have already come to life, our wishes are fulfilled, and our prayers already answered. In this way, we actively share in what Wheeler called our "participatory universe."



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