

Excerpt from “Reality Is Subjective”

Chaki Kobayashi (blog), May 8, 2013

Most people have the idea that the world, the universe, is an objective reality. It exists independently of us, independently of perceivers. For example, a tree is a tree. Regardless of whether I perceive the tree or an ant perceives the tree, the tree is the same thing. It has its own objective reality which is perceived in different ways by different beings. My experience of the tree is subjective, as is the ant's, but the tree has a true essence that exists objectively.

I don't believe there is such a thing as an objective reality. Reality is subjective. Of course, among humans, our perceptual experiences are similar enough in most cases that we can agree on most things and label trees as trees, for example. They have roots, trunks, branches, leaves. They're trees. But to an ant, a tree is a vastly different thing. It can be an ant's entire world, something enormous, something that provides endless work and sustenance and shelter. But of course we know what the tree is *in reality* because ants are stupid, right?

What if a much more advanced race of beings understands more about trees than we do, so we are similarly “stupid” compared to them as ants are to us? This race knows that trees are actually a particular kind of energy source with a particular vibration that they can perceive and we can't, and they are able to communicate on a vibratory level, telepathically, with the trees? They would think that we're stupid and don't know what a tree *really* is.

So what is a tree, *really*? Is it an entire world, an unconscious living thing, an intelligent, vibrating being, or something completely beyond our comprehension? It's all of those things, depending on the perceiver. No one of those realities is any more valid than the other. To us, of course, our perception of the tree is the most valid. But not to the ants, and not to the advanced race.

The point is that the tree is all of those things, and all of those things are equally valid. If there is no perceiver, the tree literally doesn't exist. I know that sounds crazy...