

BIG BANGs are happening now

by Gerd Koehler, Sept. 17, 2018

In many presentations the BIG BANG is described as an event, which had happened 13,7 billion years ago. This was the moment, where the universe is said to have leaped into being. I don't want to argue, whether this had happened or not, but want to point out, that the BIG BANG might not have been just a single event, but that it keeps *BIG BANGing* here and now in the material world as well as in our experienced world. Sakyong Mipham wrote in his book*: „The BIG BANG of our consciousness is happening at this very instant.“ This means, that everything we experience, appears totally new at this very moment. In one of the many Buddhist recitations it is put in this way: „Whatever arises is fresh, the essence of realization.“ This fresh arising is like an ongoing *BIG BANGing*, where something leaps from a state of being not-manifested into a state of being manifested continuously. A sound suddenly appears in our experience, a colour, a smell, a thought, a pain in our knee ... Those single events then form kind of heaps, which our awareness "looks" at and brings about our experience of phenomena, which we call colour, sound, thought or feeling. .

In Buddhism our perception is sometimes is explained by the image of a movie projector. With this machine single still pictures are projected in fast sequence on a screen. After one picture is projected, the film is transported abruptly to the next one. During that movement the projection is interrupted through a rotating black disk, which is put into the light beam. This is an essential part of the process, because without those interruptions the projector could not function. Between two single pictures projected there must be a gap, where no picture is projected. According to the Buddhist teachings this also is true for our experience. Without a gap between single events our process of perceiving cannot function at all. It is said, that these gaps, which are connected with the *BIG BANGing* of our consciousness, happen to all of us right now, about 360-times** in a finger snap. But we do not experience this in a form of single images, but as continuous event, similar to watching a movie.

The image of a movie projector is very helpful, but it is only partly applicable. A significant difference to our perception is, that in case of the movie projector every single picture is already there on the film, whereas in our perceiving process every single image is made up new before projecting it. In that way our process of perception is like an ongoing *BIG BANGing*. The term BIG BANG is used here to point out, that not only new forms but new space too arise continuously fresh at this very instant. This kind of arising is not a smoothly shifting to a new variation of the same old existing thing, but more like a sudden flashing. This is expressed in one of the most famous Buddhist Sutras, the Heart Sutra: "There is no decrease and no increase". Instead of slowly shifting there is flashing of new space and flashing of new forms continuously.

In the Buddhist teachings these processes of flashing are described in terms of the three kayas, the Dharmakaya, the Sambhogakaya and the Nirmanakaya. These three kayas are the three aspects of lively and creative processes with the Dharmakaya as the source. This source can be called the "not-manifested potential", because nothing is manifest there, but everything manifests from that source. Manifestation will happen in the Nirmanakaya, where we will have our experience of colours, sounds, thoughts and feelings. The connection between the Dharmakaya and the Nirmanakaya is the Sambhogakaya with forms of energy exchange. The three kayas describe the universal patterns, which are the basis of our experienced world as well as of the material world. As Chögyam Trungpa puts it: „Things exist, because they don't exist.“ This statement is in accordance with the logic of the great Indian philosopher Nagarjuna***, and also with the view of new physics, the quantum physics.

Any feedback is more than appreciated.

* Sakyong Mipham: *THE SHAMBHALA PRINCIPLE* page 144

** Sakyong Mipham: *RULING YOUR WORLD* page 54

*** Video by Gerd Koehler „That's logical, isn't it?“ <http://www.lumido.eu/html/videos.html>

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