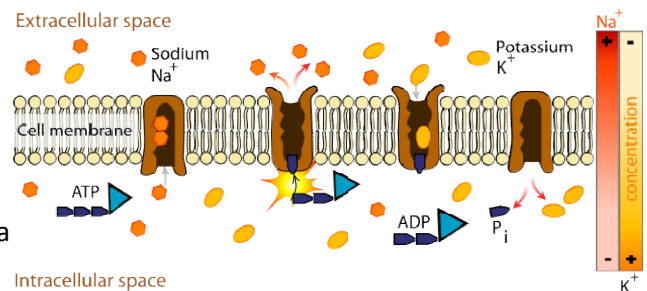


October 25, 2012

Dear Friends

Ancient proponents of the Flat Earth used to suggest that the world rests on an Elephant, who in turn rested on a Giant Turtle, after which it was said to be 'turtles all the way down'. This is known as the 'infinite regression' argument - every action has a cause that can be traced back to some originating action. Which to be fair, Christians suffer with respect to the origin of the Creator. Eventually we all have to admit that our chain of wisdom is limited. Yet, we are all alive, conscious and ever pondering the mechanism of our environment, our relationships and everything we encounter. Our sense of wonder has no boundaries; it could just as well be turtles all the way up.

Recently published is Frances Ashcroft's *'The Spark of Life'* which is a tour of the electro-chemical reactions in our bodies that facilitate consciousness, the chains of command that move from our brains through nerves to every muscle and conversely the receptors who interact with the environment and inform our brains. In particular, I was totally fascinated with the idea of pores in the architecture of every cell through which Sodium and Potassium ions rapidly move backward and forward to create a charge difference inside to out which cascades from cell to cell which is the essence of electric current. For sure there is more to it, but we will resist becoming lab-coat wonks. Just stick with the wonder, imagine it happening millions of times a minute with nuclear efficiency. The discovery of things new to us constitutes an epiphany, a transcendent experience.



John the beloved, in his prologue defines Jesus as the light of the World, the one who dispels darkness, the one who initiates every life affirming action, the one who in the beginning was 'the word', the word that became flesh and dwelt among us full of grace and truth. Jesus, the Creator is the one sets the first live spark that brings us into existence, the charge that makes the inanimate, animate.

As it happens, once alive the energy we bring has the same potential, our every action can bring life and joy to another, cascades of excitement. By equal measure we have the capacity poison the pumps and induce misery. It is almost that literal - a little word of ours can make a sad heart brighter.

We have always known the way it works, yet to imagine it really happening with sodium pumps moving energy up and down our system, just adds to the magic. What is more we can bring joy just for the fun of it, truth be told, that is what we get paid to do. Thank you for bringing the spark of life to those you serve.

Best regards

Victor

(Reference:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Scheme\\_sodium-potassium\\_pump-en.svg&page=1](http://en.wikipedia.org/w/index.php?title=File:Scheme_sodium-potassium_pump-en.svg&page=1))