

reality quite different from that of the primordial reality which I have termed the field of consciousness or the firmament of the soul. It forms the external universe to which we belong as very small occupants in the form of our physical bodies; and the latter appear, if viewed from this new vantage-ground of reality, as the envelopes into which the whole of our primordial mental firmament has shrunk and, as it were, fled out of vision.

Continuing now on the lines indicated by the analogy with physical astronomy, we may be tempted to look upon the universe contained in space as an interpretation or construction of a certain portion of our primordial self, of our original field of consciousness, of, as it were, the fixed and wandering luminaries in the firmament of our soul. And this interpretation or construction has introduced into our minds a notion of reality and of knowledge quite different from, more precise and useful than, the original spectacle, the continuum of sensations, emotions, and desires, and our simple awareness of their fleeting nature.

Now, in the same way as gravitational astronomy, of which the science of Kinematics is, as it were, the logical framework, forms the model of all other exact knowledge, occupying the top place in the hierarchy of the sciences, so we may say that the construction of the geometrical world of physical reality, together with logical thought, forms the pattern upon which we are always tempted to model an exploration of the larger field of consciousness, of the background of the firmament of the soul, in which the original data of our physical universe are embedded. This larger back-