

Mr. Dotman in Lineland

by Robert A. Rucker, October 6, 2016

Introduction

This is a short fictional story of Mr. Dotman in Lineland to convey what is meant by a transition into an alternate dimensionality. This concept has application to the Shroud of Turin to help explain what may have happened, in physics terms, when Jesus' body disappeared from within the Shroud. A study of the pros and cons of several options for how this could have happened was done in "The Disappearance of Jesus' Body Part 2: Physical Considerations", which concluded that the most likely option that is within an extrapolation of concepts in modern physics is that Jesus' body disappeared from within the Shroud by a transition into an alternate dimensionality. Please go to this previous paper for further information on the topic, at https://www.academia.edu/26580237/The_Disappearance_of_Jesus_Body_Part_2_Physical_Considerations. The story of Mr. Dotman in Lineland was excerpted from pages 13 to 15 of this previous paper.

Mr. Dotman in Lineland

Once upon a time, there was a man named Mr. Dotman who lived in a country named Lineland. Mr. Dotman was very small; in fact he had no dimension (length, width, or height) at all. He was just a dot. But he didn't feel bad about himself for where he lived; everyone was only a dot, having no dimension at all. Now the country of Lineland was a strange place too, for it had only one dimension in space, where everyone lived on the x-axis and everyone was convinced that this was all that existed. But they could move along the x-axis, which was important. For this meant that their reality also had a dimension of time.

Now Mr. Dotman loved to tickle his imagination by reading strange sounding things with strange looking symbols, and so one day he found himself reading about strange seeming thoughts by a strange sounding man named Einstein. And as a result, our Mr. Dotman realized that he was living in a universe of one spatial dimension and one time dimension so that Lineland could be designated as a dimensionality of two dimensions, $D(x, t)$. And when he realized this, strange seeming thoughts started bouncing around in his zero dimensional brain as to why this might be so. But upon discussing it with his friends in Lineland, they thought him rather strange, and for their own protection and profit they started behaving in a most unfriendly manner. Now Mr. Dotman thought their response was very strange, and before long Mr. Dotman found himself confined to prison. He was only allowed to move between $x = -1.0$ and $x = 1.0$ on the x-axis by two dot guards stationed at these two points who watched Mr. Dotman at all times lest he attempt an escape. Now the situation for Mr. Dotman was far worse than it might at first appear for he by nature was a very positive person; far preferring to be positive rather than negative, but that is a different story.

Now the advantage for one being in jail is that one has plenty of time to focus one's thoughts on what is important, and so it was for Mr. Dotman. As he meditated upon his

confinement along the x-axis, and upon Mr. Einstein's strange ideas, it occurred to him that the dimensionality of the universe in which he lived, $D(x, t)$, might, just possibly, be a part, a subset, a simplification of a larger reality, a higher dimensionality with a y-axis as well, $D(x, y, t)$, where he was not only confined along the x-axis by the prison in which he meditated, but also, by the nature of things, was confined along the y-axis at $y = 0$. So that this larger reality, this higher dimensionality with three dimensions, $D(x, y, t)$, for him and his ex-friends only appeared to be a two dimensional reality, $D(x, t)$, because of their inability to perceive the third dimension because of their restriction to $y = 0$.

But with two dot guards on either side of him, looking straight at him, what could Mr. Dotman do? And then the answer suddenly occurred to him. The two dot guards, who were looking straight at him, were looking straight on the x-axis at him. It was their world view of only one spatial dimension that prevented them from even considering the possibility of a larger reality composed of a higher dimensionality. And it was then, when this thought came to completion in his zero dimensional brain that he turned his zero dimensional body to look off the x-axis. And then he saw it – the y-axis. And he wondered why had he not seen it before? It had evidently been there all the time, but he had never even looked for it before.

And then Mr. Dotman did something that had never been done before in all of Lineland. He moved from $y = 0$ up to $y = 1$, and when he did, the two dot guards, who lived on the x-axis at $y = 0$, screamed and ran away, for Mr. Dotman had simply vanished from before their eyes as they were looking right at him on the x-axis. And when the guards reported to the king of Lineland what had happened, the king bribed the guards to say that Mr. Dotman's friends had come at night and stolen him from the prison while they were asleep. And this fooled most of the people of Lineland, for in their world view, they were convinced that they lived in a reality of only one spatial dimension, so that it was impossible for a person to move off of the x-axis because it contradicted their very advanced science.

Mr. Dotman now found himself in a new and strange place; in a country called Planeland, because the x and y-axis that he found there defined a broad plane on which the inhabitants lived. And he made new friends, and these new friends renamed him because Dotman no longer seemed to describe him, so they renamed him Mr. Squareman. This was only partially because of his new found shape, but also because his silly ideas seemed to limit their freedom in their frivolity and vanity. So before long, newly named Mr. Squareman again found himself in prison with guards at (x, y) coordinates of $(-1, 0)$, $(1, 0)$, $(0, 1)$, and $(0, -1)$ who watched him very carefully lest he attempt an escape. But this time he knew what to do; for again he suspected that the reality of two spatial dimensions and one time dimension, $D(x, y, t)$, in which he now lived was only a subset of a higher dimensionality, $D(x, y, z, t)$. And as he turned his two dimensional body to look off the x-y plane, he quickly spotted the z-axis. And then Mr. Squareman did something that had never been done before in all of Planeland. He moved from $z = 0$ up to $z = 1$, and when he did, the four guards, who lived on the x-y plane at $z = 0$, screamed and ran away, for Mr. Squareman had simply vanished from before their eyes as they were looking right at him in the x-y plane. And when the guards reported to the king of Planeland what had happened, the king bribed the guards to say that Mr. Squareman's friends had come at night and stolen him from the prison while they were asleep. And this fooled most of the people of Planeland, for in their world view, they were convinced that they lived in a reality of only two spatial dimensions,

so that it was impossible for a person to move off of their x-y plane because it contradicted their very advanced science.

And he now found himself in a country called earth, where again they gave him a new name, and where everyone was convinced that reality consisted of only three spatial dimensions and one time dimension, so that their universe had a dimensionality of four dimensions, $D(x, y, z, t)$. And very quickly he again found himself in prison because his ideas seemed to limit people's frivolity and vanity. But this prison was deeper and darker for they had killed him – but only his body. And they placed his body in a prison and placed many guards outside with orders to watch very carefully lest anything strange should happen. But again he knew what to do, for the supposed four dimensional reality, $D(x, y, z, t)$, of the country called earth was actually only a subset of a higher dimensionality containing 10 dimensions, $D(x, x', x'', y, y', y'', z, z', z'', t)$, where the primed and double-primed dimensions were wrapped so tightly around the x, y, and z-axis that they were not even noticed by the people living in the land. So when he moved his body from $x' = y' = z' = 0$ over to $x' = y' = z' = 1$, the guards, who were confined to the x-y-z space at $x' = y' = z' = 0$, screamed and ran away for his body had simply vanished from before their eyes as they were looking right at it. And when the guards reported to the king what had happened, the king bribed the guards to say that his friends had come at night and stolen his body from the prison while they were asleep. And this fooled most of the people of the land called earth, for in their world view, they were convinced that they lived in a reality of only three spatial dimensions and one time dimension, $D(x, y, z, t)$, so that it was impossible for a person to move out of their x-y-z space because it contradicted their very advanced science. The End

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